

others who may be included in this, whether they are at the very highest levels of military personnel. We must begin the healing.

Secretary Powell has to be heard on the international arena to begin to bring nations together. Condemnation must be loud, and punitive measures must be swift. I ask that this Congress not shun its responsibility. Shame on us if we do not investigate this in the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee on International Relations, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. And these hearings must be open to the people of the world and the American public.

Yes, we are going to hold an international crime trial, but that is not enough, Mr. Speaker.

And as I close, is it not worthwhile to investigate the three women? Were they intimidated, were they stigmatized, did they feel they had to go along with the boys? What is happening to women who are in combat?

Shame on us, Mr. Speaker, if we do not investigate this and bring this to a point where the world knows that we are ashamed and we are moving forward to clear the slate and fight this war so that we can bring about the peace.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. KIND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. EMANUEL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Asian American and Pacific Islander community and commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Before I begin, I would like to recognize the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) former chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, or better known as CAPAC, for his leadership, as well as the current vice chair of the caucus, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

As chair of CAPAC, I am proud to stand here to honor the accomplishments and diversity of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. In 1978, my good friend Norman Mineta and Representative Frank Horton from New York, along with Hawaii's Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga, first introduced the first resolution establishing Asian Pacific American Heritage Week to recognize the ongoing contributions to our Nation of the API population.

The first 10 days of May were chosen to coincide with two important anniversaries, the arrival in the United States of the first Japanese immigrants on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad

on May 10, 1869. In 1992, the month of May was designated as Asian Pacific Heritage Month. I take great pride to see the celebration of our community expand from 10 days to a month.

For centuries, America has been enriched by our diverse and rapidly growing API communities and by the contributions that Native Hawaiians, Chamorros, and Samoans have made in their ancestral homelands. The first API settlement in this country dates to 1763, when Filipinos escaped imprisonment aboard Spanish galleons and established a community near New Orleans. Chinese and Japanese immigrants, likewise, started communities in Hawaii and California, where they sought labor and agricultural opportunities.

From the time of these settlements, APIs have experienced dual currents of discrimination and assimilation. In the difficult times, APIs were singled out for persecution by such acts as the Exclusion Laws of 1882 and 1924, and the Alien Land Act of 1913, which prohibited API property ownership.

This year, 2004, marks the 62nd-year anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, pursuant to which 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens were incarcerated in internment camps during World War II. Many of these families lost their property and possessions during the several years they were jailed behind barbed wires.

In order to learn the important lessons from our own history, I sponsored House Resolution 56, which sets aside a "Day of Remembrance" in memory of the relocation and internment policies of World War II. This year, House Resolution 56 was passed due to the support from my fellow colleagues here in Congress and support from community groups throughout the country.

I realize we need to learn from our own history. It is more important than ever to speak up against unjust policies. Also it is more important than ever to educate Americans of the Japanese American experience during World War II, as well as the experience of other groups, like Japanese Latin Americans and certain German and Italian Americans. We must remember that the decision to issue the order was shaped by racial prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.

At the newly opened Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center at the Manzanar War Relocation Center, we have the opportunity to explore our past and reflect. Additionally, these past few days, the Enemy Alien Files Consortium has set up their exhibit in the Rayburn foyer. This traveling exhibition, featuring photographs, objects, documents, artifacts, art forms and oral history excerpts examines the little-known history of Italian, German, and Japanese immigrants in the U.S. and from Latin

America who were classified as enemy aliens during World War II.

Over 31,000 of these enemy aliens were apprehended, detained, and thousands interned based on suspicion and the potential dangerousness they posed to the U.S. national security. The internees were held without charges for indefinite duration and without trial. These internees, including many American-born children and spouses, languished in Army and Department of Justice camps throughout the USA.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to now yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. Linda Sánchez) to speak to this particular item.

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) for all of his leadership.

Today, I am proud to join him and to join Asian Pacific Americans in commemorating the 27th anniversary of APA Heritage Month. This month allows us to recognize the tremendous contributions the Asian Pacific American community has made to our State and to our Nation.

It is fitting, then, to remind others of important APA legislation. For instance, H.R. 677, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which would provide U.S. veterans benefits to World War II veterans of the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Philippine Scouts who fought for the U.S. and its allies. These veterans deserve to be recognized for the service they provided to our Nation in a time of need.

It is also a good time to bring attention to H.R. 333, which would amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize grants for higher education institutions serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. This important bill would open doors for many underserved APA communities.

I am extremely proud my home State of California has the largest Asian American population of any State in America, and I am also extremely proud to represent a region of Los Angeles County that includes many members of the Asian Pacific American community. The diversity represented by the different APA communities of our region is a source of strength in our local economy, our culture, and the education we can provide our children.

Asian Pacific Americans are contributing to every aspect of American life, from business and government to sports, science, research and the arts. I am proud that the political landscape in my district reflects this diversity.

I want to take two seconds to recognize two important female city councilwomen in my district from the APA community: Laura Lee, of the City of Cerritos, and Michiko Oyama, of the Hawaiian Gardens City Council. They are pioneers in California's 39th District. They are smart, tough, compassionate leaders and great role models for all Americans.

As we recognize the many contributions of the Asian Pacific American

community during this month, let us also celebrate where the APA community is going and the future impact it will have on our country. I urge all Americans to remember their important contributions to our country not only today but every day. The Asian Pacific American community, like the many diverse immigrant communities in this country, makes our country richer and stronger, and to them I am grateful.

□ 2100

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the good work of the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), who has done an outstanding job in representing the concerns of the Asian Pacific Islander community. I was very proud to have the gentleman be part of a very instrumental conference that we held in Los Angeles on health care access. It was a tricaucus effort, and it was the first time the Hispanic Caucus, the Black Caucus, and the Asian Caucus came together in Los Angeles and started to talk about the health care disparities that affect our communities. It has been a pleasure working with the gentleman here in the House; and as a former colleague in the State Assembly in Sacramento, California, I had the pleasure of working with the gentleman there. He continues to shine a bright light here in the House, reflecting all the concerns and needs and issues that we need to pay close attention to.

As a Member representing the 32nd Congressional District, which I believe is the second largest community concentration of Asian Pacific Islanders, there are over 120,000 individuals who represent various Asian communities that live in my district. I have been very, very blessed to represent them for the past several years in any capacity as assembly woman, a State senator, and now as their Congressperson.

I want to tell Members how important it is to help build leadership amongst our community there. I am proud to represent one of the cities which is 70 percent Asian, Monterey Park, known as Little Taipei, which has one of the few city councils which has a majority of Asians.

One of the first assemblywomen came out from Monterey Park City Council, and that is the Honorable Judy Choo, who now serves on the very powerful appropriations committee in the State of California. I am proud to be a part of her accomplishments also in our district.

I want to say also it is very important to be reminded of the many contributions that Asian Americans have made. I am proud that now that my district has been somewhat redistricted, even in new parts of my district, for example in a city known as West Covina, that the Asian population there grew from 4 percent in 1980 to now 23 percent. We have a very distinguished councilman who sits on that city council, and that is Ben Wong,

who is also representing our interests very well there, and someone who has been very politically active in making sure that diversity is encompassed and embraced by everyone.

That is why I have a particular joy in being here tonight to help promote the contributions that this community has made in so many ways, and so much is not reported in our history books. I had the pleasure of visiting just a few weeks ago some gentlemen who were actually represented in one of the major battlefields that we were involved in World War II, and these were the Japanese Americans that served in the Armed Forces as a part of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team. There was still two or three of my members alive in my district. I was very proud that we could present them with their awards and honors and pay tribute to what they bring to our history here that often goes unreported.

As I close my comments, I want to thank our colleagues here that represent a part of the Asian Caucus, and they are so open and willing that even myself, as a member of the Hispanic community, is welcomed as a member in that caucus. I feel very privileged to continue to work with them to see that our issues are in the forefront here in Congress, and that we represent the interests and needs of all of our communities. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the gentlewoman, in spite of the growth of the Asian American communities, rather than feel threatened, the gentlewoman embraces them; and I think that is why the gentlewoman has been such a welcomed leader for political leadership in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO).

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to recognize the great contributions of Asian and Pacific Island Americans to our Nation. I, too, as the previous speaker said, am very proud to represent the territory of Guam in the Pacific, and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), the chairman, for his sterling leadership. Ever since I have come to Congress, I have noted he is out there working hard for the Asian Pacific recipients and the representatives from the various areas, as has the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the vice chair of the Asian Pacific American Caucus. I thank them for their efforts on behalf of our communities.

Asian and Pacific Islanders are contributing in every aspect of American life, from business to education, government, public relations, the military, sports, entertainment and the arts. In each of these professions, we find prominent Asian and Pacific Islander Americans making their mark. The late congresswoman, Mrs. Patsy Mink, was a champion of women's rights and

a leader in social justice who worked tirelessly to provide opportunity to the poor and disenfranchised. Today her legacy lives on and inspires many to remain strong in their convictions.

With her award-winning book, "A Single Shard," children's author and Korean American, Linda Sue Park, has instilled important lessons of honesty, integrity, hard work, and perseverance in millions of children.

My predecessors, the Congressmen Antonio Won Pat, Ben Blaz, and Robert Underwood, faithfully served the people of Guam; and they have served as an inspiration to a generation of Chamorros.

Our communities have embraced America as our new homeland, and our unique cultures have survived and continued to thrive because America has come to know and appreciate how our contributions have enriched our Nation.

Today, as we celebrate "Freedom For All, a Nation We Call Our Own," and as our military operations to win the war against terrorism continue to hold national attention, we are reminded of the sacrifices made to ensure our freedom. No one can doubt the patriotism of Asians and Pacific Islanders who have served this country with pride and distinction, and many without the benefit of citizenship.

Let us honor the 21 Asian American World War II veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team who were awarded the Medal of Honor for extraordinary heroism and bravery on the battlefield.

I especially want to remember those who have given their lives to protect our freedom, including Army Specialist Christopher Wesley, Lieutenant Michael Vega, and Sergeant Eddie Chen, soldiers from Guam who were killed in Iraq. We are saddened by their deaths, but their courage is an inspiration to all of us.

This year the people of Guam will be commemorating the 60th anniversary of our liberation from enemy occupation by U.S. Armed Forces during World War II. As the only American territory with a civilian population occupied by the enemy during World War II, they risked their lives to protect American soldiers from capture and endured great hardship and suffering. I want to recognize the people of Guam for their steadfast loyalty during these trying times.

As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, let us remember and honor all of the contributions of Asian Pacific Islanders. Let us appreciate the cultural diversity, the patriotism, and the communities that make our Nation so great.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Guam for raising the profile of Guamanians in the history and the patriotism of this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), the Congresswoman from Oakland.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me just say tonight that I also rise to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which commemorates the significant contributions of Asian Pacific Americans throughout our country's history.

I would just like to take a moment and especially thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), the leader of our Asian Pacific American Caucus, for organizing this Special Order this evening and also for the gentleman's consistent leadership on so many issues which affect not only the Asian Pacific American community, but the entire country and the entire world. I thank the gentleman for his leadership and for making sure that we stay on point.

Let me say tonight that I, too, honor the memory and the legacy of a very good friend, a great woman who left this Earth much, much too soon, the first woman of color to serve in the House of Representatives, our great sister, Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink. She made such an impact in this body, and tonight as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I want to just remind us of Patsy's great legacy.

Also, I would like to recognize the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans in my district, the 9th Congressional District of California, the East Bay of Northern California, and really commend everyone for their dedicated service and vision in making life better for those in our community and our Nation.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have long played a crucial role in the life and the history of the East Bay. The region's identity has been profoundly shaped by its place on the Pacific Rim. However, today Asian Pacific Americans still face a wide variety of challenges, including access to educational opportunities and community resources.

I specifically want to talk about three great organizations in my own district that are working to strip down the language and educational barriers that isolate far too many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders today. They are the Asian Immigrant Women Advocates, Oakland Asian Students Educational Services, and Asian Health Services.

First, the Asian Immigrant Women Advocates has been providing resources to low-income Asian immigrant women workers for over 20 years. They work with women workers employed in the garment industry, in hotels, in restaurants, and other low-wage industries in the Bay Area. Every day they stimulate positive change and empower disenfranchised women through education, leadership development, and collective action so they can fight for dignity and justice in their working place and for enhanced and more rational, fairer, and more equitable living conditions.

Secondly, the Oakland Asian Students Educational Services motivates

youth who have limited access to maximize their potential through education and social support. OASES provides personalized academic support and enrichment programs for youth from the first grade through their high school graduations. Through OASES, students take technology classes to gain computer skills and are tutored in areas such as math, science and, social studies. Recent young immigrants who face linguistic and social barriers in their schools can also receive language support. With so many social, educational, and economic challenges, health and access to quality care is also a major concern.

Now the four leading causes of death among Asian Americans and Pacific Islander women are cancer, heart disease, stroke, and unintentional injuries. That is why the work of the third organization that I would like to highlight tonight, the East Bay Consortium of Health Care Centers, their work is critical, especially as being part of the Asian Health Services.

Asian Health Services is a comprehensive community health center that provides medical care, health education, insurance counseling, and client advocacy to the underserved Asian and Pacific Islander population in Alameda County. Serving the community since 1974, they now provide medical services to 15,000 patients annually. Their staff of 150, which includes 18 doctors and physician assistants and 23 nurses, is bilingual in nine languages. In addition to providing high-quality health care, AHS is home to the Language and Cultural Access program, a medical interpretation and translation service, and Community Voices for Immigrant Health, a health policy development program.

As Members may know, recent immigrants face many obstacles today. Organizations like these help their clients to conquer these barriers. I want to salute them tonight for their achievements and congratulate them for a job well done and a job that continues to soar on behalf of our community.

□ 2115

In addition, as part of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I believe that it is also very important to celebrate the accomplishments of prominent Asian American leaders in our community. Let me just recognize Oakland City Council members Jean Quan and Henry Chang and Danny Wan. Also our supervisor, Alice Lai Bitker and one of the most powerful persons in the California legislature, our majority leader Wilma Chan. They work daily to enhance the quality of life for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, also for our entire community, the States and the entire Nation. For this, I am deeply grateful.

Finally, I want to recognize a hero for many of us, someone who has profoundly affected the lives of all Americans, Professor Ronald Takaki. Professor Takaki is a foremost thinker in

the field of multicultural education and ethnic studies. He has been a professor in Asian American studies at the University of California Berkeley for more than 30 years. His research and teaching have shed light on the vast contributions that Asian Americans have made to the history, to the culture, and to the achievements of our country.

Professor Takaki believes that the study of multiculturalism results in a more accurate understanding of who we are as Americans. The grandson of Japanese immigrants to Hawaii, Professor Takaki cites the moral vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. and the civil rights movement as the stimulus for his study of race in America. Since then, much of the core curriculum in ethnic studies has grown from his own wide-ranging original research. In 1984, he was a founder of Berkeley's Ph.D. program in ethnic studies, the first of its kind in America. Professor Takaki is retiring this year from the University of California Berkeley and tonight I want to honor him for his vast contributions to bettering our society and in championing diversity and minority rights in our country.

Mr. Speaker, tonight in conclusion, as a proud member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I am pleased to join the gentleman from California tonight. I want to thank him again for organizing this Special Order. As we commemorate and as we celebrate the crucial role that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played and continue to play in the development of this Nation, we must also recognize at the same time the unique needs and challenges of the 13.1 million Asian Pacific Americans in the United States and work towards supporting efforts to improve their future. I again thank the gentleman for his leadership and his friendship.

Mr. HONDA. I thank the gentlewoman from California, and I appreciate her sharing the work that the community-based organizations are doing for the community in order for the members of the community to be able to access and be full participants in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), another great leader.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and dear friend, the gentleman from California. I rise to honor, recognize, and celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and thank my friend for making us aware that all of us are immigrants to the United States and that we need to work together to be able to forge a better partnership for the betterment of the whole of the United States.

I have the privilege of representing a large and diverse community of Asian Pacific Americans in my California 38th District. As part of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus leadership and a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I extend my

gratitude to the gentleman from California, chair of CAPAC, for organizing this Special Order and for bringing us together to recognize and celebrate this very special evening.

This month, the members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus pay tribute to Asian Pacific Americans, especially, as we have heard, our great deceased friend, Patsy Takemoto Mink. We also have a great leader in the United States in Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta who has been a great friend to all of us and made a very heavy impact in transportation for the whole of the United States.

The last day of this month is Memorial Day. I extend my appreciation to all Asian Pacific Americans who have died in combat and also to the more than 60,000 Asian Pacific Americans currently on active duty in the armed services. For over two centuries, Asian Pacific Americans have helped to strengthen and define America. In the 1700s, Filipino immigrants fled from Spanish oppression and settled in Louisiana. In the mid-1800s, Chinese immigrants were actively recruited to work on the transcontinental railroad, a vital line for early settlers in the West. In the face of discrimination, many Chinese and Japanese workers continued immigrating to Hawaii and California in the late 1800s to work long hours in agriculture long before other immigrants. Despite playing a critical role in the United States westward expansion, believe it or not, laws were passed to exclude Asians from citizenship. Today immigration policy is still fraught with some of the same systemic problems and hypocrisy early Asian Pacific immigrants encountered.

Last week the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIERREZ) introduced H.R. 4262, an immigration reform bill that addresses the needs of the immigrant community labor organizations and business groups. It fixes many of the systemic problems and honors the hard work of today's immigrants, all immigrants, including Asian Pacific Americans, provides better security for our country and gives the framework for managing future immigration.

I have the highest regard for the determination and entrepreneurship and the spirit of these Asian Pacific immigrants. They have one of the highest levels of self-employment in the U.S. It is even higher than their American-born counterparts. America must pass an immigration policy that respects their hard work and the jobs that they bring to the United States.

As a community, Asian Pacific Americans have never forgotten the struggles of those who came before us. The Tri-PAC which the Asian Pacific American Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Black Caucus have formed have been working together and will continue to work together to better the very, very hard issues that face our different communities. We have had the privilege to work with our friends in the Congress-

sional Asian Pacific American Caucus, CAPAC, to make the path smoother for those who come after us. The members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus look forward to continuing to work with CAPAC on improving minority health, increasing education resources, and working for real immigration reform for all those that need it in this great country of ours.

Mr. HONDA. I thank the gentlewoman from California. Let me also comment and thank her for her leadership in helping this country understand how diverse and how colorful this country is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the charismatic gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, our country is obviously going through times of great difficulty, but it is vital in such times that we pause to reflect on all that is good in our country, that we reflect upon the glue of our country, what holds us together. In that context, I am very pleased to join the gentleman from California, a most worthy and passionate advocate for our people, and my other colleagues on the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus on commemorating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I stand here as the proud Representative of my Second District of Hawaii, the most ethnically diverse district in the most ethnically diverse State of our country.

In my Hawaii, out of a total population of 1.2 million, over half are comprised of Asian and Pacific Islanders. And so as we commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I want to reflect on the history of Hawaii, not just because I am immensely proud of our history but also because I believe very strongly that we remain a beacon for where this country is going and what this country can be in the area of ethnic contributions and ethnic diversity.

Of course among our country's original Pacific Islanders were and are the indigenous peoples of Hawaii, the native Hawaiians. They came from elsewhere in Polynesia in the early centuries A.D. and built one of the most amazing societies that this world has ever seen. The circumstances under which their kingdom gave way to the Republic of Hawaii remain controversial and far reaching, the subject even today of vital legislation to reaffirm the special relationship between our government and native Hawaiians everywhere. But what is unquestioned is that our indigenous peoples, like other Asians and Pacific Islanders, have seen a remarkable and deeply moving renaissance in their own culture and ethnic pride that has not even begun to approach its zenith.

Modern Western contact in 1778 started Hawaii on the journey to ethnic and cultural diversity, a journey on which we are still embarked. As our economy turned to large-scale agriculture and we saw many foreign workers come in, we saw the Chinese come

in beginning in 1852, Japanese in 1868, Portuguese in 1878, Puerto Ricans in 1901, Koreans in 1904, Filipinos in 1907. Today we continue in Hawaii to attract immigrants to our shores, including Vietnamese, Laotians and Cambodians from southeast Asia and other Pacific Islander groups including Tongans, Samoans, Fijians, Maori, Chamorros, Marshallese, Palauans and other Micronesians, Polynesians and Melane-

sians. Today Hawaii's Asian and Pacific Islander community counts all of these as valuable members of our society. My own congressional district is home to many, including the largest number of native Hawaiian and Filipino populations of any other district in the country. So it is no surprise that Hawaii leads our country in interracial marriages, including my own, where the undisputed head of my household's family originated in the great country of Japan a century ago. More than one-third of married couples and more than one-half of unmarried couples are interracial. More than 50 percent of the children born in Hawaii nowadays, including my own, are interracial. So you can see that in Hawaii, we live Asian Pacific American Month every month. We are proud of our API community, their contributions to our national and international life. For example, of the 33 Asian and Pacific American Members of Congress ever elected, seven have been from Hawaii, including Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianaʻole, Senator DANIEL KEN INOUE, Senator Hiram Leong Fong, Senator Spark Masayuki Matsunaga, Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, Senator DANIEL KAHIKINA AKAKA and Congresswoman Patricia Fukuda Saiki.

We have boasted a few firsts at the gubernatorial level. The first Governor of Japanese ancestry, George Ariyoshi. The first Governor of native Hawaiian ancestry, John Waihee. The first Governor of Filipino ancestry, Governor Ben Cayetano. We have seen today in the halls of Congress the incredible contributions of a patriot, Major General Antonio Taguba, a Leilehua High grad from Hawaii and a proud member of our Filipino community. And, of course, former General Eric Shinseki, 34th Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, of Kauai.

Like everywhere else in our country we have tragically given thousands of the lives of our sons and daughters, including from the Asian and Pacific American community for the cause of freedom. The exploits of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team remain legendary, but more recently we have seen the tragedy, the tragedy of the loss in Iraq of Maui native Sergeant First Class Kelly Bolor and Big Island native Wesley Batalona.

In sports we have seen Michelle Wie, a 14-year-old Hawaii high school freshman referred to as the Tiger Woods of women's golf. We have seen Benny Agbayani in baseball, Duke

Kahanamoku and Rell Sunn in surfing, Ben Villafior in boxing, Tommy Kono in weightlifting. Ellison Onizuka gave his life for the cause of science. Miss Universe Brooke Lee. Miss America Angela Baraquio. In music, Braddah Iz, Israel Kamakawiʻole. In Hollywood Kelly Hu, Jason Scott Lee, Tia Carrera. In sumo, Takamiyama, Akebono, Musashimaru and Konishiki. In civil rights, Bruce Yamashita. And, of course, how could we end the night without mentioning Camille Velasco and more recently Jasmine Trias? If you want to show your support for Asian and Pacific Americans, tonight you know what number to call on what TV show right about now. Jasmine just finished singing.

Mr. Speaker, this is just some of what our proud Asian and Pacific American community offers our country and world. We are deeply committed to sharing with our fellow Asian and Pacific American community nationwide a bright future. I have only the utmost thanks and respect for the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) again for his leadership and for my other colleagues, not just in the APA community caucus here but on all of the other ethnic minority caucuses. Together we are working for a much brighter, a much better, a much more vibrant and diverse and amazing culture and future that lies in front of us here in this country.

□ 2130

I thank him and bid him a warm mahalo.

Mr. HONDA. Mahalo. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) to round out the great State of Hawaii.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the opportunity to speak here this evening on Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Special Order. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues on the congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to recognize Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As a member of the caucus's executive committee, I want to honor the many achievements and contributions of more than 11 million Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent in our country.

As has been mentioned by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE), back in 1978 my friends and colleagues, Senator DANIEL K. INOUE, former Senator Spark Matsunaga, former Representative Frank Horton, and former Representative Norm Mineta, helped establish the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. Fast forward to the 102nd Congress: legislation establishing the entire month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was signed into law.

The congressional district I represent is composed of approximately 70 percent Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. There is a special strength and resilience embodied in Hawaii's unique

cultural mix. We have chosen to be defined by our diversity rather than divided by our differences. That resolve to work together with Aloha can serve as an example for the rest of the country and I might say, Mr. Speaker, for the world.

For those of us from the State of Hawaii, there is something missing in this year's heritage month celebration, however: the dynamic presence of our colleague Patsy Takemoto Mink. Patsy fought all her life for social and economic justice. Throughout nearly 50 years of public service, she championed America's most deeply held values: equality, fairness, and, above all, honesty. Her courage, her willingness to speak out and champion causes that others might shun resulted in tremendous contributions in the fields of civil rights and education. She has earned an honored place in the history of the United States House of Representatives as the co-author of title IX, which guarantees equality for women in education programs. Every single woman in this Nation who today has access to equal opportunity in education and by extension in virtually every other field of endeavor owes a debt to Patsy Mink.

She was one of the pioneers who transformed Hawaii and transformed the Nation. Whenever any of us felt some sense of discouragement, whenever any of us felt some sense of despair or feeling we could not succeed, it was only required for Patsy to come into the room to change the atmosphere. Patsy Mink had the capacity to make dead air move. Patsy Mink, this little dynamo from Hawaii, was a giant in her heart and in her commitment. I miss her every day. I measure all I do by her unfailing standard of integrity.

She would be the first to say while we can look at Asian Pacific American Heritage Month as a time to recognize and celebrate many individual accomplishments, we must also take action. The other members of Hawaii's congressional delegation and I are working every day to respond to the issues raised by people of Hawaii and the Nation. I hope I can work productively to resolve them, always remembering that our Nation should be defined by our diversity rather than be divided by our differences. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), and he makes Hawaiians very proud; and we are privileged to have him as one of our members of CAPAC, and I always look toward him to understand how to deliver a speech eloquently.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I am very proud to be here as one of Hawaii's answers to affirmative action this evening.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I was hoping he would say that.

Mr. Speaker, I too would like to extend my gratitude to the patriotic men and women serving our country and the

military including the 60,813 Asian American and Pacific Islanders serving on active duty in the U.S. armed services as well as the 20,066 in the Reserves and National Guard. I also commend the 351,000 API veterans. Last week I had the privilege to meet a young soldier, Army Specialist Bermanis of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division. He was presented with the Bronze Star, a Purple Heart for Meritorious Conduct in Operation Iraqi Freedom. On July 16, 2003, the award presentation ceremony took place bedside at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he was convalescing from grave injuries. Specialist Bermanis and a fellow soldier were on guard duty in southern Baghdad when they sustained an attack by rocket-propelled grenades on June 10, 2003. His fellow soldier died instantly, and Specialist Bermanis lost both his legs and his left hand.

Specialist Bermanis hails from Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia. Officials from the Federated States of Micronesia and the U.S. Government had visited him at Walter Reed and praised him for his courage and exemplary service. A senior U.S. official commended Specialist Bermanis's service as representative of the Federated States of Micronesia citizens' commitment to the security of the United States and Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, this month also affords us time to reflect on the various social needs that exist in the API community. Today there are 12.8 million APIs, which represents 4.5 percent of the U.S. population. Between 1990 and 2000, the community grew nationally by 72 percent.

APIs are one of the fastest growing populations in the country. The API community in this country encompasses 49 ethnicities speaking over 100 languages and dialects. The population enriches our culture linguistically through a range of languages, such as Japanese, Chinese, Samoan, Thai, Vietnamese, Hmong, Cambodian, Micronesian, and Korean.

Our linguistic diversity has contributed greatly to American society. It has allowed us to exercise international leadership economically and politically. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, slightly less than half of the 7 million API who speak a language other than English at home report that they speak English "very well." We need to better address the educational and health care needs of all limited-English proficiency students, children, and adults.

Additionally, data is a cross-cutting issue. Lack of data impacts our understanding of the health problems in our communities as well as the problem of access and quality. Adequate data collection continues to be a challenge for the API community. Although we are often mistaken to be a homogenous group, our community is extremely diverse in ethnicities and languages. Aggregating such a large and diverse group makes it difficult to understand

the unique problems faced by the individual ethnicities.

This year as chair of CAPAC, I have looked into these and other critical issues within the API community. Through our CAPAC task forces, we have targeted such goals as eliminating racial ethnic health disparities, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, fighting to create jobs, and providing educational opportunities for the underserved.

CAPAC has had the privilege to work with our colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Native American Caucus to advance dialogue on these important issues.

I yield to the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA), the vice chairman of CAPAC, a Member of the Congress for many years, a leader and a person who represents American Samoa.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) for yielding to me and not only for his leadership but as chairman of the Asian Pacific American Caucus and for him to request this Special Order to allow Members of this institution to pay tribute and to recognize the contributions of our Asian Pacific American community to our Nation.

I think with some sense of perspective in history, Mr. Speaker, when we talk about the Asian Pacific American region, we talk about all those countries that comprise Asia as a region as well as those Pacific Island nations. The Asian Pacific region constitutes two-thirds of the world's population. This region also has six of the 10 largest armies in the world. The U.S. commercial and trade relations with this Asian Pacific region far exceeds other regions of world. In fact, the U.S. trade with the Asian Pacific region is twice that of Europe alone. As I recall, Senator INOUE once made the observation that for each 747 that flies across the Atlantic, four 747s fly between the Asian Pacific region and our Nation.

Americans whose roots are from the Asian Pacific region are over 13 million strong and among the fastest growing demographic group in the United States today.

Permit me to share with my colleagues an overview of some of the contributions that Asian Pacific Americans have given to our Nation. Just 3 months ago, a world renowned Chinese American physicist, Dr. Chien-Shiung Wu, perhaps little known to the average American, passed away quietly in her home in New York. For decades she dedicated her life to the study of beta decay. She was born in Shanghai, and in her youth studied with Nobel Laureate E.O. Lawrence, the inventor of the cyclotron at U.C.-Berkeley, where Dr. Wu also received her doctorate degree in physics. For some 30 years, Dr. Wu taught physics at Columbia University. In 1957 she won the Nobel Prize in physics for her work on emission of electrons from radioactive nuclei. I

think there are approximately 10 other Nobel Laureates who are of Asian Pacific ancestry in the field of physics, mathematics, and chemistry.

A couple of years ago, Time Magazine featured as its Man of the Year Dr. David Ho. Dr. Ho is a Chinese American who was born and raised in Taiwan. His family moved to the United States when he was a young man, and he is now a leading scientist in the field of medicine and has been recognized for his research efforts to find a cure for HIV/AIDS.

For several decades now, Dr. Makio Murayama, a Japanese American, conducted vital research in the United States that laid the groundwork for combating sickle-cell anemia. In 1973 Dr. Leo Esaki, a Japanese American as well, was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his electron tunneling theories. And in the field of engineering, few have matched the architectural masterpieces created by the genius of Chinese American I.M. Pei.

In the fields of law and finance, the names of prominent Asian Pacific American corporate leaders and legal scholars are too numerous to mention. One need only to read our Nation's top newspapers and periodicals to document that Asian Pacific American students, both in secondary schools and universities, are among the brightest minds our Nation offers to the world. We have every expectation that they now and will in the future contribute their talents and expertise to solve major issues and problems now confronting our Nation today.

In the fields of entertainment and sports, the late Chinese American kung-fu martial arts expert Bruce Lee captivated movie audiences around the world by destroying the common stereotype of the passive, quiet Asian Pacific American male. Now another sports and movie icon is moving his way through the movie industry and is believed to be the heir apparent to Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. His name is Dwayne Johnson, commonly known today as the Rock. The Rock is a former World Wrestling Federation champion wrestler and has completed his third movie. First it was *The Scorpion King*, then *The Rundown*, and now *Walking Tall*. And just a unique thing about the Rock, Mr. Speaker, is that his father is African American and of European descent, but his mother is pure Samoan Polynesian. Now just about every Samoan claims kinship with the Rock, including myself, Mr. Speaker.

When we talk about sports, for example, golf, Mr. Speaker, it is ironic that the two best golfers in the world are of Asian Pacific descent. Tiger Woods's mother is Thai. Vijay Singh from the island of Fiji is of Asian descent. And as mentioned earlier by my colleagues from the State of Hawaii, we have a new Tiger Woods among the women's professional golfers, and this is a 14-year-old junior golfer from the State of Hawaii. She is Michelle Wie.

About 4 decades ago, Mr. Speaker, a native Hawaiian named Duke Kahanamoku shocked the world by winning the Olympic gold medal for the United States in swimming, followed by Dr. Sammy Lee, a Korean American, who also won the Olympic gold medal in high diving. Dr. Lee told me during the 1988 Olympics in Korea that in his day, because he was nonwhite, he was not allowed to train along with his fellow Olympic American athletes.

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So he had to become creative by performing high dives off cliffs and tall trees. Despite all this, he still won the gold medal for our country.

And what can you say about Greg Louganis, the Samoan American, perhaps the best high diver ever in the world. Dr. Lee, who was his former teacher, I asked him in Korea, "Why is it that Greg Louganis is such a fantastic high diver?" He said, "ENI, look at his legs. Because of the power that he gets from his legs," this high diver named Greg Louganis, "he is able to perform more difficult tricks in his routines when he does this." I think everybody knows that Greg Louganis has been the greatest diver ever known to the world.

Let's talk about the National Football League. We have had Asian-Pacific Americans who have also made All-Pro: Charles Ane with the Detroit Lions, Rockney Freitous with the Detroit Lions; Luther Elliss; and the perennial All-Pro, Junior Seau, formerly with the San Diego Chargers, now with the Miami Dolphins. We have Jesse Sapolu with the Forty-Niners and Dan Saleaumua with the Kansas City Chiefs, and also Jim Nicholson, also formerly with the Kansas City Chiefs.

We also have Asian-Pacific Americans who are making their mark on history, not in our country, but in Southeast Asia. About 20 years ago, an 18-year-old Samoan kid named Saleva'a Atisanoe, then weighing only 384 pounds was an All-State football player who had intended to play college football. While walking Waikiki Beach with his buddies, he was immediately brought to the attention of the famous Native Hawaiian sumo wrestler and teacher, Jesse Kuhaulua—or Takamyama—as he was known throughout Japan.

After convincing Saleva'a's parents to have their son try sumo wrestling as an optional sport, Takamyama brought this Samoan young man to Japan. Saleva's left with only a little lavalava and a t-shirt on his back and started a training program so rigorous and demanding that very few foreigners make it through the first 6 months.

Saleva'a told me that he trained every day for 6 or 7 hours. His body took every form of pain and physical punishment including stretching, pushing, pulling. If you want to know how rigorous the training is and what a sumo wrestler has to do in order to be successful in this ancient sport, let me just say that a 500 pound man must be able to do the splits just like a seasoned ballerina dancer does at an opera concert.

Saleva'a's name was later changed to Konishiki, and he weighed in at 570 pounds and at six feet in height. Konishiki took the entire sumo wrestling world to a different level. His successes in winning his matches within 2 years usually would take most sumo wrestlers 5 years to achieve. Although he achieved the second highest level in sumo, which was Ozeki, Konishiki became a household name throughout Japan, and was forerunner to two other Polynesian sumo wrestlers who eventually became Yokozuma or grand champion.

Indeed, two Americans of Polynesian descent scaled even greater heights by attaining the highest status—Yokozuna or Grand Champion—in this ancient Japanese sport of sumo wrestling. A Native Hawaiian, Chad Rowen, or Akebono as he is known in Japan became Yokozuma. Of course, he weighed about 500 pounds and stood six feet eight inches tall. The other was Samoan-Tongan American Peitani Fiamalu also known as Musashimaru. He tipped the scale at 550 pounds and stood six feet four inches.

Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to now direct my attention to another area in our Nation's history, where Members of our Asian Pacific American community were severely challenged. As a Vietnam veteran, it would be ludicrous for me not to say something to honor and respect the hundreds of thousands of Asian Pacific Americans who served then and now in all the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

As a former member of the U.S. Army's Reserve unit known today as the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Combat Group, I would be remiss if I did not tell you about the contributions of the tens of thousands of Japanese American soldiers who volunteered to fight our Nation's enemies in Europe in World War II.

Some of us may not be aware of the fact that after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, by the Imperial Army of Japan, there was such a public outcry for an all-out war against Japan, and days afterwards our President and the Congress formally declared war.

But caught in this crossfire were hundreds of thousands of Americans, Americans, mind you, who just happened to be of Japanese ancestry. Our national government immediately implemented a policy whereby over 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forced to live in what then called relocation camps, but actually in my opinion they were more like prison camps or concentration camps. Their lands, homes and properties were confiscated without due process of law.

Mr. Speaker, it is also a time in our Nation's history when there was so much hatred and bigotry and racism placed against our Japanese American community. Yet, despite all this, leaving their wives, their parents and brothers and sisters behind barbed wire fences in these prison camps, the White House accepted the request of tens of thousands of Japanese Americans who volunteered to join the Army.

As a result of this request for service, two combat units were organized. One

was known as the 100th Battalion, also known as the Purple Heart Battalion; and the other was known as the 442nd Infantry Combat Group. Both were sent to fight in Europe.

In my humble opinion, Mr. Speaker, history speaks for itself in documenting that none have shed their blood more valiantly for our Nation than the Japanese American soldiers who served in these two combat units while fighting enemy forces in Europe in World War II.

The military records of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry are without equal. These Japanese Americans suffered an unprecedented casualty rate of 314 percent, and received over 18,000 individual decorations, many of them awarded posthumously, for bravery and courage in the field of battle.

For your information, Mr. Speaker, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses were awarded to these two units. 560 Silver Stars and 9,480 Purple Hearts were awarded to the Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Group. However, I find it unusual that only one Medal of Honor was given.

Nonetheless, the 442nd Combat Group emerged as the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army. In fact, Mr. Speaker, President Truman was so moved by their bravery in the field of battle, as well as that of the contributions of African American soldiers World War II, that President Truman issued an executive order to desegregate all branches of the Armed Forces.

It was while fighting in Europe that Senator INOUE lost his arm while engaged in battle against two German machine gun posts. As a result of his valor, Senator INOUE was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

Four years ago, a congressional mandate was issued calling for review of the military records of these two combat units, and I was privileged to attend the White House ceremony where President Clinton presented 19 Congressional Medals of Honor to the Japanese Americans of these two units. Senator INOUE was one of the recipients of the Medal of Honor.

The fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, these Japanese-Americans paid their dues in blood to protect our Nation from its enemies and it is a shameful black mark on the history of our country that when the patriotic survivors of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry returned to the United States, many were reunited with their parents, brothers and sisters who were locked-up behind barbed-wire fences, living in prison camps—and could not even get a haircut in downtown San Francisco because they looked Japanese—despite the fact that they, too, were Americans.

My dear friend and former colleague and now U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, and Congressman BOB MATSUI from Sacramento remember well the early years of their lives in these prison camps. Secretary Mineta told that one of the interesting features

of these prison camps were postings of machine gun nests all around the camp—and everyone was told that these machine guns were posted to protect them against rioters or whatever. But then Secretary Minea observed—if these machine guns are posted to guard us, why is it that they are all directed inside the prison camp compound and not outside?

Mr. Speaker, I submit that the wholesale and arbitrary abolishment of the constitutional rights of these loyal Japanese-Americans should forever serve as a reminder and testament that this must never be allowed to occur again. When this miscarriage of justice unfolded during WWII, Americans of German and Italian ancestry were not similarly jailed en masse. Some declare that our treatment of Japanese Americans during WWII was an example of outright racism and bigotry in its ugliest form. After viewing recently the Holocaust Museum in Washington, I understand better why the genocide of some 6 million Jews has prompted the cry, "Never Again, Never Again!" Likewise, I sincerely hope that mass internments on the basis of race alone will never again darken the history of our great Nation.

To those that say, well, that occurred decades ago, I say we must continue to be vigilant in guarding against such evil today. Not long ago, we had the case of Bruce Yamashita, a Japanese-American from Hawaii who was discharged from the Marine Corps officer training program in an ugly display of racial discrimination. Marine Corps superiors taunted Yamashita with ethnic slurs and told him, "We don't want your kind around here. Go back to your own country." The situation was made worse by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a four star general, who appeared on television's "Sixty Minutes" and stated, "Marine officers who are minorities do not shoot, swim or use compasses as well as white officers." The Commandant later apologized for his remarks, but it was a little too late.

After years of perseverance and appeals, Mr. Yamashita was vindicated after proving he was the target of vicious racial harassment during his officer training program. The Secretary of the Navy's investigation into whether minorities were deliberately being discouraged from becoming officers resulted in Bruce Yamashita receiving his commission as a captain in the Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, I am also greatly disturbed by media coverage in recent years involving illegal political campaign contributions made by a small minority of the Asian-Pacific American Community. The media has implied that the Asian Pacific American community as a whole is suspect and corrupt and I find this racial scapegoating to be repugnant and morally objectionable. Playing-up fears of the "Asian Connection" serves to alienate Asian-Pacific Americans from participating in our political process.

When Americans raise money, it is called gaining political power. But when Asian-Pacific Americans begin to participate, we are accused of being foreigners trying to infiltrate the mainstream of our Nation's political system. On this note, remember the Oklahoma City bombing incident? Americans of Arab descent were immediately targeted and investigated as terrorists by local and Federal law enforcement agencies. An Anglo turned out to be the bomber which leads me to say that it is wrong

to stereotype and this type of negative stereotyping must and should not continue.

In conclusion, I think Bruce Yamashita's case and the hysteria surrounding Asian-Pacific American political contributions bear implications not just for the military and the media but for our society as a whole. It begs the question, how long do we as Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities have to be considered as lesser Americans?

I applaud Captain Yamashita and others like him who have spoken out to ensure that racial discrimination is not tolerated. During this month, as we recognize the diverse experiences and contributions our Asian-Pacific American community has made to our great Nation, I would hope that we will take inspiration from the examples I have shared with you this evening.

Mr. Speaker, when I envision America, I don't see a melting pot designed to reduce and remove racial differences. The America I see is a brilliant rainbow—a rainbow of ethnicities and cultures, with each ethnic group proudly contributing in its own distinctive and unique way—making America better for now and generations to come. Asian-Pacific Americans wish to find a just and equitable place in our society that will allow them—like all Americans—to grow, to succeed, to achieve and to contribute to the advancement of the great Nation.

This is why I would like to close my remarks by asking all of us here tonight, what is America all about? I think it could not have been said better than on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the summer of 1963 when an African-American minister named Martin Luther King Jr. poured out his heart and soul to every American who could bear his voice, when he uttered these words.

"I have a dream. My dream is that one day my children will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

That is what I believe America is all about.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would like to comment on the White House initiative that was initiated by the past administration of President Clinton. It is now in its fifth year, and the initiative suffers from neglect by the current administration.

Executive Order 13216 authorizing the initiative and its corresponding Advisory Commission expired on June 7, 2003; and since that time, both the initiative and the commission have laid dormant.

The commission is mandated to develop, monitor, and coordinate Federal efforts to improve API participation in government programs, foster research and data collection for API populations and sub-populations, and increase public and private sector involvement in improving the health and well-being of the API community.

API citizens deserve the coordination of services that the commission can facilitate.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to recognize also among other names, the gentleman from California (Mr. MATSUI), a member of the Democratic leadership, and Governor Locke, the first API elected as a Governor in the lower 48 States.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by indicating that in this country, we have participated in the functioning of this country in every aspect of society, having athletes, both professional and amateur; we have had Nobel Prize winners; teachers and scholars. We are thankful for this time to share information regarding the Asian Pacific Islanders in this great country and the islands that our Members come from.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for centuries, American has been enriched by our diverse and rapidly growing Asian American and Pacific Islander communities, and by the contributions that Native Hawaiians, Chamorros, and Samoans have made in their ancestral homelands. Since the 1700s, when Filipino immigrants settled in the Louisiana bayou and Chinese and Japanese immigrants worked the sugarcane fields of Hawaii, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities have worked hard to call America their home.

In the face of prejudice and poverty, interment and exclusion, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has always remained strong in spirit, proud of its heritage, and committed to making progress. Today, there are 11 million Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the United States, tracing roots to nearly 50 different countries and ethnic groups, each with distinct cultures, traditions, and histories.

The achievement of the community demonstrates the critical role of civic participation in making the American Dream a reality. With more than 200 Asian American and Pacific Islanders running for elected office in the U.S. last year alone, the community's participation in politics ensures that its concerns are addressed at the highest levels of government.

This Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we salute such pioneers as Prince Jonah Kūhio Kalanianaʻole, who in 1903 became the first Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander to serve in Congress; Dilip Singh Saund, who in 1956 became the first Asian American elected to Congress; Hiram Leong Fong, who in 1959 became the first Asian American Senator; and my dear friend Patsy Mink, who in 1964 became the first Asian American woman elected to Congress.

We also celebrate the political leadership of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders today. As the Leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, I am proud to work in the Democratic leadership with Congressman ROBERT MATSUI of California, the highest ranking Asian American in congressional history. We are both proud to lead the only truly diverse caucus in the Congress, which includes our great Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC). Under the leadership of Congressman MIKE HONDA of California, CAPAC has promoted greater understanding in Congress of the concerns of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. CAPAC is fighting for educational opportunities for our children, for better access to health care including an end to minority health disparities, for real immigration reform, and to grow the economy and create good-paying jobs.

This Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, we take pride in our history and the promise of our future and we rededicate ourselves to the fight to make the American Dream a reality for all.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker. Today I join my distinguished friend from California, Mr. HONDA, and the rest of my colleagues on the occasion of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

During this month, we recognize and celebrate the important contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to our great country.

Mr. HONDA, as the leader of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, has helped all of us learn more about the concerns and issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander Community and I salute his work on these issues.

I would also like to commend the leadership of Representative ROBERT MATSUI, who has devoted his time and energy not just to the excellent representation of his constituents, but also to assisting the Democratic Caucus as chairman of the Democratic Congressional campaign committee.

Mr. Speaker, this year's theme, "Freedom for all, a nation we can call our own", speaks to both the hopes and the challenges Asian Pacific Americans face in America.

Asian Pacific American families, whether they have lived in this country for generations, or have recently emigrated, have worked as farmers, teachers, and business people, pioneering in the sciences and arts, and serving with distinction on the battlefield.

But achieving the American dream is not always easy for any group of immigrants seeking to establish roots in the United States.

Asian Pacific Americans have fought to overcome discrimination, language and cultural barriers, and even internment by their own government.

Today the Asian Pacific American Community is rightly proud of their rich heritage and the innumerable contributions they have made to the development of our nation.

During the last century, as America's frontier expanded west, hundreds of thousands of Asian citizens worked to build the first transcontinental railroad.

And Chinese and Japanese immigrants answered the need for laborers and agriculture workers in California and Hawaii.

The descendants of these settlers are now leaders in virtually every industry in the United States, from medical research to music education to professional athletics.

In fact, Asian Pacific Americans have the highest proportion of college graduates of any race or ethnic group.

Mr. Speaker, there are now more than 11 million Asian American and Pacific Islanders in America, comprising 5 percent of the total U.S. population.

Over 213,000 Asian Pacific Americans live in my home state of Maryland.

Immigrants from the countries of Asia and native peoples of Hawaii and the Pacific Islands form one of the fastest growing minority groups in the United States today.

And Asian Pacific Americans have the most diverse background of any minority population, tracing their roots to almost 50 different countries and ethnic groups.

The impressive list of notable Asian Pacific Americans is far too lengthy to read here.

To name just a few: First, The Honorable Patsy Mink, the first Asian Pacific American woman elected to Congress, who many of us had the honor to know.

Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalanianoʻle, who in 1903 was the first native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander to serve in Congress.

Maya Lin, the accomplished architect, whose striking memorial to those killed in Vietnam lies close by on the National Mall.

Yo-Yo Ma, the internationally acclaimed cellist.

Tiger Woods and Michelle Kwan, both young champion athletes.

Charles Wang, chairman emeritus of Computer Associates and co-owner of the New York Islanders.

Jerry Yang, who co-founded Yahoo.com in his 20s.

In every profession, it seems, Asian Pacific Americans have made their mark.

Mr. Speaker, let me again say that it gives me great pleasure today to recognize the significant advances and contributions made by the Asian Pacific American Community to our country during Asian Pacific Heritage Month.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, we commemorate Asian and Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month to acknowledge the tremendous achievements of Asian and Pacific Americans and honor their contributions to our families, communities and our nation.

The Asian and Pacific American community has played a vital role in the development of the United States since the first immigrants came to the United States in the 1700's. Today, over 11 million Asian and Pacific Americans live in the U.S., making extraordinary contributions to every aspect of American life. From David Ho, who has performed breakthrough work on AIDS research, to Maya Lin, the architect who designed the Vietnam Memorial; from the lyrical musings of novelist Amy Tan, to the sublime skills of Tiger Woods, the gifts of the APA community have changed the fabric of American society.

The APA community has also changed America's political landscape and I commend all of the APA organizations across America for enhancing the voice of APAs in the political and social arena. Their tireless efforts inspire others to achieve their dreams. All Americans, regardless of their ethnic background and heritage, benefit from their work.

Not only is the APA community working today to improve their families and communities, but they also understand the role of history in teaching future generations. As we celebrate APA Heritage Month this year, we also commemorate the opening of the Manzanar National Historic Site and Interpretive Center in Independence, California. Manzanar was the first interment camp created by Executive Order 9066 and was the site where 11,000 of the more than 120,000 American citizens of Japanese ancestry were uprooted from their homes and communities and interned in 1942. The new Manzanar Center is a critical component in recognizing and understanding the events of the past so that we Americans may maintain our country's fundamental commitment to freedom, democracy, and individual rights. I would like to thank the thousands of individuals who made this project a reality.

Asian and Pacific Americans are as diverse as each of the traditions and cultures they represent. The strength of this diversity and the commitment of all Americans to a shared set of values unites our nation as we work toward a common future. As we celebrate APA Heritage Month, we reflect on the past successes and struggles of the APA community, the diversity that binds us together, and the work we can all do together to make the American dream a reality for all people.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May 2004 as National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud to represent the 29th Congressional District of California, a diverse and thriving area of our country where hundreds of thousands have come to raise their children and devote their talents to the community at large. Some of these families have been in the United States for many generations; others are newly arrived. But all of these Americans enrich the fabric of our society with unyielding patriotism and selfless devotion to their neighbors.

The 29th District is home to one of the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in Southern California; almost one-fourth of my constituents are of Asian Pacific heritage. Notable among them are Assemblywoman Judy Chu, Assemblywoman Carol Liu, Asian Youth Center Executive Director May To and Alhambra Chamber of Commerce Board Member Gary Yamauchi; countless Southern Californians enjoy a better quality of life from the leadership provided by these public servants.

It is certainly timely and appropriate to honor Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the same month as the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington. The foundation of that memorial was enshrined in the courage and gallantry of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—Japanese American soldiers who formed the most decorated unit in U.S. military history. I cannot help but think that the fountains and reflecting pool of this new Memorial symbolically contain not only the tears of joy of millions freed from the chains of racism and imperialism, but also the tears of sadness of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans wrongly interned during the war. The deprivation of their liberty while their children were fighting for freedom in Europe is a story of injustice that should be long told to all American children.

But the military service of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States actually began long ago. In fact, many soldiers of Asian descent fought bravely in the Civil War, only later to be denied the opportunity for citizenship by the draconian Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. When the United States was at its most divided and imperiled, these noble individuals took to battlefields far from their home of birth to protect the promise of the American dream for future generations. I am proud to be a sponsor of H.J. Res. 45, which would posthumously proclaim these soldiers as honorary citizens of the United States.

The various ethnicities, cultures and nationalities that compose the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities are bright stars in the wondrous evening sky that is our country. I thank and congratulate the many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders for allowing us to share in their rich heritage.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, over 100 Members of Congress work together in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus to promote Asian Pacific American issues and concerns, led by my long-time friend and colleague, Congress MIKE HONDA.

Today and throughout the month of May, we celebrate the many contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to the fabric of our communities and to this Nation as a whole.

In this Congress, there are five Asian Pacific Americans serving our Nation and their communities as members of the House of Representatives and two Asian Pacific Americans serving in the Senate.

In the field of science and technology, Asian Pacific Americans have long contributed to our country, from Ellison Onizuka, the first Asian-American in space, to Flossi Wong-Staal and Dr. David D. Ho, for their work on HIV and AIDS. Moreover, several Asian Pacific Americans have received Nobel Prizes for their accomplishments in science and technology.

Hundreds of thousands of Asian Pacific Americans have also loyally served our Nation in the military willing to give their life for the United States of America. Asian Pacific American veterans of the Armed Forces number 284,000.

In sports, Asian Pacific Americans have helped bring home Olympic gold medals for the United States, including the first woman to win gold medals in the ten and three meter diving events—Filipina American Victoria Manalo Draves.

Although it is important for us to celebrate Asian Pacific American heritage this month, we must not forget the plight that Asian Pacific Americans endure despite the community's many accomplishments.

The pitfalls of immigration law and the backlog of immigration applications continue to prevent many Asian Pacific American families from reuniting for several years.

We must also not forget the APA community suffers from greater poverty than non-Hispanic Whites, especially in the Hmong, Laotian, Cambodian, and Vietnamese American communities.

We must work to ensure that Asian Pacific Americans are appropriately counted when our government collects data that will be used to understand the needs of the APA community.

We must make every effort to invite Asian Pacific Americans to participate in government to ensure that our government meets the needs of the APA community.

In commemoration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I honor the contributions of millions of Asian Pacific Americans who have contributed to our Nation and who I am sure will continue to contribute in the future. But while I celebrate this month, I also renew my pledge to address the issues affecting Asian Pacific Americans around the country.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to celebrate the lives and accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans in U.S. history. I want to thank Congressman HONDA and Congressman ENI FALEOMAVAEGA, the new Chair and Vice Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, for organizing this special order. In particular, I want to recognize the contributions of Korean Americans in my district and commend them for their tireless work in improving the city of Los Angeles.

Last month this chamber unanimously approved legislation that I sponsored to designate a U.S. Post Office in the Koreatown section of my district be named the "Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office." Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, who spent his formative years in the United States, is credited by many as the spiritual father of modern, independent, democratic Korea. During his stay in Los Angeles, at the beginning of the 20th century, he

worked to unite the Korean-American community, founding schools and cultural organizations, and helping improve living and working conditions for his fellow Korean Americans. I am proud to be the sponsor of this legislation and grateful to the House for paying this timely tribute to a great Korean American.

Mr. Speaker, the contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to the growth and success of this great nation can never be overstated. The history of their struggle and triumph in the United States must be re-told. We need to remember that it was the Chinese immigrants who toiled in the mines during the California Gold Rush of the 1800s and helped construct the transcontinental railroad in the 1860s. And we can never forget how Americans of Japanese ancestry were placed in internment camps during World War II, one of the saddest and most notorious chapters in our nation's history.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you the rich and diverse history of Korean immigration to Los Angeles. Although a small number of Koreans had immigrated to the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century, major waves of Korean migration to America did not occur until Congress passed the 1965 Immigration Act abolishing the quota system that had restricted the numbers of Asians allowed to enter this country. Since then, Korea has become one of the top five countries of origin of emigrants to the United States.

Among the more than one million Korean Americans today, roughly 33 percent are settled in California, making it the state with the largest Korean American population. Today, Los Angeles is home to the largest concentration of Koreans outside of Korea, roughly 160,000 people. Located in my district, Koreatown is the hub of the Korean community and vital to our local economy. It is fabled that from the establishment of a single Korean store at the corner of Olympic Boulevard and Hobart Street in 1969 emerged today's Koreatown, which stretches from Beverly Boulevard and Pico Boulevard to the north and south and Hoover and Crenshaw on the east and west. Although 68 percent of the people living within these boundaries are Latinos, Korean Americans are the predominant business owners, and the area serves as a cultural, business, and social center for not just Korean Americans but all of Los Angeles.

Indeed, for the past four decades, the district that I represent has thrived with the contribution of Koreatown. The willingness of Korean-American merchants to sacrifice for their future generations by working extremely long hours and overcoming linguistic and cultural barriers has led to many successful enterprises crucial to the growth of our local economy. For example, today Korean Americans own 46 percent of small grocery markets, and 45 percent of one-hour photo shops in Southern California, all of which demonstrate the critical role Korean Americans play in our communities. The Hanmi Bank, located on Wilshire Blvd., has become a major financial institution in the Korean-American community as well as to others in the greater Los Angeles area.

Mr. Speaker, today Asian Pacific Americans continue to gain new grounds in ever greater social and political representation. As we commemorate and celebrate the crucial role Asian-Pacific Americans have played in the

development of this Nation, we also must work harder to improve the lives and opportunities for the 12.5 million Asian Pacific Americans today, who are still confronted daily with prejudice, discrimination, and economic inequalities. The 1992 Los Angeles civil disturbances, in the aftermath of the Rodney King verdict, is one such tragic example that illustrates the need for continued dialogue and understanding.

Nationally, Asian Pacific Americans continue to experience a crisis in health and health care disparity and face unique challenges in education, immigration, and economic development. It is very disappointing to me that this Administration has failed to renew the Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAIPs) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). As a member of Congress I will continue to fight to ensure that our government address the needs of Asian Pacific Americans. Let's work to renew the American Dream for many future generations of Asian Pacific Americans to come.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

REPLACING THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE WITH A NATIONAL SALES TAX

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice to those of my friends in the Asian Pacific community for honoring those who have served.

I would like to spend the next hour talking a little bit about the economy and what we can do to even improve it more. We should be grateful for the growth we have seen. Four years ago, we saw the dot-com bust that cost \$5 trillion in value for shareholders, we saw the beginnings of corporate fraud, which have been dealt with, and we saw a downturn in the economy which is causing losses of jobs.

President Bush, to his credit, stood tough by a decision to leave people more of the money they earn in their own pockets, and had several important tax cuts; and the American people, not government, not Congress, not us, but the American people have turned around an economy to create a boom that is going on right now, with 600,000 jobs created just in the last 2 months.

The American people deserve the credit for that, but there is still one anchor on the neck of the economy. The biggest drag on the neck of the economy is the IRS. 230 years ago, Adam Smith wrote that the market was the invisible hand of the economy. I agree with that. And 230 years later, we can say that the visible foot on the throat of the economy is the IRS code.

We spend 6.9 billion man-hours just filling out IRS paperwork. At \$20 an hour, which is a \$40,000-a-year job, that is \$240 billion lost.