

I hope that all of these individuals continue to utilize their artistic talents, and I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavors.

A TRIBUTE FOR TAIWANESE-AMERICAN HERITAGE WEEK

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, each May, our nation pauses to recognize the enormous contributions that Pacific Islanders and Americans of Asian descent have made to our country. One week of this month long celebration, the week following Mother's Day, is designated as Taiwanese-American Heritage Week. This observance offers us the opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the Taiwanese-American population throughout the United States, and celebrate its rich and unique cultural heritage.

There are currently over 10 million Americans of Asian descent in the United States, 500,000 of whom are Taiwanese Americans. In Wisconsin, our Asian-American population has grown statewide to nearly 89,000, with over 25,000 located in Milwaukee County alone.

The Taiwanese-American community in the United States places strong emphasis on the importance of education. Over 40% of its population consists of college graduates, many with advanced degrees. Americans of Taiwanese descent have made significant contributions in all walks of life, including the arts, sciences, and the humanities. In fact, the 1986 winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Dr. Lee Yuan-tse, is a Taiwanese American.

The Taiwanese-American community in Milwaukee has also made important contributions to the quality of life in our community. This week, Milwaukee-area residents are being given the opportunity to learn more about the Taiwanese American people, its food, culture and history at the Taiwanese-American Heritage Week festival sponsored by the Taiwanese-American Associations of Milwaukee & Madison, the Taiwanese Student Association of UW-Madison and the Formosan Association for Public Affairs-Wisconsin. I congratulate these organizations for their efforts to share their rich cultural heritage with our community, and extend my best wishes for a rewarding and successful day of festivities.

And, as we join in celebrating the traditions and culture of the Taiwanese-American community, let us also remember to cherish the diversity that is America, and the spirit of community that binds us together as a nation.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK VETERANS

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, most recent data from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimate that roughly 23.6 million male and 1.2 million female veterans currently reside in the United States. Of which, 3,400 veterans

served in World War I, 5.9 million in World War II, 4.1 million in the Korean Conflict, 8.1 million during the Vietnam era, 2.2 million during the Persian Gulf War era, and 5.8 million during peacetime.

New York State is home to over 1.4 million veterans, and some 4,600 veterans reside in Cortland County alone. Veterans from across the State of New York will be descending upon the Country Music Park in Truxton, New York on Sunday, May 20th to attend festivities recognizing their service to the American people.

As a Member of Congress representing Cortland County and Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs/HUD and Independent Agencies overseeing the funding of all federal veterans benefits and health services, I rise today to recognize the dedication these New York State veterans and their families have shown in service to our nation.

Americans of all ages owe a sincere debt of gratitude to the sacrifice of all veterans who have defended our country and preserved and protected the foundations of liberty and freedom both home and abroad. I anticipate that the event on May 20th will be a fitting tribute to their selfless service.

HONORING THE MUSIC MAN, DR. THOMAS HAMMETT—A REMARKABLE EDUCATOR

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an exceptional teacher in my district—Dr. Thomas Hammett. Dr. Hammett teaches chorus and drama at Lookout Valley High School and is also the Director of Music at Rivermont Presbyterian Church. I think it is particularly fitting to honor Dr. Hammett the same week we are debating H.R. 1, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Dr. Thomas Hammett has continually demonstrated character education in the classroom long before the term was ever coined. Many of his students believe he invented the phrase. Not only does he teach music; he teaches character, morals and how to live life.

He has made a significant difference in the lives of so many of his students. He teaches them that music can break down barriers in a way that nothing else can. It can break down prejudice and indifference and it crosses racial lines. Dr. Hammett is a man of Christ and is never afraid to demonstrate his faith despite the consequences. Without his dedication many of his students wouldn't be where they are today.

I have heard from a number of Dr. Hammett's students and their words tell the story better than I could.

Rebekah Griffiths said,

"Dr. Hammett has made a huge difference in my life and I am a better person because of his example and teachings. I love him like a father and appreciate his listening ear, time and advice more than he will ever know."

Michael Langston states,

"Dr. Hammett has been an outstanding role model for me. He has taken many days out of his personal life to help me succeed in chorus.

I don't know many teachers who would take a single student to All-State auditions and performances."

I am proud to have him teaching in my district. Keep up the good work Dr. Hammett—you are a perfect example of why character education works and a role model for other teachers who dedicate their lives to teaching America's children. I commend you and your wife, Faye, and your four daughters, Charity, Emily, Stephanie and Rosalie.

ATTACKS ON PLACES OF WORSHIP IN THE BALKANS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, news reports from Bosnia and Kosovo earlier this month give reason to despair.

First, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, about 30 people were injured and property was damaged during riots in the "Republika Srpska" cities of Trebinje on May 5 and Banja Luka on May 7. Islamic leaders, Bosnian officials and representatives of the international community were attacked during ceremonies to lay the first stones of mosques being rebuilt where mosques destroyed by Serb militants in 1993 once stood.

We remember well, hundreds of mosques were destroyed during the war as part of the genocidal campaign of ethnic cleansing. The apparent purpose was to erase the cultural vestiges of the Bosniac population which was terrorized and forced to flee. It was not uncommon for the local ethnic Serbs subsequently to deny a mosque had ever existed, once the rubble had been cleared away. The famous Ferhadija mosque in Banja Luka built in 1583 was blown to bits on May 7, 1993. The ceremony exactly eight years later was the culmination of persistent efforts, including the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair, to get Republika Srpska leaders to permit the reconstruction of destroyed mosques, which they finally did this year.

The riots last week demonstrate the continued intolerance in the region. Moreover, while Bosnian Serb officials have officially condemned the incidents, there are indications that both the Trebinje and Banja Luka events were orchestrated and perhaps linked. In Trebinje, the police force seemed simply to be not adequate. In Banja Luka, though, some believe that the police forces may have been involved in plans to disrupt the ceremonies. Radovan Karadzic, the wartime Bosnian Serb leader who has been indicted for genocide but remains at large, is alleged to have been responsible.

Meanwhile, in Kosovo on May 6, local Albanians threw stones breaking windows and the doors of the Serbian Orthodox Church of St. Dimitrije in the village of Susica. Damage was done inside, and some cash offering was stolen. This was only the most recent in a wave of attack since the end of the conflict in Kosovo in 1999 in which about one hundred Orthodox churches have been damaged or destroyed. Many of these incidents have been documented by Serbian Orthodox Bishop Artemije in testimony before the Helsinki Commission. Mr. Speaker, there are signs that in

Kosovo, too, these attacks are not spontaneous acts of intolerance. Unfortunately, it seems that an environment has been created in which such acts of violence are not discouraged, let alone thwarted.

Mr. Speaker, attacks on places of worship are reprehensible, no matter what the faith, no matter what the ethnicity of the worshippers. These sites are sacred to believers, and important as cultural symbols even to many who are not. Orchestrated or spontaneous, these attacks must be stopped. The international presence, including peacekeeping forces, local law enforcement, political leaders, and religious figures across faiths must be part of the solution, not the problem.

I was particularly disappointed with the response of Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica, who, while criticizing those who engaged in violence, sought to place some of the blame on those working to rebuild the mosques in Republika Srpska. He was quoted as saying that some churches and mosques should not be rebuilt because they might provoke such incidents. Blaming the victim, sadly, has become a norm in the minds of too many who could and should, instead, be champions of justice.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let us remember that freedom of thought, religion and belief is a fundamental human right, and attacks on religious sites are attacks on that right, attacks that must be wholeheartedly condemned and hopefully prevented from happening again.

STATEMENT APPLAUDING CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL TEACHERS HALL OF FAME

**HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Dr. Emiel Hamberlin, who is being inducted into the National Teachers Hall of Fame today. Today's children need a balance of guidance and knowledge, and I am glad to see that Chicago's Public schools and its students are being fortified by teachers like Dr. Hamberlin.

Dr. Hamberlin has been teaching biology and Horticulture Environmental Sciences for the past 36 years in Chicago public schools. His honors and awards include City of Chicago Teacher of the Year, the Kohl Family Foundation International Educator, Who's Who Among Black Americans, and the Golden Apple Foundation Academy Fellowship, and he has been recognized as one of Newsweek Magazine's America's 100 Heroes.

Dr. Hamberlin has applied a practical application of his science curriculum that includes educating his pupils in small business and small business enterprises. Through the Ornamental Horticulture Program, he and his students developed a landscaping club where student were paid for producing public and private landscapes throughout the city.

He and his students have also developed an award winning Urban Ecology Sanctuary where they studied, maintained and housed various animals, numerous plant life, and unique ecosystems all within an enclosed courtyard on their high school campus. Dr.

Hamberlin has shown that classrooms can be stimulating experiences for all types of students, and they can have first hand experience at life's lessons.

Dr. Hamberlin has demonstrated what a great impact a teacher can have on our children, and we are glad to have him teaching the children of Chicago. Dr. Hamberlin, thank you for your years of dedication to the most noble of services, and may you continue to influence and inspire students for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD J. SIEGEL

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Donald J. Siegel. On May 16, the Israel Bond National Labor Division will honor Don Siegel with the Habonim Yisrael, the Builders of Israel, Award. It is fitting that Don will receive this honor in a union hall. It is fitting, too, that Edward C. Sullivan, President of the Building and Construction Trades Department of the AFL-CIO, serves as honorary chair of the celebration. This ceremony, like Don Siegel himself, exemplifies all that is best in our country: men and women of good will working to understand and help one another.

Don has served for many years as counsel to the Massachusetts Building Trades Council. He began practicing labor law in 1971, and, since then, he has been a trusted friend and advisor to many unions and employee benefit funds. In 1994, the Archdiocese of Boston honored him with its Cushing-Gavin award, recognizing his moral integrity, professional competence, and community concern. There is no faith community in Massachusetts, and, I think, few activists of any political or religious persuasion, who do not recognize him as a tireless, persuasive advocate for working people.

Don is a man who assumes responsibility as naturally as he breathes, and as unaffectedly. He is the immediate past president of the Jewish Community Relations Council and now chairs its Israel Strategy group. He has taken pains to educate non-Jews—and for this I am personally grateful—about Israeli society, about Israel's success in absorbing new immigrants, and about the difficult and important attempts, like those in the city of Haifa, to build understanding between Jewish and Arab Israelis.

Don Siegel is a righteous man. He lives, teaches, and inspires others to uphold the principles of *ts'dakkah v'hessid*: justice and loving-kindness.

TRIBUTE TO DORI PYE

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a remarkable woman, a distinguished business leader and a great friend—Dori Pye—who is retiring as President of the Los Angeles Business Council (LABC) after 30

years of service. Dori is being honored by the LABC at a dinner on May 17, 2001 for her outstanding contributions to the business community.

I have known Dori from her days at the Westwood Chamber of Commerce, when I was a newly elected state Assemblyman, nervous and apprehensive about speaking to such an august group. Dori, in her inimitable manner, soothed my anxiety and made me feel welcome. From that day forward, we developed a close and very rewarding relationship.

Dori's tenure was highlighted by the innovative programs, projects and invaluable resources she brought to LABC and to the City of Los Angeles. She established the LABC's Annual Urban Architectural Awards Program which is designed to recognize outstanding construction and landscaping projects; and she established and continues to run the nationally recognized Leadership LA Program, which prepares business professionals for leadership roles in the community. As President of LABC, Dori was the spokeswoman for the Los Angeles business community in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. I have witnessed firsthand how her strong voice, persuasive logic and general savvy helped bolster the cause of the Los Angeles business community.

Anyone who has seen her syndicated show, "Inside LA," knows that Dori truly understands the special idiosyncracies of her home town. She has hosted this program for ten years, during which she has interviewed individuals from all walks of life. She delved into LA's toughest issues and in the process, created a spirited and interesting show that was a favorite of the viewers of Los Angeles.

Dori has also served Los Angeles through her tireless work with numerous community, professional and charitable organizations including the Southern California Association of Chamber Executives where she served as President, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, the American Heart Association, and the Los Angeles International Airport Advisory Committee, among many others. Dori's good works have been recognized by local, state and national legislators and by the City of Hope, which awarded her the "Spirit of Life Award."

It is my great pleasure and honor to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Dori Pye, an extraordinary individual and a very special friend.

IN TRIBUTE TO WILLA DOBBS

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 16, 2001*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Willa Dobbs, a woman who has proven that love and caring are powerful forces that can change lives and lift a community.

For more than 30 years, Mrs. Dobbs has worked tirelessly to feed the less fortunate. As founder and director of Care and Share, the community food bank in my hometown of Simi Valley, California, Mrs. Dobbs has been responsible for seeing to it that thousands of men, women and children have been fed.