

1920 and incorporated it into the Soviet Union a few years later. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Azerbaijan declared independence and was quickly recognized by the United States.

After restoring diplomatic relations in 1992, the United States and Azerbaijan began a partnership that has continued to this day. Azerbaijanis have fought alongside American troops in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Iraq, and their country was among the first to express support for the United States after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Azerbaijan has also fostered close ties with American allies such as Israel, providing approximately 40 percent of the oil Israel consumes and partnering on economic and national security issues. Through its leadership in the Southern Gas Corridor initiative, Azerbaijan plays an important role in diversifying energy routes to maintain the energy security of key U.S. allies in Europe. As a pluralistic and secular Muslim-majority country, Azerbaijan is also home to thriving Jewish and Christian communities. This religious tolerance has been recognized by the European Parliament.

I extend my best wishes to all Azerbaijanis on this momentous occasion and look forward to continued partnership between our two nations.

JERRY FALWELL JR., CORRECT

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, despite fake news reports during the Wuhan Virus pandemic from the New York Times and the Washington Post parroted by other biased media, President Jerry Falwell, Jr., of Liberty University has been praised May 19th by William McGurn in The Wall Street Journal:

How it must hurt to have to admit: Jerry Falwell Jr. was right.

No doubt this explains why we're not reading stories about how the president of Liberty University kept his Lynchburg, Va., campus open while keeping his community safe from Covid-19. The doomsday predicted when Mr. Falwell announced Liberty students would return after spring break never came to pass.

As the Times reported nearly a dozen Liberty students had come down "with symptoms that suggested Covid-19," a fact endlessly repeated in other news outlets. A snarky Financial Times op-ed citing "Falwell's hubris" dropped the qualifiers and asserted "twelve students promptly came down with coronavirus," which was corrected about a week later.

In a part of his early statements on Liberty's reopening that received almost no attention, Mr. Falwell said in its handling of coronavirus Liberty would prove a "model" for others. Would it kill the critics so quickly to paint Mr. Falwell as the Grim Reaper to acknowledge, if only in the name of science, Liberty's experience might have something to teach them.

RECOGNIZING MISS CLEO STEELE

HON. TOM RICE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. RICE of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special lady, Miss Cleo Steele, founder and President of the North Myrtle Beach Republican Club and also a very dear friend.

Cleo's dedication and invaluable service to her community and the Horry County Republican Party is unparalleled. During her three decades in South Carolina, she has worn many hats and been a master at each. She is a true leader who has been successful in everything she has tackled. Cleo's energy and tenacity are the envy of those a third the age. She never hesitates to tell you what she thinks, and I have learned you best listen. Her willingness to volunteer and help in any way possible epitomizes what it means to be a selfless servant. She is an inspiration to all that know her and all that know her are better for it.

She has served as the Vice President of the Horry County Republican Party, two terms on the South Carolina GOP Executive Committee, and the secretary for my district. Cleo has been a county, state, and national alternate delegate to the Republican Party Convention. In all roles, she has demonstrated passion for the party's conservative platform and enthusiasm.

Her presence and leadership in Horry County are irreplaceable. Cleo has been instrumental to the successes of the Republican Party in Horry County and throughout South Carolina.

Madam Speaker, I join the people of Horry County in recognizing Cleo Steele. We honor her and thank her for her past and continued service to her community and the Nation.

HONORING AMISH PARIKH, M.D. AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Amish M. Parikh, M.D. is a Central Florida native and University of Miami alumni. Dr. Parikh attended medical school at the University of South Florida, completing his residency at Miami's Jackson Memorial Hospital and his Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Florida—Shands Hospital in Jacksonville. He currently practices cardiology at Premier Cardiology in Maitland, Florida.

In addition to being a talented physician, inspired entrepreneur, and a devoted husband and father, Dr. Parikh considers meaningful and consistent service to his community a vital responsibility. Dr. Parikh is President of Premier Cardiology and serves on the Board for the Orange County Medical Society. His long-term leadership involvement with both CAPI (Central Florida Association of Physicians from the Indian Subcontinent) and AAPI (American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin)

was taken to a new level when he served as the Convention Chair for the 33rd AAPI Convention and Scientific Assembly held in Orlando in June 2015. Dr. Parikh prides himself on taking a hands-on approach to positively impacting healthcare and education for children, both as a board member for A Gift for Teaching and as part of community outreach initiatives addressing childhood obesity and healthy eating programs. He is also a devoted cultural leader to the Indian-American community, serving each year as the chair of the official India Day Celebration in Downtown Orlando, which was recognized by the NBA as the "Best Heritage Night in the NBA."

In recognition of his ongoing enthusiasm to support arts and culture in Orlando, Dr. Parikh and his wife Beena have recently been added to the "Donor Wall" at Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Blending his skills in healthcare with his passion for his community and family, Dr. Parikh is honored to serve and support the Central Florida Community through the Parikh Family Fund.

IN HONOR OF HELEN HORLACHER EVANS

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Helen Horlacher Evans. Mrs. Evans was born in Fortville, Indiana on June 11, 1920 and will soon be celebrating her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Evans graduated from the University of Kentucky and began teaching home economics at Versailles High School. After conversations with fellow teachers about the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, she joined the Army on a dare in 1942. She was in the first group of Kentucky women accepted for the WAC and at 21 years of age she was one of the youngest. She was accepted for the Officer Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Evans was trained in army food service and served as the Office of the Quartermaster General inspector for stateside WAC mess halls. In early 1945 she was assigned to the European Theatre of Operations with the Office of the Quartermaster General outside Paris, France. At the end of the war she was working along the banks of the Rhine feeding German prisoners of war. Mrs. Evans earned the rank of Captain. Her experience as a WAC is documented as part of the Veterans History Project in the Library of Congress.

Upon returning to civilian life, Mrs. Evans began work at the Veterans Administration in Louisville, KY, where she served as a senior training officer until 1951. She has served as a volunteer on many projects related to veterans, including serving as Kentucky's representative on the committee to establish the National Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. She received the Spirit of Kentucky Award for Patriotism from the Kentucky Daughters of the American Revolution. In 2018, she was inducted into the Kentucky Veterans Hall of Fame.

It is my honor to recognize this amazing patriot, celebrate her 100th birthday, and thank her for her service and sacrifice to our nation

during World War II. As a part of "The Greatest Generation", Mrs. Evans was an important part of the war effort to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy today. I am forever grateful for Americans like Helen Horlacher Evans. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I yield back the remaining balance of my time.

CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT
TSAI ING-WEN

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, congratulations to President Tsai Ing-wen of Taiwan for beginning a second term with a positive message of confidence for the future. It is with the affirmation of democracy by President Donald Trump who has provided advanced weapons to Taiwan to maintain Peace Through Strength.

Taiwan along with Hong Kong are models of how people of Chinese heritage can best achieve economic prosperity through democratic free market capitalism.

The Wall Street Journal published on May 21st an article by Chun Han Wong entitled Taiwan President Holds Firm on China.

"Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen kicked off her second term by doubling down on her strategy for boosting the island democracy's ability to resist coercion from China, pledging to further revamp the economy, strengthen the military and deepen ties with friendly countries.

In her inaugural address on Wednesday, Ms. Tsai reiterated Taiwan's rejection of China's efforts to assimilate the island, which Beijing claims as its territory. But she offered to work with Chinese leader Xi Jinping to stabilize relations in ways that respect Taiwan's democracy and sovereignty—conditions that China has previously rejected.

"Both sides have a duty to find a way to coexist over the long term and prevent the intensification of antagonism and differences," Ms. Tsai said.

Ms. Tsai won the re-election by a landslide in January on a pitch to defend Taiwan's democracy by enlarging the island's international presence and reducing its economic dependence on mainland China, its biggest trading partner.

Taiwan's standout success in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic has bolstered the profile of the island of nearly 24 million people, a boon for Ms. Tsai's agenda. Taiwanese authorities had reported 440 coronavirus infections and seven deaths as of Wednesday."

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. LUCY McBATH

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mrs. McBATH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Each May, Americans commemorate two historic anniversaries: the immigration of the first Japanese people to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the

transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. First proposed as a ten-day celebration in 1977, this month celebrates the heritage of Americans who come from Asian and Pacific Island countries and territories. Since the first Asian and Pacific Islanders made the journey to America in 1843, they have enriched the fabric of this great nation with their own unique contributions. I am honored today to tell the stories of two Asian Pacific Americans who live and work in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District.

Asian Pacific Americans represent a diversity of cultures, experiences, and countries. Throughout American history, these men and women have contributed to the growth and progress of the nation. The story of Asian Pacific Americans has not been without pain, however. During the construction of the transcontinental railroad, thousands of Chinese immigrants worked under dangerous conditions, endured abusive labor practices, and received unfair compensation. During World War II, people of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, imprisoned, and held in desolate places without trial. Even today, Asian Pacific Americans endure hate and discrimination simply due to their heritage. Asian-owned businesses have suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic due to intolerance and xenophobia. As Americans, we must reject and condemn such discrimination and embrace the many differences that make this community a hub of culture and diversity.

Today, I am proud to celebrate a community of Asian Pacific Americans that make up part of the incredibly rich and diverse heritage of Georgia's Sixth Congressional District. It is my honor to recognize two members of this community in particular: Victoria Huynh and Ching Hsia.

Victoria Huynh is the Vice President of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS), headquartered in Georgia's Sixth District. Victoria's upbringing in a Vietnamese refugee household fuels her passion for community building, strategic planning, and policy work with immigrants and refugees in Georgia. She serves as the Advisor of the CPACS' Advocacy Department and co-chairs the Asian American and Pacific Islander Complete Count Committee, which is working to ensure a complete count for Georgia's Asian Pacific American population in the 2020 Census. Not only does Victoria serve on my Sixth District Complete Count Committee, but she also helped organize one of the largest "Get Out the Count" Census events in the entire state.

Ching Hsia is the Assistant Principal for the Chinese Cultural School and Vice President of the Chinese Community Federation of Atlanta. She immigrated to the United States with her parents and siblings when she was just 8 years old. As the youngest child among four siblings, she watched her parents struggle to provide for her family due to language barriers and limited employment opportunities. The feeling of making her parents proud was what kept her going through difficult times. When Ching was in middle school, her parents bought a restaurant on Buford Highway, which is also located in the Sixth District. As the only member of her family that spoke English, she interpreted mail, bills, and other documents for the family business. She went on to attend Georgia State University and majored in Spanish with a concentration in International Business. After college, she used her expertise to

help her own family business as well as many other immigrant-owned businesses along the Buford Highway corridor.

Victoria and Ching's remarkable stories are just two of the many rich narratives that make up the vibrant Asian Pacific American community in Georgia. I am deeply grateful for the services that Victoria and Ching provide to residents across the state, and it is my honor to highlight them both during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. During this month and always, I am proud to celebrate the impact of Asian Pacific Americans here in Georgia and across the country.

RECOGNIZING DR. MATTHEW MARTIN
AS CONSTITUENT OF THE
MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Dr. Matthew Martin, a local Army veteran and trauma surgeon at Scripps Mercy Hospital, as my Constituent of the Month for May. The novel coronavirus has swept through our country, leaving devastation in its path and particularly hitting the residents of New York City. When a colleague reached out asking for more hands on deck at the Jacobi Medical Center in New York City, Dr. Martin did not hesitate to volunteer.

After five deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, Dr. Martin certainly recognizes the call to serve. Upon arriving to the front lines of America's coronavirus epicenter, the former Army doctor saw a New York City hospital that was overwhelmed and overrun. Every day, Dr. Martin and his new team risked their own health to treat others, even as the virus claimed the lives of fellow healthcare workers.

Despite the hardship he confronted daily, Dr. Martin found inspiration in the resolve and resilience of his new colleagues and did not lose sight of the battle. Since returning to San Diego, Dr. Martin brought back with him the determination he saw in his New York colleagues and a goal to ensure our community never experiences the level of devastation he found during his time at the Jacobi Medical Center.

I launched a Constituent of the Month program to recognize individuals who have gone above and beyond to make our region and our country a stronger place for everyone to live and thrive. As our nation faces this unprecedented health crisis, there are countless first responders and essential workers in California's 49th district who deserve our gratitude and recognition. Today, I am proud to recognize Dr. Martin as well as the courageous team at the Jacobi Medical Team, whose selflessness to join the fight in saving lives is inspiring. I am honored to recognize Dr. Matthew Martin as my Constituent of the Month, and I thank him not only for his service to our country, but also for joining the fight to combat this global pandemic.