

medical supplies to Ukraine as well. I am grateful to them and for all the law enforcement agencies that sacrificed their time and resources to organize this effort to provide personal protective gear.

In addition, MedWish International in Cleveland, which is a highly effective nonprofit I met with last month, has partnered with United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, headed by Marta Liscynsky, to provide individual first aid kits and other medical equipment to Ukrainian first responders, defenders, and civilians. And Cleveland-based KOACORE has delivered 17,000 individual first aid kits to the frontlines. With this donation, Ukrainian first responders running into the rubble of schools, apartment buildings, and homes will be able to save more lives.

When I was on the Polish-Ukrainian border in March, I saw Marta, who set up United Ukrainian Organizations of Ohio, and also another Ohio friend, Andy Futey, who is president of the Ukrainian World Congress; and I got to see them in action delivering these humanitarian supplies to refugees and helping to organize the effort.

I saw how this affected refugees at the border. They came up to us with tears in their eyes, almost all women and children—the men had been left behind to fight—and they pleaded with us to continue the help. They pleaded with us to, as they said, “close the skies,” to stop these bombs—just constant bombardment of their families. They talked about how their homes had been destroyed, how members of their families had been killed or maimed, how the unspeakable crimes being committed by these Russian soldiers were something that many of these families had endured.

We didn’t have all the answers. We haven’t closed the skies. But we did say, “The American people are with you,” and talked about some of these incredibly generous Americans who have stepped forward.

As the Russian forces intentionally target these Ukrainian civilians to spread fear and panic, this display of generosity from the people of Ohio and the people of every State represented here in this body reassures these Ukrainians that we have their back, that America—not just our American Government but America, the people of America—care. I am proud of that. I am proud of how people have given their time and resources to help those in need.

In Cincinnati, my hometown, we organized a fundraiser last week for what is called World Central Kitchen and the good work that they are doing all throughout Ukraine and in the border areas. This fundraiser went to support World Central Kitchen’s work and the Kharkiv sister city efforts. Cincinnati and Kharkiv are sister cities. I was involved in that group a few decades ago, and I remember that, at the time, we were so proud to be a sister city to Kharkiv because it resembled Cin-

cinnati in many ways—a beautiful city with a river running through it, like the Ohio River runs through Cincinnati.

Today, Kharkiv has been nearly flattened. It has been nearly totally destroyed. But, as we talked about in this map, look at what is happening. They are pushing the Russians back from Kharkiv. And they will rebuild, and it will be beautiful again.

I saw the good work that World Central Kitchen does when I was on the Ukrainian-Polish border. Chef Jose Andres, here from Washington, DC, and his brainchild, World Central Kitchen, is doing amazing work. I volunteered with a few colleagues, serving food to refugees at one of his 60 popup restaurants in the border regions. There are dozens more in Ukraine itself.

There is much more to be done to help Ukraine get through this, to help them defend themselves, to help them push back the Russians, to help them deal with the humanitarian crisis, to help them rebuild, to help them survive this brutal Russian onslaught and rebuild their homeland, which they love so much.

And we are inspired to do more, both because this is in our national security interest—Vladimir Putin’s victory is our loss—and because we are inspired by the resiliency and fortitude of the Ukrainian Armed Forces and the Ukrainian people. They have truly shown the rest of the world what bravery and patriotism is all about.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING JULIANNE “JULIE” BECKETT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I want to honor the life and legacy of Julianne “Julie” Beckett of Cedar Rapids, IA. Julie was a mother and passionate advocate for children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities. I got to know Julie very well over the years as the result of her daughter, Katie Beckett, and Julie’s passionate advocacy on Federal policy work such as Katie Beckett waivers, Family Opportunity Act, Money Follows-the-Person, Family-to-Family Health Information Centers, Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act, Accelerating Access to Kids Care Act, and more.

Julie’s daughter, Katie, was born in Cedar Rapids, IA, on March 9, 1978. Five months after she was born, Katie contracted viral encephalitis followed by grand mal seizures. The encephalitis caused damage to her central nervous system and her respiratory system, and she was attached to a ventilator. She would be almost 2 years old before she could breathe on her own. Under Medicaid law at the time, Katie could only receive care through Medicaid if she remained in the hospital, even though she was able to receive care at home.

Iowa Congressman Tom Tauke heard of Katie’s situation and realized that it made no sense to keep a child in the hospital who could be at home with her family. He worked to convince the Reagan administration that the system should be changed to allow States to provide Medicaid to children receiving care in their homes. Ultimately, President Ronald Reagan took up Katie’s cause, intervening so that Katie could receive treatment at home and still be covered under Medicaid.

In the 1980s, Julie and Katie were able to help change national policy that became known as “Katie Beckett waivers” and, to date, more than a half million disabled children have been able to receive care in their homes with their families rather than being forced into hospitals and institutions. Katie passed away on May 18, 2012. Since then, Julie continued her advocacy.

Sadly, last Friday, May 13, 2022, Julie passed away. As the result of Julie’s advocacy, children like Katie are able to live a healthy, happy, and independent life. Our Nation has lost a passionate advocate for children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities. For more than 40 years, Julie advocated and organized the voices of families of children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities. Julie cofounded Family Voices, a national family-led organization of families and friends of children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities. Julie was instrumental in passing the Family Opportunity Act, which established Family-to-Family Health Information Centers and created options for families with children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities to buy into Medicaid while continuing to work, among other important provisions. Julie also worked at Child Health Specialty Clinics in Iowa for 30 years and served as a consultant with the American Academy of Pediatrics. In 2021, she was honored with the Family Voices Legacy Award in recognition of her outstanding lifetime contributions to healthcare policy and services that have improved the lives of children with special healthcare needs and disabilities and their families. Julie positively impacted the lives of children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities and their families.

While Julie would often say she was “Katie Beckett’s mom,” we also knew her as a passionate advocate and servant leader. Julie’s lifelong pursuit to improve the lives of children and youth with special healthcare needs and disabilities made an impact for the better for her community, State, and Nation. Godspeed, my friend.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT J. FRIEND MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING AND THE ARTURO L. IBLETO POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to support legislation that would rename local post offices in California to honor the life and legacy of two Californians.

The first bill, led by Congresswoman KATIE PORTER, would designate the Northwood Post Office in Irvine, CA, as the "Tuskegee Airman Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Friend Memorial Post Office Building."

Lieutenant Colonel Friend was among the 355 pilots who served in the all African-American unit known as the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II. During his military career, Lieutenant Colonel Friend fought in 142 combat missions and served as an operations officer for both the 301st Squadron and the 332nd Fighter Group. He received various military awards, such as the Distinguished Flying Cross, Presidential Unit Citation, and Air Medal. In 2007, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, along with the rest of the Tuskegee Airmen.

After retiring from military service, Lieutenant Colonel Friend worked on the development of missile systems and space station components in Irvine, CA. He continued to participate in speaking and educational engagements about his experience with the Tuskegee Airmen into his 90s.

Lieutenant Colonel Friend died in 2019 in Long Beach, CA, at the age of 99. He exemplified all that it is to be a public servant by devoting his life to his country as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen and further serving his country after his military career ended.

The second bill, led by Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, would designate the Cotati Post Office in Cotati, CA, as the "Arturo L. Ibleto Post Office Building."

Arturo L. Ibleto was an Italian-born immigrant and resistance fighter in World War II before moving to Sonoma County. It was there that he met his wife, and they built a successful Italian restaurant and catering business. For nearly 50 years, Art was an institution in the Sonoma County food and wine community, where he became known as the "Pasta King."

Additionally, Art lent considerable time and resources to local charitable, educational, and civic causes that left a lasting mark on the community. He continued working full time until his passing in 2020 at the age of 94.

It is an honor for me to be able to speak on behalf of these two bills to honor notable Californians and celebrate our rich history.

Both of these bills passed the House with overwhelming bipartisan support, including the support of all 53 Members of the California House Delegation as cosponsors. Both Senator PADILLA and I urge our colleagues to support quick passage of these bills.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today in recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. This annual recognition offers the opportunity to celebrate the unique impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community has made and continues to make in the United States.

On this heritage month, we reflect on the incredible achievements of this minority community and honor the unique combination of traditions and cultures that create the rich tapestry of the Asian American Pacific Islander diaspora and experience. We also use this time to educate ourselves on the nuances of the AAPI identity and better understand the challenges this community faces.

In 1977, then-Representative Frank Horton of New York introduced a resolution to designate the first 10 days in May as AAPI Heritage Week. The month of May was appropriate because of two key anniversaries that occurred in that month. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants came to the United States.

On May 10, 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed, largely due to the backbreaking work of Chinese laborers, some of whom lost their lives in the construction.

Congress did not enact Representative Horton's initial resolution. The following year, however, with the persistent help of then-Representative Norman Mineta, Congress enacted a new resolution to designate the 7-day period beginning on May 4 as Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Week. In 1992, Congress authorized the entire month of May as AAPI Heritage Month, which we now celebrate.

The presence and influence of the AAPI community in the United States has been growing steadily since the 19th century. The 1870 census classified approximately 63,000 individuals as Asian. By 1960, when the census allowed respondents to select their race, that number grew to 980,000. As of 2019, there are 22.4 million AAPI individuals in America, 475,000 of whom call Maryland home.

It is important to remember that the AAPI community is not a homogenous group. It is an incredibly diverse community, made up of a wide array of cultures spanning many countries and territories, which includes over 50 ethnicities, over 100 languages, and multiple religions. Each subset draws from a unique set of traditions, and we cannot assume they have one shared, uniform experience. We know that the AAPI community makes up about 7 percent of our total population, and this rich and diverse community has an outsized impact on every pillar of our society. We cannot forget the many barriers to success this community has overcome to reach such heights, which makes this community's successes all the more impressive.

To understand the profound influence the AAPI community has, we need not

look further than Capitol Hill. This year, we mourned the passing of my good friend and former colleague, Norman Mineta. A passionate defender of justice, talented strategist, and exemplary patriot, Representative Mineta dedicated his life to service as a mayor, Congressman, and Cabinet member. In 1941, the U.S. Government interned his family along with hundreds of thousands of other Japanese Americans. Perhaps both in spite of and because of that experience, Representative Mineta pursued a career as a public servant. During his tenure as a legislator, he co-founded and chaired the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

He led the charge on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which directed the Federal Government to issue a formal apology to and compensate the survivors of Japanese internment. He inspired generations of Asian Americans to get involved in politics. We miss him, but his legacy will live on for years to come.

As chairman of the Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee, I am in awe of the resilience and determination we have seen from AAPI small business owners over the past 2 years. In Maryland alone, there are 13,375 AAPI-owned businesses, many of which include restaurants and eateries. In fact, if you use cuisine predominance as a barometer of cultural impact, the Asian American influence is unparalleled.

In 2021, the New York Times published a list of the 50 most exciting restaurants in the United States. Seventeen of the top 50 restaurants, or 34 percent, incorporate AAPI food or have an AAPI head chef, more than any other foreign cuisine. Through food, AAPI culture has become inextricably linked to the American identity. In my home city of Baltimore, a group of volunteers known as the China Collective organizes a pop-up market named the Charm City Market. I have watched as the event has grown in both attendance and footprint over the years, celebrating the AAPI community's diverse food and entrepreneurship landscape. Each year, I look forward to the market's ever-growing celebration and empowerment of AAPI small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Asian American Pacific Islanders also played a massive role in our COVID-19 response, oftentimes finding themselves on the front lines as essential workers. Despite facing racial bias and prejudice largely attributed to Donald Trump's deliberately inflammatory use of the term "China Virus," the AAPI community remained a steadfast lifeline for Americans in need. At Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Erika Rono, an emergency room nurse who came to the U.S. from the Philippines in 2014, continues to work every day through the harrowing realities of a hospital overrun by COVID-19 patients. Over the past 2 years, she has toiled day and night, putting her own life at risk, to save