

congressional district. But one thing is very clear, enough of a criminal investigation has been done and enough good reporting has been done to show us that there has been some fraud in that district and at least enough to warrant an analysis of who won that election.

Only one thing should dominate our thoughts in this Chamber: That the person who got the most votes in this election from legal voters should win the election and should be seated in the House of Representatives.

The gentlewoman from California [Ms. SANCHEZ] wants to see this thing over and done with. I talked with Mr. Dornan a few days ago. He is tired of seeing himself smeared in the newspapers regularly by people who have brought the race card into this. He wants to see it over with. I think we can handle this in an evenhanded manner and make a term determination within a few weeks. Let us calm down this rhetoric. Let us do the analysis. Let us see who won the election.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MERE BETHAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a distinguished Pacific educator and judge the late Seuvaai "Mere" Tuiasosopo Betham, former director of education of American Samoa and an associate judge on the High Court of American Samoa, who passed away recently. A dedicated public servant, educator and administrator with more than 43 years of public service, Judge Betham was our first American Samoan woman judge on the High Court, a true pioneer who was also the first woman of Samoan American ancestry to be appointed as Director of Education. It is these and other firsts for which she will always be remembered by the Samoan people.

Judge Betham was someone who cared very much about each and every person she encountered in her personal and professional life. She was someone for whom I had tremendous respect. She was always courteous and helpful to me, firm and helpful to her students and fair and just with those who appeared before her in court. She always extended the hand of friendship. Although our careers never crossed paths, we nevertheless shared many similar concerns, and chief among these concerns was the issue of education in the American Samoa.

I learned from her how to make every person you encounter feel important, how to make every person feel that he or she, too, had something important to contribute to the process. She was the kind of individual who could put a hostile student or any other person at ease by making that person feel impor-

tant and included in the process. Perhaps this is why she was so successful as a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Betham exemplified all of the traits of a true Samoan leader. She was decisive yet compassionate, firm and yet not inflexible, and she was a woman of wisdom. Most important of all, she was a humble person who remained close to the people. She served even after she was appointed to high government posts.

Mrs. Betham was born in 1932 in American Samoa. She received her elementary school education in the islands, graduated from the high school in 1950, where she was the only female to graduate with her first class. Shortly after high school, she left American Samoa to attend college in California. She enrolled at the Pomona College in Claremont and later transferred to Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA, where she went on to receive her bachelor's degree in the field of economics in 1954.

After graduating from college, Judge Betham returned to the islands to begin her career as a secondary school teacher. She taught at a high school from 1954 until 1961, the year she was appointed assistant principal. Later on in 1968, she was appointed principal of the only high school then in the territory. Two years after becoming principal, Judge Betham was transferred to the Department of Education in which years later she became the first woman to earn the rank of the director of education. Judge Betham held this position for more than 11 years. In 1985 she retired from the department of education and Samoa's education system underwent major changes in teaching practices, philosophies during her tenure and bringing television as a tool or a means of assisting the educational system in the territory.

Even after she retired from the Department of Education, Judge Betham continued to be active in the field of education. As an educator, Mr. Speaker, Judge Betham touched many lives and she found such joy and pleasure in following the successes of her former students. As a judge, she touched equally as many lives as she found much satisfaction and comfort in making sure the result reached by the court was just and fair.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to Judge Betham's husband, James Rusty Betham and her children. I am sure that the proud legacy which she left will live on in their hearts and in the hearts of all the people of American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a distinguished Pacific educator and judge, the late Seuvaai "Mere" Tuiasosopo Betham, former director of education of American Samoa and an associate judge on the High Court of American Samoa, who passed away recently. A dedicated public servant, educator, and administrator with more than 43 years of public service, Judge Betham was our first American Samoan female judge

on the High Court, a true pioneer who was also the first woman of Samoan American ancestry to be appointed Director of Education. It is these and other "firsts" for which she will always be remembered by the Samoan people.

Judge Betham was someone who cared very much about each and every person she encountered in her personal and professional life, and she was someone for whom I had tremendous respect. She was always courteous and helpful to me, firm and helpful to her students, and fair and just with those who appeared before her in court. She always extended the hand of friendship. Although our careers never crossed paths, we nevertheless shared many similar concerns, and chief among these concerns was the issue of education in American Samoa.

I learned from her how to make every person you encounter feel important, and how to make every person feel that he or she, too, had something important to contribute to the process. She was the kind of individual who could put a hostile student or any other person at ease by making that person feel important and included in the process. Perhaps this is why she was so successful as a public servant.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Betham exemplified all of the traits of a true Samoan leader. She was decisive yet compassionate, firm yet not inflexible, and she was a woman of wisdom. Most important of all, she was a humble person who remained close to the people she served even after she was appointed to high government posts.

Seuvaai Mere Tuiasosopo Betham was born on April 3, 1932, in Pago Pago, American Samoa. She received her elementary school education in Tutuila and graduated from the High School of American Samoa in 1950, where she was the only female to graduate with that class. Shortly after high school, she left American Samoa to attend college in California. She enrolled at Pomona College in Claremont, CA. She later transferred to Geneva College in Beaverfalls, PA where she went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in the field of economics in 1954.

After graduating from Geneva College, Judge Betham returned to American Samoa to begin her career as a secondary school teacher. She taught at Samoana High School from 1954 until 1961, the year in which she was appointed assistant principal. Even after she was appointed assistant principal, Judge Betham continued to teach because she wanted to remain close to her students. Seven years later, in 1968, she was appointed principal of Samoana High School.

Two years after becoming principal, in 1970, Judge Betham was transferred to the Department of Education's central office as an education program administrator, where a year later, in 1971, she was again promoted by the DOE to the post of deputy director. Just four short years after being promoted to the post of deputy director, in 1974, Judge Betham was again tapped by the DOE for another promotion, this time to the post of Director of Education. This appointment made her the first Samoan woman to earn this rank and the second Samoan American to undertake this tremendous challenge.

Judge Betham held this post for more than 11 years. In 1985, she retired from the Department of Education. Samoa's educational system underwent major changes in teaching

practices and philosophies during her tenure, and local educators today credit Judge Betham for having revolutionized "teaching" in American Samoa.

Even after she retired from the Department of Education, Judge Betham continued to be active in the field of education. A short time after retiring from the DOE, she was appointed director of Catholic Schools. She served as director for several years until she was again called on by the government to serve as an associate judge on the High Court of American Samoa. Judge Betham was sworn in on April 17, 1991, a day which is very significant and special to the people of American Samoa. April 17 marks the date on which the United States first raised its flag over the Islands of American Samoa. The people of American Samoa celebrate the anniversary of this relationship every year on April 17, and it is the biggest holiday of the year.

As an educator, Mr. Speaker, Judge Betham touched many lives and she found much joy and pleasure in following the successes of her former students. As a judge, she touched equally as many lives and she found much satisfaction and comfort in making sure that the result reached by the court was just and fair.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my condolences to Judge Betham's husband, James "Rusty" Betham, and her children. I am sure that the proud legacy which she left them will live on in their hearts and in the hearts of all the people of American Samoa.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SOLOMON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

□ 1815

SUPPORT HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 121, REGARDING PROLIFERATION OF MISSILE TECHNOLOGY FROM RUSSIA TO IRAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. STRICKLAND] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a very serious issue related to the well-being of our Nation. Recently it has come to the attention of the Central Intelligence Agency that nongovernmental entities within Russia have participated in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to the country of Iran.

This specific trade practice threatens the security of the United States and our allies and, quite simply, it endangers our ability to maintain world peace. Furthermore, the advancement of weapons of mass destruction to Iran happens to be in violation of the Missile Technology Control Regime.

For these reasons alone, this trade between Iran and Russia must stop. As history illustrates, Iran has nurtured a reputation for terrorism and has con-

sistently displayed open hostility toward United States' interests.

Although Russia has acknowledged previous weapons trade with Iran, the most extreme action they have taken to end the current proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is to initiate an investigation. As I see it, Mr. Speaker, an investigation does not adequately address this critical situation.

Nevertheless, Russia continues to enjoy foreign aid from the United States and the financial profits of trade with Iran. Russia is enjoying the best of both worlds at the expense of the safety of innocent victims who all too often fall prey to the hostilities instigated from Iran's terrorist regime.

We now have reached a point where agreements and investigations are simply not enough. It is time to eradicate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction between Russia and Iran. Congress and the President should demand that the Russian government take steps necessary to stop all involvement, including the involvement of nongovernmental entities, in the disbursement of weapons of mass destruction, especially when the country of Iran is involved.

Furthermore, should Russia ignore our request, we must not simply disregard their failure to succumb to peacekeeping efforts, but rather, we must take the most serious and effective steps to end this dangerous activity and impose sanctions on the responsible parties.

House Concurrent Resolution 121 expresses congressional concern regarding the proliferation of missile technology from Russia to Iran, and I strongly urge my colleagues in this House to give their support to this worthy resolution.

TRIBUTE TO IRA POTTARD

(Mr. REDMOND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REDMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to pay tribute to a distinguished individual in New Mexico, Mr. Ira Pottard. He lives in Clovis, NM, and he is one of the last living Buffalo Soldiers of the U.S. Army. Coincidentally, he is celebrating his 75th birthday.

Mr. Pottard has reason to be proud of his accomplishments and his contribution to military history. The Buffalo Soldier horse cavalry units played an important but often forgotten role in our national defense.

Buffalo Soldiers attained their name while fighting in the Cheyenne War from 1867 to 1869. Native American warriors referred to the African-American horse soldier troops as Buffalo Soldiers because of their dark-colored dusty coats and the fearlessness which they showed in battle.

Until they were disbanded in 1945, Buffalo Soldiers fought to maintain law and order by guarding the western front of our Nation and pursuing out-

laws and cattle thieves. They also played an important role in both World War I and World War II.

During World War II Mr. Pottard served in the Ninth Cavalry stationed in the Burma-India-China Theater. He later served the unit until it was decommissioned, which resulted in the end of a significant era.

At this time I ask my fellow Americans to join me and New Mexico in thanking Mr. Ira Pottard for his years of dedicated military service as a Buffalo Soldier.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. QUINN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. QUINN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii [Mrs. MINK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. MINK addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. BOEHLERT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BOEHLERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. HOUGHTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. HOUGHTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to proceed out of order with my special order now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in support of House Resolution 157, which was passed by unanimous consent just a few minutes ago this evening.

It is a great pleasure for me to join with the people of India and the Indian-American community in paying tribute to the 50th anniversary of India's independence, which is one of the things that is mentioned in the House Resolution.