

Nisei here in the United States. It continued to play an important role in defining and developing a cultural identity throughout the 1930s.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor and President Roosevelt's Executive Order initiating the removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans, the tradition of baseball resonated within these communities. Daily baseball games not only served as a distraction from the monotony of the internment camps, but it also provided them with a sense of normalcy and community. Today we celebrate the historical impact Nisei baseball has had not only on the Japanese American community in the United States, but across our Nation as a whole. It provided a sense of community during one of the darkest periods of our Nation's history.

In recent years Japanese ballplayers have helped transform the game of baseball at the highest levels. Japanese players competing at the major league level, such as Ichiro Suzuki, Hideki Matsui and Hideo Nomo, have been instrumental in attracting new fans to the sport. The success of these major leaguers and the strides made by past Nisei and Issei ballplayers have led to a rich and rooted history that can be celebrated for generations to come.

I am honored to pay tribute to a century of Japanese American baseball and the enduring effect it has had on the Japanese American community. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in commemorating the past and present Japanese American baseball pioneers and their lasting legacy on our country.

HONORING SANDRA M. BODIN

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Sandra M. Bodin, who just completed her services as President of the American Nephrology Nurses' Association, ANNA, for her dedication and contributions to nephrology nursing and kidney patients across the country.

ANNA is one of the largest and most prestigious nursing associations in America. The organization is the recognized leader in nephrology nursing practice, education, research, and advocacy. ANNA's members are registered nurses and health care professionals at all levels of practice. They care for patients of all ages who are experiencing, or are at risk for, kidney disease. The organization's mission is to advance nephrology nursing practice and positively influence outcomes for patients with kidney or other disease processes requiring replacement therapies through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.

As an active member of ANNA, Sandra has served as President, Vice President, and as a member of the Board of Directors. Also, she received the Ron Brady Memorial Award for Excellence in Volunteer Leadership from ANNA in 2002.

As ANNA's president Sandra has inspired nephrology nurses to reach the highest levels of practice and patient care. She is a visionary leader who has implemented a broad range of

initiatives that will continue to improve care for patients whose lives depend on dialysis and other kidney replacement treatments.

Professionally, Sandra graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Nursing from the College of Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. She became a Registered Nurse in 1977 and a Certified Nephrology Nurse in 1992. Sandra currently is the lead Clinical Informatics Analyst and Application Coordinator at the SMDC Health System in Duluth, Minnesota. Sandra has also worked at the Miller-Dawn Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital, both in Duluth.

I honor her efforts to promote the care of those suffering from kidney disease. I recognize her achievements as a nurse, patient advocate, and healthcare leader. I commend Sandra on her service to the American Nephrology Nurses' Association and our country.

Please join me in commending Sandra M. Bodin for her years of vision, leadership, and commitment.

TRIBUTE TO THE MISSOURI NATIONAL GUARD

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, let me take this means to recognize the brave men and women of the Missouri National Guard, for their commitment to providing flood relief.

The Missouri National Guard Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been mobilized by Missouri government leaders to assist in the Missouri emergency flood response. The members have been mobilized in the communities of Clarksville, Hannibal, Canton, West Quincy, LaGrange, Winfield, Alexandria, St. Charles City, and St. Charles County. Those supporting the flood response are assisting in missions that include sandbagging operations, levee monitoring, and manning traffic control points. Since the mobilization of forces, more than 1,000 Guard members have responded to the call to duty. With force rotations, there are currently around 700 members on active duty.

Personnel have come from across the state to aid Missouri towns during this emergency. These units include the 7th Civil Support Team from Fort Leonard Wood; the 135th Military History Detachment from Jefferson City; the 835th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion from Jefferson City; 735th Quartermaster Company with detachments in DeSoto, Jefferson City, Rolla, Cape Girardeau and Jefferson Barracks; the 1138th Transportation Company from Jefferson Barracks; the 1035th Maintenance Company from Jefferson Barracks; 3175th Chemical Company from St. Peters; the 1438th Engineer Company from Macon and Kirksville; the 220th Engineer Company from Festus; the 880th Haul Team from Perryville; the 1137th Military Police Company from Kennett, Jackson and Doniphan; the 1138th Military Police Company from West Plains and Springfield; the 1175th Military Police Company from St. Clair and St. Louis; 1140th Engineer Battalion from Cape Girardeau; the 205th Military Police Battalion from Poplar Bluff; the 203rd Engineer Battalion from Joplin; the 131st Fighter Wing from St.

Louis; the 1138th Engineer Company (Sapper) in Farmington; and the 70th Troop Command from Jefferson Barracks.

I know the Members of the House will join me in recognizing the outstanding dedication of the Missouri National Guard, and in wishing them luck throughout this emergency operation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD TECHNICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today that will restore fairness for our military technicians, who work every day in Connecticut and across the Nation to support our National Guard.

If the National Guard serves as the backbone of our military, then our military technicians serve as the backbone of our National Guard. They play a critical role in ensuring that our National Guard is ready to respond and deploy in support of military operations abroad by supporting the training, equipment repair and restoration, logistics and other critical functions.

Military technicians are known as "dual-status" employees, through which they must retain membership in the Air or Army National Guard in their State in order to maintain full-time employment as a technician. Dual-status military technicians are subject to the restrictions of the Technician Act of 1969, 32 USC 709, and other provisions of the law under which they are specifically prohibited from receiving certain benefits and rights available to them as members of the National Guard, such as reenlistment bonuses and student loan repayment assistance. In addition, if a member of the National Guard becomes a technician within 6 months of receiving an enlistment or reenlistment bonus, the Department of Defense can, and often does, require them to pay back those bonuses.

The law also fails to fairly compensate technicians for the increased overtime hours that technicians must work to fulfill their mission by providing technicians compensatory time, rather than monetary compensation, in return for overtime work. Many technicians cannot use the compensatory time without impacting time-sensitive military work schedules and, with the military's current "use it or lose it" policy under which such time is lost if unused within 21 pay cycles, many technicians face the prospect of losing the time off they have earned.

Last summer, I had the chance to visit the 1109th Aviation Classification and Repair Depot, AVCRAD, in Groton and see first hand the work they were doing to support of our National Guard. There, nearly 300 military technicians provide maintenance and logistics for aircraft and equipment for 14 States across the northeast and supports Connecticut's fleet of Black Hawk helicopters. During my visit, the leadership of the unit described how busy the facility has been over the past several years. They've literally been burning the midnight oil in trying to keep up with the demand of keeping equipment repaired and ready to deploy. It's an incredible operation, and one that is

just so important to our military serving in harm's way.

Just recently, about 150 members of the AVCRAD—many of them military technicians—deployed just last week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Yet, as these technicians deploy abroad side by side with their fellow guardsmen, they are not treated equally because of their full time employment as a military technician. At a time when we rely on military technicians more than ever to ensure that our Armed Forces are ready to serve, I strongly believe that we must do more to support, recruit and retain both our skilled military technicians and dedicated members of the National Guard. We must update outdated 30-year-old laws to ensure that they adequately reflect the challenges and needs of today's military technician.

The bill I am introducing today, the National Guard Technician Recruitment and Retention Act, would restore fairness for our National Guard technicians. The bill ensures that no military technician is denied the opportunity to receive an enlistment or reenlistment bonus for their service in the National Guard, that they are given the opportunity to participate in a student loan repayment program and are not required to repay bonuses they receive for their service in the National Guard if they accept a position as a military technician. And, the bill will repeal the overtime prohibition against overtime pay for National Guard technicians and instead provide for flexibility in overtime compensation by allowing military technicians to choose between compensatory time or overtime pay at one and a half times their basic rate of pay—whatever suits their individual situation and needs.

Madam Speaker, if a military technician can train, serve and deploy as a member of the National Guard, I do not think it is too much for them to ask to keep the benefits they deserve for their service in the National Guard. With all we ask of them today, I simply disagree with the notion that a member of the National Guard has to give up the benefits they are entitled to because they chose to serve their Nation as a military technician. Military technicians are the ones that keep the National Guard ready to serve—and it is time that we serve them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY RAYLE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer my congratulations to Courtney Rayle, the winner of the Masters Division of the 67th Greater Washington Soap Box Derby held in our Nation's Capital on June 22.

I am very pleased that Miss Rayle, who is a resident of Mechanicsville, Maryland and my constituent, has now earned the right to compete in the 71st Annual All-American Soap Box Derby national championship on July 26 in Akron, Ohio. Courtney has worked tirelessly to earn such a noteworthy win; due to her hard work, the victory marks the seventh time someone from the Rayle family has won the Greater Washington Soap Box race. This year

will be the 19th time a member of the Rayle family will race in Akron. Courtney joins Jimmy Rayle Sr., Billy Rayle, Jimmy Rayle Jr., and Jeff Rayle in a long tradition of excellence in this sport. As Courtney now looks to compete for the national soap box title, I, along with the people of Maryland, wish her the best of luck.

The origin of soap box derby racing dates back to 1934 when a photographer for the Dayton Daily News in Ohio, Myron E. Scott, saw boys racing engineless cars down a hill, inspiring him to organize a race and award the winner with a "loving cup." The venue was later moved to Akron—the site of today's national derby championship—on account of the numerous hills. With the hard work of countless civic organizations, a permanent track site for the youth racing classic was created in Akron with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The All-American Soap Box Derby is the second-oldest racing event in the Nation—second only to the Indianapolis 500. This event has been called the greatest amateur racing competition in the world, and it is an excellent opportunity for contestants from all around the country to learn building skills while gaining a real sense of accomplishment. Congratulations to all of this year's competitors, and congratulations once again to Miss Courtney Rayle.

HONORS THE SOCIETY OF ST. TROFIMENA AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to join my neighborhood, Wooster Square in New Haven, Connecticut, and the Italian-American community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Society of St. Trofimena. Founded in a home on Wooster Street in December of 1908, 100 years later, the Society of St. Trofimena continues to play an integral role in the lives of many of the families of Wooster Square.

Immigrating to the United States in 2004, a group of Minoresi, families from the town of Minori, Italy, came to America in search of work and made New Haven their home. In an effort to provide mutual aid and comfort to each other they decided to form a fraternal group—the Society of St. Trofimena, Virgine & Martine. According to its original by-laws, its primary purpose was to unite all descendants of the town of Minori and to increase and spread the devotion of St. Trofimena. As a tribute, Antonio Esposito commissioned and donated to the society a statue of St. Trofimena that was made in Italy and shipped to New Haven. This statue has been used in all of the festivals honoring her and has been paraded through the streets of Wooster Square.

The society flourished for more than 50 years before membership began to wane, however, in 1980 a group of descendants, spearheaded by Frances D'Amato Crisci and her brother Anthony D'Amato met to reorganize. In the years since its inception, members of the Society of St. Trofimena assumed a critical responsibility—maintaining the Italian her-

itage that thousands of Greater New Haven residents share. Each year, the Society of St. Trofimena keeps our community spirit alive honoring St. Trofimena on her feast day of July 13 and at a mass in memory of her deceased members in November. It is through efforts such as these that we renew our history and help pass it along.

Forged through the bonds of family, the members of the Society of St. Trofimena continue to be active in the community—enriching our neighborhood and ensuring that our rich history is not forgotten by new generations. The original mission of the society is still apparent today as we gather to celebrate their centennial anniversary. It is with great pride that I stand today to extend my deepest thanks and warmest congratulations to the members of the Society of St. Trofimena on their 100th anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT JAMES GARLOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 8, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Robert James Garlow by entering his name in the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I honor Mr. Garlow for his extensive service to both our country and community.

Mr. Garlow joined the U.S. Air Force on October 19, 1966. He graduated Officer's Training School in 1967 and earned his Master's in Engineering Facilities in 1974. Mr. Garlow's service as an engineer in the Air Force took him and his wife Susan around the globe, with assignments in Texas, New Mexico, Japan, North Dakota, Ohio, Germany, Panama City, and Spain before his arrival at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada in July of 1983. Since that time, Robert and Susan have called Boulder City, Nevada home. During this time, Mr. Garlow received his Nevada registration as a Professional Civil Engineer.

In 1986, Robert retired from the Air Force as a Civil Engineer Officer with the rank of Major after 20 years of service. Since his retirement from the military, Robert has worked in the Las Vegas Valley as a Director of Facilities for numerous companies and most recently retired from the City of North Las Vegas where he worked as a Senior Project Manager.

Mr. Garlow is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Military Order of the Cootie (MOC), Vietnam Veterans of America, and Scottish American Military Society (SAMS). He has served as Chairman of the Nevada Veterans Assistance League and the Veterans Cemetery Volunteer Group. Mr. Garlow volunteers a great deal of his time to these two organizations and has been an advocate and supporter to our veterans in Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Robert James Garlow for his most recent retirement, his continued volunteerism in the community, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.