

Mr. Hsin (Sam) P. Wong came to the United States from China in 1948. He earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a master of science degree in Electrical Engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute. Mr. Wong received the prestigious Meritorious Service Award upon his retirement from the Navy after a distinguished civilian career that spanned 31 years. He was one of the founders and developers of the Wah Luck House, a residential apartment complex for the elderly.

Since her founding, our Nation has achieved many successes through the great achievements of the many diverse groups of people who bring their unique cultures and strengths to our shores. I am proud to represent these exceptional individuals who remind us that although we may come from different countries and ends of the earth, we all share a pride in being Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will want to join me in congratulating these 11 immigrant Americans who have contributed in so many ways to the strengthening of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 1996, I was detained and did not cast a vote on S. 641, the Ryan White CARE Act conference report. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 145.

CARMEN OLAVARRIETA RECEIVES UNICEF VOLUNTEER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a lady much distinguished for her humanitarian efforts and desire to help others in need, Carmen Olavarrieta. Carmen has been recently recognized by UNICEF and has been selected to receive the Volunteer Distinguished Service Award in 1995-96 for all of her exemplary work and dedication at this world-renowned organization.

Since immigrating to the United States in 1961, Carmen has used her linguistic and teaching talents in order to teach students and even to co-author "Hablemos Espanol," a publication used to teach Spanish to foreign students studying at the University of Madrid and Barcelona.

In addition to serving as a volunteer at UNICEF, Carmen has also given her services to the League Against Cancer, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association [Latin Division], and the Colombian Emergency Fund, a radio telethon to help the children during the volcanic eruption in Armero, Colombia.

Carmen is a very caring person, dedicated not only to her family, but also to those who

are less fortunate. She is a fine example of what "love thy neighbor" is all about.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW- LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Low-Level Radioactive Waste [LLRW] Federal Responsibility Act of 1996.

This legislation would effectively repeal the 1980 Low-level Radioactive Waste Act which requires States to enter in compacts to dispose of LLRW. That legislation, which was endorsed by President Clinton during his tenure as Governor of Arkansas, and Interior Secretary Babbitt during his tenure as Governor of Arizona, has failed to produce solutions to one of the most pressing environmental needs facing our country today, the safe, permanent storage of low-level radioactive waste.

There is no greater illustration of the failure of this statute than the 10-year effort to locate a storage site at Ward Valley, CA. While the Southwestern Disposal Compact, the National Academy of Science, State officials, and other notable scientific and medical authorities, have given the green light to transferring the Federal site to the State of California, the Clinton administration and California's junior Senator have sought to delay the land transfer out of political, rather than safety considerations. They have chosen emotional political demagoguery over sound science.

The pressure to delay the construction of the Ward Valley site arises not from the most noted experts in the field of LLRW storage, but from a well-financed environmental lobby that has made Ward Valley a political symbol to demonstrate its control over the Clinton White House.

The University of California—which has nine campuses across the State—is one of the largest generators of low-level radioactive waste. These campuses produce a combined 22,065 cubic feet of waste material annually. The majority of this material is presently stored on or near each campus. The two largest producers of waste are located in the urban centers of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Other waste producers, including hospitals and biotech companies, currently store their waste in temporary storage facilities throughout the State. Needless to say, these temporary sites do not meet the test of providing safe, long-term permanent storage. In fact, a fire came very close to igniting waste in a highly populated suburb of Los Angeles during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Let me make one point abundantly clear: California's junior Senator is placing in jeopardy the health and safety of the public she claims to care so much about. With the assistance of the Secretary of the Interior, she has orchestrated a campaign to delay the transfer of Federal land to the State. She has not proposed an alternative site. She ducks, weaves, bobs, and delays, but she does nothing to address this long-term problem that affects potentially every citizen in California. Rather than

addressing solutions, she ignores the advice and counsel of those who know the subject best and actively pursues a political agenda for its own sake, attempting to frighten, distort, and confuse the public every step of the way.

Presently, in the State of California, there is a very real need to find a permanent storage facility for low-level radioactive waste presently being stored in over 2,000 locations across the state. We can wait no longer. In lieu of that, the only responsible action is to determine locations for safe, interim storage sites. And where will they be built, Senator? Los Angeles? San Francisco? What alternatives do you suggest to responsibly address this problem? I believe California would be better served by less political rhetoric and demagoguery and greater emphasis on commonsense, pragmatic solutions.

It is now painfully clear, based upon recent words and actions, that the Clinton administration, like California's junior Senator, believes that the Federal Government is best suited to act as caretaker of low-level radioactive waste. After a great deal of thought and series of discussions with noted experts, I have decided to grant the administration its wish. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Federal Responsibility Act of 1996 provides the Secretary of the Interior—one of the strongest advocates of waste storage and leading opponents of the Ward Valley site—the authority and sole responsibility of disposing of low-level waste. It is time for the Clinton administration to demonstrate through actions and not empty political rhetoric that it cares more about public health and safety than financial promises made to its Presidential campaign by the most extreme environmentalist.

California is now close to realizing an environmental crisis that endangers the public health and safety of its citizens. In the 16 years since enactment of the Low-level Radioactive Waste Act, not one new compact facility has begun receiving waste. That approach, once favored by the President and the Secretary of the Interior, has failed. This legislation, which I am introducing today, grants the Secretary the sole responsibility to dispose of low-level radioactive waste. It is time for the Secretary to act. It is time to quit the emotional demagoguery of California's junior Senator which does nothing more than further endanger the citizens of our State.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GHENT VFW

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate the golden anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 5933. This post, I am proud to say, is based in Ghent, NY, in the heart of my congressional district, and is celebrating its 50th year of service. This post personifies the outstanding efforts of the entire nationwide membership to promote a strong national defense and to help veterans and their families. And that is one reason I was so pleased to be awarded the VFW National Commander's Congressional Award several years ago.

The VFW, Mr. Speaker, has been an organization of exceptional merit and service to the

needs of many veterans. It is only appropriate that those brave men and women who placed themselves in harms way overseas be represented by such an able organization. The members of Post No. 5933 have been receiving just such outstanding service for 50 years now. It is comforting to know that those who served the needs of our country and fought for the principles and ideals of America all over the globe can depend on the support of an organization like Post 5933 back home in upstate New York.

Mr. Speaker, the service of Post 5933 in Ghent is worthy of significant recognition. This post, and others like it, are the reason I fought so hard to attain Department-level status for Veterans Affairs. When Ronald Reagan signed that legislation into law, veterans were finally afforded the degree of national consideration they deserve. The efforts of VFW posts like this one, Mr. Speaker, having served the needs of veterans since 1946, assured veterans the assistance and recognition they deserved prior to approval of this Government Department, and continue to encourage fair consideration of veterans' issues. For this, Mr. Speaker, we owe Post 5933 a tremendous debt of gratitude.

The famous historian George Santayana once said, "Those who do not remember history are bound to repeat it." VFW posts all across America have not forgotten the past or those men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I ask all Members in the House to rise in tribute to VFW Post 5933 and join me in saluting all the members, past and present, on the occasion of their 50th anniversary.

FREDERIKI PAPPAS AND HER ART EXHIBIT CELEBRATING 175 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me to highlight an important event that is taking place this week in Washington. This event celebrates 175 years of friendship, diplomacy, and mutual respect for democracy that is the legacy of the United States and the Republic of Greece. The renowned Greek artist, Ms. Frederiki Pappas is previewing a remarkable collection of portraits of American and Greek leaders today in the Capitol. This exhibit is called: "A Celebration of Democracy: Commemorating 175 Years of Greek and American Democratic Tradition."

Ms. Pappas is a graduate of the Athens School of Fine Art and has exhibited in galleries around the world and has been commissioned by many private clients and public institutions. I have known her for many years and have come to admire her inexhaustible energy and vision in showcasing the history of courage and triumph of our two great nations.

I remind my colleagues that Americans participated in the independence movement in Greece during the last century, sacrificing their lives to ensure that the world's first democracy was again a democracy. From the days of our great leader and democratic visionary, Thomas Jefferson, to the present, Hellenes and

Americans have worked and fought side-by-side for freedom and independence.

As a Greek-American, I am especially proud of this tradition and applaud the continued strength of our mutual diplomatic ties as exemplified by this week's visit by President Constantine Stephanopoulos. The Hellenic Republic remains a key ally and friend and I am especially pleased that Ms. Pappas' exhibit coincides with President Stephanopoulos' visit. Her work serves as a beautiful and appropriate reminder of this long and great friendship between our two democratic nations.

Thomas Jefferson, perhaps underscores the spirit of freedom and independence best in his letter to A. Korais, leader of the Provisional Government of Greece in 1823 in which he states:

Possessing ourselves the combined blessings of liberty and order we wish the same to other countries, and to none more than yours, which the first of civilized nations, presented examples of what man should be.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Pappas' work reminds us of the importance of tradition and mutual love of freedom. I urge all of my colleagues to see if firsthand and reflect upon the importance of celebrating democracy.

IN HONOR OF MAYOR KENSUKE FUKUSHIMA

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mayor Kensuke Fukushima and his delegation from the city of Fukaya, Japan, to the city of Fremont, CA, in California's 13th Congressional District. Mayor Fukushima and his delegation are here to help celebrate the founding of the city of Fremont, Fukaya's sister city, over 40 years ago. I would also like to commend Mayor Fukushima for his dedication to the sister-city program.

The city of Fukaya and the city of Fremont have been sister cities for the past 16 years and the relationship has been a very important one. We have many successful programs with Fukaya, including the arts exchange, the symphony exchange, teacher and student exchanges, little league baseball, Boy Scouts, business exchange, family exchanges, and the city employee exchange. These exchanges have resulted in deep personal friendships and a greater understanding between our two cultures and communities.

We owe much of the success of the sister-city program to Mayor Kensuke Fukushima. He has been a driving force since the very beginning. He was the contact citizen between the city of Fremont and the city of Fukaya prior to the formal sister-city relationship and continued to be active in the program as he held various positions in his city government. Mayor Fukushima has been mayor of the city of Fukaya for the past 8 years and has continued to be a strong advocate for the program throughout his term.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join me in welcoming Mayor Fukushima and the Japanese delegation to the city of Fremont and in recognizing Mayor Fukushima for his extraordinary efforts in

bringing our two cities and communities closer together.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that on April 18, 1996, the House voting system did not record my vote on roll-call vote 125, final passage of the rule governing debate on the antiterrorism bill.

At the time the vote was held, I was on the floor of the House, having just voted against ordering the previous question.

It was my intent to vote for passage of the rule. Unfortunately, my vote was not properly recorded. I would ask the RECORD to reflect my presence in the Chamber and my intent to vote for passage of the rule.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 641, RYAN WHITE CARE ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 1, 1996

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, I join my fellow colleagues today in support of the Ryan White CARE Act conference report. Additionally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the conference team, chairmen BILEY and DINGELL, and subchairmen BILIRAKIS and WAXMAN for all their hard work to see this legislation through fruition.

I also come forward today for the thousands of men, women, and children whose lives depend on the continuation of the services provided under the Ryan White CARE Act. This legislation is essential to the AIDS community. Ryan White CARE provides people living with AIDS a tool to obtain emergency care services. Ryan White CARE gives the support needed to provide AIDS patients to live their lives to its fullest potential.

Specifically, this bill requires recipients of CARE grants to utilize a portion of their funds to provide health services to women, infants, and children. This bill aims to serve all individuals infected with the AIDS virus, but acknowledges the growing number of infants and children infected with the virus. With advancements in research to deter the virus in infants, the bill targets our future—our children.

The reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act sends another important message. We have worked in a bipartisan manner to ensure passage of this essential legislation. This legislation is an act of simple compassion and humanity that anyone and everyone can support.

I have been a supporter of the Ryan White CARE Act since its inception, and I hope that future Congress will continue to promote its services in future Congresses. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act.