

co-founded the Keumsil Cultural Society, which promotes Korean American culture. He was Executive Director of the Chicago Korean American Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Village of Skokie's Immigrant Advisory Task Force and a committee member of the Skokie Festival of Cultures. He works hard on behalf of the community and has been recognized and honored by the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Republic of Korea and Mayor Richard M. Daley's office. He also served as goodwill ambassador for "Visit Korea 2001" and served as Vice President of the Korean American Association of Chicago. He recognizes the importance of promoting cultural diversity and supporting the immigrant community.

As a first generation American and as a Congresswoman who is honored to represent one of the most richly diverse districts in the country, I have a deep appreciation for the invaluable contributions Korean-Americans have made to the United States. Korean-Americans, like Mr. Lee, contribute so much to and are an inspiration to others seeking to share in the American dream. This resolution provides much needed and deserved recognition to the Korean-American community for the invaluable mark they have had on the diversity and prominence of our great nation.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL VICTOR SAMUEL UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. McHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional officer in the United States Army, Lieutenant Colonel Victor H. Samuel, upon his retirement after 20 years of distinguished service. Throughout his career, Colonel Samuel has personified the Army values of duty, integrity, and selfless service across the many missions the Army provides in defense of our Nation. As a Congressional Legislative Liaison Officer in the office of the Secretary of the Army, many of us on Capitol Hill have enjoyed the opportunity to work with Colonel Samuel on a wide variety of Army issues and programs, and it is my privilege to recognize his many accomplishments.

Lieutenant Colonel Victor H. Samuel, the son of Mr. Hasker B. and Sylvia P. Samuel of Silver Spring, Maryland attended Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School in Greenbelt, Maryland and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, after graduating from Hampton Institute in 1984. Colonel Samuel's first assignment was in Bad Hersfeld, Germany as an Engineer Platoon leader. He was subsequently assigned duties as the Executive Officer and Assistant G3 in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment that was charged with defense of the Fulda Gap in Europe during the Cold War. Colonel Samuel went on to Command an Engineer Company in the 31st Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In 1992, Colonel Samuel was selected to complete advance studies in Civil Engineering at the University of Maryland where he received a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering (Construction Management).

In 1994, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel served as the Project Engineer for the Vicksburg, Mississippi District. He was subsequently assigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps, Airborne Combat Engineer Brigade, at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he served as the Brigade Logistics Officer and Battalion Executive Officer. Thereafter, Colonel Samuel was assigned to the Army Staff in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, where he honed his expertise in the field of personnel management.

In 2002, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel was assigned to the Office of Chief of Legislative Liaison, Programs Division where he assumed duties as a Legislative Liaison managing the Personnel and Human Resources portfolio. Colonel Samuel served as the Policy Branch Chief for Programs Division where he oversaw the promulgation of legislative policy initiatives in operations and logistics, depot maintenance, personnel, education and training, medical, and military construction.

Through these varying assignments, Lieutenant Colonel Samuel has provided outstanding leadership, advice, and sound professional judgment on numerous critical issues of enduring importance to both the Army and Congress. His actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders as they considered the impact of important issues. On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I thank Colonel Samuel, his wife, Janice, and his entire family for the commitment, sacrifices, and contribution that they have made throughout his honorable military career. Congratulations on completing an exceptional and successful career.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of myself, Congresswoman Jo ANN DAVIS and Congresswoman THELMA DRAKE to call attention to a group of young students from Hampton, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Hampton High School Crabbers football team had a remarkable season, and we believe the Crabbers deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On December 10, 2005, the Hampton High School Crabbers won their 17th state football championship, defeating Stone Bridge High School of Ashburn 15-8, at Todd Stadium in Newport News, Virginia.

The Crabbers finished the season with a 12-1 record. Hampton High holds a Virginia record of 17 state football championships. This is also the 12th state championship for Hampton High Head Football Coach Mike Smith.

This latest championship is just another accolade for the City of Hampton's oldest school. Hampton High School is also the direct descendant of the Syms-Eaton School, the first free school established in the American colonies. Syms Free School was founded in 1647. The school has existed in many incarnations and buildings since then, with Hampton's current school building being constructed in 1956.

The legacy of Hampton High is not limited to just the field of athletics. Under the Direction of Principal Anthony Woods, the Hampton faculty seeks to inspire students to strive for excellence and achievement in the classroom, in their extracurricular activities and in their communities. Hampton High has the second highest percentage of accredited teachers in the state of Virginia. Hampton High received the Award of Academic Excellence from the Department of Education in 1985. Hampton students meet rigorous academic requirements, and they take responsibility for their own academic progress, behavior and attendance. It is clear that this drive for excellence in academics goes hand in hand with excellence in athletics.

The Crabber's excellence in football is characteristic of the quality of athletics in the Peninsula District of Virginia. Hampton High School's championship this year marked the 10th time in the last fifteen years that a Peninsula District team has won a state title in football. To quote from our hometown newspaper, the Daily Press, "High school football on the Peninsula is championship football."

We would like to extend our enthusiastic congratulations to Coach Mike Smith, his coaching staff and all of the players on the Hampton High School Crabbers, the 2005 Group AAA Division Virginia High School League state football champions.

RECOGNITION OF MR. CHARLES "CHUCK" KLYBER

HON. RAY LAHOOD

ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer a few words today in recognition of Mr. Charles "Chuck" Klyber, a sportsman with a high degree of cooperative spirit and exceptional athletic ability. At 68 years old, Charles competes in the Illinois Senior Olympics games alongside men and women senior athletes in many different events.

The Illinois Senior Olympic Games bring together regional athletes 50 years of age and older. The games consist of 26 different sporting events in which participants compete in traditional Olympic-style events, such as track-and-field, basketball, and cycling.

Charles celebrated a spectacular 2005 season, setting several records, and winning a combined total of 23 medals. Mr. Klyber reached Gold status in the 10K run and 5000 and 1500-meter running events. Charles also earned Silver medals in the 200, 400, 800, 1500-meter runs, discus, shot put, and javelin. Performances in the 1500-meter, Football Accuracy, discus, and shot put also earned Charles Bronze medals throughout this season. Following outstanding performances, he has been nominated for the 2005 Illinois Senior Olympic Games Athlete of the Year.

Charles has admirably demonstrated exceptional athletic ability bringing great honor and pride to the State of Illinois, the senior community, and the Illinois Senior Olympics Games of Springfield, Illinois. Continuing his lifelong athletic participation, Charles has set his sights on the 2007 National Senior Olympic Games in Lexington, Kentucky, in which he will run his last race.

I commend Charles for his admirable triumphs thus far and wish him success as he continues to complete in the future. He is an inspiration to all of us—and to quote him, “Who said getting older can’t be a blast?”

RECOGNIZING CENTENNIAL OF SUSTAINED IMMIGRATION FROM PHILIPPINES TO UNITED STATES AND ACKNOWLEDGING CONTRIBUTIONS OF FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 218, a resolution to recognize 2006 as the centennial of sustained immigration from the Philippines to the United States and to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Filipino Americans over the past century.

Immigration from the Philippines to the United States began in 1906 when the first significant numbers of Filipino immigrants arrived in Hawaii to work on the island's sugar plantations. Today, a century later, the Filipino-American community's numbers increase by nearly 60,000 new immigrants per year, making Filipinos the largest immigrant group from the Asia-Pacific region.

The Filipino-American community has added so much to the vibrant culture of Chicago and our country. The 9th Congressional District boasts about 17,000 Filipino residents, which makes it home to the 36th largest number of Filipino-Americans among Congressional districts.

I am particularly proud of the achievements by my constituents like Ms. Aurora Abella-Austriaco, a lawyer, who immigrated here from the Philippines. She was just appointed a member of the Committee on Character and Fitness, First District, by the State of Illinois Supreme Court on October 26, 2005. In addition to being partner of a Chicago law firm, she served as a member of the Filipino American Voters League from 1996–98. She is the current Chair of the Cook County States Attorney's Asian Advisory Council and member of the Attorney General's Asian Advisory Council and Clerk of the Circuit Court's Asian Advisory Council. She is the past Treasurer of the League of Women Voters of Chicago and past Chair of the Chicago Bar Association. She also is Vice President of the Asian American Institute's 2005 Board of Directors.

The history of America's Filipino-American community is the quintessential American immigrant story of early struggle, pain and sacrifice, leading to success in overcoming ethnic, social, economic, political, and legal barriers to win a well-deserved place in our national fabric. Filipino-Americans, like Ms. Abella-Austriaco, have made incredible contributions in all parts of our society, including business, labor, politics, medicine, media and the arts. Filipino-Americans have served and are serving with special distinction in our Armed Forces, from World Wars I and II through the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and today in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The Smithsonian Institution will be conducting the Filipino-American Centennial Com-

memoration 2006 with five public programs and at least six more in cities including the city of Chicago, which I represent. The programs will range from scholarly discussions and film showings to cultural performances providing historical overviews of Filipino-Americans in the United States.

This centennial celebration will provide every American an opportunity to celebrate a century of Filipino immigration to the United States.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN TUCKER

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the National Park Service's (NPS) great treasures, John Tucker. A 35-year employee with NPS John is retiring January 3, 2006 after serving as Superintendent of the Fort Sumter National Monument for more than 15 years. I commend Mr. Tucker for his years of exemplary service and dedication to preserving and protecting our nation's treasures.

I came to know Mr. Tucker after being elected to Congress in 1992. Because of my love of history and preservation, he and I immediately found common ground. We have partnered on a number of initiatives during my tenure in Congress with the crowning achievement being the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center. This magnificent \$15 million structure educates visitors about the causes of the Civil War, and it doesn't flinch from the issue of slavery. Mr. Tucker's vision and its implementation at this site are visually stunning and historically significant.

The Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center complex is also a great example of Mr. Tucker's innovative partnership with the City of Charleston. The City built the South Carolina Aquarium adjacent to the Fort Sumter Visitor Education Center, and the NPS and the City jointly created Liberty Square, a wonderful park setting that accommodates public events and provides a respite for weary visitors to the Center complex. Mr. Tucker's creativity and willingness to bring a variety of entities to the table have resulted in a destination that visitors to the Charleston area do not want to miss.

Mr. Tucker's career with the NPS began the day after his college graduation on June 1, 1970. His first assignment was at Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The following January, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves and received his training at Parris Island. However, by July 1971, Mr. Tucker was back on the job with the NPS.

He received additional training by the NPS to become a ranger, and these skills served Mr. Tucker well as he traversed the United States serving at various parks: The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cades Cove sub-district; National Capital Park-East, Washington, D.C.; Ocmulgee National Monument, Macon, Georgia; and Cabrillo National Monument, San Diego, CA. From October 1977 until November 1980, Mr. Tucker served as the Chief Ranger at Fort Sumter National Monument, where he eventually became Superintendent.

Mr. Tucker's first Superintendent assignment, however, was at the Andersonville National Historic Site from 1980 to August 1989. His work there included building relationships with the American ex-prisoners of war and restoring historic prison camps. He also had the privilege of serving as Superintendent of the Jimmy Carter National Historic Site when it was established in 1988. That same year he was granted NPS's Superior Service Award.

Still the Fort Sumter National Monument beckoned him to return, and in August 1989, Mr. Tucker made his final transfer to become Superintendent of this collection of Charleston's historical treasures. His arrival in Charleston was marked 6 weeks later by the arrival of Hurricane Hugo, another force that left its imprint on this historic city. It took him the next 2 years to repair the damage to the NPS site wrought by the hurricane's fury.

In 1990, Charles Pinckney National Historic Site became part of the NPS inventory and was put under the auspices of Mr. Tucker at Fort Sumter. He has had responsibility in Charleston for 42 historic structures, ten monuments and memorials, 182 acres comprised of cultural sites, a curatorial collection of over 250,000 objects, five historic archaeological sites, and 45 cannon tubes of which 25 are carriage-mounted. His outstanding contributions were recognized by the NPS in 2002 when Mr. Tucker received the Superintendent of the Year award.

I know firsthand of the extraordinary work John Tucker has done for the National Park Service on behalf of the American people. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mr. Tucker on his tremendous career and his dedication to the preservation of our nation's historic and natural treasures. I know that his leadership at the NPS will be sorely missed, and I hope that he will continue to be involved with many projects in the Charleston area some of which both he and I share a deep and abiding passion. I wish him good luck and Godspeed.

TRIBUTE TO MATT POMMER

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the work of a remarkable journalist—Matt Pommer of Madison, Wisconsin.

Matt Pommer is retiring from The Capital Times newspaper where he worked for nearly 45 years. The past 35 of those years were spent covering the State Capitol beat. During that time, he covered virtually all of the major stories in the state, including the work of seven Governors.

Matt Pommer is a true journalist, who stayed focused on the facts and worked to make certain that he got the details right. He has an extraordinary knowledge of the inner workings and history of Capitol activity which was reflected in the outstanding quality of his stories. On many issues, most notably the Wisconsin retirement system, he knew as much or more than the legislators working on the issue.

In his years covering legislation Matt was steadfast in his determination to keep the public informed of the on-goings in Wisconsin