

The year 2020 marks 40 years since the appointment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians by President Jimmy Carter in 1980. That Commission's report, entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, affirmed what we already knew: that the mass internment of Japanese Americans was the product of racism and not driven by any actual national security risk. In 1988, Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed into law, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized and established restitution for the internment of Japanese Americans.

Yet from this dark period in our history emerged great acts of courage and patriotism that helped make our country a more perfect union. Just months after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, thousands of Japanese Americans volunteered to join the war effort to join their comrades who had served earlier in the Hawaii National Guard, leading to formation of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, later combined. Nicknamed the "Purple Heart Battalion," the 100th/442nd became the single-most decorated unit of its size in U.S. military history. Thousands more Japanese Americans served in the all-Japanese American 552nd Field Artillery Battalion and Japanese American Unit of the Military Intelligence Service.

Last year, I had the honor of traveling to the town of Bruyères, France, liberated by the 100th/442nd in the fall of 1944 at terrible cost, to represent our Congress at the 75th anniversary of liberation. There, I was moved by the powerful memory of these Japanese American soldiers, which included my wife's uncle, PFC Sadao Hikida, their courage and ferocity in freeing this town from Nazi oppression and rescuing the "Lost Battalion" and the enduring friendships they built with the people of Bruyères.

In Bruyères, I also recounted the personal impact that two veterans of the 100th/442nd had on my own life and career. It was *Journey to Washington*, the memoir of Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye, that first inspired me to consider a career in elected office. After graduating from college, I worked three years for Congressman (and later Senator) Spark Matsunaga, another veteran of the 100th/442nd, who has served as a lifetime role model for me and so many others.

The courage and patriotism of Japanese Americans also extended to the home front. Japanese American citizens fought against the injustice of Executive Order 9066 and challenged it in court, leading to the infamous *Korematsu v. United States* decision. That decision was only recently reversed by the U.S. Supreme Court.

In the decades since, Japanese Americans have accomplished so much and contributed so greatly to our country through their service and achievements in government, the military, science and technology, arts and culture, business and more. I especially recognize the Japanese Americans of Hawaii who help make our home state the wonderfully rich and diverse place it is.

I am proud to join my colleagues in this House in recognizing the U.S.-Japan alliance and commit myself to continued support for the historic friendship and amity between our peoples. And I am equally proud to represent and support the descendants of all those who

came to this country from Japan in search of a better life, retaining the best of the rich cultural heritage of their ancestral country in generations of contribution and achievement since.

RECOGNITION OF EMPLOYEES OF
THE OFFICERS AND INSPECTOR
GENERAL OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES WITH 25
YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member RODNEY DAVIS and I wish to recognize today a special group of dedicated and outstanding employees of the Officers (Clerk of the House, Sergeant at Arms, and Chief Administrative Officer) and of the Inspector General of the U.S. House of Representatives, and congratulate those who have reached the milestone of 25 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

These remarkable and steadfast employees are an amazing asset for the House of Representatives. The work they accomplish is essential to keeping the operations and services of the House running efficiently and effectively. The employees we acknowledge today are commended for their hard work, dedication, professionalism, and teamwork; support of House Members, their staffs, and their constituents; and for their contributions day-in and day-out to the overall operations of the House. These employees, whose work is often performed behind the scenes, possess a wide range of responsibilities and skills that support the legislative process, ensure the security of this great institution, maintain our technology and service infrastructure, and contribute to more efficient and productive House support operations. These devoted employees have accomplished many great and important things in a diverse range of activities, and the House of Representatives, its Members, its staff, and the American public are better served because of them.

We recognize and honor the individuals named below for 25 years of loyal service to the House. Collectively, the employees listed below have provided 100 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Anne Binsted, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Kenneth Burch, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Philip Hamner, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Cynthia Hibbs, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

On behalf of the entire House community, I want to once again congratulate, acknowledge, and thank these employees for their professionalism and commitment to the U.S. House of Representatives as a whole, and in particular to their respective House Officer, the Inspector General, and collaboratively across these organizations. Their long hours, hard work, diverse skills, and team spirit are invaluable, and their years of unwavering service and dedication to the House set an example for their colleagues and raises the bar for the

employees who will follow in their footsteps. I applaud all our honorees, and I am proud to stand before you and our great nation on their behalf to recognize the importance of their public service.

STEVE DOMINE: A CAREER OF
SERVICE TO STEARNS COUNTY

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Steve Domine, President of Minnesota Community Banking at Stearns Bank National Association. After 43 years in banking and 33 years at Stearns Bank, Steve announced his retirement in July.

Steve describes his career as having served nearly every position at the bank, starting as a teller and eventually being promoted to managing several community bank locations.

In his tenure with Stearns Bank, Steve has helped small businesses across our state grow and prosper.

I thank Steve and wish him good luck on his next chapter.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER GINA
BELFORTE

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Rohnert Park City Councilmember Gina Belforte for more than a decade of service to our community. As we mark her retirement, it is important to recognize her contributions to the City of Rohnert Park and the greater North Bay.

Councilmember Belforte was first elected in 2008 and has served three terms with honor and integrity, including terms as mayor and vice mayor. Throughout her years in office, she has worked hard to stabilize the city budget while maintaining essential services, and has always strived to give a voice to the underrepresented. She has also been a regional leader as the Sonoma County appointee to the Golden Gate Bridge Highway and Transportation District and as a member of the Sonoma Clean Power Board of Directors. Through her passion and commitment, Councilmember Belforte has ensured a stronger, brighter future for Rohnert Park and our greater community.

Aside from her noteworthy record as a public servant, Councilmember Belforte is a well-regarded business leader. In recognition of her success in the face of barriers that exist for woman-owned enterprises, she was awarded the Women's Initiative for Self-Employment Woman Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2010. Using her business acumen for charitable causes, she has also served with distinction as the President of both Sonoma County Adult and Youth Development and the Rotary Club of Rohnert Park—Cotati. Although she is retiring from public service, her impact on our community will continue.

Madam Speaker, Councilmember Gina Belforte is an exceptional public servant, a

true friend, and has dedicated herself to principled service to the city and people of Rohnert Park. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her here today.

IN RECOGNITION OF RANKING
MEMBER GREG WALDEN

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend and colleague, Ranking Member GREG WALDEN, as he begins a new chapter in his life.

For two decades, GREG served a community that he loved with his whole heart. He saw his constituents as more than the people who entrusted him with this job, but as family and friends who needed their voices heard in Washington.

It wasn't always easy. Long weeks away from family never are. But GREG kept taking those six hour flights from coast to coast because he loved the work and he was committed to the causes that brought him here in the first place.

And as he rose through the Energy and Commerce Committee, he grew close to both me and my husband, John.

There have certainly been a fair share of spirited debates over policies that we are both passionate about. But the moments spent agreeing on legislation that was signed into law and impacts our constituents today are the memories I'll always cherish.

Though we will miss GREG in 2123 Rayburn, we are all excited for what his future holds. Hope to see my friend again soon.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUSTUS
MURRAY AMMONS

HON. GEORGE HOLDING

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to take pause and reflect on the life of Justus Murray Ammons.

Jud Ammons grew up on a farm in Western North Carolina, where sharecropping and plowing gardens shaped what he called his "country boy" work ethic. At N.C. State, he dabbled in his first entrepreneurial pursuits, including selling books, starting a laundry pickup business and working as an engineer for the State of North Carolina, all on top of college classes. He also met his wife, JoEllen and they were married in 1957 in Monroe, North Carolina.

Madam Speaker, Jud and JoEllen spent their early married years traveling the world while Jud served in the U.S. Air Force and then worked as department head with CP&L. In the mid-1960s, the Ammons settled in Raleigh, North Carolina where Jud founded Ammons Construction Company. As a real estate developer, Jud built, owned and operated major subdivisions, day care facilities, golf course communities, industrial parks, retirement communities and shopping centers from the mountains to the coast. He sincerely cared

about what he was doing and about the people he was building for, no matter the project.

Jud was a savvy businessman, although he claimed it was "common sense." Encouraged by seniors in his church Jud developed Springmoor Retirement Community in North Raleigh. The community is the cornerstone of Greystone and pioneered the concept of a planned urban development incorporating amenities that allow residents to live, work, play, worship and go to school in a cohesive community. In 2000, he wrote a book named for his life motto, "Don't Wish You Had, Be Glad You Did."

Decades ago, Jud coached basketball, soccer and football; more recently, he kept a list of grandchildren's sports and activities schedules in his back pocket, filling nights and weekends to the brim to make it to as many games, recitals and performances as possible.

Always driven by the desire to meet the needs of the people of Raleigh, Jud served in leadership on the Wake County Planning Commission, Raleigh Greenway Commission, Raleigh City Task Force and Raleigh Bicentennial Commission. He was president and board member of the Raleigh-Wake County Home Builders Association and director of the National Association of Home Builders. In 2011, he was inducted into the Raleigh Hall of Fame. He and JoEllen helped found Greystone Baptist Church, where he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and trustee. He served on several legislative study commissions, as a member of the Raleigh volunteer fire department and as a trustee of Mars Hill College in his hometown. Jud also loved raising champion beagles and was inducted into the Brace Beagley Hall of Fame.

Jud was quick to tell a joke and a story, usually using his own dictionary of "Jud-isms." A respected developer and businessman, he believed in dreaming big, working hard, and taking risks. But most of all, he loved God and his family, including his late wife, JoEllen, their four children and their 13 grandchildren.

Sadly, Madam Speaker, Jud Ammons passed away this year on October 18, 2020. He was 85 years old. He will be missed by his friends, neighbors, family, and the entire community.

IN HONOR OF LARRY MOODY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Larry Moody as he concludes his service on the city council of East Palo Alto, and after 14 years of service to the community as both a trustee of the school district and councilmember.

Larry grew up in Hartford, Connecticut, and was the youngest of eight children. He was an enterprising young man rising early to deliver the Hartford Courant newspaper and later becoming student body president at his high school in both his junior and senior years. He lettered in three sports and captained the New England Championship Basketball Team. He matriculated to Trinity College, with a major in political science, and later joined the U.S. Air Force.

In 1993, he came to East Palo Alto and immersed himself in ministry and youth sports.

By 2006, as an established leader, he ran for the school board and was elected. He and other trustees immediately concluded that progress evaluations would include everyone, not just the students. That year, the district had the highest gain in achievement scores in its history. Larry also brought Menlo Park Presbyterian Church into the Ravenswood Education Foundation and contributions soared.

In 2012, he ran for the city council. The city is a diverse community in the heart of Silicon Valley filled with an extremely hard-working population. Median household income is about 50 percent of San Mateo County's. The city's tax base supports a police department, community development, public works and other activities but there is no formal parks and recreation department. Violence within the community needed to be curbed. Larry wanted his city to offer the kinds of safety and services routinely provided to residents of surrounding communities. Developing the tax base was critical.

To overcome a development moratorium, Councilman Moody spearheaded a critical effort to obtain water from two neighboring communities. To curb violence, he supported, among many efforts, community-based organizations to reach out to areas in town that were hotspots, a domestic violence program at the police department, and increasing the number and pay of the city's hard-pressed police force. Crime trended sharply downward. As the city became safer, major employers noticed. For example, Amazon established a large facility in the community, annually contributing nearly \$500,000 in property taxes to the city's general fund. Steady increases in all tax revenues meant that a dream of Larry's, summer youth programs, commenced. Youth development programs, including those through former President Obama's My Brother's Keeper program, are a high priority for Larry.

Housing remains a major challenge. As a councilmember, Larry supported the establishment of the local homeless shelter, Project WeHope, the creation of a recreational vehicle parking program, the development of hundreds of new units on city-owned lands and at the site of existing affordable housing. Some of these projects happened in part because he and his council colleagues insisted that Facebook contribute \$20 million to meet the community's needs.

When he learned that countywide money was available for senior housing, Larry led the city in securing those funds as a down payment on a project along University Avenue which was decades in the making. When \$80,000 was identified for housing renovation purposes, Larry and a local non-profit leader developed a program of weatherization of apartments for low-income residents.

As he often says, capital improvements are not sexy, but they are needed. While on the council, he strongly supported the creation of a pedestrian/bike bridge over Highway 101, linking west side residents to the city's grocery and shopping areas on the east side. New storm water pipes down Bay Road and new wells for drinking water began during his council service.

Larry Moody led other council members regionally as the President of the Peninsula Chapter of the League of California Cities, and served on the statewide organization's committee on parks and recreation. At my request,