

work every day to keep us safe, and we are further strengthened by residents like William Ramirez, who sometimes add heroic action to their everyday routines because it is simply the right thing to do.

How could we not?

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE, SAFE CLIMATE CAUCUS

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of the ambitious investment in water infrastructure in every community across our great Nation.

I recently wrapped up a tour of several water systems in upstate New York, and what I saw was infrastructure in urgent need of attention—broken pipes, flooded communities, and a lack of technical support for our municipalities. I have spoken with colleagues on both sides of the aisle here in the House, and I have heard similar problems.

We as a Nation must always keep an eye on our debt and on our deficits, both current and those years down the road. To that end, we must realize that investment is needed now to save dollars in the decades to come. We live in a world in which we upgrade our phones, our TVs, our cars, and other personal items almost every 2 years. It is time to apply that same mentality to the delivery systems that move around our most precious commodity—water.

To my colleagues who haven't already done so, I urge them to get involved in this issue within their own communities because it is not just H2O flooding out of those broken pipes just under our feet; it is water plus taxpayer dollars—hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

STOPPING TSA ABUSES ACT

(Mr. ROONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROONEY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, we saw disturbing news of two TSA screeners who allegedly conspired to sexually assault passengers. This was not the first we have heard about screeners exceeding their authority to abuse passengers. We have read about the pat-downs and strip searches of young children, senior citizens, and cancer patients. Instead of reining in screeners, TSA has unilaterally given them the appearance of even greater authority—metal badges, blue uniforms, and the title of “officer.”

When you dress someone up like a policeman and call him “officer,” you are misleading passengers about his actual authority. Most people see a badge and a uniform, and they comply with the screener's demands even when those demands are abusive. That has to end.

I have introduced the Stopping TSA Abuses Act to prohibit the TSA from giving screeners metal badges, police-like uniforms, and the title “officer.” It reserves those rights for sworn officers who have actually completed law enforcement training.

When you see someone wearing a Federal badge and uniform, you should have the faith that he actually has received the proper training. This bill is an important step towards that goal.

MAYOR PRADEL

(Mr. FOSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor A. George Pradel of the city of Naperville, Illinois.

A lifelong Naperville resident, Mayor Pradel has spent his life in service to the community that he loves.

George was born and raised in Naperville, and after a 3-year detour in the Marine Corps, he returned home to become a police officer. Known around town as “Officer Friendly,” he served on the force for 30 years. One of his proudest achievements during his time as an officer was the dedication of Safety Town, a miniature town that teaches children about public safety and how to avoid danger.

In 1995, he was first elected and has served as mayor for a record-setting 20 years, during a time of great expansion and growth for the city. The mayor has led Naperville with his signature mix of charm and compassion. His annual tradition of delivering the State of the City Address in a tuxedo and silk top-hat will certainly be missed.

Mayor Pradel is also a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Pat, and is a dedicated father to his children and foster children.

Mayor Pradel, as you step down and spend time with your family, know that your dedication to the community and know that your energy and enthusiasm for serving Naperville will never be forgotten.

IN CELEBRATION OF SAN JACINTO DAY

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, today is a very special day for us Texans. Today, we celebrate San Jacinto Day, which marks the day Texas won its independence at the Battle of San Jacinto.

On this very day in 1836, General Sam Houston's army decisively defeated Mexican President Santa Anna and his forces at the Battle of San Jacinto while famously shouting, “Remember the Alamo. Remember the Goliad.”

In the U.S. Congress, I am honored and proud to represent this historic battlefield, which now lays home to the San Jacinto Monument. This monument is a staggering and stunning

piece of architecture that proudly pays tribute to Texas' victory at the Battle of San Jacinto. Since its completion in 1939, the San Jacinto Monument has served as a symbol of pride, sacrifice, and honor to not only Texas but also to our local community.

As we celebrate 179 years of freedom, let us remember the brave Texas heroes who conquered the Mexican forces at the Battle of San Jacinto on this day.

May we also remember the significant sacrifices made by so many during the Texas Revolution to achieve the freedoms and liberties that we proudly enjoy today in the Lone Star State.

COMFORT WOMEN

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, as the United States continues to work with Japan to promote peace and prosperity throughout the Asia-Pacific region and the broader global community, it is my hope that Prime Minister Abe's visit next week will lay the foundation for healing and humble reconciliation by addressing the historical issue of the comfort women.

I look forward to hearing from the Prime Minister for Japan is a close friend and ally, as is South Korea. We want to encourage our close friends and allies to communicate and to foster an ability to work together productively.

That is why I am proud to cosponsor resolutions in the United States Congress to urge the Japanese Government to formally acknowledge and apologize for their Imperial Military's coercion of young women into sexual slavery during the thirties and forties. The recognition of these events by the Japanese Government, through the report released last year on the Kono Statement, takes a step backward in taking full responsibility for the immeasurable pain and incurable wounds suffered by the comfort women.

As a member of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I will continue to work every day to ensure that our children and our children's children will inherit a world where these types of atrocities are a thing of the past.

Mr. Speaker, MIKE HONDA, who will be speaking in a little while, has kept this hope alive.

CONSTITUENT CASES AT THE PHILADELPHIA VA

(Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as a Veterans' Affairs Committee member, tomorrow we will have a hearing on the abuses at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office. We are going to hear a lot about

the volume of mismanagement, and I want to talk about one individual constituent just to highlight that we are talking about individual lives, individual veterans, who have sacrificed and who have not been treated fairly by the VA regional office.

My constituent has had to file numerous claims for service-connected disabilities. His initial claim was filed in the mid-1990s, and he has gone through five appeals. He has provided additional evidence per the VA's request and has followed their wishes in responding in a timely manner. However, per a court order by the Veterans' Appeals to handle my constituent's case in an expeditious manner, the Philadelphia VA failed to respond until well after 6 months.

The Philadelphia VA failed to provide the Lebanon VA medical doctor's copies of his records for his C&P exams, further holding up his claims. On two occasions, once for an asbestos claim and another for his hearing loss claim, he was seen by a doctor who had to rely on his explanation of diagnosis instead of on his actual file.

Many times, the VA has miscalculated his disability ratings, and due to the VA's lack of timeliness, his claims have been subjected to denials because of errors made by the Philadelphia VA's intake units concerning the misplacement of documentation, medical records, and ignoring requests by the Court and Veterans' Appeals Boards. It is time for accountability.

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JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES SHOULD MOVE FORWARD

(Mr. RANGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman HONDA and all the Members who are asking that the Prime Minister of Japan try to restore the integrity that has been built up to this great nation since the war.

Having been a combat soldier, I know, history will dictate that people are not particularly proud of what viciousness can come out of physical combat. Without getting into the years of occupation that Japan has caused so many Koreans to suffer before the end of World War II, we now have found that these two nations have rebuilt themselves into being our strongest security and trading partners, and so we should remove the stigma of lack of credibility from the Government of Japan.

Certainly I think that most Americans who remember Pearl Harbor, Corregidor, and Bataan—I was a kid, but all I knew was that the Japanese had attacked us. I can't begin to tell you the visions that they tried to have us have. But today they are our friends. Let's try to get this behind us and move forward.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1560, PROTECTING CYBER NETWORKS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1731, NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION ADVANCEMENT ACT OF 2015

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-88) on the resolution (H. Res. 212) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1560) to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1731) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance multi-directional sharing of information related to cybersecurity risks and strengthen privacy and civil liberties protections, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the ongoing horror and nightmare that is violence against women. Whether in times of conflict or disaster, too often we see the worst battles fought on women and girls' bodies.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize one woman who has survived unspeakable violence. She is a survivor. At 87 years old, she traveled all the way from South Korea. Her name is Lee Yong-Soo, known to everyone as Grandmother Lee. She has become the voice of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In 1944, 16-year-old Yong-Soo Lee of Tasegu, Korea, was lured by a friend of hers to meet with an older Japanese man. The man took the two of them and three other teenaged girls by train, then ship to Taiwan. There, the girls were forced into sexual slavery, serving four to five Japanese soldiers every day for a year.

Ms. Lee suffered beatings and torture, was infected with venereal disease, was fed paltry amounts, faced temperatures so cold that ice formed on her body, and was never allowed outside. Only the end of World War II brought her relief.

Ms. Lee is just one example of the over 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan, Indonesia, and East Timor who were kidnapped and sexually enslaved by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II.

These so-called comfort women suffered serious physical, emotional, and psychological damages as a result of their ordeal. Of her 200,000 sisters, Grandmother Lee is but one out of a handful of survivors across Asia Pacific still alive. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was right when she reportedly called these victims, rather than "comfort women," "sex slaves."

When Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses a joint meeting of Congress next week on April 29, he has the opportunity to do right by these women. He can make a full, unequivocal, and formal apology on behalf of the Japanese Government.

The Prime Minister's visit is indeed a historic one. He will be the first Japanese Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of Congress. He will address this institution on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the 50th anniversary of the normalization between Korea and Japan.

Prime Minister Abe will address this hallowed Chamber, where President Roosevelt delivered an address to our body as America entered war. There is much to be expected and anticipated in next week's address.

According to yesterday's editorial by The New York Times, the success of Prime Minister Abe's visit "depends on whether and how honestly Mr. Abe confronts Japan's wartime history, including its decision to wage war, its brutal occupation of China and Korea, its atrocities and its enslavement of thousands of women forced to work as sex slaves or 'comfort women' in wartime brothels."

Mr. Speaker, in 2007, the House of Representatives sent a profound message to the Government of Japan by passing H. Res. 121, which I authored. The resolution stated:

"That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan:

"(1) should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as comfort women, during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II;

"(2) would help to resolve recurring questions about the sincerity and status of prior statements if the Prime Minister of Japan were to make such an apology as a public statement in his official capacity;

"(3) should clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the comfort women for the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces never occurred; and