

It is an honor to have such an exceptional event as the Elizabeth Waterfront Festival take place in my district. I take pride in the fact the Elizabeth Waterfront Festival brings together all segments of our community and at the same time reflects positively on the city of Elizabeth and New Jersey. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and recognize this remarkable celebration of life.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my distinguished colleagues of the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to honor the extraordinary contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our Nation.

We must take time to note the struggles of the Asian Pacific American pioneers, mainly immigrants to this country. As a daughter of immigrant parents, I know firsthand the obstacles immigrants faced in beginning a new life in a new land and providing for their families. We must acknowledge the accomplishments of these pioneers who had built a foundation for the subsequent advances made by the Asian Pacific American community.

As we reflect on the significance of this month, we must certainly turn our thoughts to our friend and former colleague Norman Y. Mineta. He is remembered for his leadership in championing the causes of the Asian Pacific American community and of all people of color, culminating in the passage of House bill 442 which he introduced, that provided an apology by the U.S. Government to those Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned during the Second World War. An outstanding legislator, Representative Mineta was a powerful force in Congress and a great role model not only for Asian Pacific Americans but for all people of colors in our country.

Representative Mineta helped create a political voice for the Asian Pacific American community and inspired others to get involved in the political process.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent California's 14th Congressional District which boasts a significant and vibrant Asian Pacific American community deeply committed to political activism and public service. I am fortunate to work with many outstanding organizations such as the local chapters of the Japanese American Citizens' League, the Organization of Chinese Americans, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, Self-Help for the Elderly, the Asian American Manufacturers' Association, Silicon Valley for Democracy, Asian Americans for Community Involvement, as well as the Asian Law Alliance, all fostering multicultural understanding. Each brings to the forefront the concerns on behalf of the growing Asian Pacific American community in the 14th Congressional District. I am also grateful to work with the many Asian Pacific American elected officials in my congressional district such as council members Michael Chang of Cupertino, Art Takahara of Mountain View, Naomi Patridge of Half Moon Bay, Cupertino School District Trustees Emily Lee Kelley and

Barry Chang, Fremont Union High School District Trustees Homer Tong and Randy Okamura, and Foothill De-Anza Community College Trustees Paul Fong and Dolores Sandoval. I salute these organizations and leaders for their outstanding efforts and contributions to the well-being of our community.

Despite the progress the Asian Pacific American community has made, we must continue to advocate for their concerns, protecting and advancing the civil and constitutional rights of all Americans, especially when many of these issues are being threatened. I'm proud to have been invited to join the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus which my distinguished colleague Congresswoman PATSY MINK chairs. I join the members of the caucus to ensure that congressional legislation provides for the full participation of Asian Pacific Americans and reflects the concerns and needs of the Asian Pacific American communities to the greatest extent possible.

WAIVER OF THE HUMANITARIAN AID CORRIDOR ACT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, last week, to the surprise and disappointment of the international human rights communities, as well as Members of this body, President Clinton exercised his option to waive the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act. Passed with strong bipartisan support as part of the fiscal year 1996 foreign operations appropriations bill, the Corridor Act is essential because it exerts the appropriate pressure on countries, such as Turkey, that block United States foreign assistance to the region.

As the only Member of Congress of Armenian descent, I have a very deep understanding of how the Ottoman Empire decimated Armenians and wrote one of the darkest chapters in human history. Mr. Speaker, these attacks against Armenians continue even today. Just last month the Agency France Presse reported unprovoked Turkish military shelling of Armenian territory on April 23 and 24. I'm committed to the safety and independence of Armenia and believe we must ensure that its people are protected. Therefore I am deeply disappointed that the President waived this important and needed act.

Despite a history of suffering at the hands of others, Armenians have remained a strong people, committed to families and united by an enduring faith. Armenians have risen from the ashes of the 1915-23 genocide to form a new country from the remains of the Soviet Union, a new country which flourishes in the face of severe winters, ongoing military conflict in Nagorno-Karabagh, and the absence of strong international assistance. Today's Armenia is a living tribute to the indelible courage and perseverance of the Armenian people. Mr. Speaker, we in this body must do our part to protect Armenia. I support efforts to strengthen, enhance, and make permanent the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act and to curtail aid to Turkey should that country refuse to abide by the standards established by the act.

I urge the President to reconsider his position.

REPEAL OF 4.3-CENT INCREASE IN TRANSPORTATION FUELS TAXES

SPEECH OF

HON JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the House voted last night to repeal the 4.3-cent-a-gallon tax.

Repeal of the gas tax is precisely the wrong step to take as we try to move forward with the more important challenges of energy independence, national security, and fiscal responsibility—challenges which, over the last several years, we have made great strides toward meeting.

First, it's clear that the tax is no more responsible for the recent price increases in gasoline than it was for the low gas prices we enjoyed in 1994 and 1995. The 4.3-cent-a-gallon gas tax has been in place for more than 2 years, but for political reasons, including helping a sagging Presidential campaign, it's only become a hot-button issue in the last several weeks.

If we take oil companies at their word, the price spike is due to increased demand, a prolonged winter, and an unrealized expectation that Iraq would again sell oil to the world market. We talk about allowing the market economy to work without interference, but we immediately talk about interfering just when the market works as predicted. Worse still, we advocate a policy that has no direct bearing on the price at the pump. Indeed, what will political leaders say to consumers when prices continue to go up in spite of the gas tax repeal or when the 4.3 cents is not passed on at the pump.

Second, Americans continue to enjoy gas prices at both historically low levels and at levels considerably lower than those paid by citizens of the other industrial nations. In inflation-adjusted terms, the price of gas is lower than it was 25 years ago, before the oil embargo.

The low prices we've enjoyed have renewed some of the habits that made us so vulnerable during the OPEC oil embargo of the 1970's and the Persian Gulf war. In truth, both to reflect real world circumstances and for national security reasons, we need to change commuting and driving habits and our dependence on imported oil.

Third, saving the average motorist, including myself, \$30 a year—and there is great doubt that the price at the pump will go down as a result of the repeal—only makes our task of balancing the Federal budget that much more difficult. How do we balance the 8.2 cents a day returned to drivers against the \$30 billion added to the deficit by repealing the tax.

Just when we're beginning to make sustained progress on bringing down the deficit, just when we are within reach of actually balancing the budget in 6 years and making a serious and principled commitment to real fiscal responsibility, we're going to add \$30 billion to the Nation's debt.

Even without this added debt, we have to realize that we have many difficult budget choices still ahead. Where should we cut? Are the American people willing and ready to cut aid to education as Majority Leader Dick Armey suggested we should do—or cancer research, or public broadcasting, or Medicare?

The proponents of repeal are eyeing as a possible offset for its cost reductions in the bank insurance funds. Heaven help us if we ever need to draw on those funds to pay depositors should we experience a banking crisis like the S&L debacle of only a decade ago. I guess we'll leave that problem for another day.

The difficulty in finding a consensus behind a balanced budget plan will only be exacerbated by repealing the gas tax. Americans understand that.

They also understand that cheap gas means dependence on uncertain foreign sources—sources that one day may again require our sons and daughters to fight to secure.

And, most importantly, they understand that the 4.3 cent-a-gallon tax did not cause the recent price increase and that its repeal will not bring prices down.

Repealing the tax is pandering and cynical. Let's not try to fool Americans into believing otherwise.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday my flight to Washington from California was unexpectedly rerouted to Pittsburgh due to thunderstorm activity in the Washington area.

As a result, I unfortunately missed several important votes. Had I been here, I would have voted: "aye" on rollcall No. 180; "no" on rollcall No. 181; "aye" on rollcall No. 182, the gas tax repeal; and "aye" on rollcall No. 183.

RETIRED SENIOR VOLUNTEERS OF ELK COUNTY, HONORED

HON. WILLIAM F. CLINGER, JR.

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retired senior volunteers of Elk County in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize the 74,000 hours of service that these individuals have given to our communities.

As we celebrate Older American Month, it is fitting that we reflect on the contributions of seniors at both a local and national level. I have long believed that involvement by senior citizens in the workforce adds a unique and distinctive value to each job that is performed, person that is helped, or solution that is offered.

I applaud the hard work and determination that each of these volunteers has dedicated to serving the residents of Elk County, their efforts are an inspiration to us all. In addition, each of these individuals has paved the road for all of us who will eventually retire and in doing so continue to enhance the foundation of our communities.

Each project that they have so diligently attended to—from campgrounds to playgrounds, providing meals, making repairs, and assisting others in need—demonstrates the depth of

caring that all of the volunteers should be proud of.

It takes more than words to adequately express the difference that senior volunteers have made in the lives of so many and it is with great honor and heartfelt gratitude that I thank them for their years of kind and generous service.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES J. "J.J." BIELLO

HON. NEWT GINGRICH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to James J. "J.J." Biello, who is a commissioner of Cherokee County, in the Sixth District of Georgia.

J.J. is a 15-year veteran of the Atlanta Police Department having served as both a uniform officer and detective in the narcotics and robbery divisions. On April 15, 1987, J.J. walked in on a robbery in progress and found an armed robber holding a terrified girl, a gun pointed at her head. Without concern for his own safety, J.J. rushed in, courageously drawing the gunfire to himself. In an act of supreme heroism and ultimate sacrifice, he saved the life of the girl but almost lost his own. In the days ahead, J.J.'s personal courage and faith in God allowed him to survive the near-fatal injury, but he was left paralyzed from the neck down, confined to a wheelchair with limited use of his hands.

There are many ways to take the measure of a man. Some do it in feet and inches; some have him step on a scale; and others simply take a look at his bank account. It is a rare individual whose greatest measurements are of heart and courage. Such a man is J.J. Biello.

J.J. has passed through some of life's most challenging crucibles and has come out not embittered, but emboldened. After his injury, J.J. took stock of his talents and abilities to decide how he could best serve his community. Rather than seeking help from others, once again he committed himself to tireless work on behalf of others, serving as a community volunteer, a civic leader and, following the 1990 election, a Cherokee County commissioner. Through challenges that would have caused a lesser man to give up, J.J. has demonstrated unshaken faith, unparalleled courage, and unwavering commitment to his family, church, and community.

I rise today to make note of J.J.'s bravery and his selfless service to his community and his country. His courage, devotion, and dedication should be an inspiration to all Americans.

FOR RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY STAFFER, SCOTT E. JACOBS

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of Scott Jacobs, who has been a member of my

staff for the last year and a half. Scott is leaving us on May 24, 1996, to start a new job with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

Scott came to my personal office here in Washington, DC, on a legislative fellowship. He was on loan from the Navy. With his background in the investigation of environmental crimes, he was a natural fit in my office to work on environmental and resource issues.

While many Hill staffers share the qualities of hard work and dedication that Scott possesses, Scott Jacobs has special qualities that deserve special recognition.

Often, here on the Hill, people will tell you that something is impossible rather than actually figuring out how to get it done. Scott refuses to believe "impossible" exists. He is willing to take the time and exercise the creativity needed to get the job done where other people would have given up long ago. In the face of continual opposition, Scott undertakes a process of communication and compromise that has served New Jersey, this Congress, and America very well. Due to his refusal to believe the nay-sayers, Scott serves as an example and inspiration to Members and staff alike.

I commend Scott's many accomplishments while here and fully expect that his exemplary work will continue at his new position with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

As I stand here today to recognize Scott's determination, courage, and creativity, I am sorry to lose Scott as a member of my staff. But, I wish him fair winds and following seas on his return to the Navy.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself, my staff, and all the friends Scott has made while here with us, I would like to say, Thank You, Scott, for all of your hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday last, due to a family emergency, I missed rollcall votes 178 and 179 pertaining to the fiscal year 1997 budget resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted on rollcall No. 178, "no" and on rollcall No. 179, "yes." I request unanimous consent that my statement be included following the vote in the permanent record.

CELEBRATING THE MANY CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, Hafa Adai. It is with great pleasure that I rise today to celebrate our Asian- and Pacific-American culture and history during Asian Pacific-American Heritage Month. By sponsoring Asian Pacific-American Heritage activities, we honor the Asian Pacific-American community and its many accomplishments. In addition we seek to