

resolution expresses the regret of the House of Representatives for laws that unfairly targeted the Chinese community in the United States, specifically the Chinese Exclusion Act.

I want to thank my good friend from California, Ms. CHU, for her hard work and determination in bringing this important resolution to the floor, and I am proud to join her as the lead cosponsor of this historic effort.

America's strength has always been derived from our commitment to the principles of our founders. And although we do not always succeed in living up to those ideals, we continually strive to do so, and we become stronger in the process.

Today, we have the opportunity to take another important step by recognizing one of the great—yet often overlooked—injustices in our shared history.

One-hundred and thirty years ago, just thirteen years after the last spike was driven into the first transcontinental railroad, the Congress of the United States strayed from the path laid by our founders and implemented the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

This ten-year ban on Chinese immigration and naturalization targeted Chinese immigrants for physical and political exclusion, and its passage was driven by an unfortunate mix of racism, jingoism, and intolerance.

In subsequent years, Congress expanded and hardened these laws, making it impossible for legal Chinese workers to reenter America, apply for citizenship, and reunite with their families. And it wasn't until the U.S.-Chinese alliance of World War Two that Congress finally repealed these laws and restored the rights of Chinese-Americans.

Since that time, this body has passed many reforms. Yet, over 100 years later, this chamber has yet to acknowledge its own misguided actions. Today, we have the opportunity to do just that and reaffirm our shared commitment to equality.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank Linda Yang, the Director of the Xilin [SI-LIN] Asian Community Center in Naperville, Illinois, whose advice and input has helped to drive this resolution to the floor.

It was she who told me about the individuals in our own community whose parents and grandparents were impacted by the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Unfortunately, many of these victims are no longer with us. But for those who remain, it is critical to address this issue now, before the opportunity is lost forever.

With that in mind, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution. Through it, let us acknowledge the past, express our regret, and promote a greater appreciation for the challenges that past generations of Chinese Americans have bravely overcome.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 90th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was built in 1922 as a place for working men and women of Southeast Pennsylvania to gather to pray. Funded by the generosity of the local community and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Fr. Nolan founded this parish to unify the communities of Croydon, Bristol, and Bensalem.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was named after the 13th century Sicilian theologian. A prominent member of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas revolutionized philosophy, modern political theory, and ethical morality. Many consider his most notable work, *Summa Theologica*, to be one of the foundations of the Catholic faith and modern theology. His contributions to intellectual thought have allowed him to become the patron saint of academics and Catholic schools.

Although St. Thomas Aquinas Church has struggled through some setbacks in the past few years, the current pastor, Fr. Mike Davis, has made it his mission to unify the community. By recommitting his church to its original mission, Fr. Mike has rallied his parishioners to persevere through the recent closing of their elementary school, and unveil a major renovation effort to improve their facilities. Completed solely by the parishioners themselves, the new refurbishments not only update the facility's technology, but also display beautiful religious paintings and depictions from history.

As we look back on the past 90 years of commitment and service to the communities of Bristol and Croydon, I only hope that the future continues to bring more prosperity to St. Thomas Aquinas Church. I am proud to stand with Fr. Mike, his parishioners, and the members of my district in celebrating the 90th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church.

HONORING MRS. LUCILE JOHNSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lucile Johnson on her remarkable 100th birthday, June 19, 2012. Lucile has lived in Atlanta for all 100 years of her wonderful life—she was blessed with 65 years of marriage to her late husband Earl Johnson, and she is the proud and loving mother of 6 children, grandmother of 15, great grandmother of 20, and last but certainly not least: great great grandmother of 1.

Lucile has been a driven and caring person her entire life and worked diligently at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta for many years to provide for her family. As a passionate member of her community, Lucile graciously chose to volunteer with her church missionary group in feeding the homeless of Atlanta for decades. Lucile is the matriarch of her ever-growing family and has helped to raise many of her grand children and great grandchildren. The comfort and advice she provides to her family is truly treasured and matchless.

Mr. Speaker, Lucile Johnson is an outstanding member of the community in my District and has served as an exceptional role model for her family and many others. I am delighted to join her family, friends and many

admirers in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday and continued good health and happiness for years to come.

RECOGNITION OF THE D.C. DIVAS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the D.C. Divas Football team for their eleventh season and on returning to the Women's Football Association for the 2012 season. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects people from discrimination based on gender. Passage of Title IX has helped to make it possible for teams like the D.C. Divas to accomplish great success and serve as a role model for young girls.

The D.C. Divas were established in 2000, with the first season beginning in the spring of 2001. They have been a strong team with nine winning seasons and eight division titles. The D.C. Divas are currently celebrating as the 2012 Division Champions. The team won the NWFA Championship in 2006 after completing a perfect season.

Not only have they been strong on the field, but they are actively involved within the D.C. and Maryland communities. Members of the team have participated in Recess by the River since the program began, helping educate kids on active living to prevent child obesity with kids from Ward 8. The team has also supported the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the Northern Virginia Ronald McDonald House, and the Special Olympics of Northern Virginia. These are only some of the many organizations in which the D.C. Divas are actively involved.

I congratulate the D.C. Divas for their accomplishments on and off the field over the past twelve years. This is a great team that provides an athletic outlet for the people of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding areas. I wish them the best during the rest of their season and the many seasons to come.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. For the past 28 years, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has selected two people from his or her district who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, nearly 500 individuals have been recognized as a Lord or Lady Fairfax by their representative on the Board of Supervisors. I was pleased to take part in this annual ritual and recognize many outstanding community volunteers during my 14 years on the Board.

Individuals recognized as Lords and Ladies of Fairfax have made significant contributions

in their communities. This year, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized outstanding individuals who have made tremendous impacts through their support of our public schools, parks, youth sports leagues, arts community, public safety providers, and human service programs. It is nearly impossible to fully describe the diversity of accomplishments by the honorees. Their efforts contribute greatly to the quality of life for the residents of Fairfax County and should be commended.

The following individuals have been recognized as Lord and Lady Fairfax honorees for 2012. Each of these individuals was selected as a result of his or her outstanding volunteer service, heroism, or other special achievements. These individuals have earned our praise and appreciation.

At Large: Lady Kathy Albarado and Lord Delbert Sheads.

Braddock District: Lady Tessie Wilson and Lord Doug Brammer.

Dranesville District: Lady Jacqueline D. Taylor and Lord Robert H. Jackson.

Hunter Mill District: Lady Jennifer Joy Madden and Lord Frank de la Fe.

Lee District: Lady Martha Lloyd and Lord Don Hinman.

Mason District: Lady Sue Hotto and Lord Ben Hester.

Mt. Vernon District: Lady Diana York and Lord James C. Rees.

Providence District: Lady Vivian Morgan-Mendez and Lord Mark D. Meana.

Springfield District: Lady Breeana G. Bomhorst and Lord Robert Scott Brown.

Sully District: Lady Jennifer Campbell and Lord John R. Cleveland.

I also commend the following recipients of two additional awards; the James M. Scott Community Spirit Award and the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival Volunteer of the Year Award. The James M. Scott Community Spirit Award recognizes a sponsor, organization or individual who has exemplified strong advocacy and commitment to Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. and its efforts to develop community through events, and the Celebrate Fairfax! Festival Volunteer of the Year Award selects one volunteer out of 1500 to be recognized for extraordinary efforts to ensure that the festival, which will be held this weekend at the county government center, and affiliated CFI programs are successful.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF
OUR BELOVED FREEDOM FIGHTER
AND FREEDOM SISTER DR.
ANNIE B. MARTIN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to mourn the loss of our National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's life-long freedom fighter and freedom sister, Dr. Annie B. Martin. Dr. Martin served an unprecedented sixteen terms as President of the historic NAACP New York Branch, also known as the Harlem Branch; the first chartered Branch of NAACP's National Association, which celebrated its Centennial Anniversary in 2011. Under her leadership, the New York Branch

became the largest NAACP branch in the Eastern region, with more than 6,000 members, and has received annual national awards for program activity.

Affectionately known to many of us as Chief or simply Annie B, Dr. Martin was a devoted and dedicated member of the NAACP National Board of Directors. With her soft, but outspoken voice she led by example and with dignity. Annie B was my very dear friend and ally, and on behalf of my wife Alma, my sister Hazel Dukes and our beloved Village of Harlem, our nation has lost another soldier and angel of the civil rights and labor movement that dedicated her entire life fighting and speaking out against injustices and inequality. Dr. Martin committed her 91 years plus life to making our world an equal playing field for all to inspire and attain, and I will deeply miss my beloved friend and freedom sister.

Annie B. Martin was a native of Eastover, South Carolina and was the seventh of eight children, which were born to Jacob and Queenie Martin. She was a graduate of Allen University in Columbia, South Carolina and earned a Master's Degree in both social work and guidance counseling from New York University. Dr. Martin was an important and dominant voice in the American labor movement, including service as executive board member of the New York City Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO, and first vice president of the Black Trade Unionists Leadership Committee of the New York City Central Labor Council. Dr. Martin served as New York assistant commissioner of labor under former Governors Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, Charles Malcolm Wilson and Hugh Carey.

She also served as senior extension associate of Cornell University's School of Industrial and Labor Relations; secretary-treasurer of Local 8-138, Oil, Chemical & Atomic Workers Union; and adjunct professor at Columbia, Fordham and New York Universities.

As director of labor participation for the American Red Cross in Greater New York, at the age of 81, Dr. Martin was on duty seven days a week after the terrorist attack on America on September 11, 2001, serving as liaison between labor, the Red Cross and the NYFD and NYPD departments. This remarkable woman coordinated survival and job-placement issues for hundreds of members of organized labor and personally processed 290 claims for American Red Cross Emergency Family Gifts to families' beneficiaries who lost members at "Ground Zero." Dr. Martin, freedom's mother of labor, was always there to serve her community and our great country.

Dr. Annie B. Martin now takes her place in history alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Medgar Evers, Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, Percy Ellis Sutton and Freedom Sisters Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Louise McCauley Parks, Ella Jo Baker, Dorothy Irene Height, Shirley Chisholm, Barbara Charline Jordan, Betty Shabazz, Coretta Scott King and the countless of extraordinary African American Women and Men who have given so much of their entire lives and life-work to preserving freedom and equality for all of us and our nation's children.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you today, I ask you to join me and my colleagues in remembering the life of our beloved Freedom Fighter, Dr. Annie B. Martin. Her compassion and dedication to her community serves as a model for all Americans, our nation and the world.

TRIBUTE TO BRANDON A. THEISEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brandon Theisen of Granger, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained over the past century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Brandon's project involved a complete reinstallation of a retaining wall at Jester Park, which included removing an existing wall and constructing a new one. The work ethic Brandon has shown in his Eagle Project, and every other project leading up to his Eagle Scout rank, speaks volumes of his commitment to serving a cause greater than himself and assisting his community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Brandon and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues in the House will join me in congratulating him in obtaining the Eagle Scout ranking, and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

SANFORD COMMUNITY ADULT EDUCATION

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate this year's graduates of Sanford Community Adult Education programs in Sanford, Maine. These men and women have worked incredibly hard to earn their GEDs, high school diplomas, and work skills certificates, and I am thrilled to see their efforts come to fruition.

I commend these graduates for having the courage to recommit to their education after months or even years since last stepping in a classroom. Doing so, they have had to deal with a unique set of challenges, including balancing school work with careers and families.

With their education comes opportunity. I am excited about the new doors that will open for these graduates with their diplomas and certificates in hand. I wish them the best of luck as they pursue their goals, whether that is starting a business, getting a promotion, or simply setting a good example for their children.

I also want to thank the teachers and administrators of the program, and all the family members and friends who supported these students. This accomplishment is theirs as well.