Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of a great man, one who is truly a living legend. Transplant pioneer Thomas E. Starzl not only performed the world’s first liver transplant in 1963 and the first successful series of kidney transplants between nonidentical twins between 1963, and 1964, he has for forty decades continued to make equally extraordinary advancements.

For instance, in 1980, just before coming to the University of Pittsburgh, he developed a combination of drugs that transformed transplantation of the liver and heart from an experimental procedure to an accepted form of treatment for patients with end-stage organ failure and opened the door to pancreas and lung transplantation. In 1989, his development of another drug markedly improved survival rates for all kinds of transplants and made possible for the first time successful transplantation of the small intestine.

The entire field of transplantation has advanced because of his courage, his genius, and his compassion for his patients.

When Pittsburgh welcomed him just 20 years ago, no one had any idea the incredible contributions this man would make to medicine and mankind. Indeed, the city has enjoyed an enhanced reputation because he chose to make the University of Pittsburgh his alma mater. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the first liver transplant he performed in Pittsburgh. Since then, surgeons at the University of Pittsburgh and the UPMC Health System have performed nearly 6,000 liver transplants and more than 11,300 transplants of all organs. No other center in the world comes close.

But the impact of Dr. Starzl’s work goes far beyond Pittsburgh. Patients throughout the world, even those who have not been under his skillful care, have benefited from his contributions. He has trained numerous surgeons and research scientists. In fact, many, if not most of the world’s transplant surgeons and physicians have been trained by Dr. Starzl or by those trained by him. Later this month, many of these former students and colleagues will honor Dr. Starzl at a scientific symposium in his honor, and the University of Pittsburgh will unveil his portrait, which will hang in the School of Medicine with the likes of other great pioneers, including Jonas Salk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring and thanking one of history’s great surgeons, Dr. Thomas Starzl.