

State. One out of every four jobs in Washington State is directly tied to international trade, and we have a strong and growing trading relationship with the Asia Pacific region. This relationship has been established, expanded, and nurtured largely through cultural awareness first developed in the region by Asian-American immigrants. We all benefit from the contributions Asian Pacific Americans make to our community and country.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month is a celebration of the American spirit. We are a nation of immigrants, and by honoring Asian Pacific Americans, we honor all cultures.

RECOGNIZING KRISTIN VENZIAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Kristin Venzian of Parkville, Missouri. Kristin will be honored with the Billy Mitchell Award and Second Lieutenant Bars as a member of the Platte Valley Civil Air Patrol. As a member of the Civil Air Patrol, she has been moving swiftly through the ranks and is a member of the first string color guard, participating in various local events as a member of the team that won the Missouri State Color Guard Championship this year.

Kristin is a very active member of her school and the community. She received the President's Volunteer Service Award in 2005 and founded Kids Celebrate Soldiers, a foundation that sends thank you cards from children around the United States to American soldiers overseas. In school she is a member of the National Honor Society, the South Boulevard Singers, French Club, Teenage Republican Club, and a Captain on the Girls Cross Country squad.

After graduating from Park Hill South High School, Kristin hopes to enter the Air Force Academy and pursue a degree in Aeronautical Engineering with a specialty in engines. For many years she remains focused on becoming a pilot and serving in the Air Force throughout her career.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Kristin Venzian, an outstanding student from Parkville, Missouri. Her commitment to the community and desire to serve her country should be commended. I would like to express my gratitude to her for her achievements and I am honored to represent her in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO CINCO DE MAYO

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Cinco de Mayo is not only a celebration of the victory of a small Mexican militia over the Napoleonic French forces at the Battle of Puebla in 1862, but also the commemoration of the friendship and goodwill that exists between the United States and Mexico to this day.

Following the Mexican War of Independence, Mexico found itself heavily indebted to

Spain, France, and England. England and Spain quickly settled their debts, but Napoleon saw this as an opportunity to expand his empire and reclaim a portion of the New World.

France invaded Mexico in Veracruz, but was stopped from gaining passage to the Nations seed of government in Mexico City by General Ignacio Seguín Zaragoza and his small militia. Napoleon, however, would not be deterred. He sent 30,000 more troops and began a three month siege of Puebla, who finally surrendered and eventually took Mexico City. Napoleon appointed his cousin Ferdinand Maximilian of Austria as Emperor of Mexico. He was in power from 1864 until 1867 when the United States was able to provide assistance to Mexico after the conclusion of the Civil War and helped Mexico expel the French. Shortly after the French expulsion Maximilian was executed in Mexico.

Cinco de Mayo commemorates the Battle of Puebla in 1862 where General Ignacio Seguín Zaragoza and his small militia valiantly prevented the invasion of Mexico. This brave group of 4,500 men was able to prevent 6,500 French soldiers from marching on to Mexico City.

Mexico, and more recently, the United States both celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It represents a victory for the Mexican people and the beginning of a wonderful diplomatic relationship between the United States and Mexico that is not simply intertwined geographically but also culturally.

As a Texan I have an added respect for General Ignacio Seguín Zaragoza. He was born near the town of Goliad, Texas on March 24, 1829. A ten foot stature honoring General Zaragoza was dedicated in Goliad, Texas as a gift from the Governor of Puebla, Mexico.

IN MEMORY OF CORPORAL RICHARD PRICE WALLER

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of a young hero from my district. On April 7, 2006, the Department of Defense declared that Corporal Richard Price Waller (United States Marines, Company C, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division) was killed in the line of duty while conducting combat operations against enemy forces in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq.

Corporal Waller, who was known as "Ricky" by family and friends, had dreamed since he was a young boy of following in the footsteps of a number of relatives who have served in the U.S. military over the last nine decades. Soon after graduating from Fort Worth's Western Hills High School in 2002, Ricky realized his ambition and joined the Marines. After boot camp, Ricky was assigned to Company C where he excelled and became a platoon leader who earned the nickname "The Motivator."

Ricky's dedication to protecting freedom and winning peace around the world was demonstrated in his unconditional devotion to duty. He was serving on his third tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed. Despite the dangers and sacrifice that Ricky faced in Iraq, he had informed his family that he planned to re-enlist with the Marines in the fall.

Ricky's family is also to be commended for urging other young men and women to take heart in the life of Corporal Waller who lived "for God, family and country, with love for all and with no regrets."

The American people know the sacrifices Ricky, like many other soldiers, made to his country and his memory will not be in vain. I am proud to honor Corporal Waller's service to the State of Texas and to the United States of America. He will not be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO PASTOR DAVID L. EVERSON, SR.

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to my constituent, Pastor David L. Everson, Sr. A pastor for over 26 years, David Everson has spent the last seven years serving at the First Union Baptist Church in Galveston, Texas. During his time in Galveston, Pastor Everson has worked tirelessly to help his congregation, and all residents of Galveston. Pastor Everson's efforts have improved the lives of many Texans.

For example, Pastor Everson has been given an identification badge by the University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB), one of Texas's most respected hospitals, so he may visit with, extend compassion to, and pray with and for people receiving treatment at UTMB and their families. Pastor Everson has also been given a badge by the Galveston Police Department in recognition of his work against drug abuse.

Education is an area of particular concern to Pastor Everson. In order to ensure his neighbors have access to adult education services, Pastor Everson initiated the First Union Baptist Church Community Center. Pastor Everson also regularly meets with local school board members and networks with other ministers to ensure all the children in Galveston receive a quality education. Pastor Everson is always willing to mentor any young person in his congregation, and he regularly visits local schools to provide support for the young people of Galveston.

Pastor Everson is always available to counsel and assist any members of his congregation with any problems they are having, or with any projects on which they are working. Even with his busy schedule, Pastor Everson still makes time to brighten the lives of his congregation. For example, in order to ensure senior citizens who are members of his congregation continue to enjoy a fulfilling social life, Pastor Everson takes them out for lunch and dinner, paying for their meals out of his own pocket.

In recognition of Pastor Everson's numerous good works, some members of his congregation have launched an effort to have Sunday, May 21, 2006 deemed Pastor David L. Everson, Sr. day. I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Pastor Everson and thank him for all his good works.

RECOGNIZING THE SHARED HISTORY OF SLAVERY OF FRANCE AND THE UNITED STATES

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the African slave trade stands out in the annals of world history as one of the greatest crimes ever committed against humanity. It is important that we institutionalize every possible reminder of this horrible chapter in our civilization.

I want to take this opportunity to commend the French Republic and the work of Madame Christiane Taubira for setting May 10th as an annual national day in France to remember its role in slavery and the slave trade.

On the afternoon of the 23rd of May 1848, Africans and their New World descendants enslaved by France were set free. That was 45 years after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, when France sold most of its territory in the Americas to the fledgling USA, and 15 years before President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation of 1863.

Madame Christiane Taubira is a member of the French parliament, representing her native Guiana in South America. She is also an economist. On May 10th, 2001 Madame Taubira successfully proposed French legislation that thereafter declared slavery a crime against humanity, making France the first country in the world to make this declaration.

Madame Taubira's work in France complements the work of Professor Gwendolyn Midlo Hall here in the United States. Not only is Dr. Hall a distinguished historian, she is also a New Orleans, Louisiana native.

Hurricane Katrina's devastation in the Gulf Coast region has given an urgency and importance to the work of both Professor Hall and Madame Taubira.

Our active understanding and appreciation of the French and American culture and history of New Orleans and Louisiana, as part of the Gulf Coast, will help the people of the region as they restore and rebuild their community over the coming months, years and decades. We cannot honor a unique community and its people without honoring its history that has grown over four centuries from both French and American roots.

RECOGNITION OF MR. EDWARD KERBEYKIAN

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Edward Kerbeykian, a resident of Tenaflly, New Jersey, for his devoted service to Hekemian & Co., Inc. as a senior staff member for 55 years.

Mr. Kerbeykian currently serves as Hekemian & Co.'s Senior Vice President. Since 1950, he has made many meaningful contributions to the company. During this time period, he has also been a dedicated member of the Hackensack, New Jersey business community and served in leadership positions of the Hackensack Lions Club for nearly fifty

years and the Chamber of Commerce for more than 20 years. In fact, he was even given the nickname, "Mr. Main Street" because of his contributions to the early stages of the development of Main Street in Hackensack.

Mr. Kerbeykian, who is of Armenian descent, has been a devoted member of the Sts. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in Ridgefield, New Jersey and was involved, years ago, in the Armenian Folk Dance Society of New York. He is a devoted husband to Shirlee, wonderful father to Craig, who also holds a leadership position at Hekemian & Co., and the late Jeffrey Kerbeykian, a prominent New York City architect, and a loving grandfather of six.

Today, I would like to recognize Edward Kerbeykian's leadership at Hekemian & Co., for more than half a century and the many contributions he has made to this company as well as to the community of Hackensack, the County of Bergen and Northern New Jersey.

HONORING ARTHUR KUBIC, PRINCIPAL OF JOHN C. DORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to Honor Arthur Kubic, Principal of John C. Dore Elementary School in Chicago, Illinois. Principal Kubic recently announced his retirement following a career lasting nearly four decades.

Arthur Kubic was born and raised in the City of Chicago. He attended St. Simon the Apostle School and Thomas Kelly High School in Chicago's Southwest Side. He began his teaching career in 1968 after graduating from Northern Illinois University, and in 1977 he earned his Master's Degree from Roosevelt University.

Arthur Kubic, a champion for the hearing-impaired, taught sign language for twenty-five years in the Adult Education Department at Morton Community College in Cicero, Illinois.

In 1990, Arthur Kubic became the principal of Dore School. Since that time, he launched full-time kindergarten classes and the Full Inclusion Program which teaches students with disabilities in regular-education classes with their peers. His efforts on behalf of the children of Chicago Public Schools are truly appreciated.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the many achievements of Principal Arthur Kubic. It is my honor to acknowledge Arthur Kubic for his outstanding leadership and commitment to public service, in the City Chicago and the Third Congressional District of Illinois.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VFW POST 63

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the

60th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6368 in Duplo, Illinois.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States traces its roots back to 1899. That year, veterans of both the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their veterans. In Columbus, Ohio, Spanish-American War veterans founded the American Veterans of Foreign Service and in Denver, Colorado, Philippine veterans organized the Colorado Society, Army of the Philippines. In 1913, both organizations merged to form the present Veterans of Foreign Wars organization.

The VFW is known the world over for their service not only to veterans, but to all people. They are considered to be one of the most active forces in the pursuit of services for and recognition of veterans at a national level. The efforts of the VFW resulted in the creation of the House Veterans Committee, the WWI bonus, the national Veterans Day holiday, various GI bills, the creation of a cabinet-level office of Veterans Affairs and support on many veterans' health issues. The VFW is active in disaster relief and also provides information to citizens about our national flag. You cannot mention the VFW without mentioning their "buddy poppy" program which raises funds for veterans' homes.

VFW Post 6368 was chartered in 1946 with 52 charter members and was named the Sugar Loaf Memorial VFW Post. Currently, of the 52 original members, three are still with the Post; Robert Schneeberger, Stan Parrin and John Fischer. Post 6368 is very active in the community and provides many services and support to our area veterans, such as raising funds for homeless vets, money for the National Children's Home, and the Veterans Relief Fund. The Post also donates funds and supports the Duplo Senior High School Junior ROTC program.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the men and women of VFW Post 6368 both past and present on 60 years of serving veterans and the people of Southwestern Illinois.

PRAISING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of Asian/Pacific Americans and their innumerable contributions to our Nation. The fabric of American society has benefited from the talent, dedication and enthusiasm of Asian/Pacific Americans. The month of May is designated as a time when we all can appreciate and observe diversity in America by highlighting the contributions of Asian/Pacific Americans.

In June 1977, Representative Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House Resolution that called upon the President to designate the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. Subsequently, Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both House and Senate Bills