

HONORING WHITEMARSH
TOWNSHIP

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the residents of Whitemarsh Township, in southeastern Pennsylvania, on the occasion of their tricentennial celebration.

The people of Whitemarsh Township, founded in 1704, are celebrating its 300th birthday with a series of events that illustrate the theme "Our living past . . . Our growing future." These events, including Revolutionary War reenactments, talks about the township's history, and a black tie gala, are bringing the community together and educating citizens about its rich heritage of steady growth and historical significance. As a part of this celebration, the Township is also taking the opportunity to honor distinguished citizens who have worked toward the betterment of the community.

From its inception, Whitemarsh Township has been a strong and tight-knit community. The Township has been involved not only in local history; events of national importance have occurred within Whitemarsh Township as well, including Revolutionary War encampments and skirmishes. This rich history has endowed the people of Whitemarsh Township with great pride; Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Fitz Dixon deserve commendations for their stewardship of Erdenheim Farm and community philanthropy, along with countless other citizens who remain devoted to carrying on the longstanding history and community of Whitemarsh Township.

It is my pleasure to join the residents of Whitemarsh Township in honoring their tricentennial.

HONORING MINNESOTA'S COMMISSIONER OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
JEFFREY OLSON

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a public servant, patriot and tireless advocate for veterans—Jeffrey Olson, Minnesota Commissioner of Veterans Affairs.

Commissioner Olson announced this week that he will be retiring at the end of the year from his post as commissioner which he served since 2001. Prior to this appointment, he served as deputy commissioner since 1983. At both posts, Commissioner Olson has worked to ensure that the needs of our veterans and soldiers are a priority.

Commissioner Olson brought much experience through his work as a Washington County Veterans Service Officer and the Assistant Director of the Veterans Employment and Training Service at the University of Minnesota.

During the Vietnam War, Jeff Olson served in the U.S. Army, attached to the United States Armed Forces Courier Service where he was responsible for preparing and transporting top-secret materials.

Long a champion of Minnesota veterans, Jeff Olson is a member of numerous veterans'

organizations and serves as Chair of the American Legion's National Convention Commission, Vice Chair of the National Legislature Council and is actively involved in the community.

I personally worked with Jeff Olson on many issues. When he was deputy commissioner, he helped me pass an important amendment to the Minnesota constitution that provided our Gulf War veterans with a bonus for their service.

I thank Jeff for his years of service on behalf of our veterans and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ROBERT M.
ROBUCK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to inform you that Robert M. Robuck of Jefferson City, MO, has been awarded "The Missourian Award" by the American Heart Association. Mr. Robuck received the award for his civic and business contributions to the community.

Mr. Robuck grew up in Cairo, MO. He attended the University of Missouri-Columbia and graduated in 1964 with a degree in business administration. Soon after graduation, Mr. Robuck moved to Jefferson City to work for Central Trust Bank.

Mr. Robuck is very committed to his community. Currently, he is the president, chief operating officer and director of Central Trust Bank. Also, he is the vice chairman and director of Central Banccompany, Inc. Additionally, Mr. Robuck is council president and a director of the Great Rivers Council, Boy Scouts of America. He was the chairman of Capital Region Medical Center, and he is a director of Pathways Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc. Mr. Robuck sits on the University of Missouri Medical Alliance Board.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Robert Robuck has distinguished himself as a fine community leader and citizen. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing Mr. Robuck and his family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE "GENE"
ITOGAWA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a man with a truly great career in public service. For more than thirty years, Eugene "Gene" Itogawa has worked tirelessly to preserve the historic fabric of California, especially the history of Japanese Americans. As Gene prepares to retire from his position as a historian with the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) and California State Parks, I would like to ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting Gene Itogawa's outstanding commitment to preserve and promote California history.

A resident of Sacramento since 1948, Gene is a graduate of McClatchy High School. Gene

earned Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees in History from California State University, Sacramento. Gene's Master's thesis is considered by many to be the definitive work on the history of the natural ice industry in California. A proud veteran, Gene enlisted with the United States military in 1968 and was honorably discharged in 1970.

During his tenure at Office of Historic Preservation, Gene has successfully performed nearly every professional task conducted by the office. He has assisted cities and counties in identifying historic resources through survey programs and evaluated survey results for inclusion in the department's database. In addition, Gene has managed state and federal grant programs and directed OHP's historic resources database.

Gene has coordinated several special projects including production of the book, "Five Views: An Ethnic Historic Site Survey for California." Gene coordinated the preparation of OHP's state preservation plan, "Forging the Future With the Past: Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan for California," and publication of the book, "By the People, For the People: The Work the Civilian Conservation Corps in California State Parks, 1933-1941."

Gene has served as OHP's liaison on several projects to preserve Japanese American history in California. Gene was an advocate to preserve Manzanar Internment Camp as a National Historical monument. Gene serves on the Tule Lake Preservation Committee that seeks to preserve the site and history of the internment camp where he was born in 1942. In addition, Gene has worked tirelessly to preserve the remaining three historic Japantowns in California located in Los Angeles, San Jose, and San Francisco.

In 1992, Gene contributed to the development of a major historical exhibit recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 for display at the Sacramento History Museum. In 2002, Gene was selected to participate in an exchange program sponsored by the California Japanese American Community Leadership Council and the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote goodwill and strengthen the ties between the citizens of Japan and Japanese Americans in California.

A man of many talents and considerable energy, Gene plans to continue his many volunteer activities with various statewide and Asian American causes. Gene is a board member of the Japanese American Citizens League, the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, and the Japanese American Historical Society. Gene will continue to work on his latest project, a history of the first one hundred years of the Sacramento Buddhist Church.

Mr. Speaker, as Gene Itogawa embarks on an exciting new chapter of his life, I am honored to pay tribute to a great friend of California history. The people of California have benefited greatly from Gene's labor and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Gene continued success in all of his future endeavors, wherever retirement may lead him.