

Daniel Inouye, who became the highest ranking Asian-American politician in our Nation's history when he became the President pro tempore of the Senate. Beyond elected office, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders constitute an indispensable portion of the civil service at all levels of government. There, too, they have clearly demonstrated the commitment they have to their community.

In addition to the many contributions made by individuals, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have also imprinted onto our society the marks of distinctive cultures. Though perhaps taken for granted today, many ubiquitous aspects of American life and identity ultimately derive from the men and women who brought pieces of their home countries with them when they came to the United States. From philosophy to religion and entertainment to cuisine, Asian and Pacific Islander cultures have helped influence and form the American way of life as we know it today.

As minorities, many Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have endured persistent forms of systemic racism that still have yet to be eradicated. Historically, countless individuals were denied the same rights as other Americans and were even excluded from citizenship. Laws barred many from working in certain fields and codified school segregation and prohibitions on property and business ownership. Immigration itself became a target of exclusionary policies that prohibited immigrants of certain ethnicities from coming to the United States. Widespread xenophobia, captured best by the "Yellow Peril," dehumanized entire communities and instilled prejudice in the hearts of many Americans. This discrimination reached a peak when President Roosevelt ordered the incarceration of over 100,000 Japanese Americans in internment camps as war began with the Empire of Japan in World War II.

Although we have made much progress in recent decades, we still face persistent issues of xenophobia, underrepresentation, and discrimination. Opportunities such as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month allow us to educate all Americans and spread the stories and perspectives unique to this community. We must do all that we can to bridge the divide by supporting policies and ideas of acceptance and equality. There is still much work to be done, but with the effort of all of our community acting together, I believe we can reach our goal.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent more than just a demographic category. They are our neighbors and coworkers, our friends and family. They are small business owners and entrepreneurs who have helped transform our economy for the better. They are prize-winning scientists and researchers who have made countless discoveries that have advanced our knowledge. They are creative artists

and performers who have captured our emotions and introduced us to innovative concepts. In short, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent an essential pillar of the United States. Their story in this country reaches back to its very founding, and it will only continue to shine on for the entire world to see, for they are, above all, Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS O'LOUGHLIN

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, each Memorial Day we, as Americans, take time to honor the heroes who gave their lives in service to our country, from those who died in the creation of this great Nation to those who today risk their lives in the most dangerous corners of the world.

As we approach this Memorial Day, I want to take a moment to honor the heroes still among us who served in the Second World War. There are fewer than half a million of these veterans still living, and we lose more than 300 every day.

These men and women of the World War II era are truly heroes here among us. In the great battle between good and evil, these heroes advanced over rough terrain against bombs and bullets and tanks.

Today, their battle is against the unrelenting march of time and the incapable effects of aging. For these veterans, whose valor many of us only know from history books or movies, we still have the opportunity and sacred duty to express our gratitude, so we honor them as we aspire to be greater than we are. If we desire to serve more than ourselves, we must honor them.

On this Memorial Day, I take time to draw special attention to one of these heroes, who is now hospitalized in Mississippi.

Ninety-four years ago, Thomas O'Loughlin was born in an Irish-Catholic community in New Jersey. When his country called him to war, Tom responded and made his first trip to Mississippi, courtesy of the U.S. Army, for training at Camp Shelby. He deployed to the European Theater where, in January 1944, he was captured by the Axis forces and held as prisoner of war for more than a year before liberation. Following the war, Tom served as a guard during the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals. One of the prisoners in his charge was Deputy Fuhrer Rudolf Hess.

Following the Nuremberg Trials, Tom continued serving his country in the Armed Forces, once again serving in combat with the 811th Engineer Aviation Battalion assigned to the Fifth Air Force in Korea. He returned to civilian life in 1952, eventually making his way back to Mississippi. Keeping his Jersey accent and Irish sparkle, Tom made Mississippi his home and married Rachel Pitts, a Southern belle. They settled down in Laurel, MS, and like many members of the Greatest Generation, Tom dedicated himself to

serving his community as a sponsor for those facing addiction. Even now, he calls from his hospital bed to encourage sobriety and offer support to those who still turn to him for help.

To honor Tom O'Loughlin, I had a U.S. flag flown over the U.S. Capitol. I pray his health returns, and I ask we all offer prayers of gratitude for Tom and the other World War II veterans across our country, for they truly are heroes here among us.

TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY ABRAHAMSON

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the remarkable career and legacy of Justice Shirley Abrahamson as she retires from the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Justice Abrahamson has a long and distinguished career upholding the law on Wisconsin's highest court. Her unparalleled commitment to justice has promoted a fair and impartial judicial system while greatly contributing to the promotion of equal rights in Wisconsin.

Justice Abrahamson's exceptional career had modest beginnings in New York City. Her parents were Polish immigrants who started a grocery store in Manhattan. Her passion for the law started at the tender age of 6, when she decided she wanted to become a lawyer. She was a dedicated student, earning honors in high school and college.

Justice Abrahamson graduated magna cum laude with bachelor's degree from New York University in 1953. She earned a law degree with high distinction from Indiana University in 1956 and a doctor of law in American legal history from the University of Wisconsin Law School in 1962. Before her appointment to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Abrahamson practiced law in the private sector for 14 years and was a distinguished professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School.

In 1976, Shirley Abrahamson broke the glass ceiling in Wisconsin's judicial system by becoming the first female justice on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. She again made history in 1996 when she became the first woman to serve as chief justice. After winning four elections and serving a total of 42 years, Justice Abrahamson is now the longest serving supreme court justice in State history.

Though her career is punctuated by countless achievements and distinctions, Justice Abrahamson's path to success was anything but easy. Despite a multitude of academic distinctions and an unprecedented affinity for the law, Justice Abrahamson was met with a demoralizing wave of sexism when she entered the legal profession in the 1950s. The dean of the Indiana University Law School traditionally placed the top student from each graduating class at the largest law firm in Indianapolis; yet after graduating first in her class from the university in 1956, the dean told Justice Abrahamson he could

not place her at the firm because they just were not going to hire a woman. Rather than feeling disheartened, Justice Abrahamson informed the dean that she didn't want to go to Indianapolis, so the slight was fine with her.

This type of discrimination was not an anomaly. Justice Abrahamson was denied jobs, clients, and even social club memberships on the basis of her gender. Undaunted by this prejudice, Justice Abrahamson took a stand against gender inequality and refused to back down from those who stood in the way of a woman's path to success in the legal field. Her greatest legacy is the trail she blazed for countless young women, who can see themselves in a courtroom or on a judicial bench because of the barriers she fearlessly broke through. She will go down in history as one of Wisconsin's most influential and powerful women, and she used every bit of that influence and power in the pursuit of justice for all Wisconsinites.

Justice Abrahamson is a true American hero. From her incomparable tenure on the Wisconsin Supreme Court to her efforts as a pioneer for gender equality, Justice Abrahamson has lived a life devoted to service and justice for all.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL SOGLIN

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the exceptional career and legacy of Madison, WI's longest serving Mayor, Paul Soglin. Mayor Soglin spent his many years in office as driving force behind Madison's extraordinary economic success and high quality of life.

Paul Soglin was raised in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, where he excelled academically at Highland Park High School. He graduated with honors from University of Wisconsin—Madison in 1966 and from the UW-Madison Law School in 1972.

Soglin gained national notoriety on campus as an activist for social and political change. He frequently protested American military involvement in the Vietnam war and demonstrated against Dow Chemical Company for its role in manufacturing napalm and Agent Orange for use in Vietnam. Beaten by police during the protests, Soglin became a respected voice on campus. During this trying time in our Nation's past, Soglin demonstrated his enduring commitment to peace and civil rights.

Soglin won election to the Madison City Council in 1968, representing the city's student wards. Four years later, he accomplished one of the biggest upsets in Madison history by defeating two-term incumbent William Dyke, becoming the youngest mayor in the city's history. During his first term as mayor, he established Madison's Civic Center to showcase the city's growing arts scene. He made tremendous improvements to the city's public transit system and transformed State Street into an iconic pedestrian mall, one of Madison's defining landmarks.

After leaving public office to teach at Harvard in 1979, Soglin returned to Madison to practice law and was twice reelected to lead Wisconsin's capital city. In all, he served as Madison's 51st, 54th, and 57th mayor. During his second stint as mayor, Soglin accomplished one of his crowning achievements, breaking through a 70-year debate to build the Monona Terrace Convention Center that Frank Lloyd Wright designed for Madison's Lake Monona's shoreline. He is also credited with invigorating Madison's economy and rebuilding its declining downtown.

Through his more than two decades of investment in infrastructure, the arts, and recreation, Paul Soglin has helped build a welcoming and flourishing city that appears often on lists of the Nation's most livable cities. Throughout this growth, he has also fought to ensure that Madison's resources and assets are available to all city residents, regardless of their economic standing.

In addition to Paul Soglin's remarkable public service, I feel fortunate to know him as a lifelong family friend. From my earliest memories of Paul teaching me how to throw a Frisbee to his generous moving reflections at my mother's memorial service, Paul Soglin has provided me with encouragement and inspiration.

As he begins his next chapter after 22 years of service, he leaves with the knowledge that he has left an indelible mark on the city he loves and that his legacy will endure.

102ND ANNIVERSARY OF EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 102nd anniversary of Emmanuel Baptist Church in Beloit, WI. Emmanuel Baptist Church was established on April 15, 1917, and has been a pillar of the community for the last 102 years.

The church was founded during the peak of the Great Northward Migration, when more than 6 million African Americans migrated from the rural South to the industrial cities of the North and Midwest. Many northern manufacturing plants sought African-American migrants from the South to help replace white workers fighting in World War I. Beloit became a favored destination for many migrants thanks in part to a young African-American named John McCord from Pontotoc, MS, who helped the Fairbanks Morse manufacturing company in Beloit recruit Black labor from the southern town.

African Americans were eager to escape the Jim Crow laws of the South and seek an improved quality of life for their families. As they settled in an unfamiliar part of the country, they sought solace in their faith and established the Second Emmanuel Baptist Church, now Emmanuel Baptist Church. The church held its first service at Kent Hall on State Street on

April 15, 1917, for a small group of African Americans, all of whom worked at Fairbanks Morse. As their families grew and the Great Migration continued, the once small church quickly grew to a congregation of 100 by 1920. On June 3, 1927, formal incorporation papers were filed with the Rock County Registrar.

The first church at the current location was built in 1924 for \$5,500. The edifice of the present church was built in 1960 after the first building was destroyed by fire in 1958. Today, Emmanuel Baptist church proudly offers worship and educational programs for its members and provides community outreach programs through its Family Life Center. Two of its most successful endeavors, a food pantry and a free hot lunch program, began under the leadership of the late Rev. Dr. Floyd Prude, Jr., who served as senior pastor for 36 years, the longest in the church's history.

Now, 102 years after its founding, Emmanuel Baptist Church provides a spiritual refuge for its 350 members under the steady hand of Minister Rodney Hayes. It stands as a beacon of hope that has withstood the devastating impacts of racism and persecution. Under the devoted guidance of its spiritual leaders, may it continue to be a shining asset to the community for the next 102 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE ALEXANDER FAMILY

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to five native Utahns who are brothers and veterans of World War II and Korea: William, Gail, George, Jack, and Bert Alexander.

These five brothers answered the call to defend our freedom and the freedoms of others from foreign invaders. Nazi Germany, Imperial Japan, and the North Koreans believed it their right to attack and forcefully restrict the freedoms of their neighbors, but these brothers recognized that our freedom as American citizens is inextricably linked to the freedom of our friends and allies. Remaining safely protected in Northern Utah was not an option for the Alexander brothers; they answered the call to take up arms and defend freedom's cause.

One brother, SGT Gail Alexander, was killed in action exactly 75 years ago tomorrow, May 24, 1944, during the Anzio campaign to retake Rome, Italy. The Anzio campaign and then Operation Neptune—or D-day, as it came to be known—marked an important turning point in World War II, with the Allies beginning to liberate and retake German-occupied Europe, restoring freedom to the French and Italians and subsequently to the rest of Europe.

Prior to his death, Gail received a Purple Heart and Silver Star citation for Gallantry when on February 4, 1944, after sustaining a gunshot injury to his hand, he singlehandedly took out a