

thank my colleagues for cosponsoring the resolution, many of whom were Boy Scouts. Several of our colleagues in Congress have participated in Scouting, including President Ford, as was pointed out by Congressman LYNCH.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join us in support of H. Res. 356, in recognition of the many contributions of the Boy Scouts of America to our Nation.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with Mr. HALL of Texas in bringing forth this important resolution, and I ask all Members to support unanimously the resolution at hand.

I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I would like to convey my support for H. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010 as "Boy Scouts of America Day" and for this organization that has given so much to the well-being and development of young men for generations. I am humbled to be selected as the Honorary Chairman for the hundredth anniversary of Scouting for the Indian Waters Council of South Carolina.

As the grateful father of four Eagle Scouts, I know firsthand the tremendous opportunities and benefits that come with participation in the Boy Scouts. This is an organization that has been a positive influence in our communities for nearly a century—teaching millions the importance of a strong character and a commitment to citizenship.

I am particularly grateful that the Boy Scouts have always focused on a greater appreciation and understanding of the outdoors. In 1999 and 2003, I served as an adult volunteer with my younger sons Julian and Hunter for backpacking treks at the Philmont Scout Ranch at Cimarron, New Mexico. The 100 and 75 mile hikes were an awesome introduction to me of the beauty of the American West.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, my good friend from Texas, Congressman RALPH HALL, asked me to cosponsor H. Res. 356, legislation that supports designating February 8, 2010, as Boy Scouts of America Day in the United States. This recognition would honor the Boy Scouts on its 100th anniversary.

It is appropriate for the Congress and for our country to recognize the Boy Scouts. Since 1910, this organization has helped young men foster lasting friendships, develop leadership skills, and contribute to American society. As an Eagle Scout who has supported scouting into adulthood and throughout my time in Congress, I know firsthand how valuable scouting can be.

I urge the House to approve this resolution.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 356.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC-AMERICAN HERITAGE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 435) celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 435

Whereas this year marks first time the United States is led by a President with close Asian ties, including President Obama's childhood in Indonesia and Hawai'i, and the President has made unprecedented outreach efforts to the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community;

Whereas the selection of May as the month for Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month was significant due to two historical events that occurred in May: first, May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and second, May 10, 1869, when, with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants, the first trans-continental railroad was completed;

Whereas section 102 of title 36, United States Code, officially designates May as Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month, and requests the President to issue each year a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe Asian/Pacific-American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities;

Whereas according to the Bureau of the Census, an estimated 14,900,000 United States residents identify themselves as Asian alone or in combination with one or more other races, and an estimated 1,000,000 United States residents identify themselves as Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander alone or in combination with one or more other races;

Whereas even though Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders faced the injustices of racial prejudice as exemplified by the Chinese Exclusion Act, the internment of Japanese Americans and Japanese/Latin-Americans, the Vincent Chin case, and other events, the community has made considerable contributions to the vast cultural, economic, educational, military, and technological advancements of the United States;

Whereas Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders such as civil rights activist, Yuri Kochiyama, Medal of Honor recipient, Herbert Pililaaui, the first Asian-American Congressman, Dalip Singh Saund, the first Asian-American Congresswoman, Patsy Mink, and others have made significant strides in the political and military realms;

Whereas the Presidential Cabinet includes a record three Asian-Americans: Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki; and

Whereas celebrating Asian/Pacific-American Heritage provides the people of the United States with an opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions, history, and influence concerns of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes that the incredible diversity of different racial and ethnic groups, including Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders, is a source of strength for the United States; and

(2) celebrates the contributions of Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders to the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of House Resolution 435, which expresses support for the recognition and celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage. The measure before us was introduced on May 13, 2009, by Congressman MIKE HONDA of California, along with other Members and associate Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Currently, the measure is supported by over 55 Members of Congress and has been appropriately reviewed and approved by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform as of June 4, 2009.

Madam Speaker, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is composed of over 15 million people who, on a daily basis, are making significant contributions to the betterment of our country. For example, in addition to being one of our country's fastest growing minority groups, the Asian American and Pacific Islander community is also responsible for generating an estimated \$326 billion annually for our economy as entrepreneurs and business owners of over 1.1 million businesses.

While Asian Pacific American heritage is certainly worth recognizing and celebrating year-round, the country and the Asian Pacific American community have traditionally come together in the month of May to celebrate and commemorate Asian and Pacific American heritage. That all began back in 1977 when Representatives Frank Horton and Norman Mineta and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga introduced resolutions asking the President to declare the first 10 days of May as Asian Pacific Heritage Week.

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The selection of the month of May stems from the fact that May marks the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in the U.S. in 1843. In 1978, President Carter made Asian Pacific Heritage Week an annual event, and in 1990, President George H. W. Bush proclaimed the entire month of May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Madam Speaker, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have also made great strides in the area of civil rights and public policy, led by such notable Americans as Patsy Mink, the first Asian American Congresswoman, not to mention the current members of the President's Cabinet, which includes three Asian Americans: Energy Secretary Steven Chu, Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

In closing, let us, as a body, take a moment to recognize the valued contributions of the Asian and Pacific American community and celebrate such a rich cultural heritage by supporting House Resolution 435.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this important resolution recognizing Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been an integral part of the fabric of American life since the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843. Asian Americans worked as coal miners, on farms and orchards, and as laborers. It is estimated that 14 million Americans, if not more, can trace their ethnic heritage to Asia or the Pacific Islands.

Establishing May as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month affords educators throughout the country the opportunity to create learning experiences that teach the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders during the school year. Observing Asian American and Pacific Islander contributions highlights their importance in the building of our country, in our fabric.

For example, Chinese immigrants played a significant role in the construction of the first transcontinental railroad, which was completed on May 10, 1869. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have significantly contributed to this country through the arts, sciences, math, sports, commerce, and every other aspect of American culture since they first arrived in the 19th century. Whether it is in the arts or government or science or the many other fields of endeavor, they have played a fundamental role in our Nation's technological and economic expansion as well as every other fabric of life that we can think of. Their accomplishments are too numerous to count. Their influence is felt throughout our country.

The month of May once again gives us the opportunity to thank and honor Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and recognize them for their many contributions now, in the past, and certainly in the future.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express strong support for H. Res. 435—Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. I applaud the

leadership and continued efforts of Chairman MIKE HONDA, as well as my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus for bringing this Resolution before us today.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was established in 1977 by the efforts of Representatives Norman Mineta and Frank Horton, and Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga who introduced resolutions asking for a Presidential declaration that the first ten days of May honor the rich history and contributions of our nation's Asian Pacific Americans. In 1992 Congress expanded the commemoration to a month, in order to fully recognize the impact that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) have on our great nation.

From the early 1800s to today, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have played a critical role in the development of this country. This year's theme: "Lighting the Past, Present and Future," is fitting as the world's attention turned to the United States to see the historic inauguration of President Barack Hussein Obama. President Obama's diversity reflects the richness and strength of our nation.

We must reaffirm our commitment to the promise of a future for all Americans by eradicating racial and ethnic health disparities, enacting comprehensive immigration reform, providing educational opportunities for the underserved and creating jobs. I am proud that we ensured full equity for the Filipino veterans who proudly served under the American flag during World War II when we passed H.R. 1, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. I also applaud my colleagues for the recent passage of the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which enables the Department of Justice to assist the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement in investigating and prosecuting hate crimes based on race, ethnic background, and religion, and extends protections to more Americans.

From the construction of the transcontinental railroads to the heroic contributions in World War II and beyond, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made lasting contributions in every facet of American society. We must continue to acknowledge the great achievements this vast and diverse community has provided this nation and I urge my colleagues to support to this resolution.

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, in 1992, Congress passed a joint Congressional Resolution to designate the month of May to give special recognition of the contributions of our Asian-Pacific American community to our nation. Originally, Congress in 1978 designated the first week of May to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants and the completion of the transcontinental railroad that was built by the Chinese laborers. Every year since then, the President would issue an Executive proclamation from the White House to honor this month and direct all federal agencies and military installations throughout the country to conduct special events and ceremonies to honor our Asian-Pacific American communities throughout our country.

This year's theme is, "Leadership To Meet The Challenges Of A Changing World," and I will try and elaborate on the achievements and success of Asian-Pacific Americans in both the public and private sector but, more importantly, to demonstrate to the world that the

greatness of our nation lies in its diversity and ability of our country to accept peoples from all over world, as they pledge themselves to become as fellow citizens of this great nation.

Americans of Asian and Pacific Islander descent, nearly 16 million strong, are among the fastest growing demographic groups in the United States today, even though they make up only 5 percent of our nation's population. In recent years, the Asian-Pacific Americans have more than doubled and this rapid growth is expected to continue in the years to come.

Time will not permit me to share with you the names and contributions of many of our prominent Asian-Pacific American leaders in the fields of law, business, finance, and too many to mention. One only needs to read today's newspaper or a magazine to document the fact that Asian-Pacific American students—both in secondary schools and universities—are among the brightest minds our nation offers to the world. I fully expect that these students, now and in the future, will contribute their talents and expertise to solve major issues and problems now confronting our nation and the world today.

Many of our prominent business leaders and entrepreneurs are of Asian-Pacific American descent. In fact, many of the popular brands and icons that we know today were created by the brilliant minds of people in our Asian-Pacific American community. For example, the Bose Corporation specializing in audio equipment, can be found or is used by historical venues and facilities, such as the Sistine Chapel, the Space Shuttle, and the Olympic stadiums, is currently headed by its founder, Amar Bose—an Indian American. Steve Chen, a Chinese American, and Jawed Karim, a Bangladeshi American, were the co-creators of the popular video sharing website, "YouTube." Vera Wang, a Chinese American fashion designer and mogul, established herself as an icon by dressing celebrities and creating one of the most fashionable clothing lines for women in the world.

In the world of sports, Asian-Pacific Americans have come to the forefront. In the recent 2008 Beijing Olympics, Kevin Tan, a Chinese American, was selected as captain of the U.S. men's gymnastics team and earned a bronze medal in team competition. Natasha Kai, an American of Hawaiian, Cambodian, and Chinese descent, won a gold medal with the U.S. women's soccer team. Natasha happens to be alumni of Kahuku High School in Hawaii, where I also graduated from many years ago.

Asian-Pacific Americans are more prevalent in American sports now more than ever before. We have Yao Ming, a Chinese basketball player, playing for the Houston Rockets; Daisuke Matsuzaka, a Japanese baseball player, playing for the Boston Red Sox; Yutaka Fukufuji, the first Japanese to play for the National Hockey League, played for the Los Angeles Kings. And everyone has heard of the Professional Boxer Manny Pacquiao from the Philippines, a world champion in numerous boxing divisions who handily beat Oscar De La Hoya in December and Ricky Hatton two weeks ago in Las Vegas.

I have to mention the accomplishments our young Asian-Pacific Americans in the NFL. In the 2009 NFL draft, nine young men, five Tongans and four Samoans, were selected by six different teams across the nation. These young men are ambassadors of goodwill and

represent the Asian-Pacific American members who were once and still apart of the National Football League. From pioneers such as Al Lolotai who played for the Washington Redskins in 1945, Charles Ane and Rockne Freitas of Detroit Lions, to the likes of Junior Seau of the New England Patriots and Troy Polamalu of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

In the field of martial arts, the late Chinese-American kung-fu martial arts expert Bruce Lee captivated the movie audiences all over the world by destroying the common stereotype of the passive, quiet Asian-Pacific American male, and the tradition continues today with Jackie Chan and Jet Li. Now, another sports and movie icon is moving his way through the movie industry—believed to be the heir apparent to Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger—none other than the former World Wrestling Entertainment champion wrestler, Dwayne Johnson, or commonly known as the Rock. The Rock was featured in movies such as the Scorpion King, Rundown, Get Smart, Grid Iron Gang and recently Race to Witch Mountain.

The thing unique about Dwayne Johnson is that while his father is of African and Native American descent, his mother is Samoan. Now, just about every Samoan alive claims to be related to the Rock, including myself.

Last summer I had the privilege of presenting the Congressional Horizon Award to Chief Seiuili Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson for his contributions and volunteer work in educating, empowering, and enriching the lives of children worldwide. Dwayne Johnson has made numerous contributions not only through The Rock Foundation but also directly to our Asian-Pacific American youth.

Michelle Kwan, a Chinese American figure skater, is another example of a prominent Asian-Pacific American who has transformed her skills in one area to contribute further to our nation. Kwan has won nine U.S. championships, five world championships and two Olympic medals, earning her the title of the most decorated figure skater in U.S. history. Her accomplishments don't end there. In 2006, Secretary Condoleezza Rice named Kwan the first U.S. public diplomacy ambassador, where she has worked at improving America's image abroad. As ambassador, Michelle has been promoting cross-cultural dialogue with international youth.

As Americans, and especially our youth, become more engaged in politics and government, I must bring your attention to the growing role and impact that Asian-Pacific Americans are playing in civic engagement. Our fellow colleague and good friend, Congressman ANH “JOSEPH” CAO became the first American of Vietnamese descent to be elected to the House of Representatives. A former Congressman, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal, became the first Indian American ever elected as governor in U.S. history, and is currently the youngest amongst all governors in the U.S.

In the recent 2008 national and state elections, the Asian-Pacific American communities played a vital role. An estimated whopping 62% of the voting Asian-Pacific Americans cast their ballot for then Senator Barack Obama, helping him secure his presidential win.

And with the President's appointments in the administration, there are an unprecedented number of Asian-Pacific Americans in

top government positions, and these leaders were not appointed to their positions because of their race and heritage but because they bring vast knowledge, experience and different viewpoints that their Asian-Pacific American backgrounds have contributed to.

For example, President Obama appointed Steven Chu, a Chinese American, to be the Secretary of Energy. Secretary Chu's extensive work in physics and molecular biology has earned him accolades and achievements throughout the world—most notably he won a Nobel Prize for his physics works in “development of methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light.” Chu's dedication to physics led him to the academic side of research, as a teacher of physics and molecular and cellular biology at Stanford and UC Berkley. Concerning global warming, Secretary Chu has been a leading advocate for the research of finding alternative sources of energy, and steering away our dependence on fossil fuels. Secretary Chu is the first person ever appointed to the Cabinet after receiving a Nobel Prize.

Our newest Secretary of Veteran Affairs, my good friend General Eric Shinseki is a Japanese American born in Hawaii and is a decorated veteran who fought in two combat tours in Vietnam. Secretary Shinseki, wounded from his last tour in Vietnam, understands from personal experience the plight of veterans and the support those veterans and their families need. General Shinseki is also the only Japanese American and Asian American to be promoted to the Army's top position, and was the first four-star general of Asian descent in the history of our U.S. military.

The most recently confirmed cabinet member into Obama's Administration has exemplified that with hard work the American Dream can come true. Former Governor of the State of Washington, Gary Locke, a Chinese American, grew up in public housing and put himself through Yale University with loans, scholarships and the money he earned working part-time jobs. After earning his law degree from Boston University, Secretary Locke broke many glass ceilings afflicting our Asian-Pacific community. In 1993, Locke became the first Chinese American to be elected as his county's County Executive, and in 1996, Locke became the first Chinese American to be governor of a state in U.S. history, serving the maximum of two terms.

Secretary Locke's family history is an important one to emphasize, as it is one of many hardships that our Asian-Pacific American communities have faced. In an interview, Locke mentioned that his grandfather might have claimed he was born in the U.S. and the documents were destroyed. Some of you may know this, and others may not, but in 1882 our government institutionalized racial discrimination against Chinese immigrants where they were banned from entering the United States. The Chinese people living in the U.S. at the time were excluded from becoming American citizens. And because of the restrictions of this law, it was nearly impossible for Chinese families to reunite. This Exclusion Act was repealed only 66 years ago. Locke's grandfather could have been one of the few Chinese immigrants who managed to get into the United States through ruses of lost documentation, while the immigration of people from all over Europe were unlimited.

As a Vietnam veteran, it would be absurd of me not to say something to honor and respect

the hundreds of thousands of Asian-Pacific Americans who served then and now in all branches of the armed services of our nation.

As a former member of the U.S. Army's Reserve unit, known today as the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Combat group, I would be remiss if I did not share with you the contributions of the tens of thousands of Japanese-American soldiers who volunteered to fight our nation's enemies in Europe during World War II.

So you probably know, after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, by the Imperial Armed Services of Japan—there was such an outrage and cry for an all out war against Japan and days afterwards our President and the Congress formally declared war. Out of this retaliation against Japan, hundreds of thousands of Americans were caught in the crossfire. These Americans just happened to be of Japanese ancestry.

Our national government immediately implemented a policy whereby over 100,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were forced to live in what were called relocation camps, but were actually more like prison or concentration camps. Their lands, homes and properties were confiscated by the military without due process of law.

My former colleague and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, and the late Congressman Bob Matsui from Sacramento spent the early years of their lives in these prison camps. Secretary Mineta shared one of the interesting features of these prison camps where there were many machine gun nests posted all around the camps. Everyone in the camps was told that these machine guns were necessary to protect them against rioters or others who wanted to harm them.

But then Secretary Mineta observed, “if these machine guns are posted to guard and protect us, why is it that they are all directed and aimed inside the prison camp compound and not outside?”

It was a time in our nation's history when there was so much hatred, bigotry and racism placed against our Japanese-American community. Despite all this, the White House, at the time, accepted the request of tens of thousands of the Japanese Americans to volunteer to join the Army, thus leaving their wives, parents, brothers and sisters behind barbed wire fences. As a result of such volunteerism, two combat units were organized. The 100th Battalion and the 442nd Infantry Combat Group were created and immediately were sent to fight in Europe.

In my humble opinion, history speaks for itself in documenting that none have shed their blood more valiantly for our nation than the Japanese American soldiers who served in these two combat units while fighting enemy forces in Europe during World War II. The military records of the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry are without equal suffering. These Japanese American units suffered an unprecedented casualty rate of 314%, and received over 18,000 individual decorations, many awarded posthumously, for bravery and courage in the field of battle.

For your information, 53 Distinguished Service Crosses, (the second highest HELV. medal given for heroism in combat), 560 Silver Stars (third highest medal), and 9,486 Purple Hearts, and 7 Presidential Unit Citations, the nation's top award for combat units, were awarded to the Japanese American soldiers of

the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Group. I find it unusual, however, that only one Medal of Honor was awarded at the time. Nonetheless, the 442nd Combat Group emerged as the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army.

President Truman was so moved by their bravery in the field of battle, as well as that of African American soldiers during World War II, that he issued an Executive Order to finally desegregate all branches of the Armed Services.

I am proud to say that we must recognize Senator DANIEL K. INOUE and the late, highly-respected Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, who distinguished themselves in battle as soldiers with the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry.

It was while fighting in Europe that Senator INOUE lost his arm while engaged in his personal battle against two German machine gun posts. For his heroism, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. As a result of a Congressional mandate that was passed in 1999 to review the military records of these two combat units, President Clinton presented 19 Congressional Medals of Honor to the Japanese Americans who were members of these two combat groups. Senator INOUE was one of those recipients of the Medal of Honor and I was privileged to witness this historical moment at a White House ceremony.

On May 14, 2009, the House unanimously passed H.R. 347 thus granting the Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

The wholesale and arbitrary abolishment of the constitutional rights of these loyal Japanese Americans should forever serve as a reminder and testament that this must never be allowed to occur again. When this miscarriage of justice unfolded during World War II, Americans of German and Italian ancestry were not similarly jailed en masse. Some declare the incident as an example of outright racism and bigotry in its ugliest form. I sincerely hope that these forms of legal racial discrimination never again darken the history of our great nation.

To those that say, well, that occurred decades ago, I say we must continue to be vigilant in guarding against such evil today. President Obama's recent election is a consequence of such vigilance in electing him as the first ever President of color. I know that history speaks that he is the first black President, but personally, he represents all races, genders, and ethnicities in becoming the Commander-in-Chief and leader of this great country. Now and more than ever, am I so proud to be called an American. We have elected a person who is literally an African-American, in the sense, where his father is a Kenyan and mother is a girl from Kansas. I jokingly say that this is the first President to know where the Pacific Ocean is on the map. President Obama was born in Hawaii so he's a "local boy" and for your information, he can still throw a good "shaka" sign. We in the Congress look forward to the next four years, and maybe 8, in working together with President Obama in restoring American leadership in the world. As Americans, we emphasize the importance of our ideals and values that guarantee and protect ones freedoms and is reinforced and supported by the greatest volunteer military force in the world.

We should never become complacent with the hand that is dealt to you, with the discrimination that you may see or experience. When I envision America, I don't see a melting pot designed to reduce and remove racial differences. The America I see is a brilliant rainbow, a rainbow of ethnicities, cultures, religions and languages with each person proudly contributing in their own distinctive and unique way for a better America.

Asian-Pacific Americans wish to find a just and equitable place in our society that will allow them—like all Americans—to grow, to succeed, to achieve and to contribute to the advancement of this great nation.

I would like to close my remarks by asking my colleagues—what is America all about? I can say that through our leadership and sense of volunteerism we can meet the challenges of a fast changing world. Either through personal service, education, civics, or charity, we have a responsibility to each other and must continue to exploit the freedoms that we proudly have today. Everyday the world is shrinking and it is important, as our forefathers have done so, to continue our leadership and become an example of how we admit to our faults and correct them immediately.

I think it could not have been said better than on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the summer of 1963 when an African American minister by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., poured out his heart and soul to every American who could hear his voice, when he uttered these words:

"I have a dream. My dream is that one day my children will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

We have reaped what he has sowed by celebrating the contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans this month and having the first ever President of color in our great history.

That is what I believe America is all about. Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 435 to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and pay tribute to the many achievements of Asian Pacific Americans across our Nation.

The month of May marks several historical events in Asian Pacific American history. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, paving the way for a great movement of Asian and Pacific peoples to immigrate to the United States. Only 26 years later, on May 10, 1869, the transcontinental railroad was finished, the completion of which is largely credited to Asian Pacific Americans. Due to these events, it is appropriate to celebrate the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and honor the sacrifices and contributions of this great community.

Through the years, the Asian Pacific American Communities have made significant contributions to Texas's diverse culture. In Dallas, I am privileged to represent the largest Asian American Chamber in the United States with more than 1,200 members. I believe that we all learn from those who come from different backgrounds, and I can truly say that I have learned a great deal from my Asian Pacific friends and constituents.

I would also like to recognize the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that shook Sichuan Province in China in May of 2008 and send my condolences to the friends and families of the victims.

Today, there are over 14 million Asian Pacific Americans living in the United States, representing 5 percent of the population. The rich history associated with the Asian Pacific American community has left a lasting and important imprint on our country. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution and the Asian Pacific American communities in North Texas and across the United States.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 435, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution celebrating Asian/Pacific-American Heritage."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 420) celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 420

Whereas Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14, the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777;

Whereas on June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new Nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation";

Whereas the second Flag Act, signed January 13, 1794, provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795;

Whereas the Act of April 4, 1818, which provided for 13 stripes and one star for each State, to be added to the flag on July 4 following the admission of each new State, was signed by President James Monroe;

Whereas in an Executive order dated June 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in 6 horizontal rows of 8 each, a single point of each star to be upward;

Whereas in an Executive order dated January 3, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower provided for the arrangement of the stars in 9 rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically;

Whereas the first celebration of the American flag is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, who arranged for his pupils at Stony Hill School in Waubesa to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday" in 1885;

Whereas on June 14, 1894, the Governor of New York ordered that the American flag be