

to join me in congratulating Mt. Diablo Audubon Society as it celebrates its 50th anniversary.

Founded in 1953, Mt. Diablo Audubon Society (MDAS) has an impressive record of environmental achievements in Contra Costa County, including the following:

Involved extensively in the protection and recovery of McNabney Marsh in Martinez. Formerly Shell Marsh, this area was saved as part of a settlement over an oil spill years ago. It is named after Mt. Diablo Audubon Society's well-known and respected former vice-president of conservation, the late Al McNabney.

Worked with the East Bay Regional Park District on the establishment and development of Waterbird Park in Martinez.

Led fifty-four yearly field trips for MDAS members and the public.

Supported the Muir Heritage Land Trust which has initiated a bold plan to link together many of our open space areas.

Partnered with a local flood control district to restore and protect a 22-acre saline marsh in Antioch, the Julia Cox Freeman Marsh.

Provided Audubon Adventures to over 90 classrooms (3,000 students) throughout Contra Costa County. Since 1984 Audubon Adventures has provided basic, scientifically-accurate facts about birds and wildlife and their habitats.

Partnered with Native Bird Connections and Wild Birds Unlimited to develop a life science course of study for freshman and sophomore high school students. Currently two high schools are participating in this program.

Supported the expansion of the California Bluebird Recovery Program and the placement of hundreds of bluebird houses in California.

Participated in many events and festivals in Contra Costa County and northern California to help educate the public about birds and the habitat they require.

Initiated the Contra Costa County Breeding Bird Atlas. This Atlas (a major five-year project underwritten by MDAS) will be an important tool in the battle to preserve open space and breeding habitats for birds.

Conducted slides shows and nature presentations to many schools and other groups throughout Contra Costa County.

Closely involved in the development of the Delta Science Center.

Participated in fifty Christmas Bird Counts.

I know I speak for all Members of Congress when I congratulate Mt. Diablo Audubon Society on its 50th anniversary and wish its members many more years of environmental stewardship.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK, MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF HAWAII

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2001

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, during my days in grade school, the full participation of women in school athletics was not only discouraged, but also frowned upon. That all

changed in 1972 when one woman challenged the system, changed the rules and inspired and empowered a new generation of young women. That woman is PATSY MINK.

I offer my deepest condolences to PATSY MINK's family. I know that they will miss her, as will all of us in Congress who were fortunate enough to know her, not only as a colleague, but also as a leader, mentor and friend.

PATSY MINK was a pioneer—she opened so many doors for a generation of women and for our daughters. She was the driving force behind Title IX, which mandated gender equality in education.

Without this landmark piece of legislation, our daughters, granddaughters, nieces and young women everywhere would not have the opportunity to excel and display their talents in the classrooms and the playing fields across this nation.

Without PATSY's unwavering efforts to implement this law, Title IX would have been the great idea that never came to be.

I am honored to have served with Congresswoman MINK on the House Education and the Workforce Committee and feel privileged to have worked closely with her on the Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness. I know firsthand her intense drive, dedication and devotion to her home State and her constituency.

As the first Asian woman elected to Congress, she displayed unparalleled determination in fighting for human rights, civil rights and the rights of minority groups everywhere. We must now be vigilant and continue the crucial work that Congresswoman MINK undertook on behalf of people everywhere who felt they had no voice.

Women, people of color and individuals throughout this nation owe a debt of gratitude to PATSY MINK and her trailblazing efforts. Her legacy of equality and integrity will live on not only in the halls of Congress, but on the playing fields and in the classrooms across this nation.

HONORING MARILYN A. NGUYEN

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marilyn A. Nguyen of Bourbonnais, Illinois. Marilyn was one of over 85,000 secondary school students who participated in a contest through the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary (VFW). Each year the VFW conducts a Voice of Democracy audio/essay competition designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinion on their responsibility to our country. The contest theme was "Reaching Out to America's Future". Marilyn A. Nguyen was chosen as the 2002 Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting winner this year. Following is Marilyn's winning script.

The harmony of an industrious city is disrupted by a deafeningly explosive crash. There is confusion. There are wailing sirens. In another city, the same confusion spreads like wildfire. Lives are forever changed as events unfold and buildings collapse. The horror is almost too much to bear. On September 11th, 2001, the gruesome hand of ter-

rorism attempted to reach out and grasp America's future. Fortunately, its grip was too slippery to conquer the heart and soul that is the United States of America.

Over two centuries ago the founding fathers of this country left England envisioning better lives for themselves and their posterity. They reached out mentally and physically to find America's future full of promise and patriotism. As this country continues to blossom and mature we must accept the task of reaching out to America's future no matter the cost or hardship.

America is a union for all nationalities. It reaches out to immigrants of all lands. My parents were among these immigrants. As their daughter I especially feel a unique bond to America. I feel that it is my duty to reach out to America's future with my own actions.

But, what does it mean to reach out to America's future? Already, it may seem to some that our future is uncertain because of the terrorist attacks. But, these tragedies only remind us that the time to reach out to America's future is now. We need to rise to the challenge as we have never done before to stand firm as a nation and as human beings to reach forward into the future.

The task at hand is not an easy one. Reaching out to America's future must begin with the individual who believes that America's future is not an abstract idea: it is comprised of neighbors, friends, mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters and especially individuals. America's future depends on what happens today in the lives of ordinary Americans living ordinary lives. It calls for the erasure of color, race and religion. It begins when one person extends respect and acceptance to another person regardless of their background.

Reaching out to America's future as a teenager is not much different from extending a hand as an adult. As a teen, perhaps it may be a difficult step but one which lays the foundations for adulthood. At a time when personal opinions are being formed, it can be easy to declare "it's not my job" to reach out but that is where we are wrong. I am the future of America. It starts with me. I am the voice of influence over my friends and the younger members of my community. Using that influence to promote understanding and cooperation among my peers, family, and community are what I, as a teen individual, can do to reach out to America's future.

It is important to begin with our everyday routines because this is where the impact will be most felt. I must encourage others to talk with friends and family about what it means to be a contribution to America's future. Teach younger children in middle school, neighbors, or even peers in high school that it is wrong to hate and discriminate. I have a responsibility to open my mind to the differences that make us unique and vital components of the future instead of searching for ways to divide. The example I put forth into the world should be one of love and acceptance.

The teenager's job in reaching out to America's future lies in the education of himself and his surroundings. His call to help build America's future is still strong. This nation has no future without the work of those who believe in its potential for goodness.

Reaching out to America's future can seem like a far away goal. But, in reality, the future is at our fingertips. We as people of this majestic empire must adopt the task set before us over two hundred years ago. Reaching out to the future begins with the person who hears these words. It is he who must first take action. The perfect example of reaching out to America's future is the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor. She is the

example for one and all. Her extended arm holding the torch as a guiding light beckons us to follow her into the future. With her un-failing devotion to the preservation of this land, she reminds us that the future's brightness depends solely on those willing to bear the torch.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

IN SUPPORT OF QUEEN NOOR'S
ADVOCACY OF ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
WOMEN

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the organizers of today's event for bringing congressional Members together to emphasize the role that United States adherence, and for that matter universal adherence, to the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women could play in ameliorating the situation of women around the world.

Her Majesty, Queen Noor, has graced us with her presence and we so much appreciate her continuing leadership on this issue and on so many other humanitarian efforts.

It is high time that the United States took its rightful place among the nations adhering to this convention. It is not just the example we would set for those not adhering to it, but also the opportunity to play a role, as a state party to the convention, in the process of upholding the convention itself around the world in places where it is on the books but not really being enforced.

We have all heard the expression "women's rights are human rights." Because women have received short shrift around the world, we have long recognized the need for a special measure to address the empowerment of women. The United States should play its proper leadership role. I appreciate all the efforts of those present here today and urge support for their goals.

COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF SOMERVILLE HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Somerville High School in Somerville, Massachusetts on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. The phrase, "dedicated to the preparation of youth for the responsibilities of life" is etched on the building's facade and this is truly an accurate description of its mission.

The Somerville Free High School was dedicated on April 28, 1852. When the doors opened on May 3rd, two teachers taught sixty-six students. In 1862, the first graduating class had six members.

The facility we now know as Somerville High School was once two institutions:

Somerville's Twin High Schools. Students from English High School were prepared for scientific, normal and business schools while students from Latin High School were prepared for college. Both the 1900 and 1904 World's Fairs in Paris and St. Louis featured the Twin High Schools in their educational exhibits. In 1902, Somerville spent three days celebrating their high school's 50th anniversary.

In 1911, the Twin High Schools were merged and became Somerville High School. The school was rebuilt and expanded from 1928–1929 to include a gymnasium and a space for 3,000 students.

In 1983, Somerville High School was renovated. A new vocational wing and field house were added to the facility. The Somerville Technical Trade School, established in 1910, merged with Somerville High School at this time. When the New England Association of Schools and Colleges issued its accreditation report in 1990 it praised Somerville High School, calling it: "the best kept secret in Massachusetts."

Somerville High School has a strong sports tradition that continues today. The school has won seven New England Technical Tournament basketball championships since 1944 and a New England basketball title in 1949. Several of its athletes were selected for All-Scholastic Teams, and several became individual State and New England champions in Indoor and Outdoor track. The girls basketball program has also enjoyed tremendous success and last year included the alltime scoring leader.

Somerville High School lives up to its bold crest, which proclaims Honor and Progress. It has been a tremendous asset to its students over the last 150 years. I am a proud graduate of Somerville High School and know that this fine institution will continue to serve Somerville's young people with distinction.

MATTIEBELLE WOODS: THE FIRST
LADY OF MILWAUKEE'S BLACK
PRESS CELEBRATES HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 8, 2002

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Mattie Belle Woods, a local treasure from Milwaukee, who will turn 100 years old on October 31.

For nearly 40 years, Mattie Belle has reported on the major social events and gatherings in Milwaukee's African-American community, building an impressive career and reputation that have earned her the title of "First Lady of Milwaukee's Black Press."

Writing for the Milwaukee Defender, the Milwaukee Star, the Milwaukee Globe and now with the Milwaukee Courier, Mattie Belle's articles continue to take the social pulse of the African-American community in our city. Her work has received dozens of awards and accolades, including recognition of her journalistic contributions from the Milwaukee Press Club.

In addition to a brilliant career in journalism, Mattie Belle has stood as a pillar of strength in our community through her many years of service and dedication to making a difference

in the lives of the people of Milwaukee. She was an original founder of the Wisconsin Black Teen Pageant, an event that has unlocked new opportunities for scores of young black women in Wisconsin. She remains a dedicated political activist, working on campaigns for nearly six decades and helping with voter registration efforts. While doing all of this, Mattie Belle continues to work in her church.

Her many accomplishments and contributions have made Mattie Belle a source of great inspiration for countless leaders in our community. It is a service she is happy to provide. Elected officials, neighborhood activists and civic leaders alike all credit Mattie Belle for empowering them with the confidence to pursue a life of service to the community, and thank her for her words of wisdom that have clarified their own personal and professional paths.

In a recent newspaper article, Mattie Belle described her vitality as she begins her second century: "I get up every day and eat and drink what I want. I can't believe I don't have the aches and pains that everyone else has. I don't take any medication. I don't have a wheelchair or a rocking chair, and I wear heels when I go out. It's ironic."

With such energy and vigor, Milwaukeeans can look forward to many more years of articles and service from our dear Mattie Belle. Mr. Speaker, I urge the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting Mattie Belle Woods, and sending her best wishes as she begins her 101st year.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE
HONORABLE PATSY T. MINK,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF HAWAII

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and colleague, the Honorable PATSY MINK. I have known PATSY since being elected to Congress nearly a decade ago, and it was with heartfelt sadness that I learned of her passing on September 28, 2002.

PATSY MINK, the first congresswoman of Asian descent, was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1964. Throughout her career, she earned a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for minorities, women, and children. Even at the age of 74, PATSY continued to be a stalwart for social and economic justice in the House of Representatives.

In one of her proudest moments in 1972, PATSY coauthored and passed a landmark law prohibiting sex discrimination in federally-funded education programs, popularly known as Title IX. As a result, the number of girls participating in high school sports has exploded in recent decades, leading to increased opportunities for women.

PATSY MINK's tenacity and dedication to the Civil Rights movement during the 1960s and 1970s shaped the Democratic national agenda, making the interests of women and minorities a centerpiece of the party's platform. During the 1990s, her ability to build coalitions in