

TRIBUTE TO YONG-SOO LEE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Yong-Soo Lee, a South Korean woman who, decades after enduring torture and abuse by the Japanese Imperial Army, has taken it upon herself to stand up for human rights and the dignity of all by telling her personal story and demanding that the Government of Japan acknowledge and apologize for its role in the "comfort women" system of World War II.

Yong-Soo Lee is one of over 200,000 "comfort women" in Asia who suffered unimaginable dehumanization by the Japanese Imperial Army during Japan's colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II.

These women—who came from China, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, and elsewhere—suffered experiences which were unprecedented in cruelty and were officially commissioned by the Government of Japan. They endured gang rape, forced abortions, humiliation, and sexual violence resulting in mutilation, death, or eventual suicide—and to this date, they have still not received justice from this tragedy.

The hope of Yong-Soo Lee and her sisters is a modest one: Simply stated, that the government of Japan acknowledges, apologizes for, and accepts full historical responsibility for these atrocities.

Yong-Soo Lee has a poignant story to tell. At 16, she was taken far from her home in Korea to an outpost on Taiwan, where she and her schoolmates, among others, were forced to provide sexual services to Japanese soldiers and airmen in the waning days of World War II. She suffered seasickness, sleeplessness, hunger, venereal disease, and bodily harm.

When she was able to return home after the war, the pain and shame were so much that she was never able to marry, which caused conflict and ostracization within her family.

Still, she went on with her life, and in 1992 began to unburden herself of her memories. Working with the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, she came forward with her story—which she had kept secret from her family for almost five decades—in order that other women will not have to endure the same sort of suffering.

Madam Speaker, on February 15, the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment of the Committee on Foreign Affairs will convene a hearing entitled "Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women." Yong-Soo Lee has been invited to share her story with members of the subcommittee along with other surviving comfort women who want to see justice prevail.

On January 31, I, along with several of my colleagues, introduced H. Res. 121, which expresses "the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Force's coercion of young women into sexual

slavery, known to the world as "comfort women" during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II."

We appreciate the dedication of women like Yong-Soo Lee, who are traveling thousands of miles to be with us in Washington, to help us better understand their personal experiences and to help us formulate appropriate policy responses to both historical events and their modern equivalents. They stand as beacons of inspiration to us as we combat human rights violations and seek to extirpate war crimes wherever they might occur. By telling their stories, Yong-Soo Lee and her fellow comfort women provide the foundation for the protection of the rights of women throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Yong-Soo Lee and the thousands of surviving comfort women.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL CREATION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN LATINO ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 512, to establish the commission to study the potential creation of the National Museum of the American Latino to develop a plan of action for the establishment and maintenance of a National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, and for other purposes.

Here in our Nation's Capitol we are proud of the history from the past that surrounds us and embrace the history that is made each and every day. Amongst the many museums that pay tribute to our rich history as a nation, there still remains a sense of incompleteness in our lessons of our history, art and culture. Even though 40 million United States residents share the Latino heritage and culture, hardly any permanent exhibits in Washington's museums commemorate their cultural contributions. I commend Representative BECERRA for recognizing the need to share the collective history of Latino-Americans and to ensure that their stories, cultural contributions and heritage are not forgotten for generations to come.

This bipartisan bill was first introduced as H.R. 2134 during the 109th Congress and passed by a unanimous vote but time ran out before the Senate could act on the bill. I was a co-sponsor of H.R. 2134 and it is my sincere hope that my colleagues in the Senate will take quick action and speedily move this important legislation forward upon its passage in the House. This legislation recognizes the need for detailed and careful planning and proposes a 23 member commission to discuss the museum's vitality and is charged with producing a national conference to bring stakeholders, experts, policy makers and other interested parties together. It is important to take the chief ideas discussed and move them from concept to reality; the commission would be tasked with designing a fundraising plan to create an extensive public-private partnership

as well as reporting to Congress a detailed recommended plan of action on how to do so.

Again, I thank my colleague, Mr. BECERRA, for introducing this important legislation, to ensure that we celebrate, commemorate and remember the contribution of Latino Americans by moving to establish a National museum and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

HONORING MRS. EDITH EDNA
"BETTY" VAUGHN

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Edith Edna "Betty" Vaughn for a lifetime of service as a health care professional.

Born Edith Edna Lunn on November 3, 1945, Betty, as she later preferred to be called, was the only girl of her parents' four children. She became interested in nursing and health care at an early age, often having to look after her brothers. Betty decided to turn this interest into a career when she attended nursing school in 1963. She graduated in 1967 with a diploma of nursing from the University of Essex in England.

Betty met her husband, Victor Vaughn, at a hospital dance and married him 1 year later. The Vaughn's moved to Richmond, VA, where Betty began her career at the Johnston-Willis Hospital.

In 1974 the Vaughns moved to Blacksburg, VA, where Victor attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Betty continued her career of service working at the local community hospital. Mrs. Vaughn was a dedicated professional during the days and a loving, supportive wife to her husband at night.

Upon completion of Mr. Vaughn's education, the family moved to northern Virginia where Betty joined the staff at Fairfax Hospital, today known as INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Betty has been a cheerful, positive employee to the hospital, spreading joy to all patients she encounters. While her retirement is well deserved, she will be greatly missed.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to commend Mrs. Edith Edna "Betty" Vaughn for her lifetime of service. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Betty for her past accomplishments and in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO JAN RUFF-O'HERNE

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor an extraordinary woman of courage and integrity who is visiting Washington this week.

During World War II, Jan Ruff-O'Herne was a young Dutch national, born and raised in what is now Indonesia. She was kidnapped by Japanese Imperial forces and forced to serve as what is euphemistically known as a "comfort woman" in a brothel for the entertainment of Japanese soldiers.

For nearly 50 years, Mrs. Ruff-O'Herne kept her tortures to herself, too ashamed to admit her horrid experiences even to the people closest to her. In 1992, however, after seeing reports of other comfort women who were speaking out about the atrocities they endured, she decided to make her memories public.

Her 1994 autobiography, *50 Years of Silence*, which was later adapted into a widely-praised and award-winning documentary film, explains in excruciating detail her life in the so-called "comfort station." That she survived this ordeal speaks volumes about her strength, courage, and spiritual convictions.

In the years since she brought her story to public attention, Jan Ruff-O'Herne has been granted honors by Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Queen Elizabeth, and Pope John Paul II, in recognition of her efforts to support the human rights of women around the globe.

On February 15, the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment of the Committee on Foreign Affairs will convene a hearing entitled "Protecting the Human Rights of Comfort Women." Jan Ruff-O'Herne has been invited to share her story with members of the subcommittee.

Thousands of the comfort women of World War II survive today. They are seeking a formal apology from the government of Japan, which has been unwilling to accept responsibility for violating the human rights of these women.

Madam Speaker, last month I introduced a resolution, H. Res. 121, which calls on Japan to formally and unambiguously apologize and acknowledge the tragedy that the comfort women endured under its Imperial Army during World War II. Not only should Japan's Prime Minister issue a public apology, Japan must take responsibility unequivocally.

The Japanese government owes such an apology to brave women like Jan Ruff-O'Herne.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in tribute to Jan Ruff-O'Herne and the hundreds of thousands of comfort women who endured unspeakable tortures during World War II and who continue to fight for the human rights of all people more than 60 years later.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN CLOSS
WALFORD

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Carolyn Closs Walford on the occasion of her promotion to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel after 20 years of service in the U.S. Army.

LTC Walford is known to many of my colleagues, because she has served in the Army's House Liaison Division for more than 3 years. Many of us have had the good fortune of working with her on a wide variety of legislative initiatives and programs. She has also coordinated 14 Congressional Delegations to Iraq, more than any other Legislative Liaison currently assigned to the Chief of the Legislative Liaison Office. LTC Walford coordinated official visits I made to Morocco, Israel, and Egypt, and I can therefore attest from first-

hand experience to her professionalism and commitment to duty.

LTC Walford was born and reared in Louisburg, NC. She is the daughter of the late William L. Closs and Fannie S. Closs, the youngest in a large and loving family of ten. Her oldest brother is 30 years her senior and her oldest sister is 18 years older.

LTC Walford is not the first in her family to honorably serve in this Nation's armed forces, although she is the first generation of her family to serve in an integrated military. Her father, SSG William L. Closs, served in WWII during the Normandy Campaign with the 443rd QM Trucking Company. He was awarded the Purple Heart for his bravery and commitment to duty.

LTC Walford was a daddy's girl who joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps, ROTC, while attending Winston-Salem State University. She was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Signal Corps upon graduation and accepted a reserve commission in the Army Reserve. She completed the Signal Officers Basic Course at Ft. Gordon, GA, relocated to Washington, DC, to pursue a fulltime career in the private sector while fulfilling her military commitment in the Army Reserve and completing her graduate studies. LTC Walford later made the decision to branch transfer to the Quartermaster Corps, a branch more fitting to support the Army Reserve mission of combat service support. LTC Walford held various positions while serving as the "Citizen Soldiers," to include Company Command, Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General of the 352d Civil Affairs Command, Host Nations Support and a variety of logistics assignments. LTC Walford deployed and served seven months in Southwest Asia during Operation Desert Storm.

The Chief, Army Reserve requested her assistance in the start up of a new unit in 1999, the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, LOGCAP. LTC Walford's civilian expertise in contracting and her logistical background made her a prime candidate to help facilitate this new unit. Once again, she answered the call to serve and became a fulltime active soldier. She has served in the Army's Guard/Reserve, AGR, Program since 1999.

LTC Walford has received numerous awards throughout her career, including the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Accommodation Medal, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Badge, and the Army Staff Badge. She is a graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff Officers Course, The Quartermaster and Civil Affairs Advanced course, and the U.S. Army Paratrooper School.

This soldier's unique skill set and extraordinarily diverse level of experience both in the public and private sector has been a tremendous asset to our great country. She is a pillar of strength for our Army, her fellow comrades-in-arms, and for her family and friends. My best wishes go out to LTC Walford on her well-deserved promotion, and to her husband, Raymond L. Walford, and her entire extended family on this important occasion.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mr. NORWOOD. Madam Speaker, had I been present on rollcall vote No. 74, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 75, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 76, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 77, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 78, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 79, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 80, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 81, I would have voted "no"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 82, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 83, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 84, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 85, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 86, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 87, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 88, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 89, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 90, I would have voted "yea"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 91, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present on rollcall vote No. 92, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO THE WYOMING BOARD
OF REGISTRATION FOR PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND PROFESSIONAL
LAND SURVEYORS

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2007

Mrs. CUBIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Wyoming Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors. This board has been serving Wyoming for 100 years by certifying engineers in order to ensure their competence and the highest level of training.

In 1907, when Clarence T. Johnston became the Wyoming State Engineer, there was no national or State certification process for workers. Realizing that many engineers were not trained for their positions, and thus were providing sub-par workmanship, he proposed to the Wyoming State legislature a bill to mandate registration of engineers and to create a board of examiners.

Wyoming became the first State with an engineer licensure law in 1907. Soon after, the Nation followed step; and in 1920, the organization now known as the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying was born. This organization has created licensure standards and professional ethics for engineers countrywide.

Through its licensure regulations and training, the National Council ensures the safety of our Nation's infrastructure. Engineers design our buildings and bridges, they develop our