

two party monopoly over the political system by effectively disenfranchising supporters of third parties and independent candidates. While the campaign against Mr. Nader is an extreme case, supporters of the two party monopoly regularly use ballot access laws to keep third party and independent candidates off ballots. Even candidates able to comply with onerous ballot access rules must devote so many resources to simply getting on the ballot that their ability to communicate their ideas to the general public is severely limited. Perhaps the ballot access laws are one reason why voter turnout has been declining over the past few decades. After all, almost 42% of eligible voters have either not registered to vote or have registered as something other than Democrat or Republican.

The United States Constitution gives Congress the authority to regulate the time, place, and manner of federal elections. Thus, ballot access is one of the few areas where Congress has explicit Constitutional authority to establish national standards. In order to open up the political process, I have introduced the Voter Freedom Act (HR 1941). HR 1941 established uniform standards for ballot access so third party and independent candidates can at last compete on a level playing field.

The blatant attempt by a major party to keep Ralph Nader off state ballots demonstrates how restrictive ballot access laws are used to preserve a political monopoly, limit voters' choices, and deny the rights of millions of Americans who support third parties and independent candidates an opportunity to effectively participate in the political process. I call upon my colleagues to remedy this situation by supporting my Voter Freedom Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent for votes in this chamber on July 12, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 359, 361 and 362 and "no" on rollcall vote 360.

HONORING PORT OF OAKLAND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TAY YOSHITANI

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional achievements of retiring Port of Oakland Executive Director Tay Yoshitani.

Since his graduation from the United States Military Academy and the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Mr. Yoshitani's distinguished career has included the direction of the ports of several major cities. After serving as the Deputy Director of the Port of Los Angeles for six years, he became the Director of the Port of Maryland Administration in 1995. There he served with distinction until joining the Port of Oakland in 1998

as Deputy Executive Director, and later becoming Executive Director in October 2001.

As the Executive Director of the Port of Oakland, Mr. Yoshitani directed a staff of over six hundred employees and oversaw the management of the Oakland International Airport, the Oakland Seaport, and the historic Jack London Square. He has done an outstanding job managing not only the functions of the Port itself, but has also consistently demonstrated his commitment to sustainable development as a business goal through his pursuit of social equity and environmental responsibility in addition to economic vitality. In keeping with these principles, he established a new division at the Port, the Social Responsibility Division, which ensures greater access to jobs and business opportunities for the local community. Furthermore, Mr. Yoshitani is responsible for the establishment of a variety of other ground-breaking initiatives, such as the Public Art Program and Policy, the Port's sustainability Task Force, and the Annual Good Neighbor Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations delivering outstanding community service.

During his tenure as Executive Director, Mr. Yoshitani has also presided over the completion of a number of infrastructural improvements to all three Port divisions. In addition to supporting the Estuary Plan by initiating real estate and waterfront development in underutilized areas, he also presided over the completion of enlarged marine terminals, as well as the initiation of the construction of the Oakland International Airport's Terminal Improvement Program, the largest aviation project in the airport's 77-year history. Furthermore, under Mr. Yoshitani's direction, the Port has received over one hundred million dollars in Federal funding for various infrastructural improvements.

On July 14, 2004, Mr. Yoshitani will be honored in Oakland, California on the occasion of his retirement. I would like to take this opportunity to commend his exceptional achievements not only in the areas of Port economic growth and development, but also for his role as a leader in the areas of social responsibility and sustainable business practices. Mr. Yoshitani has distinguished himself as an exceptional business and civic leader, whose contributions have greatly enriched our community.

IN MEMORY OF EDILITH ECKART

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Edilith Eckart, who died June 16, 2004 in Humboldt County, California at the age of eighty-four.

Edilith Eckart was born in Brooklyn, the daughter of Norwegian immigrants. She was a teacher prior to World War II then served her country in the U.S. Navy as a WAVE Lieutenant Junior Grade during that war. After the war she moved to New Orleans with her family where she began her lifelong vocation as an activist for peace and civil rights. She was an ardent and effective environmentalist who was often called as an expert witness in court cases.

Her belief in the concept of a peaceful world was absolute. She was an activist extraordinaire, a Veteran for Peace, a columnist, a citizen diplomat, a member of Women in Black, a biologist, a devoted parent, grandparent and world traveler. She led fifteen trips to the Soviet Union, visited Israel and Palestine several times and in 1995 she went to Japan for ceremonies marking the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Characteristically, she engaged in civil disobedience and joined international organizations to help deliver \$4 million worth of medicines to Iraqi hospitals following the first Gulf War. She was the co-chair of the Veterans for Peace "Iraq Water Project," which resulted in the building of a number of water treatment plants in rural Iraq.

She believed in the power of individuals to forcefully speak out for peace and justice, connect with the people of other countries in the pursuit of those ideals and she worked valiantly to relieve suffering wherever she found it.

Referring to herself as a contemplative activist, her garden was listed with the Sanctuary Garden Project, a nation wide network of backyard sanctuaries.

Edilith Eckart received many national awards for her friendship building in the Soviet Union, Palestine, Iraq, as well as the Veterans for Peace Presidents Award. She was also awarded the Physician's for Social Responsibility "Broad Street Pump Award." The American Association of University Women honored her during Women's History Month in 1998.

She was an inspiration; a humanitarian and she left a distinguished legacy to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Edilith Eckart for her unwavering commitment to the ideals and values that sustain our great country.

IN HONOR OF THE BRAVERY OF THE NIAGARA FALLS FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE NEW YORK STATE PARK POLICE

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroes of the Niagara Falls Fire Department and the New York State Park Police. Last Sunday evening, these brave first responders rescued a woman on the verge of ending her own life at the edge of the vast Niagara Falls. Without hesitation, these men put their own lives in danger to save another.

Niagara Falls is one of the greatest natural treasures on earth. One of the largest waterfalls in the world, Niagara Falls plunges a dramatic 180 feet, or 16 stories. It is a wondrous site that attracts millions of tourists every year. But with its immense beauty comes immense dangers. Over the years, police and fire personnel in Niagara Falls have performed daring rescues to save people who have gotten too close to the edge.

On Sunday evening, a suicidal woman ventured out to a ledge just a few feet from the edge of the mighty falls. Responding first to the scene, New York State Park Police officers Scott Durham and Timothy Coulombe

kept the woman calm until rescue personnel from the Niagara Falls Fire Department arrived.

State Park Police Lieutenant Patrick Moriarty, Niagara Falls Fire Battalion Chief John Jacoby, and Niagara Falls firefighters Gary Carella and David Beahen all made their way out onto the ledge, just feet from the edge. Mr. Carella spoke to the woman with Mr. Beahen securing him from behind. As the woman suddenly began to slide towards the falls, Mr. Carella lunged to seize her, while Mr. Beahen lunged to catch him. They safely brought the woman to shore amid the cheers of dozens of onlookers who had gathered to watch this dramatic rescue.

I want to thank these men, and the personnel from Engine 8, Engine 4, Truck 1 and Rescue 1 who assisted them, for their astounding courage. The rescue only reaffirms what we already know: that the first responders of Niagara County are some of the finest. We should all feel safer knowing that that these brave men and women do such a stellar job, around the clock. I applaud and admire their valor and altruism.

TRIBUTE TO LI-PEI WU

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WU and I rise today to ask our colleagues to join in saluting Mr. Li-Pei Wu, Chairman Emeritus and Director of GBC Bancorp, and the new Presidential Policy Advisor to Taiwan's President Chen Shu-Bian. He is a remarkable man with a myriad of accomplishments.

Mr. Wu has enjoyed a distinguished and successful career as a banking executive. He served as CFO of the National Bank of Alaska and President of Alaska National Bank of the North. In 1982, Mr. Wu took the helm of General Bank in Los Angeles. Under his able leadership, both General Bank and its holding company, GBC Bancorp, developed into industry leaders.

Mr. Wu was born in Changhwa, Taiwan, one of the poorest communities in Taiwan. Despite facing political oppression, he earned a B.A. in Economics from National Taiwan University and taught at the Kwanglon Business School. After his brother was sent to prison by members of the Nationalist Party, Wu left Taiwan to earn his MBA at Fort Hays State University. He struggled with the English language, but his determination and business acumen soon landed him important positions in Alaska's largest financial institution, the National Bank of Alaska.

Li-Pei Wu's accomplishments go far beyond the business world. For more than 35 years he has dedicated his time and energy to advocate for democracy and human rights in Taiwan. He is the founder and chairman of the Formosa Foundation, a non-profit, non-partisan public interest group that seeks to foster an environment of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, while also promoting understanding and friendship between Taiwan and the United States. He was the founding president of the Taiwanese American Citizen League, which has grown from one to twelve

chapters nationwide. He has worked tirelessly to help Taiwanese-Americans achieve success and leadership opportunities in American politics, culture, and society. In addition, he serves as an honorary member of the Pacific Council on International Policy and as a Board of Advisors member for the Asia Society of Los Angeles.

Mr. Wu's commitment to human rights, peace, and economic success has been widely recognized. He is the proud recipient of the 1998 Ernst & Young Greater Los Angeles Entrepreneur of the Year Award and has been asked to teach at the University of Cambridge as a Distinguished Guest Lecturer in the school's Department of Oriental Studies. He has served as a delegate to Taiwan's National Affairs Summit at the direct invitation of Taiwan's President Lee Tung-hui. In 1990, he was the recipient of the Outstanding Entrepreneur Award bestowed on him by the National Association of Investment Companies.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring and thanking Mr. Li-Pei Wu for his outstanding contributions to our community and for his steadfast commitment to human rights and strong relations between the United States and Taiwan.

HONORING COLONEL DANIEL E. FURTADO

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the many contributions and accomplishments of Colonel Daniel E. Furtado on his retirement from the U.S. Army Reserve, after 38 years of devoted service including the prestigious command of the 5th Brigade, 104th Division. Colonel Furtado has dedicated over 30 years to his community and our nation.

Colonel Furtado is a native of Campbell, California and has been very active in civic and community affairs, having served both as mayor and city councilmember of Campbell. Through his many contributions to education, health, and national security, Colonel Furtado has impacted the lives of many and recently was selected as Citizen of the Year for the City of Campbell for the year 2000.

Colonel Daniel Furtado enlisted in the U.S. Army in September 1963, while enrolled in ROTC. After completing a Bachelor of Arts degree from San Jose State University in Applied Arts and Sciences, Colonel Furtado received a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of California and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco. From 1969 to 1971, he worked in Houston, Texas as Chief of the Pharmacology Section at the Academy of Health Sciences, Fort Sam. Later he worked in Palo Alto, CA as clinical coordinator for the Veterans Administration Medical Center. Colonel Furtado was Co-Director of the Pharmacy at O'Connor Hospital at Campbell, CA from 1979 to 1980, when he was appointed Associated Director of the Primary Care Associate Program at Stanford University School of Medicine. He still teaches pharmacology and is currently Senior Lecturer in Medicine at Stanford and Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy at the University of California.

Colonel Furtado has been a volunteer for the American Heart Association for over 25 years, and has served as President and on the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Chapter. His significant public service record is exemplified through the multitude of service awards that he has received, including the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with Gold Hourglass Device, and the Army Service Ribbon. Colonel Furtado is a member of the Emergency Preparedness Council of Santa Clara County and the Immediate Past Chairs of both the West Valley Sanitation District Board of Directors and the County Library Joint Powers Authority. Miraculously, Colonel Furtado also finds time to serve on the Homeland Security Task Force, the Public Safety Committee of the National League of Cities, and the Public Safety Committee of the League of California Cities.

Colonel Furtado's engaged assistance to the community and his many contributions to society have made him a distinguished member of Santa Clara County. His hard work and dedication toward the protection of our nation through military service make him a role model for our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Colonel Daniel E. Furtado for his ongoing efforts on behalf of his community and for his numerous accomplishments in the fields of education, health, community and military service.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHARD JONES JR.

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 14, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Richard Jones Jr. in recognition of contributions to the community through his professional work and civic endeavors.

Richard is a police officer in the New York City Police Department and is assigned to the Transit Division's Kings County Task Force. He is also an independent associate for Pre-paid Legal Services.

A Bedford Stuyvesant resident, Richard is the father of three lovely children. Shawntice is an honor student. His two active sons are Sirrichard and Khaliq. Richard's devotion to his family is unmatched.

Richard is a founding member of the civic association; "Black Men Who Care Inc.," which was founded in 1998 to creatively occupy the spare time of the youths residing in Brooklyn. During the winter, the organization developed a mentorship program to help youth after school. This program targeted young men between the ages of 12 and 15. In spite of the organization's name, it has come to include members of all races and both genders.

Richard is the Treasurer and Director of Sports and Recreation. Each week, he spends many hours with the organization, planning and coordinating future activities. The organization emphasizes etiquette, self-respect, respect for one's neighborhood, and respect for elders. For his continued community service, Richard received the Isaac Liberman Service Award in 1999 from the Hundred Year Association of New York.

As an independent associate with Pre-paid Legal Services, Richard is providing an opportunity for hard working middle class people to