

and my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Thomas Thayer for his record of accomplishment and for his many contributions to his community, state and Nation.

HONORING ROBERT WORKMAN ON THE ADMISSION OF HIS WORK TO THE MUSEE DU LOUVRE

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Workman, an acclaimed artist from Mt. Greenwood, Illinois. On January 15, 2010, Robert Workman's pen and ink drawing became the first American work of the 21st century admitted to the internationally renowned Louvre Museum in Paris.

A passionate artistic practitioner, Mr. Workman is a graduate of the Ecole du Louvre and the Art Institute of Chicago—two of the pre-eminent art institutions in the world. In addition to having a place in the Louvre, his work is part of the Archives of the Musees Nationaux de France. The specific piece of art admitted to the Louvre was a pen and ink work featuring an ancient Egyptian theme—mixing the human form with an array of hieroglyphic text. This work was credited by the head of the Department of Sculptures with bearing “witness to the international renown of the Louvre.”

Mr. Workman's art is only part of his contribution to society. He is a tireless author and illustrator, and has published numerous children's books and a graphic novel.

I ask you to join me in honoring Robert Workman for his remarkable achievements in art, and his recognition by the Musee du Louvre.

COMMEMORATING THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEIJING DECLARATION AND PLATFORM FOR ACTION AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. RUSS CARNAHAN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, on Monday, March 8, 2010, the world will mark the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action—the most comprehensive global policy framework to achieve the goals of gender equality, development and peace.

While we reflect on this milestone and celebrate the advancements of women thus far, we also need to pause and take stock of what more can be achieved. To fully live up to the goals of equality, development and peace it is imperative that we continue to promote opportunities for women to directly shape these policies by being involved in politics at all levels, and in all countries. Without this perspective, equality is no more than a hollow word.

The 1995 Universal Declaration on Democracy states that true democracy cannot be achieved unless there is a genuine, equal and complementary partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society.

Even we in the United States, where there are only about 15 percent of women in legislative positions and only 33 percent in ministerial positions, have a long way to go to fulfill this principle. It is important that lawmakers, both here and abroad, advocate for policies that empower women. In many countries that I've traveled to, I have seen firsthand the need for support from governments, international bodies, NGO's, and local communities. It is especially important that we educate young women and girls from an early age in order to give them as many opportunities later in life.

Just this last Congress the United States joined the list of countries that have shattered the glass ceiling of female leadership in parliament, with the appointment of Nancy Pelosi as the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives. We have yet to elect a female President—although we will surely see that day soon.

However, the leadership and courage of strong women in the United States who have broken down tough barriers continues to inspire many around the world. These women have demonstrated remarkable accomplishment our nation, and women across the globe can be proud of. They are a testament to the power of women everywhere.

Likewise we look to groundbreaking female leaders in other countries and praise their confidence and ability in forging the path for others to dare to fill their shoes and even go beyond. One of the best examples of this, is Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. She inspired many when she addressed a Joint Session of Congress.

The challenges faced by peoples everywhere are faced with the help of strong women. And today many women still face challenges fully acceding to all of the positions and roles formerly reserved for men. The impact and involvement of women is critical in reducing poverty, improving education and health care, reducing the violence against them, enhancing human rights on the whole, and even recovering from the brunt of the global economic crisis.

We celebrate these advancements, but continue to pursue and address the various challenges and inequalities women face day to day. I would like to thank the Inter-Parliamentary Union for its great work on this front and for calling this gathering today, in the spirit of cooperation and progress toward achieving the goals of equality, peace and development.

RECOGNIZING VOLUNTEERS FROM THE EAST VALLEY RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud the accomplishments of 11 retired Seniors from the East Valley who have been awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement. This prestigious award honors those who have provided more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service over the course of their lifetime. The President's Volunteer Service Award program was created as a way to thank and honor Ameri-

cans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service.

This year's recipients of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement are exceptional individuals who epitomize the true meaning of service. These 11 honorees exhibit a sincere commitment to helping others and creating positive communities.

As a representative, I am fortunate to have such benevolent and dedicated individuals serving within my district. Each one of the recipients should serve as an inspiration for us all and encourage us to make service a central part of our lives.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor to officially recognize Kay Fisher, Shigeko Godsey, Kenneth Hawkes, Marietta Hopkins, Gertrude Huhn, Rena Johnson, Peter Loguda, Pamela Manaos, Helen McShane, Susanne Ulbrish and Grant Whitney for their outstanding service to our community.

HONORING MR. PAUL HAZZARD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Paul Hazzard. Mr. Hazzard served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Busti Town Council.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Hazzard served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Hazzard is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise to pay tribute to him today.

HONORING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week as National Peace Corp Week.

In October of 1960, when then-Senator John F. Kennedy was campaigning for the Presidency, he visited the University of Michigan. At about 2:00 AM in front of the University of Michigan Union, he first outlined his plan to create a program that would send Americans to countries around the globe for 2 years of service. He said that night:

“... I think Americans are willing to contribute. But the effort must be far greater than we have ever made in the past. Therefore, I am delighted to come to Michigan, to this university, because unless we have those resources in this school, unless you comprehend the nature of what is being asked of

you, this country can't possibly move through the next 10 years in a period of relative strength."

Since that speech, more than 200,000 Americans have spent 2 years of their lives in parts of the world that many of us have never heard of. And right now, dozens of Peace Corp volunteers from the Seattle area alone are serving in countries as far as Mali, Turkmenistan and Cambodia. Participants have worked on everything from helping farmers produce more food to stave off hunger to teaching computer skills and helping governments bolster their technology infrastructure. While I've heard from many Peace Corp volunteers that their years of service are far from easy, they also tell me about the tremendous impact those years have on their education and how their time abroad helps build their character and self-esteem.

But the program does far more than just provide services to communities in other countries and enrich the lives of its volunteers. It helps participants come back with a far better understanding of other cultures. I have long believed that America's ability to operate in the world depends on how well we understand what's going on in other nations. President Kennedy understood that our nation's strength depended on our level of engagement in the global community, and the Peace Corp each year provides thousands of emissaries to places that the U.S. might not otherwise touch. In many ways, the Peace Corp is like community-based diplomacy.

And when participants return, many continue their service. Some, like my colleagues Senator CHRIS DODD, and Representatives HONDA, GARAMENDI, FARR, DRIEHAUS and PETRI, go on to serve in Congress. Other alums go on to serve in Foreign Service, including stints in USAID, the Organization of American States and the Department of State. Others serve in the non-profit sector in organizations like the Sierra Club and Catholic Relief Services. And many others join the National Peace Corp Association, an organization of some 30,000 former Peace Corp participants that helps keep them engaged in service and advocacy.

The Peace Corp has done enormous good around the world, so let us recognize the thousands of Americans who sacrificed and served. Let us reaffirm this week as National Peace Corp Week.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKAWAYA ON THE OCCASION OF THE BAKERY'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mikawaya on the occasion of its 100 year anniversary. This historic Los Angeles-based family-owned bakery has been a fixture in Little Tokyo in the heart of my congressional district since its founding in 1910.

Under the current dedicated leadership of Frances Hashimoto—the grand niece of the bakery's original founder—this successful enterprise continues to satisfy the sweet-tooths of Angelenos and dessert lovers throughout

the country with its wide assortment of delicious and original bakery items.

Mikawaya manufactures and sells traditional Japanese pastry and confectionary (wagashi), mochi ice cream, and gelato. In addition to its traditional "mochi-gashi" and "manju" that have been the foundation of the family business, Mikawaya has obtained nationwide popularity and success as the creator of Mochi Ice Cream along with its gelato offerings.

Madam Speaker, as Mikawaya celebrates its 100-year anniversary at the Kyoto Grand Hotel on March 8, I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating the entire Hashimoto family and their dedicated employees for bringing smiles to the faces of generations of customers who have enjoyed the unique and delicious Japanese-inspired ice cream and pastries that this one-of-a-kind bakery has to offer.

I extend to them my best wishes for many more innovative, productive and profitable years ahead.

To fully capture the remarkable story of the Hashimoto family and the 100 year history of their bakery, I would also like to submit the following historical overview:

"Just after the turn of the 20th century, two Japanese entrepreneurs decided to open a manju bakery. One of them was from Mikawa, an old Japan province in the area that today forms the eastern half of Aichi Prefecture. The "ya," or store in Japanese, was added to the end of the name to create the name "Mikawaya."

In 1910 Ryuzaburo Hashimoto purchased the company, which was located at 365 East First Street in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo district. His nephew, Koroku Hashimoto and his wife Haru, took over the operations 15 years later and reopened at the newly built Olympic Hotel on North San Pedro Street, also in Little Tokyo. Five years later, they moved the company back to First Street where they remained until 1942, when the U.S. entered World War II.

From 1942 to December 1945, Mikawaya closed its doors as Executive Order 9066 forced more than 110,000 Japanese Americans, including the Hashimoto family, into U.S. internment camps for the duration of the war. On December 23, 1945, the Hashimoto family proudly reopened Mikawaya at 244 East First Street, next door to their pre-war location.

In 1970 Frances Hashimoto, their youngest daughter, took over the family business. Having the foresight that the surrounding First Street area would become prime redevelopment property, she planned and built a new bakery on 4th Street, which was completed in 1974.

With the new location on 4th Street, Mikawaya was able to expand its operations and product offerings. Hashimoto's husband and Mikawaya's Chief Financial Officer, Joel Friedman, happened on an idea when he visited Japan in 1984. In 1994, after spending 10 years of research and testing, his brainchild—mochi ice cream—became a reality.

Mochi ice cream, which is a serving of ice cream surrounded by a thin layer of mochi (pounded sweet rice), has become a recognized addition to American pop culture like sushi and sake. Today, it is Mikawaya's signature product with mass appeal that has reached beyond Asian American tastes. Currently there are seven flavors of mochi ice cream, including: chocolate, coffee, green tea,

mango, red bean (azuki), strawberry, and vanilla.

Mikawaya's traditional Japanese confections and pastries are still available and made daily at its Los Angeles factory and are still a favorite in the Asian American community.

Always innovators, Mikawaya now manufactures and sells gelato—Italian-style ice cream made from milk, sugar, real fruit and other ingredients.

Along with Mikawaya's centennial anniversary, the company opened a new 100,000-square-foot facility in Vernon, California. This facility is designed to meet the increasing demand for Mikawaya's products and will be the headquarters for new product research and development of frozen desserts. All of Mikawaya's desserts are manufactured in Southern California and are still held to Mikawaya's standards of high quality and taste.

The bakery presently operates retail stores in Japanese Village Plaza, Little Tokyo Square, Pacific Square Shopping Center in Torrance, Mitsuwa Marketplace in Gardena and Shirokiya Department Store in Honolulu, Hawaii."

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYER TAX CREDIT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION ACT

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 4, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the First-Time Homebuyer Tax Credit Eligibility Verification Act.

The purpose of this bill is simple: to prevent those who are here illegally from claiming the refundable first-time homebuyer tax credit, which is worth up to \$8,000. According to a January 25, 2010 Dallas Morning News article by Steve McGonigle entitled "Feds find dubious home tax credit claims from Texas," close to 1,000 claims from Texas have come from individuals "employing a special taxpayer identification number primarily used by illegal immigrants, who are not entitled to the credit." This is just plain wrong.

Currently, the IRS does not require an individual to provide a Social Security number in order to claim the first-time homebuyer tax credit. Rather, if the individual does not have a Social Security number, the individual can still apply for the credit so long as they are able to get an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) from the IRS. The problem here is that illegal immigrants are getting these numbers from the IRS. According to the previously mentioned article, "the IRS has acknowledged that more than half of ITINs are filed by illegal immigrants." In an effort to prevent illegal immigrants from claiming the credit, my bill proposes that a taxpayer must provide a Social Security number rather than an ITIN. Doing so will help to prevent fraud and in turn protect the American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.