

## **CITATION**

**CHARLES BERNARD RANGEL**, your remarkable career has been one of service made manifest in your transcendent commitment to ameliorating the human condition. As member of Congress, as war hero, and as eloquent spokesman for justice for all citizens, you have earned the high respect of your colleagues and of this nation.

Born in Harlem, you attended De Witt Clinton High School, but joined the United States Army before completing your secondary education. During 1948-1952, you served courageously in combat in the Korean conflict. In that struggle, you were wounded in the course of safely leading forty men from behind enemy lines to their unit. In recognition of your heroic actions, you were awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze star Medal for Valor, United States and Presidential Citations and three battle stars.

Honorably discharged as a staff sergeant, you returned to New York, completed your interrupted education, graduating in 1957 with a Bachelor of Science degree from the New York University School of Commerce. You entered the St. John's University School of Law where you received your Juris Doctorate degree in 1960, and were admitted to the New York Bar that same year.

Appointed Assistant United States Attorney in 1961 by then United States Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, you began an impressive journey of public service. You were later appointed, under President Lyndon Johnson, as General Counsel to the National Advisory Commission on Selective Service. You also served as Counsel to the Speaker of the New York State Assembly.

Elected to the New York State Assembly in 1966, you represented Central Harlem for two terms. During that time you worked to decentralize the school system of New York for greater community control, and to secure additional funding for Harlem Hospital.

Entering national politics, you were elected to the United States Congress in November 1970 with 87 percent of your district's popular vote, and ever since that year, you have been re-elected by overwhelming margins of victory.

More than most individuals in the Congress, you are in touch with the problems and issues affecting our nation, and you have represented the 16th Congressional District of New York with vigor, acumen, and compassion. You have served as secretary and as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, and as a member of the House Judiciary Committee of the 93rd Congress. In the summer of 1974, you, along with your colleagues, voted three Articles of Impeachment against then President of the United States Richard M. Nixon. In that dramatic and historic time, you assisted in drafting all the articles of impeachment, and it was in that time that you so eloquently and cogently reminded the nation that no man, however high his office, was above the law.

Currently, you serve as a member of the powerful Ways and Means Committee, the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures and the Subcommittee on Oversight. In recognition of your extraordinary abilities, your colleagues have selected you as Deputy Whip for the House Democratic Leadership, and as Chairman of the Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. In your capacity as Chairman of this Select Committee, you have, like a 20th century Joshua, battled to save this nation from the scourge that threatens the very foundations of this society. In an attempt to mobilize worldwide public opinion against the drug supplying nations, you have fought with every weapon at your legislative disposal, introducing amendments to use foreign economic and military aid as inducements to stop drug shipments before they reach these shores, and urging the Congress and The White House to focus their energies on this problem. And in just one week, you will again hold hearings to bring to bear this country's talents and resources in ridding society of this plague.

**CHARLES BERNARD RANGEL**, because of the unparalleled service you have rendered to this nation and to our people; and because of the brilliant and effective role you continue to play in the Congress of the United States, Howard University takes a distinct pleasure in honoring you. Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Board of Trustees, I do now confer upon you the degree Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, and admit you to all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto. I direct that you be invested with the hood appropriate to this high degree and present you with this diploma.

President of the University

Given at Howard University  
Washington, District of Columbia  
The Twenty-Third of September  
Nineteen Hundred and Eighty-Eight