

World War II was a grim chapter in America's history. But by sustaining this history, we can hope to prevent a similar travesty from occurring.

That is why it was so important to designate Tule Lake as a National Historic Landmark within the lifetimes of the few surviving Japanese-American internees, before many of their stories were lost. And thanks to the efforts of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, the Tule Lake Segregation Center will help future generations understand the pain and suffering that Japanese Americans endured during World War II.

Despite these hardships, members of the Asian Pacific Islander community have continued to take positions of leadership and have worked hard to secure a brighter future for all.

Today, California boasts 20 elected officials of Asian Pacific Islander heritage. There are now nine Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the State legislature; four on the State board of equalization, including John Chiang as the State controller; and a number of others in local government. A new generation of leaders has emerged with a vision of a politically empowered Asian Pacific Islander American electorate.

Additionally, over 62,000 Asian Pacific Islander Americans are on active duty in the military, and nearly 8,000 are deployed across the world to fight terrorism. And Asian Pacific Islander Americans are among the thousands of Americans who have sacrificed their lives for our country.

The United States draws great strength from the diversity of this population. At present, Asian Pacific Islander Americans constitute one of the fastest growing minority communities in the United States. And California is home to the greatest number of Asian Pacific Islander Americans. In fact, there are over 13 million Asian Pacific Islander Americans in the Nation, with more than 4.5 million living in California.

As the second largest ethnic minority group in California, Asian Pacific Islander heritage continues to enrich our State with famous enclaves such as San Francisco's Chinatown, Los Angeles' Koreatown, Westminster's Little Saigon, and the city of Artesia's Little India.

We must recognize that the Asian Pacific Islander American community is diverse, not only in language, culture, and foods but in education and socioeconomic levels as well. That is why it is so important to provide talented students who have clearly embraced the American dream the incentive to take the path toward being a responsible, contributing member in our civic society.

I have cosponsored the DREAM Act of 2007 to give undocumented high school students who wish to attend college or serve in the Armed Forces an opportunity to adjust to a lawful status and pursue these goals. If it becomes law, the DREAM Act would help Asian Pacific Islander Americans and others triumph over adversity.

As future generations of Asian Pacific Islander Americans continue to strive for excellence in our educational system, economy, and communities, I am pleased to honor and distinguish the many triumphs and accomplishments of the Asian Pacific Islander American community and their role in shaping our Nation's identity.

VA HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed a resolution designating May 14 to 18, 2007, as National Health Information Technology Week. In connection with this resolution, it is important to recognize the leadership and progress that the Department of Veterans Affairs has shown in the area of health information technology.

By passing this resolution, the Senate has recognized the tremendous importance of information technology in improving health care for all Americans. RAND Corporation has estimated that by improving health information technology and practices more than \$81 billion can be saved annually in the United States.

Such savings are only one aspect of the promised impact of better health information technology. The other, more important aspect is that improved health information technology can help save lives by providing health care providers with more accurate and timely patient information.

As an increasing number of veterans return from the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan with complicated injuries, they must receive the quality care earned through their service. Information technology helps VA provide that care.

Over the past decade, VA has become a leader in the use of electronic health records. Through VA's veterans health information system and technology architecture, commonly referred to as VISTA, clinicians can access and update electronic health records throughout the Nation's largest health care system. Clinicians can also view medical images, such as x rays, pathology slides, and other critical records that can be placed immediately into a patient's record. In addition to their electronic records system, VA is reducing medication and prescription errors through a point-of-care system to verify that patients receive correct dosage at correct times, visually alerting staff when errors are made. For its development and employment of this system, VA was awarded the 2006 Innovations in Government Award, sponsored by Harvard University.

While VA's health care system is by no means perfect, its use of health information technology has improved the quality of care received by veterans, while reducing the costs to our taxpayers. I hope the Department will continue on their path of progress, and I commend VA for its work thus far.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

IN RECOGNITION OF STAFF SERGEANT HAROLD GEORGE DANLEY

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a man who died in the service of his country 64 years ago, but never received the proper recognition he was due.

Harold George Danley was one of four brothers from Lincoln, NE, who joined the armed services during World War II. Three of those brothers returned home to their families; Sergeant Danley, who was 22 years old, did not.

Sergeant Danley was serving in the 18th Army/Air Force Anti-Submarine Squadron aboard a B-24D Bomber, which crashed while patrolling the East Coast of the United States somewhere near the Virginia/North Carolina shoreline on April 21, 1943. Despite the efforts of search parties, his body was never recovered; therefore, no memorial service was ever performed on his behalf. It was some time later that the family was notified that Sergeant Danley was officially listed as FOD, "Finding of Death."

Sergeant Danley left behind his wife Thelma; his daughter Merriam, who was born several months after her father's death; his father Harrison and stepmother Anna; three brothers, LTC Earl E. Danley, SGT Bob E. Danley, and SGT Lloyd K. Danley, now deceased; and three half-siblings, Marvin, Delores, and Betty. His mother Ella preceded him in death.

On May 18, 2007, a memorial service was held at Arlington National Cemetery to honor Harold G. Danley as a son, brother, husband, and father, as well as a man who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of his country. My thoughts are with the Danley family as they honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Danley, a Nebraska hero from the Second World War.●

RECOGNIZING HEIDI WENTZLAFF

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Heidi Wentzloff, an intern in my Sioux Falls, SD office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Heidi is a graduate of Centerville Public High School in Centerville, SD. Currently she is attending Augustana College, where she is majoring in government and international affairs. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Heidi for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO KEN CROCKETT

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the decade-plus of

service that Ken Crockett has dedicated to the State of West Virginia. For the last 11 years, Ken has served as the director of the West Virginia Japan Office in Nagoya, which sits in the Aichi Prefecture of Japan.

West Virginia has opened trade offices throughout the world in order to encourage economic relationships with our State. The Japan Office has helped draw a number of Japanese businesses to open new locations in West Virginia, as well as helped the businesses already in West Virginia export their products to Japan. In addition to the economic benefits of this relationship, the Japan office has facilitated a number of cultural and educational exchanges—all under Ken's leadership.

In Ken's years as director of the West Virginia Japan Office, our State and Japan have seen a dramatic, if not astronomical, rise in their economic relations. West Virginia is currently home to 19 Japanese companies that have created thousands of direct and indirect jobs for our State's citizens. Japanese investors have been, and continue to be, outstanding corporate citizens of West Virginia—contributing economically and culturally to the quality of the State.

I have seen Ken's work firsthand on a number of occasions in Japan on trade missions with various Governors. Ken's relationships and his presence in Nagoya have been very valuable for our development efforts. He operated with a strong dedication to our collective goals and an understanding of both Japan and West Virginia.

Very soon, Ken will be embarking on a new career with NGK Spark Plugs—West Virginia's first major Japanese investor—and a trailblazer for our State's Japanese automotive industry. Ken will bring to that job the same determination, commitment, and hard work ethic he brought to the State's economic development efforts. We look forward to working with him in his new position as we continue to strengthen our ties with our State's existing Japanese investors.

Mr. President, I thank the Senate and ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing Ken's service to my State and wish him the best in his future endeavors.●

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES WOFFORD

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wish to recognize Charles Wofford. Mr. Wofford is retiring from the position of Alabama area director of the Social Security Administration after over 45 years of dedicated service. He has served as the Area Director in Alabama since September 1979.

Mr. Wofford graduated from the University of Alabama in 1961 with a B.S. degree in biology. He began work with Social Security that same year as a claims representative trainee. He held additional increasingly responsible jobs as a claims authorizer, field representative, operations supervisor,

branch manager, assistant district manager, district manager, and has been an area director since April 1977 and came to Alabama in 1979 to serve as the Alabama area director at that time.

He is the senior area director in the United States, and has received numerous awards throughout his career for superior performance. He received a service award for spearheading an intense direct deposit campaign and a cash award in recognition of exemplary achievement in the area of DDS and field office relations. He has strived to build a strong management team and has worked to ensure that all employees are fully trained to perform to the best of their ability. He received the Deputy Commissioner's Citation for Outstanding Contributions as a member of the National Training Vision Workgroup.

I congratulate Mr. Wofford on his retirement. He has been a valued employee and wise mentor to many other employees. He enjoys traveling, and we wish him well in the future as he has more time to enjoy this favored pastime.●

HONORING DR. DAVID TAWEI LEE

● Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I wish to honor Dr. David Tawei Lee, who has been Taiwan's chief representative to the United States. Dr. Lee will be assuming his new post as Taiwan's top envoy in Canada this month, leaving his post in Washington to take on this new role in Ottawa.

I have known David for decades, and he has been a staunch ally and strong advocate for West Virginia. He has helped me, and our State, to make inroads in the Taiwanese economy and has been instrumental in the continuing success of businesses with roots in both Taiwan and West Virginia. This ongoing economic relationship is enormously important for both sides and has allowed West Virginia to continue to grow its burgeoning aviation industry and to explore business opportunities we never thought possible.

As a result of the hard work of Representative LEE and others, Sino Swearingen Aircraft Company continues its push toward mass production of one of the most impressive business jets in the world. In addition, in my personal interactions with David, he has always been straightforward, honest, compassionate, and well-informed. I knew he would level with me during any difficult time and that I could count on him to fairly and accurately relay the results of our meetings to his people.

Representative LEE has worked hard during the last 2½ years to renew and strengthen the political, economic, and social ties that bind the United States and Taiwan. On many difficult occasions, David Lee has risen to the challenge, and as Taiwan's Chief Representative to the United States he has given

countless hours assisting lawmakers, administration officials, and the private sector in understanding the complex relationship between our people and ensuring that our longstanding friendship continues.

Representative LEE was educated at the National Taiwan University and received his Ph.D. in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia. David is a true democrat, firmly committed to the principles of democracy and capitalism. He has been an asset for both Taiwan and the United States, and he has served Taiwan with honor, integrity, and distinction.

Dr. Lee's record of distinguished public service to his people spans more than two decades. He began his career at the Coordination Council for North American Affairs, Office in Washington, DC, in 1982 as a staff consultant and soon rose to various important posts in Taiwan's foreign ministry. From 1997 to 1998, he was Director-General, Government Information Office, and Government spokesman for Taiwan. From 1998 to 2001, he served as Deputy Foreign Minister; from 2001 to 2004, he was Taiwan's Representative to the European Union, stationed in Belgium. Since the summer of 2004, he has served as the Republic of China's chief representative in the United States.

Our loss here in Washington will be Canada's gain. In his new role as Taiwan's representative to Canada, David will continue to be a strong advocate for policies that will encourage expanded trade and a continuing good relationship between Taiwan and the rest of the world. Again, I would like to take this opportunity to wish Representative and Madame Lee the very best of luck. They are our good friends, and we will miss them.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The following message from the President of the United States was transmitted to the Senate by one of his secretaries: