

owns 20 percent or more of its voting shares; a majority of the board of directors are foreign nationals; foreign nationals have the power to control the decision making of the subsidiary; or foreign nationals control election-related expenditures.

Fourth, the bill will prohibit any company with government contracts in excess of \$50,000 and any company that receives TARP or similar government assistance funds, from making unlimited election expenditures.

The point here is simple—if your business relies on government contracts or government assistance for its revenues, you should not be in the business of trying to buy seats for your friends or take them away from your enemies.

Finally, the bill will expand current law to allow political parties the same ability as candidates to get television ad time at the “lowest unit rate” in certain situations and in certain geographical areas.

The Roberts Court’s decision in *Citizens United* was, I believe, the wrong one. It protected corporations at the expense of drowning out individuals’ free speech. It threatened to put democratic elections in the United States up for sale. And it will, I believe, lead to voters having less reliable information about candidates—not more.

The DISCLOSE Act cannot solve all of the problems created by the decision, but it is a critical step forward. The bill will ensure that the American public knows who is funding an ad when they see it on television, and it will close loopholes that could have otherwise allowed unlimited spending in our elections by foreign nationals and corporations receiving government assistance.

I believe it is essential that we pass this bill quickly, and I look forward to working with Senator SCHUMER and others to do so.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, each May, since 1978, we have honored the rich heritage and countless accomplishments of the many Asian Pacific Americans in our country. I am delighted to recognize Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to pay tribute to the struggles and enormous contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to our Nation’s history and culture.

May was chosen for Asian Pacific American Heritage Month to commemorate both the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in 1843, and also the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869, which was constructed in large part by Chinese laborers.

“Lighting the Past, Present, and Future” is the theme for this year’s celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This phrase recognizes both the plight and extraordinary achievements of the Asian Pacific

American community as they have forged ahead to become a successful and vital segment of American society.

Currently, Asian Pacific Americans constitute one of the fastest growing minority communities in the United States, and California is home to the greatest number of Asian Pacific Americans. There are over 15 million Asian Pacific Americans in the Nation, with more than 5 million living in California. In addition, there are thousands of Asian Pacific Americans currently serving in our Armed Forces, defending our country and securing freedom abroad.

With this wealth of diversity, our State is enriched by many famous ethnic enclaves such as San Francisco’s Chinatown and Japantown, Westminster’s Little Saigon, Los Angeles’s Historic Filipinotown and Long Beach’s Little Cambodia. As the Asian Pacific American community has grown, these historic neighborhoods have become vibrant centers of cultural exchange and learning.

The Asian Pacific American community has enthusiastically answered the call to public service, and as a result, we see more Asian Pacific Americans in government leadership. Throughout my career, I have worked with many extraordinary Asian Pacific American leaders, in particular Senators DANIEL INOUE and DANIEL AKAKA of Hawaii, two longtime stalwarts of the Senate. Joining my colleagues this year in Congress was Representative JUDY CHU, the first Chinese American woman elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the 12th Asian Pacific American elected official currently serving in Congress. In addition, Dr. Steven Chu was appointed as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy, the first Asian Pacific American to hold the position. A new generation of leaders has emerged, who will no doubt continue to lead not only their community, but the Nation to new heights.

This past year has also meant many firsts for the Federal bench: two Asian Pacific American nominees, Ed Chen and Lucy Koh, for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, where there has never been an Asian Pacific American district judge; the confirmation of the first Chinese American woman to be a district court judge, Dolly Gee; and the confirmation of the first Vietnamese American district court judge, Jacqueline Nguyen. I recommended Magistrate Judge Chen and Judge Nguyen to President Barack Obama, as well as Professor Goodwin Liu for appointment to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, confident that their strong legal backgrounds and unique perspective will be valuable additions to the Federal courts.

As we celebrate the rich and diverse Asian and Pacific Islander cultures during this month, we are not only recognizing many notable achievements, but we are also reminded of the struggles and sacrifices endured to live and experience the American dream.

The Senate has worked on a number of major pieces of legislation this session, including the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, which I proudly voted for and the President signed into law in March. In addition to providing health care to 2.3 million uninsured Asian Pacific Americans nationwide, the bill will provide subsidies to Asian Pacific American small businesses, close the Medicare “doughnut hole” for all Asian Pacific American seniors, and provide more resources and strong data collection provisions that will help address racial and ethnic health disparities. In a community where 52 percent of Asian Pacific Americans delay or forgo routine and preventative treatment due to the high cost of medical care and where cancer is the leading cause of death, access to quality medical care is vital.

This is a great beginning to health care reform and I look forward to continuing the work with my Federal medical insurance rate authority bill. My legislation would create a rate authority that would oversee premiums charged by the health insurance industry and provide a safeguard for Americans against soaring premium increases. Access to affordable medical care is a necessity of life that I will work hard to protect for all Americans.

In the Asian Pacific American community where about 60 percent of the population is foreign-born, immigration reform is a central and important issue. For example, although Asians and Pacific Islanders make up about 39 percent of all family sponsored immigrants, they represent nearly half the backlogs in family reunification visas. I recently cosigned a letter with Senator BARBARA BOXER to President Obama, urging his continued support for fixing our broken immigration system. As we address immigration reform, it is imperative that we support effective solutions and a commonsense approach that would keep families together, while improving the state of our economy.

At such an unprecedented moment in the Nation’s history, there is no doubt that these are only two of the many challenges that the Asian Pacific American community will be faced with in the upcoming year. However, Asian Pacific Americans are a resilient people and their accomplishments this year alone are a testament of their remarkable spirit and important role in the history and culture of the United States.

I am proud to honor the tremendous strength, character, and courage of Asian Pacific Americans during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and am confident that they will only continue to surpass these challenges and further add to the vibrancy of the American landscape.

REMEMBERING DR. RUSSELL ROSS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I would like to recognize the passing of a

mentor to me and many other political science students over the years.

Russell Marion Ross was a professor of political science for more than 40 years at the University of Iowa. He died on Tuesday, April 27, at age 88.

Dr. Ross was an Iowan through and through. Born in Washington, IA, he received his bachelor and master degrees, and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Iowa. He served as chairman of the department for many years. In 1987, he wrote a book on the department's history for the Iowa State Historical Society. Following his retirement, he continued to teach long-distance education classes until the time of his death. Dr. Ross began his association with long-distance education while serving in the Navy on the aircraft carrier USS Manilla Bay.

He was an expert on local government and politics. He wrote several books in his field, served as executive assistant to Governor Norman Erbe in the 1960s, and was the mayor of University Heights for more than 10 years.

Dr. Ross influenced numerous students over the years. Online condolences included postings by two city managers who said Dr. Ross guided their vocations. Other postings came from those with fond memories of Dr. Ross' friendliness, approachability, and honesty.

As Joel and Sandy Barkan of Washington, DC, wrote: "He was devoted to the University, a good steward, and a straight shooter in the Iowa tradition. He will be missed."

That is exactly the sentiment I have about Dr. Ross.

In 1957 and 1958, Dr. Ross was my professor at the University of Iowa when I was pursuing course work toward a doctorate in political science. As an authority on state and local government, he would have been my adviser on my dissertation topic, which was the reorganization of state government to save money.

Professor Ross was an expert and very well-regarded in his field, sought after for decades by the news media for his sharp insight into Iowa politics. He combined his significant knowledge with a plain-spoken common sense that cut to the chase. For example, in assessing the Democratic Presidential caucus fight in 2000, Dr. Ross was quoted as saying of candidate Bill Bradley, who was slow to respond to attacks from Al Gore, "He muffed it pretty badly." That was the bottom line in just five words.

So Professor Ross was generous with his insight. He also was generous with his time. To a 23-year-old graduate student, as I was, an accomplished scholar can be intimidating and hard to approach. Dr. Ross was the opposite. He always had time for his students, and all of these years later, that's the first impression that comes to mind when I think of him.

I didn't finish my doctoral program, but that had nothing to do with Dr. Ross. I ran for the State legislature in-

stead. With his generosity of spirit and knowledge, Dr. Ross helped me to find my calling, as he excelled at his. Iowans are fortunate to have had such an outstanding person in our lives.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL KEITH ZUEGEL

• Mr. CONRAD. Madam President, I want to take a moment to honor COL Keith W. Zuegel of the U.S. Air Force on the occasion of his retirement after 28 years of dedicated service to our country.

After graduating from the Air Force Academy in 1982, Colonel Zuegel logged nearly 2,000 flying hours across four aircraft and six airframes, including the F-111 "Aardvark," achieving a master navigator rating. He skillfully served in numerous operational tours, including assignments and experience ranging from the United States to Europe and the Pacific. Of distinct importance, his skills were put to the test during the opening night of Operation Desert Storm. On January 17, 1991, young Captain Zuegel distinguished himself in an attack on a heavily fortified target near Ali Al Salem Airfield, Kuwait. In the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire and surface-to-air-missiles launched against them, Captain Zuegel, the F-111 weapons system officer, and his aircraft commander elected to continue their attack. Their destruction of a hardened aircraft shelter greatly diminished the Iraqi Air Force, clearing the way for the eventual ground campaign to liberate Kuwait. His heroic combat efforts that evening earned him a Silver Star.

Following his operational assignments, Colonel Zuegel served in a variety of staff assignments, working for the Secretary of the Air Force, the Commander of U.S. European Command, the Commander of Joint Forces Command, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His experiences in those posts served him well, preparing him for the "big leagues"—Director of the Air Force's Congressional Budget and Appropriation Liaison Office. In this role, he directed all Air Force congressional appropriations work on the hill for the last 3 years, as well as routine engagements and testimony by the Air Force's senior leadership with Congress. Through those interactions, my fellow Members of Congress have come to view him as a trusted ambassador in blue. The Secretary of the Air Force said that "Zeugs is a key guy in the Air Force," while the chairman of both defense appropriations subcommittees lauded his efforts. Speaking personally, I have benefitted from Colonel Zuegel's work arranging congressional travel more than once and have always found him to be not only a consummate professional and an astute representative of the Air Force but also a gracious host and a wonderful travelling companion.

I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our deep appreciation to Colonel Zuegel for his outstanding service. His character and dedication demonstrate the best of our Armed Forces. Colonel Zuegel has been a friend to my office, my constituents in North Dakota, and me. On the occasion of his retirement, I wish Keith and his family all the very best in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO JANE KEATING

• Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I wish to pay tribute to Taxpayer Advocate Jane Keating. Ms. Keating will be retiring in April 2010 after 38 years of service to this country.

Former Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, 'This is my community, and it is my responsibility to make it better.'" Jane Keating truly is a hero, for she has devoted much of her life to making the United States and her community better.

Jane Keating began her career with the Internal Revenue Service, IRS, in 1972 as a tax auditor in Los Angeles. Jane held successively responsible managerial positions with the IRS before coming to my home State of Oregon in 1985 as chief of the Taxpayer Service Division.

Because of Jane's outstanding service to the taxpayers, she was selected as the Taxpayer Advocate in August 1996. Jane has led this office with professionalism, integrity, and a sense of dedication to the taxpayers she serves. Her colleagues, her employees, and the public respect Jane for the excellent service she provided for so many years.

It is an honor for me to recognize Ms. Jane Keating for her service to this country and to her community. She is indeed a true Oregon hero.●

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13338 OF MAY 11, 2004, WITH RESPECT TO THE BLOCKING OF PROPERTY OF CERTAIN PERSONS AND PROHIBITION OF EXPORTATION AND RE-EXPORTATION OF CERTAIN GOODS TO SYRIA—PM 51

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency, unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a