In late 2014, Representative Eliot Engel of New York, the ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, introduced the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, which became law in 2016. This legislation imposes import restrictions on cultural materials removed illegally from Syria after March 2011, the beginning of the civil war in that country. This important legislation has served to protect Syria’s cultural heritage and to reduce funding to those involved in terrorist activities and armed conflict. This law also promotes coordination for all international efforts undertaken by the United States in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage worldwide. Through this award, the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield recognizes Representative Engel's extraordinary leadership and commitment to the preservation not only of Syria’s cultural heritage but to the world’s shared heritage as well.
Representative Ed Royce of California, the chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, was an original co-sponsor of the Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act, which became law in 2016. This legislation imposes import restrictions on cultural materials removed illegally from Syria after March 2011, the beginning of the civil war in that country. This important legislation has served to protect Syria's cultural heritage and to reduce funding to those involved in terrorist activities and armed conflict. This law also promotes coordination for all international efforts undertaken by the United States in the protection and preservation of cultural heritage worldwide. Through this award, the U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield recognizes Representative Royce's extraordinary leadership and commitment to the preservation not only of Syria's cultural heritage but to the world's shared heritage as well.

March 10, 2017
Washington, D.C.