

Chief Master Sergeant Barron hails from Morristown, NJ, where he graduated from Parsippany Hills High School and entered the Air Force in 1979. He assumed his duties as Command Chief Master Sergeant, Air Mobility Command, in April 2006. His work as an administrative specialist involved him with tours with the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and Air Force Recruiting Service. Additionally, Chief Master Sergeant Barron served in multiple units as a first sergeant both in the United States and overseas, where during Operations Desert Fox and Allied Force he was instrumental in the initial bed down, troop support, and morale for the largest combat air refueling wing in Air Force history. His work with Air Mobility Command's critical aero medical evacuation mission helped to facilitate the rapid movement of over 23,000 injured warriors to United States medical facilities with a remarkable 98 percent combat-casualty survivability rate.

Beginning in September 2007, Chief Master Sergeant Barron helped lead Air Mobility Command's Total Force Team with tremendous impact. Here, his extraordinary leadership inspired Air Mobility Command's 132,000 Total Force Airmen to successfully accomplish more than thousands of sorties transporting over 4 million passengers, nearly 2 million tons of cargo, and offloading over 3 billion pounds of fuel. Air Mobility Command forces also completed over 43,000 theater-direct delivery sorties, delivering thousands of combat troops, tons of cargo and mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicles in support of two overseas contingency operations.

Through the work of Chief Master Sergeant Barron the Mobility Air Force was ready to respond when Hurricanes Gustav and Ike ravaged the gulf coast, generating 564 sorties transporting 8,863 passengers and delivering 1,223 tons of humanitarian supplies. However, Chief Master Sergeant Barron is most proud of his involvement after Hurricane Katrina, where he provided crucial support to the devastated region.

Madam Speaker, CMSgt Joseph E. Barron's selfless dedication to the service of his country is honorable and worthy of recognition. I believe I can speak for the airmen of Air Mobility Command in saying that his dedication has positively impacted those with whom he has served during his years with the Air Force and I join with them in congratulating him on his retirement and a job well done.

HONORING UNITED STATES  
PHARMACOPEIAL CONVENTION  
OCTOBER 13, 2009

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, in recognition of World Standards Week, which was observed last week, I rise to salute the United States Pharmacopeial Convention (USP), which is based in my district in Rockville, Maryland and has sites in China, India, Brazil, and Switzerland.

Since 1820, USP, a non-profit organization, has worked to improve the health of people around the world through public standards and related programs that help ensure the quality,

safety and benefits of medicines and foods. It has worked closely with the FDA to develop and revise drug quality standards. It also sets food ingredient standards and offers voluntary verification programs for pharmaceutical ingredients, dietary supplements, and ingredients used in dietary supplements.

USP's drug standards are legally enforceable by the Food and Drug Administration in the United States, and its standards for drugs, food ingredients and dietary supplements are used and relied upon in more than 130 countries. As part of its mission, USP works with a broad range of standards-setting bodies toward the common goals of inter-organizational cooperation and the widespread dissemination of standards. These bodies include the American National Standards Institute, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the International Standards Organization, the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines, the Chinese National Institute for the Control of Pharmaceutical and Biological Products, the Japanese Pharmacopeia, the British National Institute for Biological Standards and Control, and many others throughout the world.

Patients, consumers, manufacturers, and taxpayers are the ultimate beneficiaries of USP's efforts, and are able to possess greater confidence about the identity and quality of these products in the marketplace. Assisted by more than 1,000 volunteers worldwide, USP engages in public processes to ensure unbiased, independent, authoritative, science-based decision-making.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the U.S. Pharmacopeial Convention for its efforts to enhance food and drug safety standards around the world.

HONORING DOCTORATE IN EDUCATION  
AWARDED TO CONGRESSMAN MIKE HONDA BY  
KANGWON NATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
IN SOUTH KOREA

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, this August, I had the honor of traveling to Kangwon National University in South Korea, where I was awarded an honorary doctorate in Education. As a former high school teacher, principal, and school board member, education has always been my top priority. I believe education is a powerful investment in our future, and I have continued my pursuit of both learning and teaching during my tenure in Congress. I was humbled to receive the high honor of an honorary doctorate from Kangwon National University, an institution I have come to deeply respect.

During my visit to Korea, I met with Prime Minister Seung-Soo Han, whose passion for moving President Myung-Bak Lee's "Low Carbon, Green Growth" initiative forward is something that I admire. As a representative from Silicon Valley, which is at the forefront in our country's efforts in renewable energy, I know the importance of Korea's investments in green technologies.

Many individuals helped make my visit to Korea successful and memorable, and I would

like to thank the following people who helped to make my degree and visit possible: Prime Minister Seung-Soo Han; Foreign Minister Myung-Hwan Yu; Kangwon Province Governor Jin-Sun Kim; Kangwon National University President Yong-Jung Kwon; National Assemblywoman Nak-Kyun Shin; National Assemblywoman Mi-Kyung Lee; U.S. Ambassador to Korea Kathleen Stephens; former Korean Ambassador to the U.S. Tae-Sik Lee; American Chamber of Commerce in Korea Chairman David Ruch; House of Sharing, Comfort Women Survivors and Grandma Koon-Ja Kim; Sokcho City Mayor Yong-Sang Chae; and Korean American Voters' Council of New York and New Jersey Leader Dong-Suk Kim.

During my visit, I delivered the following remarks upon accepting my honorary doctorate at Kangwon National University.

It is a pleasure to be here with you here in Korea at Kangwon National University. Thank you for the warm welcome and the kind introduction, and for this wonderful honor.

I'd like to thank the President, distinguished members of the faculty, and students of Kangwon University. I would also like to express my appreciation to Governor Jin-Sun Kim of Kangwon province, and Mr. Dong-Suk Kim of the Korean American Voters' Council.

This is my fourth time in this great country, and each time I leave with stronger friendships and a deeper understanding and connection to Korea. My visits to Korea and the warmth of the Korean people have made a long lasting impression me.

This trip is especially meaningful to me, and I am extremely honored to receive an honorary doctorate in education here at Kangwon National University. As a former teacher, principal, and school board member, education has played an integral role throughout my life, so receiving this degree is very personal.

Education is my passion, and I believe it is the most powerful tool and investment we can provide children with. Quality education assures the economic competitiveness of any nation, advances the arts and sciences, and provides the means for people to achieve individual success. I have worked hard towards providing every child with a high quality education, both as a former educator and as a Member of Congress.

Education also means being able to teach others in order to learn from past mistakes, and flourish as a society. If society cannot look back and learn from previous mistakes, trust and progress between nations is stunted.

To this end, I have spent a portion of my career in Congress educating and working on a historical issue that has grown very close to my heart: that of the 200,000 sex slaves known as comfort women. These comfort women, many of whom were Korean, were forced into dehumanizing sexual slavery, forced to serve up to 30 soldiers a day in some cases. They suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result.

Yesterday, I had the chance to visit with some of the comfort women survivors. I have met these women on several occasions, both in the United States and in Korea at the House of Sharing, and each time I meet them, I am renewed by how strong they are. I cannot emphasize enough how much I admire their perseverance.

The hope of the comfort women is an extremely modest one: That the government of

Japan formally acknowledges, apologizes and accepts full historical responsibility for this crime. To date, they have still not received such a formal apology. That is why I introduced House Resolution 121, which calls on Japan to do so.

I believe the U.S. must have a strong foundation in historical reconciliation. For example, in 1988, Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law, H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which was a formal apology to United States citizens of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly put into internment camps during World War II.

As someone who was put into an internment camp as an infant, I know firsthand that we must not be ignorant of the past, and that reconciliation through government actions to admit error are the only ones likely to be long lasting.

Our government made a mistake, but they apologized for it, and healed many wounds as a result. Today, fewer than 300 comfort women are alive and the number is dwindling as they pass away. They want, and deserve, an official apology.

I cannot put into words how grateful I was when H. Res. 121 received overwhelming support in the 110th Congress—first during its markup held under Chairman Tom Lantos' leadership, and then during its debate and final passage before the House on July 30, 2007.

The fact that H. Res. 121 received no opposition during its consideration and passed unanimously attests to its importance and relevance today. By doing so, the House sent a profound message to the government of Japan that the United States takes the issue of the comfort women very seriously.

Immediately after its passage, I rushed to the House gallery, where Yong Soo Lee, a surviving comfort woman, was watching floor proceedings. We shared a tearful embrace, one I will never forget. She repeated "Thank you. . . . thank you. . . .", and I could see in her face that she felt, maybe for the first time in her life, some sense of relief.

Despite the struggles I may have faced in pushing forward this resolution, and the criticism I received from the government of Japan, seeing Yong Soo Lee immediately reminded me again why I chose to tackle this issue.

While the resolution was successful, unfortunately it has not forced the government of Japan to act. The comfort women deserve to have their dignity and honor restored to them. It is not too late for Japan to issue a sincere and official apology, while these women are still alive.

I am hopeful that an international awareness has spread about comfort women, particularly in Australia, the Philippines, and Canada, where comfort women resolutions similar to H. Res. 121 have been introduced and some passed. We must continue to advocate for a formal apology for the comfort women as a matter of fundamental justice. It is an honor to be here in Korea to continue educating about this chapter in history, and to educate others about the importance of an apology for the women.

Moral justice and education have been the two guiding principles I have followed during my fight for the comfort women.

I believe education is a tool that can also be used to fight another battle: global warming. Climate change is the most significant threat

to our environment today and is one of the greatest challenges that humans face. The overwhelming scientific evidence makes clear that global warming is a real phenomenon, and that human activities play a significant role.

Twenty of the hottest years in recorded history occurred since the 1980s. Glaciers and permafrost are vanishing. Weather patterns are shifting. Migration patterns are being disrupted.

Global warming presents mankind with a new kind of problem. To fight global warming, dramatic changes will be needed in transportation, energy production, public policy, and human behavior world wide.

As a former teacher, I feel education will be essential to allowing those changes to happen, which is why I introduced the Global Warming Education Act, H.R. 1926. The bill will broaden America's understanding of human-induced global warming, short and long term consequences, and potential solutions.

Widespread understanding of this phenomenon will play a significant role in our ability to address a crisis that tangibly and immediately impacts every single human being. It is vital that people of all walks of life possess sufficient understanding of the issue so that each and every one of us may play a role in defending the health of our planet.

I learned that Korea is becoming a world example and leader of using "green" technology to also address these threats. The U.S. is also an active leader in this effort, and this is just one example of many of the common values that our two countries share. I commend you for leading on the green technology front, and encourage you to educate your peers about the threats that we as humans face.

In closing, Korea holds a very special place in my heart. The relationship our two countries share is vitally important and continues to grow. I have many close friends here in Korea, and I appreciate the welcoming spirit of the Korean people each time I visit. Receiving this honorary doctorate is a lifelong dream of mine, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be presented with such an honor.

Again, I would like to thank the President, faculty, and the students of Kangwon National University for bestowing this honor upon me.

KOREA'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT  
FROM MINISTER OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS AND TRADE YU,  
MYUNG-HWAN TO THE PEOPLE  
OF AMERICAN SAMOA IN  
AFTERMATH OF DEVASTATING  
TSUNAMI

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Yu, Myung-hwan of the Republic of Korea in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

EMBASSY OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KOREA,

*Washington, DC, October 5, 2009.*

Hon. ENI FALEOMAVAEGA,  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific,  
and the Global Environment, U.S. House  
Committee on Foreign Affairs.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: It was with deep grief that I learned of the heavy loss of life and the disastrous property damages caused by the tsunami that swept your hometown, and would like to express my most profound sympathy and condolences to you and the people in the American Samoa, particularly to those who have lost their loved ones.

I earnestly hope for speedy relief and rehabilitation under your leadership.

Sincerely yours,

YU, MYUNG-HWAN,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

JAPAN'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT  
OF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN  
SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEV-  
ASTATING TSUNAMI

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki of Japan in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

EMBASSY OF JAPAN,

*Washington, DC, September 30, 2009.*

Hon. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE FALEOMAVAEGA: It is with great sadness that I learned of the tragic loss of life in American Samoa due to yesterday's earthquake and tsunami. My condolences go out to the families and friends who have lost loved ones, and I pray for the speedy recovery of those who were injured as well as the communities that have suffered much damage.

The people of American Samoa have our heartfelt sympathies as they rebuild their homes and communities.

Sincerely,

ICHIRO FUJISAKI,  
Ambassador of Japan.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NANCY  
PELOSI'S MESSAGE OF SUPPORT  
TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN  
SAMOA IN AFTERMATH OF DEV-  
ASTATING TSUNAMI

**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 13, 2009*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following message of support from Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI in response to the massive tsunami that struck American Samoa on Tuesday, September 29, 2009.

The thoughts of the entire Congress are with the people of American Samoa as they grapple with the terrible loss of life as a result of today's tsunami. As the island works to rebuild, all levels of the government, including Congress, will move quickly to address the needs of American Samoa and the Americans who live there.