



For Immediate Release
May 23, 2014

Contact: Lisa Audette
(508) 528-2220

RETIRED CONGRESSMAN FRANK PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIP
TO FRANKLIN PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENT

Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank of Newton presented the “Barney Frank Public Housing Resident Scholarship” to Nicholas Chieng of Franklin at the Annual Conference of the Massachusetts Chapter, National Association of Housing & Redevelopment Officials (MassNAHRO) in Hyannis.

The \$6,000 scholarship is named in honor of the retired Congressman’s 35-year dedication and commitment at the state and national levels to improving the lives of public housing residents. Chieng, a lifelong resident of public housing managed by the Franklin Housing Authority, is a graduating senior at Franklin High School who will study international relations at Soka University of America in California after taking a year off to perform community service in Brazil, specializing in cultural and language immersion.

“This is a great honor not only for Nicholas but for the entire Franklin Housing Authority community,” said Lisa Audette, Executive Director of the FHA. “We are all proud of this young man’s commitment to improving the lives of others, and for showing how young people growing up in public housing can go on to great achievements in the world. We are also honored that the scholarship was presented by Congressman Frank, one of the greatest champions of public housing that we have ever known.”

In remarks at MassNAHRO’s Past Presidents Luncheon, Congressman Frank urged public housing professionals, residents and supporters to continue to fight lingering negative perceptions of public housing and public housing residents.

“I am pleased to say that there is an increasing recognition that a decent stock of affordable housing is both socially and economically important,” said Frank. “It is clearly no longer the case that the units we are building are bad for the residents and bad for the neighborhood. But that perception still exists.”

Frank also called for increased funding for public housing construction, suggesting that any future government subsidies for 30-year fixed-rate mortgages be tied to an affordable housing trust fund to serve the needs of low-income renters.

Since its inception in 1988, the MassNAHRO Past Presidents’ Scholarship Fund has awarded \$340,000 in financial aid to 182 deserving students.

#