

his death was not in vain and that it moves our forces one step closer to home and to peace in the Middle East.

We may disagree with the wars that are being waged by our Commander in Chief, but that should never negate the courage of our Nation's immigrants who have answered the call to duty and have made the ultimate sacrifice.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE WESLEY HOFSESS

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of First Lieutenant George Wesley Hofsess, who recently passed away at his Ventura, CA home on July 21, 2007. Lieutenant Hofsess dedicated his life to his family and his country. His courage and his commitment to excellence were exemplary both at home and on duty.

Lieutenant Hofsess was born on August 5, 1915 in Partridge, Kansas where he grew up on a small farm. He attended Kansas State University where he met the love of his life, Frances Ann Esmond. They were happily married on June 8, 1940. Upon graduating from Kansas State University, Lieutenant Hofsess decided to dedicate his life to the service, enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Force on May 28, 1942.

Lieutenant Hofsess was assigned to the 709th Bomb Squadron, 447th Bomb Group, as a pilot of a B-17 Bomber, Plane 1091. He was stationed in England during World War II and served valiantly there, flying 28 missions over Nazi-occupied Europe. For a time, Lieutenant Hofsess was reported missing in action over France.

Eventually, Mrs. Hofsess was notified by the Washington Provost Marshall General that Second Lieutenant George W. Hofsess was a prisoner of war in Nuremburg concentration camp #4274.

On December 28, 1944, Mrs. Hofsess received a letter from the War Department, stating that by direction of the President, the Air Medal and one Oak-leaf Cluster had been awarded to Second Lieutenant George W. Hofsess for "exceptionally meritorious achievement" and for displaying "courage, coolness and skill." As these awards could not be formally presented to Lieutenant Hofsess, they were presented to Mrs. Hofsess.

Lieutenant Hofsess earned his medals many times over. At the time his plane was shot down, he suffered burns to his face and hands while successfully evacuating his entire crew from the plane. During his imprisonment in the concentration camp, his older brother, Lieutenant Colonel Russell Hofsess, with the famous Seventh Army, began a tireless search for him.

Finally, just before Germany surrendered, Lieutenant Hofsess was found. He walked out of the prison camp and into the arms of his older brother.

First Lieutenant George W. Hofsess was Honorably Discharged from service on November 25, 1945. He lived the following years as a civilian, caring for his family and his friends.

On July 21, 2007, First Lieutenant George Wesley Hofsess peacefully passed at the age of 91. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Frances Ann Hofsess; his daughter Anne Stamos and her husband Lucas of San Jose, CA; his daughter Julie Antal and her husband Tom of Minneapolis, MN; and his grandson, Grant Murray, of San Jose. Lieutenant Hofsess left a legacy of bravery and selflessness through his service to his country. Throughout his life, he fought to protect peace and freedom and was a loving husband and father. We are forever grateful for his service to this nation and the world. The contributions of First Lieutenant George W. Hofsess will not be forgotten and he will be sorely missed.

#### LIFELONG IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD AND EXERCISE ACT (LIFE)

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Lifelong Improvements in Food and Exercise Act (LIFE), a national initiative to attack growing problems of overweight and obesity now found in Americans of every age, race, and major demographic group. The LIFE bill would provide \$15 million in funding to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for a major effort to reverse increasingly sedentary lifestyles and diets that are high in fat and sugar.

I introduce the bill today because of the startling and steadily increasing rates of obesity among adults and children in the United States. Currently, 64.5 percent of adults, aged 20 years and older, are overweight and 32.2 percent of adults (over 66 million) are obese. According to the National Women's Health Information Center, 50 percent of women aged 20 to 74 are overweight or obese. Young people are no better off—the percentage of children who are overweight has more than doubled, and among adolescents the rates have tripled since 1980 increasing from 5 percent to 17.1 percent. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that Type 2 diabetes, considered an adult disease, is now widespread in children. The health care system is already paying the price, and the consequences to kids will follow them throughout their lives. These kids, ages 10 to 15, have a 80 percent chance of being overweight adults, with the health conditions that follow, such as high blood pressure, heart disease and cancer.

The LIFE bill directs the CDC to pursue obesity and sedentary lifestyles in three ways: train health professionals to recognize the signs of obesity early and educate people concerning healthful alternatives, such as proper nutrition and regular exercise; conduct public education campaigns to teach the public about how to recognize and address overweight and obesity; and develop intervention strategies to be used in everyday life in worksites and community settings. This important legislation is the minimum necessary to address this major health care crisis. Already, chronic diseases, many of which are caused or exacerbated by overweight or obesity, account for 70 percent of all deaths in the U.S., which is 1.7 million each year and 60 percent of U.S. medical care expenses yearly. According to the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Prevent and

Decrease Overweight and Obesity, the cost of obesity in the United States in 2000 was more than \$117 billion.

A focused national health initiative is necessary because unhealthy lifestyles have become a normal part of everyday life. Participation in high school physical education classes has dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 33 percent in 2005, accounting at least for part of the reason that one-third of young people in grades 9–12 do not regularly engage in physical activities. National data show an increase in unhealthy eating habits for adults and no change in physical activity. Changes in nutrition are equally critical because 60 percent of young people consume too much fat, a factor in the doubling in the percentage of overweight youth.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in support of this important legislation to mobilize the country now before entirely preventable health conditions that begin in children overwhelm the nation's health care system.

#### TRIBUTE TO MASTER WAN KO YEE

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 7, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, one of the fundamental principles on which this Nation was founded is freedom of religion and respect for the religious beliefs of others. Religious tolerance and the freedom of religion for individuals to believe what they choose is one of the underlying concepts essential to our democratic system of government. Madam Speaker, it is in that spirit that I want to pay tribute to Master Wan Ko Yee, who has been recognized by world-renowned Buddhist masters as Dorje Chang Buddha III, the true incarnation of the primordial Buddha of the Buddhist faith in accordance with the rules of recognizing the incarnation in Buddhism.

Master Yee was born in Sichuan, China, and like many individuals over the last four centuries, has come to this land where there is greater opportunity and freedom to teach and practice his religion. As Master Yee said, "The American people are kind and noble. People can freely believe in religion in the United States, a country that is spiritually wealthy, powerful, and blessed."

I am pleased that he has found a new home in my own home state of California, where many Americans of diverse backgrounds have embraced principles of Buddhism, which include showing compassion toward others, benefiting others, being selfless, and striving for enlightenment and liberation.

Master Yee, who is recognized as His Holiness Wan Ko Yeshe Norbu, the Buddha Vajradhara Great Dharma King by the leaders of different sects of Buddhism in the world, has established a temple in San Francisco. Other similar places of worship for the benefit of believers have been established in other cities in California, New York, Washington, DC and abroad.

Master Yee not only is a widely recognized and admired Buddhist thinker and teacher, Madam Speaker, but he also is an artist whose work has been widely acknowledged and exhibited. His work includes a number of very different styles and media, including traditional Chinese calligraphy, traditional Chinese

painting, abstract painting, and a new style of art that is called Yun sculpture in which Master Yee has created beautiful colors and shapes.

In recognition of his artistic work, he has been named a "Fellow" by the Royal Academy of Art in the United Kingdom. His works of art have been displayed in a number of exhibits, including two recently here in Washington, DC at the Organization of American States and in the Gold Room of the Rayburn House Office Building, which was sponsored by our friend and colleague, DAVID DREIER of California. An exhibit of his Yun sculpture in San Francisco last year was widely attended, and his work has been exhibited in a number of other locations.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Master Wan Ko Yee, Dorje Chang Buddha III, a Buddhist leader of particular renown who has chosen to make his home here in the United States, and who is an outstanding artist, scholar, and religious thinker.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, on September 6, I was attending a funeral in my district and missed several votes. If present I would have voted on the following Rollcall votes, Rollcall No. 854, approving the Journal, "aye". Rollcall No. 855, H. Res. 633, "Aye". Rollcall No. 856, anti-Native Hawaiian amendment to H.R. 2786, "Nay". Rollcall No. 857, King of Iowa amendment to H.R. 2786, "Nay". Rollcall No. 858, Price of Georgia amendment to H.R. 2786, "Nay". Rollcall No. 859, final passage of H.R. 2786, "Aye".

#### HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF AUSTIN HIGH SCHOOL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate Stephen F. Austin High School of Houston. This school, located in our district, opened in September of 1937, and for 70 years, it has held education and its students in the highest regard.

Austin High School focuses on the development of their students and the community surrounding them to attain full potential and academic achievement. The student body has grown to almost two thousand students, 99% of which are minority students. Through the use of their magnet program, Advanced Placement courses, Dual Credit Courses for college credit and many more avenues, approximately \$1,000,000 in scholarship funding for the graduating seniors of 2007 has been secured. This is quite the accomplishment and deserves much recognition. The school's magnet program also deserves notice as it focuses on the

teaching profession and prepares students for academic success in college and their future careers.

Another notable contribution to the community will be the unveiling of the Fallen Heroes Memorial honoring Austin High graduates who lost their lives in faithful service during WWII, the Korean War, and in Vietnam.

It is with great pleasure that I bring due attention to Austin High School, commend them on their accomplishments and challenge them to grow even further and continue their outstanding example in our community.

#### HONORING BUENA VISTA CARNEROS WINERY

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Buena Vista Carneros on the 150th anniversary of the founding of this historic estate. Buena Vista Carneros was the first premium winery established in California, and 150 years later it remains one of the leading wineries in, the world's foremost wine producing region.

The estate was founded in 1857 by Hungarian Count Agoston Haraszthy after he was introduced to the Sonoma wines by General Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo. General Vallejo learned of his interest in winemaking when the Count first arrived in the Sonoma Valley, and after a tasting session the Count decided to remain in the region and plant his own vineyards. With the success of the winery, Count Haraszthy was commissioned by the California State Legislature to travel through Europe in order to gather the finest European cuttings to bring back to California. In total, the Count gathered more than 100,000 cuttings of 350 varietals for the nascent California wine industry. In 1969, in recognition both of his famous winery and his contribution to California viticulture, Congress recognized Count Haraszthy as 'The Father of Californian Winemaking'. Today, Buena Vista Winery and Vineyards is recognized as a California Registered Historic Landmark.

Buena Vista winery's storied history truly takes off with the acquisition of 700 acres in the Cameros appellation in 1969. This initial holding was quickly expanded to a total of 1,000 acres, and coincided with the rise to prominence of the Carneros region, built largely on a reputation for producing excellent cool-weather wines. Since that time, as Sonoma Valley has gained prominence as one of the world's premier wine regions, Carneros' fame has continued to rise. In 2005, Buena Vista winery was renamed Buena Vista Carneros to coincide with a replanting of its estate vineyards into small blocks arranged to best capture Carneros' subtle variations.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we acknowledge Buena Vista Carneros on the 150th anniversary of its founding. As California's first winery, Buena Vista Carneros is truly a testament to the enduring quality and character of California wine, and today it remains among the Sonoma Valley's finest wineries.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ARTHUR MONETTI

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Arthur Monetti, a veteran of World War II, for his exemplary service in defense of freedom and award him with the Jubilee of Liberty Medal. On June 6, 1944 the United States and its allies embarked on the largest air, land, and sea invasion ever undertaken. This massive effort included 5,000 ships, 10,000 airplanes, and over 150,000 American, British, Canadian, Free French, and Polish Troops. During the 50th anniversary of this historic event, the French Government awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal to American servicemen for their participation in the Battle of Normandy.

Arthur served in the United States Army, Battery B 491st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. Arthur fought ground combat during the Battle of Normandy in Northern France, Rhineland. For his heroism and valor, Harry was awarded the American Service Medal, European African Middle Eastern Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Arthur Monetti for his heroic service in the United States Army. His dedication to this country in the theater of war is truly exemplary. I commend the sacrifices he has made to protect our freedoms and I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize his service. I applaud Arthur Monetti for his successes and I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF WASCO

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 7, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Wasco on the celebration of their 100th anniversary.

The birth of the town of Wasco dates back to 1897, when the Santa Fe Railroad laid tracks through the area. Soon after, over 300 families relocated there through the efforts of Marshall V. Hartranft, who secured land for resale to the settlers from the Kern County Land Company. This effort was known as the "Fourth Home Extension Colony." Originally named "Dewey," then "Deweyville," Wasco was renamed by William Bonham, a settler from Wasco County in Oregon, and the town name was recorded by the Post Office in 1900.

In 1904 Delta-Shamrock School was born serving as a multi-purpose institution including a school, a civic center and a welcoming place for settlers who arrived in 1907. A few years later, a business district was born which included a depot, a general store, a post office, two saloons, a blacksmith shop and a hotel. Eventually, the school was renamed "The Wasco School" and, in 1919, it became the Wasco Unified School District.

In 1929, the Wasco Union High School Auditorium was completed. This architectural