

that is also proof of a coverup. Either way, evidence disproving a conspiracy theory only proves to believers that the conspiracy really exists.

No one denies that this incident was a terrible tragedy, but some have sought to exploit a case of mistaken identity by insisting that the Israeli military knew that the *Liberty* was a U.S. naval vessel, and attacked it on purpose. Despite the complete absence of any credible evidence to support this outrageous claim, it continues to be repeated as if it were true.

Judge Cristol has done a tremendous service with his work. It is my hope that his book, "The Liberty Incident: The 1967 Attack on the U.S. Navy Spy Ship," which was the result of more than 14 years of research, will finally lay to rest this slander against one of our Nation's most reliable allies.

RECOGNIZING THE L.A. HONPA
HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist temple and its members as they celebrate their Centennial Anniversary. The temple is located in downtown Los Angeles in my 34th Congressional District.

The Temple, which began in 1905 in Little Tokyo on Jackson Street and Central Avenue, was established due to the strong and faithful desire of the followers of the teachings of Buddha to have a place to congregate after emigrating from Japan. The Issei (first generation) pioneers brought with them their Japanese culture, traditions, customs, and their Buddhist religion.

In 1925, a new temple was built on the corner of First and Central streets. The Temple, fondly called "Nishi" by Buddhists in Southern California, is currently housed in a traditional Japanese-style temple building on First Street in the eastern sector of Little Tokyo. Nishi is one of sixty temples around the United States that make up the Buddhist Churches of America.

Since its inception, Nishi has continuously served its members and the Little Tokyo community. Even during World War II, when the Temple was used as an initial assembly site for many of the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were evacuated from the west coast of the United States to internment camps, the Temple provided the evacuees a haven to safely store their belongings until after the war. Throughout their internment, Nishi ministers continued to administer to the faithful Buddhist members.

Today, the Temple offers Sunday services, as well as services for weddings, funerals, and family memorials. Nishi also provides a children's day care center, and community programs for youth and adults, such as sports and cultural activities.

The Centennial Anniversary Celebration commemorates the dedication and commitment of the Issei pioneer members that laid the foundation of the Temple. It also commemorates the hard work of succeeding generations that built the Temple as it stands today. The addition of the new Wisteria Chap-

el and the Muryo Koju-do (nokotsudo-columbarium) were built as a centennial project to commemorate the pioneering members and to continue the legacy of the Issei for future generations. The Dedication Service of this new addition to the Temple will be part of the Centennial Celebration weekend of August 27–29, 2005. Nishi members will also conduct a memorial service in honor of past members and ministers and host an evening banquet.

I congratulate the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and its members on reaching this historic milestone, and I join them in celebrating their 100th anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHEYENNE
RIVER SIOUX TRIBE EQUITABLE
COMPENSATION ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act of 2005.

The Act will help to right a historic wrong that occurred during the construction of the Oahe dam and reservoir, depriving the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of some of their best lands and failing to provide adequate compensation.

Recognizing these past wrongs, Congress moved to compensate the tribe in 2000 by establishing a trust fund. While these actions were commendable, they left one important group behind—tribal members that lost privately owned lands. This act would correct that omission and allow the tribe to distribute funds to individuals who are currently prohibited from receiving them.

The Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Equitable Compensation Act would provide just compensation for the taking of lands over 50 years ago. I urge its swift consideration and passage.

RECOGNITION OF FINN GRAND
FEST 2005

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a festival in my district in northern Michigan that honors the history, heritage, culture and contributions of American-Finnish and Canadian-Finnish people. This joint U.S./Canadian Finnish festival to be held on August 10–14, 2005, in Marquette, Michigan gives the Finnish communities in the U.S. as well as Canada the opportunity to experience activities, educational programs, worship opportunities, musical entertainment, cultural displays and a parade based around the theme "Heritage Powers the Future".

The Finn Grand Fest 2005 is the second time FinnFest USA and Finnish Canadian Grand Festival will have participated in a joint, international event. The first occasion took place five years ago in Toronto, Canada. Planning committees from both countries have expressed interest in holding a joint festival held

every five years as a new tradition. The Canadian festival is considerably older than its U.S. counterpart having first been organized in the 1940's as an influx of Finnish immigrants came to Canada to work. Although Finnish immigrants first came to the U.S. during the decades around 1900, FinnFest USA was not established until 1983 in Minneapolis, MN.

Since 1983, FinnFest USA has been held each year around the country except the 1½ year gaps before and after February 2004 when accommodations were made for a winter festival in Florida. Locations are determined by places where there is a strong Finnish community to organize the event. A large population of people of Finnish descent live in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This will be the second time Marquette, Michigan has hosted the festival in the United States. They also hosted it in 1996. Other Michigan cities to host this event include: Hancock in 1985 and 1990 and Farmington Hills in the Detroit area in 1987. Other cities throughout the country include: Seattle, Washington (twice), Lake Worth, Florida (twice), Minneapolis, Minnesota (twice), Fitchburg, MA, Newark, DE, Thousand Oaks, CA, Portland, OR, and Portland, ME.

While Canadians have been able to maintain the use of the Finnish language in their current culture, the communities in the U.S. have unfortunately watched as the traditional language has been replaced by English. This happened over the generations as many families spoke Finnish at home but the children learned English in school. As time went on, English was the primary language used to communicate with non-Finns, taught in school and practiced at home. Canadians are facing the beginning phases of this trend that may result in the loss of native Finnish speakers in their country as well. Thankfully, there are still a number of people in Michigan's Upper Peninsula who still speak Finnish. In fact, my district is home to a weekly television program call "Finland Calling" hosted by Carl Pellonpaa. "Finland Calling" is a weekly show about Finnish heritage that has been on the air for 43 years.

Like the Finnish language, the original organizers of FinnFest are slowly slipping away. A major contributor from among the earliest generations was Dr. Sylvia Kinnunen who recently passed away on July 25, 2005. Despite her admired age of 84, she was an energetic force in the planning and execution as the Co-chair of Cultural Programs for Finn Grand Fest 2005. We appreciate her devotion to preserving Finnish culture and for her contributions to Michigan's Upper Peninsula. She will be greatly missed.

Americans and Canadians are proud of their Finnish heritage and the Finnish people. FinnFest organizers have noted that even are non-Finns have taken active roles and in some cases are major contributors to the event. Among those non-Finns is the musical headliner White Water made up of a family of folk music artists from Amasa, Michigan. The Premos began incorporating Finnish influence in their music and even performed at a folk music festival in Finland last year. The premiere performances at the Finn Grand Fest 2005 include a solo by Evan Premo during a double bass concerto on Thursday, August 11 and 100 violinists of all ages performing at the opening ceremony organized by Evan's mother Bette Premo.

The esteem felt for the Premos by the local Finns is an example of the educational sharing

and overall embracing of non-Finns to the culture and heritage of the community. Aside from the encouragement of Finnish people to understand more about their own history and traditions, those involved with this festival hope that all people are able to enjoy and learn more about the Finns' unique ethnicity that has evolved in the American and Canadian societies throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, it has been due to the incredible insight, dedication, passion and innovation of the planning boards from the U.S. and Canada that have made this four-day joint festival possible. I am pleased Marquette has been chosen for the second time to host the U.S. festival and as the first American location for the joint festival—it is because Marquette is "Sisu". I applaud the Finnish communities in both the United States and Canada for preserving their sense of identity into the next generation and, based on the theme "Heritage Powers the Future", I applaud them for utilizing their past to power the direction of their culture for years to come. I wish the Finn Grand Fest 2005 the greatest success and look forward to participating in the event this August.

TRIBUTE TO VICE ADMIRAL
JAMES B. STOCKDALE

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Vice Admiral James Bond Stockdale, a true American patriot and a great military veteran. Vice Admiral Stockdale passed away on July 5, 2005 at the age of 81 after a life of public service and sacrifice. He is survived by his beloved wife Mrs. Sybil B. Stockdale of Coronado, Calif., and his four sons.

I believe Gordon R. England, the Secretary of the Navy, eloquently described the legacy Mr. Stockdale has left behind: "Admiral Stockdale's courage and life stand as timeless examples of the power of faith and the strength of the human spirit."

I could not agree more and would like to share a few details of his extraordinary life. Vice Admiral Stockdale was born on Dec 23, 1923 in Abingdon, Ill. At the age of 24 he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in the Class of 1947 and began his unmatched naval career. Among his many distinctions, Vice Admiral Stockdale is remembered for his remarkable leadership as the senior naval officer held in captivity during the Vietnam War.

On September 9, 1965, after flying more than 200 missions over Vietnam, he ejected over a small village after his plane was struck by anti-aircraft fire. He broke his left knee during the landing and it was broken a second time during his captivity.

During his 7½ year imprisonment, Vice Admiral Stockdale was tortured numerous times, was forced to wear heavy leg irons for over two years and spent four years in solitary confinement.

But his spirit and determination to survive never wavered. Despite the torture and abuse, he refused to participate in enemy propaganda films. Vice Admiral Stockdale's extraordinary heroism became widely known when he was

awarded the Medal of Honor in 1976, only three years after his release.

His 26 combat awards included two Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Distinguished Service Medals, two Purple Hearts and four Silver Stars. He is a member of the Navy's Carrier Hall of Fame, the National Aviation Hall of Fame and an Honorary Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots. Stockdale received several honorary doctoral degrees.

He is the highest-ranking naval officer to wear both aviator wings and the Medal of Honor. His other accomplishments include earning a master's degree from Stanford University and serving at the prestigious institution's Hoover Institute for 15 years. He was also President of the Citadel for two years.

In 1992, he was a candidate for Vice President of the United States winning nearly 20 percent of the popular vote.

Mr. Speaker, I introduce this resolution today to recognize the great sacrifices Vice Admiral made protecting the freedoms of the United States and to recognize his commitment to public service. I would also like to extend my deepest sympathies to the family Mr. Stockdale left behind, including his wife and four sons.

His life serves as an inspiration to the many servicemen and women protecting our country at home and abroad. Vice Admiral Stockdale was admired and respected for his courage and unflinching determination.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN KERFOOT

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 90th birthday of one of New Jersey's finest citizens, John Kerfoot, and to honor all that he has done for his fellow Americans.

John is a model citizen who devoted his life to serving his country and community. He fought bravely in the European Theater in World War Two, and was rightly honored with a Combat Infantry Badge and a Bronze Star for his service.

Upon his return, John Kerfoot committed himself to helping the great state of New Jersey. He has devoted time and energy to the Camden County Democratic Committee, the Office of the Aging, and the Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority. He has served as a Sergeant at Arms for the New Jersey State Senate, a Camden County Freeholder, and a Labor Compliance Inspector for the Camden County Community Development Program. Over the past fifty years, John has helped his hometown of Audubon by serving honorably with the Audubon Park Fire Company, the Audubon Board of Education, and the Audubon Park Borough Council.

Although John is an extremely busy man, he still finds time to bowl with his wife Anne. His skills are certainly not limited to bowling, however. He successfully boxed in the Golden Gloves Tournament in the early 1930's, and even won the boxing championship at Fort Dix in 1932 at the age of seventeen.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor John Kerfoot today. He has certainly accomplished much in the past 90 years, and his ex-

emplary life of service is one to be admired. Moreover, it is a pleasure to call John a friend, and I wish him a very happy birthday, with the hope of many more to come.

SHERIFF LAWRENCE "LUMPY"
LEVEILLE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 28, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding law enforcement officer who 40 years ago began his dedicated career in St. Ignace, Michigan as a police officer and rose through the ranks to head the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Lawrence "Lumpy" Leveille retired this past winter with eight service stars upon his epaulets, each representing five years on the force. Sheriff Leveille's nearly 40 years as a law enforcement officer and leader stand as a shining example to us all.

Sheriff Leveille graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 1965 where in the 10th grade he was given the nickname "Lumpy". Being native of the first city across the Mackinac Bridge from Michigan's Lower Peninsula, it seemed fitting for Leveille to return to St. Ignace when he began his career as a police officer on May 25th, 1965. That same year on September 11, he married Ara Jean Litzner. Through the years, they have grown their family with five children and eleven grandchildren. After nine years of patrolling and protecting St. Ignace along the shores of the Straights of Mackinac, Leveille was promoted to Sergeant of the local police department.

Among his long list of accomplishments, Sheriff Leveille has decreased the number of drunk driving arrests thanks to new technology and better training for his officers, despite the increase in Mackinac County's population. He has improved safety for residents and his officers because of new cameras installed on patrol cars and in booking rooms which have led to a reduction in criminal trials. He was also able to achieve fast finger print and background searches to help officers as well as the Straits Area Narcotics Enforcement Team. Sheriff Leveille's staff of 22 and budget of about \$1.5 million made his department the largest in the county.

Although Sheriff Leveille's career with the Mackinac County Sheriff's Department has come to an end, he has continued to serve the public as a Mackinac County Commissioner. There he has and will continue to have an influence on local policy with the best interests of County residents in mind. Having worked with many of the people involved in the county's administration, "Lumpy" Leveille's transition to the Board has been smooth as he works to bring a better harmony to the system.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, as a former State Trooper myself, I have had the pleasure of knowing Sheriff Leveille over the years and can attest to his impeccable reputation of being a fair and honest protector of the people. I know that through his work he has encountered both exciting opportunities to grow with the community but also hard times when tragedy and tough times affected the area. He has given his heart and soul to his work and I have always admired his dedication to the people of Mackinac County and Michigan's First Congressional District.