

moved to the United States. He received his M.S. in Geodetic Science from Ohio State University, Columbus in 1989 and his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California, Irvine in 1994.

While looking for teaching positions, Dr. Enriquez discovered the community college system which, he says, appealed to him because the larger universities wanted professors to focus on research while he wanted to focus on teaching. He started teaching at Cañada College in 1994 and almost immediately started securing grants. In his view, bringing in money is just another way to help students succeed.

Dr. Enriquez is the chair elect of the American Society of Engineering Education, Pacific Southwest Section; the vice chair of the American Society of Engineering Education, Two-Year College Division; and a member of both the California Engineering Liaison Council and the California Mathematics Council Community Colleges.

He has received numerous best paper awards from the American Society of Engineering Education, the Hewlett-Packard Excellence in Technology for Teaching Award and the League of California Community Colleges Out-Of-The-Box Thinkers Award, among others.

When Dr. E is not mentoring students and inventing programs, he enjoys music, weight lifting, hiking, and reading.

He and his spouse David Childers live in San Francisco.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor Dr. Amelito Enriquez, an exceptional teacher, mentor, and engineer who has opened the hearts and minds of thousands of students to the world of science, math, and engineering.

HONORING IRENE COFIE

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Irene Cofie is a senior at Dawson High School in Brazoria County, Texas. Her essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

A JUST OVERSEER

Every man needs a leader: a mentor who will regulate that person's decisions while also serving as an overseer by making sure every decision formulated by the individual is civil and doesn't hold the potential to cause mayhem. In this sense, we as men, have the government as our leader to verify

that the decisions we take are astute and will not result in culpable consequences for the majority. Thus, a government's ideal role can best be described as an equitable overseer of men.

As an overseer, a government should remain open-minded to its citizens' desires and rights. Many governments follow a precept, in hopes of maintaining consistency in laws and regulations within their nation. This precept also limits a government's susceptibility to popular demands that are irrational. For example, in America, our government acts on the precept of securing freedom and civil liberties to its citizens, as established by the United States Constitution. Yet, even though the government of America vigilantly manages citizens' affairs through laws, the American government doesn't aggrandize its power over Americans through cruel tactics. However, in many communist countries, the government enjoins its citizens to do exactly as they command and as a result, many citizens of such nations lack the natural rights they deserve. Therefore, even though the role of a government is to serve as an overseer to its people through laws and rules, it is highly important for a government to not be straitlaced in its governing style. A government should instead regulate the masses to make sure that chaos doesn't erupt, while still granting citizens their natural liberties.

Governments' main concern should be providing a safe environment for citizens while assuring that citizens' freedoms are protected and mandated appropriately; thus, freedoms given to one will not counter the civil rights of another. Even though it is up to government to oversee the protection of the masses, citizens primarily have a higher influence in governing their own actions. As a result, citizens should act to control their behavior in society, instead of receiving condemnation by government in order to enable them to live virtuously. In other words, citizens do not need a "big brother" government to certify that they do not abuse drugs or alcohol. Rather, the axiomatic truth stands that citizens of any government are entitled to behave maturely and govern themselves as individuals.

It is common for citizens to complain that the role of government is too big and extensive. Ultimately though, the fault of this conflict belongs to citizens because it is the responsibility of all citizens to take care of themselves through moral reasoning and laudable ethics; we as citizens, should be caretakers of our own distinct lives. In turn, the government can maintain an efficacious nationhood, through enforcement of logical precepts as an overseer of the masses, not necessarily the individual. In conclusion, the government serves as a protectorate of everyone within its country, making sure that peace and order are maintained through laws and regulations, in benefit of the majority.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. In 2010, my colleague, Congressman HONDA, introduced H. Res. 1316 to designate this month as a time to recognize the contributions of Asian Ameri-

cans and Pacific Islanders to the United States. As an original co-sponsor, I reaffirm my commitment to address the concerns and needs of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

The 37th Congressional District of California, which I am honored to represent, is home to one of the largest Asian constituencies in the nation, including large communities of Filipinos, Samoans and Cambodians. In fact, my district is home to the largest Cambodian population in the United States and the second largest Cambodian population in the world outside Cambodia. I am proud to be a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and represent my constituents' interests. The month of May was chosen to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage for two significant reasons. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and on May 10, 1860, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. The transcontinental railroad transformed our nation and could not have been completed without the inclusion of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the challenges and adversity that Asian Pacific Americans have experienced, many have forged ahead and made significant contributions to this great nation. History was made with the election of President Obama, the first president to have such significant personal ties to the Asian Pacific community. President Obama spent his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia. Also, one of President Obama's first guests to the Oval Office was the prime minister of Japan, Taro Aso.

This year, the U.S. Census Bureau has released data revealing that the Asian population now represents 6 percent of the total American population. This community has grown faster than any other racial group in the United States at four times the national average. Asian Americans are making significant contributions to the economy and own over 1.5 million businesses, employing 3 million people. The buying power of Asian American communities has also grown dramatically, increasing by 89 percent between 2000 and 2009 from \$269 billion to \$509 billion.

This month, however, also causes us to reflect on some challenges that remain for Asian Pacific Americans. For instance, immigration and language policies continue to disproportionately affect Asian Americans since they are more likely than any other racial group to be foreign-born. Harsh immigration policies and language barriers, therefore, limit many individuals' ability to integrate into American society and access important services. Along similar lines, Asian Americans are twice as likely as non-Hispanic Whites and African Americans to have not seen a doctor in the past five years, and Asian Americans are also more likely to be uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, this month, it is important to recognize the achievements of this incredibly diverse community while also addressing their policy concerns. Nevertheless, I have much hope for the future because Americans are working together, hand-in-hand, to ensure the equality and advancement not only of their community, but of all communities.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to celebrating the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans this year and for years to come.

HONORING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTER OF FRESNO

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno, ICCF, its board of trustees, and members as they celebrate their 10th anniversary. ICCF is a non-profit religious institution in the heart of California's San Joaquin Valley which is dedicated providing spiritual empowerment and support to Muslims and non-Muslims alike. Through their work and educational endeavors, ICCF has been an asset to our community and a true reflection of the rich diversity in our nation.

Since its inception, ICCF has promoted instruction and dialogue in hopes of establishing understanding and harmony among persons of all faiths. An active participant and leader in interfaith collaboration, activities, and discussion, ICCF hosts a number of activities and programs designed to fulfill its goals. ICCF has developed diversity training seminars to provide insight into Islam and the local Muslim community. For example, in 2005, after consultation with Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer, ICCF began providing diversity training to police officers in an effort to increase awareness and knowledge of cultural differences. In 2007, ICCF, the California Health Department, and the Marin Abused Women's Services Center led two training seminars to discuss and advocate the prevention of domestic violence.

In addition to its cultural diversity training efforts, ICCF has also served our community by providing family support services. In partnership with Child Protective Services, CPS, ICCF has ensured that children who are removed from their homes because of safety concerns are able to maintain their cultural norms and traditional practices.

ICCF has worked tirelessly to improve the well-being of our entire community. They have worked with Fresno's Poverello House, an organization that serves the hungry, homeless, and destitute, to collect food and distribute it at schools and homeless areas. Additionally, they have joined efforts with the Marjaree Mason Center, a widely recognized non-profit center for victims of domestic violence, to educate and empower some of our Valley's most vulnerable residents.

As one of the premier faith and culture centers in Central California, ICCF has welcomed students and faculty from a number of educational institutions, including Fresno State, University of Phoenix, Fresno City College, as well as local school districts. Often, visitors learn about the teachings of Islam, women in Islam, as well as Islamic perspectives in areas related to anthropology, sociology, and economics.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and recognizing ten years of worship, leadership, and community involvement. The Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno accurately reflects the best of what America has to offer—diversity, understanding, and service.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLÁN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. SABLÁN. Mr. Speaker, this year, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. Since We the People began in 1987, more than thirty million high school students and ninety thousand teachers have participated in this valuable program that promotes a deeper understanding of the constitutional principles that shape and guide our nation, and instills a sense of civic responsibility in young people.

We the People is an instructional program that enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy. Through the program, students discover the relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in present day terms. The We the People program is directed by the Center for Civic Education and funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act. This is a program Congress should continue to support.

Teams qualify for the National Finals by prevailing in their regional or state competitions. The national competition is held through a series of simulated congressional hearings, during which students testify as constitutional experts before panels of judges acting as congressional committees. The program enjoys the active participation of members of Congress, as well as support from educational, professional, business, and community organizations across the nation.

This year, more than fourteen hundred students from every part of our country will take part in the National Finals here in Washington. The competition will test students' knowledge of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights, showcasing their intelligence, determination, and teamwork.

I want to recognize the 24 exceptionally talented and hard working students from Saipan Southern High School in the Northern Mariana Islands, who return to the Finals as repeat regional champions. They have spent many long hours studying and preparing for the competition. Working together and striving for excellence are defining traits of this team. I congratulate them and their teachers and coaches, and wish them all success in this year's We the People competition.

Let me acknowledge each student by name: Ms. Maria Louise Babriela Atrero; 1Mr. Rufino Aquino, Jr.; Ms. Angelica Awa-Ao; Ms. Akioni Nadine Babauta; Ms. Chelsea Marie Bartolo; Ms. Vanessa Rome Bartolo; Ms. Yunika Mae Biado; Ms. Rachel Nadine Borja; Mr. Don Marshall Davis Cabrera; Ms. Yoon Jae Chung; Ms. Teri-Sue Corpuz; Mr. Derick Dela Cruz; Ms. Jinky Marie Kintaro; Ms. Ji Won Lee; Ms. Allysha Hillary Lloren; Mr. Edward John Manibusan; Ms. Momoko Belle Nishikido; Mr. David Kido Paek; Ms. Rina Park; Mr. Seong Jin Park; Ms. Christine Maebelle Roque; Ms. Christina Marie Sablan; Mr. Mike Aries Vargas; Mr. Keisuke Yoshida.

I would also like to acknowledge the remarkable work and guidance by the team's coordinator Mr. Andrew Golden, coaches Justice John A. Manglona, Deanna Manibusan

Manglona, and Charlotte Sanders, student coach Carmen Borja, and Public School System representative Stephen Smith.

HONORING THE GAY AND LESBIAN ACTIVISTS ALLIANCE OF WASHINGTON, DC (GLAA)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Washington, DC institution, which I have the distinct honor and pleasure representing in this body, that has been a local leader in the struggle for equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT, people: the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance of Washington, DC, GLAA.

GLAA has, since its founding in April 1971, remained a respected and tireless advocate for political freedom for the District of Columbia and for equal rights for its residents.

GLAA continues in the vanguard of efforts to strengthen enforcement of DC's landmark Human Rights Act of 1977.

GLAA, by working with coalition partners, DC officials and the wider public, implemented a well-crafted plan of grass-roots action and education that helped achieve marriage equality in the District.

GLAA fights to ensure that LGBT residents are treated fairly and respectfully by DC agencies, from the police and fire departments to the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to the DC public schools.

GLAA pushes for effective public health strategies and accountability in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

GLAA has rated all DC Mayoral and Council candidates in every election since the establishment of home rule, and uses a system noted for its fairness and nonpartisanship.

GLAA provides leadership in coalition efforts on a wide range of civil rights issues, from family rights to condom availability in prisons and public schools to police accountability.

GLAA activity opposes federal restrictions on the District's budget that adversely affect LGBT people.

GLAA enhances its outreach by maintaining a comprehensive website of LGBT advocacy materials, the GLAA Forum blog, and the DCGayEtc.com news aggregator.

On April 26, GLAA will hold its 41st Anniversary Reception honoring this year's recipients of its Distinguished Service Awards: Burgundy Crescent Volunteers, The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, Ruby Corado, Jeri Hughes, Will O'Bryan, and Jeffrey D. Richardson.

Burgundy Crescent Volunteers was founded in 2001 as a source of LGBT volunteers for gay and gay-friendly non-profit organizations in the District, Maryland, and Virginia, and brings LGBT singles and couples together for volunteer activities that are social in nature. The group, a non-profit, has over 5,000 members, who have provided over 100,000 volunteer hours to the community. Their good efforts have ranged from doing yard work for GLAA's founder, Frank Kameny, to pruning the cherry trees at the Tidal Basin.

The Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League, SMYAL, was founded in 1984 to promote and support self-confident, healthy, and