

and extend congratulations upon its 40th anniversary.

COMMEMORATING DR. SHELDON
HARRIS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. Sheldon Harris. Dr. Harris' most notable achievement was the exhaustive research and publication of his landmark study, "Factories of Death: Japanese Secret Biological Warfare, 1932-45, and the American Cover-Up," a timely and important historical document exposing human rights abuses and chemical weapons development. Dr. Harris passed away on August 31, 2002, leaving behind a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for countless students, researchers, and people interested in historical justice.

Dr. Harris was born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at Brooklyn College, Harvard, and Columbia University. He went on to teach history at the University of Massachusetts, Cal State-Northridge, and the University of California at Los Angeles. As part of an academic exchange program in China in the mid-1980s, Dr. Harris became aware of large-scale biological warfare experiments conducted in China during World War II. After some preliminary research and informal interviews with colleagues, it became apparent to Dr. Sheldon that a special Japanese army unit had carried out biological warfare experiments that cost the lives of not only thousands of military prisoners, but also Chinese civilians. He then began studying recently declassified U.S. military records addressing the experiments and their results, as well as other written resources in various Asian languages. Certain interests in the U.S. military diligently guarded the records Dr. Sheldon requested, while the Japanese government simply denied any knowledge or involvement pertaining to the issue. In spite of these roadblocks, Dr. Harris continued his research and his pursuit of the truth.

By 1994, Dr. Harris was ready to share his research with the world. He published "Factories of Death" based on years of study, travel, and interviews. The book is as influential as it is unsettling. Dr. Harris established as fact that Unit 731 of the Japanese Army tested live human beings, both military and civilians, with agents such as anthrax, dysentery, cholera, and typhoid. Throughout the Japanese occupied region of Manchuria, guarded buildings were erected to host the experiments, as well as the incarceration and eventual execution of the prisoners held there. Sometimes, neighboring villages would be infected outright with various germs, then burned to the ground once the inhabitants were overcome with the symptoms.

According to Dr. Harris' research, the men in charge of these experiments and mass exterminations escaped prosecution as part of a deal made with certain U.S. intelligence agencies. In exchange for the data from the experiments, the leaders of the biological weapons programs received complete immunity—an exchange that was kept secret within the highest levels of the international intelligence commu-

nity. During the decades that followed, the Japanese government denied any involvement with the experiments carried out in China; U.S. intelligence kept the data secret and stonewalled outsiders pursuing it. These policies have been largely maintained to this day, but in a remarkable turn of events, a Japanese court finally proclaimed that Japan's government had been involved in developing biological weapons in China from 1932-45. The court's decision, based in part on Dr. Harris' work, was delivered four days before Dr. Harris' death.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Dr. Sheldon Harris and the important work he has done for the international community. He was never vindictive in his efforts to bring closure to those hurt by this horrible chapter of human history. His harsh indictment against chemical weapons is relevant to all peoples and governments, as it extracts a meaningful lesson from so much senseless violence and cruelty. The importance of Dr. Harris' work may be demonstrated again and again as the issue of biological weapons is addressed today and in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUG AND
TYLER MELZER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize the alpine accomplishments of Doug and Tyler Melzer of Lakewood, Colorado. Doug and Tyler have recently joined other family members as part of an elite group of individuals who have hiked the entire Colorado Continental Divide. As they celebrate their journey's completion, I would like to pay tribute to their family legacy and their extraordinary accomplishment.

The Melzer family tradition began in the summer of 1936 when Doug and Tyler's great-grandfather and grandfather, Carl and Bob Melzer, first hiked the 800-mile journey along the Continental Divide. They embarked on this journey solely in the pursuit of adventure. They wanted to experience the outdoors, breathe the fresh air and experience the mountains in a way few ever have. Bob was only 8 years old when he completed the trip with his father, and together they became the first people to complete the hike in its entirety. In the summer of 1976, Doug and Tyler's parents, Tom and Judy Melzer, accomplished the same feat, and Judy Melzer became the first woman to ever complete the hike.

Last summer, Doug and Tyler joined their family, becoming the fourth generation of Melzer's to make the journey. Tyler was able to hike over 800 miles from New Mexico to Wyoming, while his brother had to suspend part of the trip to recover from a leg injury. After Doug recovered from his injury, he re-joined his brother just outside of Rocky Mountain National Park to complete the journey. After making it into Wyoming, the two brothers then drove back to the San Juan Mountain range to complete the 70-mile portion they missed due to the injury.

Although Doug and Tyler represent a proud legacy of Melzers who have hiked the Conti-

mental Divide, they also represent something much more profound and significant: an entire population of proud Coloradans who love their state and its incredible natural beauty. It is of profound significance that four generations of the Melzer family have been able to make such an incredible journey through such a rugged terrain.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Doug and Tyler Melzer before this body of Congress and this nation for their outstanding accomplishment in hiking the Colorado Continental Divide last summer. After hearing the many stories told by their parents and grandparents of experiences on the Divide, Doug and Tyler can finally add to that legacy with some unique stories of their own. I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MILES PARK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Miles Park Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Debra Brathwaite and Principal William Bauer for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Miles Park Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include increasing the percentage of students passing all five parts of the Ohio Proficiency and off-grade tests to meet targets at each grade level; creating a safe, nurturing environment; and improving the academic and social performance of all special needs students. Recent accomplishments from last year include above average on proficiency tests, and receipt of the Ohio Reads Literacy Grant.

I commend the Miles Park Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY
SULIMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Mary Suliman, born September 2, 1898, in recognition of her 104th birthday celebration.

Mary Suliman migrated from Newbern, North Carolina to New York over sixty-two years ago. She married Mr. Samona Suliman from New Jersey and had two beautiful children, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. All of Mary's loved ones call her "Nana."

She worked as a hairdresser in her Brooklyn community for several years. As a retired person her hobbies have included dancing, reading, watching television and singing. Mrs. Suliman's favorite songs are "Down by the Cross" and "Bye—Bye Black Bird." She continues to be loved by her family unconditionally and admired by others in the community.

Mr. Speaker. Mrs. Mary Suliman, who now resides at the Marcus Garvey Nursing Home, has devoted her life to serving her family and community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving recognition today.

HONORING THE DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE OF ALFRED S. PATE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the retirement of a dedicated public servant and good friend, Mr. Al Pate, Director of the North Chicago Veterans Affairs Medical Center (NCVAMC). Mr. Pate will be retiring on November 2, ending 30 years of service to our nation's veterans.

For the last 12 years, Al Pate has served as director of NCVAMC, a facility serving the veterans of northern Illinois with 150 operating hospital care beds, 204 nursing home care beds, a 60-bed domiciliary for homeless veterans, and 89 drug and alcohol treatment beds. With an annual budget of \$100 million, Al oversaw a staff of 1,130 and 700 volunteers who handle in excess of 180,000 outpatient visits a year.

Al has been recognized as a national leader in developing resource sharing agreements between the VA and the Department of Defense. Working with Captain John Fahey, Al led the initiative to jointly offer common services with Naval Hospital Great Lakes, located less than a mile away. Acting with little or no support from his immediate supervisor, Al has successfully laid the foundation for the establishment of a jointly operated, federal hospital in North Chicago serving both active duty military and veterans. This will result not only in better service for beneficiaries, but better value for the American taxpayer.

Prior to coming to North Chicago, Al Pate served as the Associate Medical Center Director at the Hines VA Hospital in Chicago. In his six years at Hines, Al coordinated several administrative services and chaired a number of hospital committees. He also served as Special Assistant to the Director at Lakeside VAMC, Administrative Resident at VAMC Cincinnati, Ohio, and as an adjudicator at the VA Regional Office in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Al received a Bachelors of Science degree in Secondary Education from Ball State University in 1971. He received a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Ball State the following year. He also received a Master of Science degree in Hospital Administration as part of the VA Graduate Education Program.

Al Pate served in Vietnam with the United States Marine Corps as part of the all volun-

teer Combined Action Program. Wounded in combat, he received the Purple Heart, and was honorably discharged in 1969.

It is Al's dedication to veterans that distinguishes his career. This dedication earned him the respect of his colleagues, veterans advocates and, most of all, of the veterans he serves. I admire Al for the work he does, for his service to our country, and for his friendship. He will be sorely missed in North Chicago and I will pledge to work to see that his vision of a joint federal hospital in North Chicago is realized. I wish Al and his wife Patricia a happy retirement and thank them for their service.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE BEAUDOIN IN CELEBRATION OF HER FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent of mine, a true "yooper" in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan who has served in the United States Postal Service for more than a half century. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Louise Beaudoin in recognition of her fifty years of working at the post office in Trout Lake, Michigan.

Born in 1927, in Moran, Michigan, Louise married Neil Beaudoin 58 years ago and has lived in Trout Lake ever since.

Louise Beaudoin began her career in the United States Post Office in Trout Lake on February 22, 1952. Trout Lake, a small resort town in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, is located approximately 30 miles northwest of the Mackinac Bridge, in the heart of the Eastern U.P. snowmobile country. This resort town consists of three lakes—perfect for fishing, boating, and swimming, a number of small resorts and restaurants, as well as a campground and park. Truly a vacationer's delight.

While Trout Lake is too small to support a school, it does rely heavily on its local post office as a means of contact with the outside world. Louise Beaudoin, the current Postmaster, has overseen operations at Trout Lake postal center for 19 years. This post office, which has no computers, manually processes all mail sent to and received by the town of approximately 600.

Louise began her career in Trout Lake as a part time flex employee. She was converted to a career appointment in November of 1971, and has served as Postmaster since 1983. Affectionately referred to as "Aunt Louise," "Weezie" or "Weezer" by townspeople and friends, Louise Beaudoin has served under seven Postmasters. Throughout her tenure in the post office, Louise has received numerous awards including: "Beyond the Call of Duty" lapel pin, the Superior Achievement Award; a 30 year service pin, a 45 year ruby service pin; and in June of this year, the 50 year diamond lapel pin as well as a resolution from the Michigan Legislature.

Louise has two sons Richard and Mark Beaudoin. Richard has followed in his moth-

er's footsteps, working for the USPS in West Palm Beach, Florida, while Mark owns Beaudoin Sanitation in Trout Lake. She has two granddaughters in Trout Lake, Amy and Erin, who actively help Louise by washing windows, sweeping sidewalks and shoveling snow. Outside of her work in the post office, Louise is actively involved in St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the Trout Lake Women's Club.

Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2002, Louise Beaudoin officially celebrated her fifty years of service to the United States Postal Service in Trout Lake. She was joined by her friends and family as well as several other postmasters in the Eastern Upper Peninsula recognizing her tireless dedication to the community of Trout Lake and the United States Postal Service. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting, Louise Beaudoin, a woman who exemplifies the very best qualities of the good people residing in the First Congressional District of Michigan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY PACHECO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize Dorothy Pacheco of Pueblo, Colorado for the outstanding contributions she has made in caring for the elderly. Mrs. Pacheco has recently been named the Colorado Health Care Association's 2002 Nurse of the Year and, as she receives this distinguished honor, I would like to pay tribute to her outstanding career before this body of Congress.

The way Dorothy Pacheco began her nursing career was anything but conventional. After she married, Dorothy and her husband soon started a family and her hectic schedule as a full time mother made finding the time to attend nursing school extremely difficult. However, by the time her youngest daughter was one year old, with the support of her husband, children, and friends she was able to meet the challenge and go back to school.

While still fulfilling her responsibilities as a full time mother, Mrs. Pacheco simultaneously invested long hours toward nursing school and holding down a part time nursing job. In 1982, all of Dorothy's hard work paid off when she received her degree to become a registered nurse. Although Dorothy believed her true passion was in hospital care, she soon found that caring for elderly patients was a most satisfying responsibility. After only a year of working as a hospital nurse, Dorothy returned to caring for the elderly and that is where she remained for the duration of her career.

Mr. Speaker, it is with genuine appreciation that I recognize Mrs. Dorothy Pacheco before this body of Congress and this nation for the selfless contributions she has made toward the welfare of Colorado's elderly. Her great works are an inspiration to us all and her optimism, good will and compassion have touched the lives of thousands of senior citizens throughout my state.