

In 1958, Walker left House Funeral Home, but he was still with the city fire department. He started working with Laurel Funeral Home on South Main Street where the Laurel Judicial Center is now.

"There used to be a big home there and we used it," he recalled. "And I sold cars for a while. In the meantime, while I was at Laurel Funeral Home, they talked me into starting the county fire department."

Walker was appointed the first Laurel County fire chief when the department was organized in 1962, a position now held by Tommy Johnston. Walker was chief for 18-and-a-half years before stepping down after getting injured.

In the meantime in 1965, he opened the Bowling-Walker Funeral Home on Dixie Street where the London-Laurel County Farmers Market is now. He sold out his part in the funeral business after he had back surgery.

While at Bowling-Walker, he was a deputy coroner and, when he ran for sheriff in 1966, he was the coroner. He has been a deputy with the Laurel County Sheriff's Office, too.

"That's why my boys picked up the police business."

He then ran for Laurel County Sheriff in 1970.

"I won the nominee on the Republican (ticket) out of 14 and then the Democrats beat me in the fall," Walker recalled. "I then went back to House Funeral Home in 1973 and worked until '80. In 1982, I went to work for Laurel Funeral Home, which had moved to (Ky.) 192 on the hill behind the school, Laurel County High."

Walker was Laurel County jailer from 1989 until 1993. When he was elected, he came back to the London Fire Department and has been there ever since.

Walker has been married to his wife, Marie, for 25 years and he has another son, Eddie, who lives in Texas, and a daughter, Deborah Greenwall, an attorney in Louisville.

"I've got a good relationship with the children and grandbabies," Marie Walker said.

Now at 77, Walker does not actively fight fires, but continues to participate in any of the department's other activities.

"I don't do much. They kind of take care of me. Some of them call me 'Pap.'"

#### ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2012

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Asian and Pacific Islander community in the United States and celebrate the tremendous contribution these Americans have made to our Nation.

There are an estimated 17.3 million residents of Asian descent in our country and 5.6 million Asian-Pacific Americans living in California. I am proud that our State has the largest Asian population in the country.

California also boasts the highest number of Asian-owned businesses at 508,969, and the U.S. Armed Forces has more than 265,000 Asian-American veterans.

In 1977, Senators DANIEL INOUE and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii introduced a resolution in the Senate and President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution officially establishing Asian-Pacific American Heritage Week to honor the first Japanese immigrants to the United States and the Chinese individuals who worked on the Trans-

continental Railroad. In 1992, May was officially designated Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

This year's Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month theme, "Striving for Excellence in Leadership, Diversity and Inclusion," is embodied in the accomplishments of numerous Asian-Pacific Americans.

In Congress, my colleagues, Senators DANIEL INOUE and DANIEL AKAKA, are joined by California Representatives JUDY CHU, MIKE HONDA, and DORIS MATSUI as examples of good public servants.

A number of California cities are led by Asian-Pacific Americans, including: Mayor Ling-Ling Chang of Diamond Bar, Mayor Edwin Lee of my hometown of San Francisco, Mayor Jean Quan of Oakland, Mayor Richard Sun of San Marino, Mayor Jeremy Yamaguchi of Placentia, and Mayor Vincent Yu of Temple City.

Additionally, it is appropriate to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans who sit on the bench in California.

Judge Edward M. Chen just finished his first year as a U.S. district court judge in San Francisco.

Associate Justice Goodwin Liu was recently appointed to the Supreme Court of California.

Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen has served with distinction as the first Vietnamese-American Federal judge since 2009, and was nominated to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 2011. She has won confirmation to the Ninth Circuit, which makes her the first Asian-American female Federal appellate judge in the Nation.

Public service is by no means the only area in which Asian-Pacific Americans have made great strides forward.

National Basketball Association phenomenon Jeremy Lin, a California native, has provided inspiration well beyond the Asian-Pacific American community. From young children to adults, the Harvard-educated athlete has proven to millions that no dream is too big to achieve.

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is particularly relevant in 2012, as we recognize the 70th anniversary of the Japanese-American relocation during World War II, under Executive Order 9066.

I remember this shameful page in our history. As a young girl, my father took me to the Tanforan Racetrack, near San Francisco, which was a staging point for Japanese Americans en route to more permanent detention centers. Seeing the barbed wire, and the men, women, and children housed in horse stables and small buildings on the infield of the racetrack was an experience I will never forget.

It is important that our Nation acknowledge mistakes, no matter how far in the past. I am proud to have cosponsored and voted in support of a resolution expressing congressional regret for decades of legislation targeting Chinese people for physical and political

exclusion, as well as reaffirming the commitment of the Senate to preserve civil rights and constitutional protection of all Asian-Pacific Americans.

The future of the Asian-Pacific American community is bright, and I have no doubt it will see many triumphs in the years ahead. Today, it is my honor to recognize the ongoing determination, ambition, and success of Asian-Pacific Americans during Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month.

#### TAIWAN'S PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, on May 20 the world will see an encouraging sight. On that day, President Ma Ying-jeou of the Republic of China will be sworn in for a second term on the island of Taiwan. I was so pleased to see yet another free, fair, democratic election take place on January 14. I want to take a moment to wish President Ma and the people of Taiwan success and prosperity as their young democracy continues to flourish and serve as an example for other countries in the region.

The difference in governance can be striking when Taiwan is compared to some of its neighbors in the region. Taiwan's experiment with democracy is less than two decades old, but it has demonstrated spectacular progress, holding direct democratic elections in every Presidential election since 1996. The people of Taiwan vigorously exercise their right to vote—three out of every four Taiwanese citizens voted in the January elections—and they feel empowered to petition their government, voice their grievances, peacefully assemble, and, in general, enjoy many of the political freedoms that Americans hold dear.

Taiwan is an important economic partner of the United States and is a robust and growing market for American exports. Just last month, as chair of the Senate Finance Subcommittee on International Trade, I held a hearing on agricultural export opportunities to Asia. As Asia continues to experience impressive economic growth, it is important to remember that Taiwan is the sixth largest destination for American agricultural exports. More can be done to improve bilateral trade between our two countries though, and I hope President Ma and his colleagues in the Legislative Yuan will move quickly to resolve the outstanding issues surrounding American beef imports.

President Ma made good progress in his first 4 years in improving cross-strait relations and has worked hard to promote peace and prosperity in the region. I commend both sides' work in developing and signing the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China. I am confident that President Ma will continue to work to ensure cross-strait stability and cultivate an environment free from intimidation.

The people of Taiwan have much to be proud of as they celebrate the inauguration of President Ma. The relationship between the people of the United States and the people of Taiwan is based on shared values and common interests. I look forward to seeing Taiwan grow and prosper, and want the Taiwanese people to know that they have an unshakeable ally in the United States as they continue forward as a young democracy.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. MARTHA SMITH

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the accomplishments of Martha Smith, Ph.D., who is retiring as president of Anne Arundel Community College, AACC, in Anne Arundel County, MD. For 18 years, Dr. Smith has been the visionary and driving force behind many of the accomplishments of AACC. Her tireless dedication and unwavering enthusiasm have been instrumental in bringing extraordinary educational opportunities to the students of AACC. Under her leadership, AACC has grown to meet the needs of students and employers in Anne Arundel County and throughout the State of Maryland. The college has focused on high-growth industries and opportunities presented by the base realignment and closure, BRAC, process. As a result, its enrollment has increased from 40,000 to 53,000 students and the number of degree and certificate programs has nearly doubled. The campus locations have grown to include Glen Burnie and Arundel Mills, as well as nine new buildings.

Dr. Smith has led AACC's growth and success by keeping her finger on the pulse of workforce trends, student goals, and employer needs. This year, she announced nine new associate's degree programs in fields such as juvenile justice and early childhood education. Under her leadership, AACC opened the Centers for Cyber and Professional Training and Applied Learning and Technology and introduced a new degree in information systems security, evincing the increased demand for highly trained cyber security professionals. In response to the growing needs of Maryland's health care and tourism industries, Dr. Smith has overseen the expansion of the physician assistant certificate program and she cut the ribbon on AACC's new Hospitality, Culinary Arts and Tourism Institute.

Dr. Smith's considerable expertise and leadership in the areas of workforce development and education has enabled her to serve in many leadership roles with local, State, and national organizations. As a passionate advocate for high-quality, affordable education for all students who want to pursue higher education, her role on national community college and workforce investment boards has been instrumental in building partnerships

and making changes that have strengthened the community college system and enabled more students to be successful. During Dr. Smith's tenure, AACC has garnered numerous awards and honors, including Community College of the Year from the National Alliance for Business.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Smith on her 18 years of accomplishments as president of Anne Arundel Community College, in thanking her for her inspired leadership and public service, and in wishing her well in her retirement.●

##### RECOGNIZING SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION

• Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, it is my privilege and honor to recognize and commend Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution, the oldest bank in Maine, which this month celebrates its milestone 185th anniversary.

Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution, located in Saco, ME, opened its doors on May 23, 1827. It is hard to believe, but at that time—7 years after Maine was granted Statehood—relatively few banks existed in the United States and none in Maine. However, in February of 1827, 48 citizens of Saco changed this path by appealing to the State legislature for a banking charter. Since that time, this community bank has taken remarkable strides and made breakthrough achievements, including opening the first branch of any bank in Maine. Further, in 1922, it began encouraging Maine's youth to save and learn the value of fiscal responsibility when it started the first school savings program in the State's history.

Whether a customer is interested in personal banking, obtaining a mortgage, or even starting or investing in a small business, Saco and Biddeford Savings offers a broad array of services and products. Today, this bank has expanded beyond Saco and includes locations in Biddeford, Old Orchard Beach, Scarborough, South Portland, and Westbrook. As the eleventh largest Maine-based community bank for total assets, it continues to grow, recently announcing total assets of over \$759 million. Notably, Saco & Biddeford Savings continues to be a leader in the community, employing 165 individuals, and was named by Best Companies Group in 2011 as one of the "Best Places to Work in Maine."

As is evidenced by their remarkable success for nearly two centuries, this financial institution is highly regarded for its impeccable customer service and outstanding charitable contributions. In 2011 alone, Saco & Biddeford Savings donated nearly \$350,000 to local charities. Already, in 2012, this community bank has donated to 14 local food pantries and meal programs and assisted with the Project Heat Telethon which ultimately raised \$223,550 to assist Maine families with fuel costs. Saco & Biddeford Savings' generosity to the community demonstrates why South-

ern Maine has embraced this organization for 185 years.

Throughout our Nation's great history, we have experienced tremendous highs and lows, particularly in our financial sector. While this has presented unique challenges to banking establishments, Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution's ability to thrive and prosper for 185 years is a monumental achievement. I am proud to extend my congratulations to everyone at Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution on their 185th anniversary. I offer my best wishes for their continued success.●

##### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

##### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

##### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

###### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 298. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 500 East Whitestone Boulevard in Cedar Park, Texas, as the "Army Specialist Matthew Troy Morris Post Office Building".

H.R. 1423. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 115 4th Avenue Southwest in Ardmore, Oklahoma, as the "Specialist Micheal E. Phillips Post Office".

H.R. 2079. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 Main Street in East Rockaway, New York, as the "John J. Cook Post Office".

H.R. 2213. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 801 West Eastport Street in Luka, Mississippi, as the "Sergeant Jason W. Vaughn Post Office".

H.R. 2244. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 67 Castle Street in Geneva, New York, as the "Corporal Steven Blaine Riccione Post Office".

H.R. 2660. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 122 North Holderrieth Boulevard in Tomball, Texas, as the "Tomball Veterans Post Office".

H.R. 2767. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8 West Silver Street in Westfield, Massachusetts, as the "William T. Trant Post Office Building".

H.R. 3004. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 260 California Drive in Yountville, California, as the "Private First Class Alejandro R. Ruiz Post Office Building".

H.R. 3246. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located