

Mr. Hsin (Sam) P. Wong came to the United States from China in 1948. He earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a master of science degree in Electrical Engineering from Brooklyn Polytechnical Institute. Mr. Wong received the prestigious Meritorious Service Award upon his retirement from the Navy after a distinguished civilian career that spanned 31 years. He was one of the founders and developers of the Wah Luck House, a residential apartment complex for the elderly.

Since her founding, our Nation has achieved many successes through the great achievements of the many diverse groups of people who bring their unique cultures and strengths to our shores. I am proud to represent these exceptional individuals who remind us that although we may come from different countries and ends of the earth, we all share a pride in being Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will want to join me in congratulating these 11 immigrant Americans who have contributed in so many ways to the strengthening of our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, 1996, I was detained and did not cast a vote on S. 641, the Ryan White CARE Act conference report. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 145.

CARMEN OLAVARRIETA RECEIVES UNICEF VOLUNTEER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Ms. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate a lady much distinguished for her humanitarian efforts and desire to help others in need, Carmen Olavarrieta. Carmen has been recently recognized by UNICEF and has been selected to receive the Volunteer Distinguished Service Award in 1995-96 for all of her exemplary work and dedication at this world-renowned organization.

Since immigrating to the United States in 1961, Carmen has used her linguistic and teaching talents in order to teach students and even to co-author "Hablemos Espanol," a publication used to teach Spanish to foreign students studying at the University of Madrid and Barcelona.

In addition to serving as a volunteer at UNICEF, Carmen has also given her services to the League Against Cancer, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association [Latin Division], and the Colombian Emergency Fund, a radio telemarathon to help the children during the volcanic eruption in Armero, Colombia.

Carmen is a very caring person, dedicated not only to her family, but also to those who

are less fortunate. She is a fine example of what "love thy neighbor" is all about.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 1996

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Low-Level Radioactive Waste [LLRW] Federal Responsibility Act of 1996.

This legislation would effectively repeal the 1980 Low-level Radioactive Waste Act which requires States to enter in compacts to dispose of LLRW. That legislation, which was endorsed by President Clinton during his tenure as Governor of Arkansas, and Interior Secretary Babbitt during his tenure as Governor of Arizona, has failed to produce solutions to one of the most pressing environmental needs facing our country today, the safe, permanent storage of low-level radioactive waste.

There is no greater illustration of the failure of this statute than the 10-year effort to locate a storage site at Ward Valley, CA. While the Southwestern Disposal Compact, the National Academy of Science, State officials, and other notable scientific and medical authorities, have given the green light to transferring the Federal site to the State of California, the Clinton administration and California's junior Senator have sought to delay the land transfer out of political, rather than safety considerations. They have chosen emotional political demagoguery over sound science.

The pressure to delay the construction of the Ward Valley site arises not from the most noted experts in the field of LLRW storage, but from a well-financed environmental lobby that has made Ward Valley a political symbol to demonstrate its control over the Clinton White House.

The University of California—which has nine campuses across the State—is one of the largest generators of low-level radioactive waste. These campuses produce a combined 22,065 cubic feet of waste material annually. The majority of this material is presently stored on or near each campus. The two largest producers of waste are located in the urban centers of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Other waste producers, including hospitals and biotech companies, currently store their waste in temporary storage facilities throughout the State. Needless to say, these temporary sites do not meet the test of providing safe, long-term permanent storage. In fact, a fire came very close to igniting waste in a highly populated suburb of Los Angeles during the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

Let me make one point abundantly clear: California's junior Senator is placing in jeopardy the health and safety of the public she claims to care so much about. With the assistance of the Secretary of the Interior, she has orchestrated a campaign to delay the transfer of Federal land to the State. She has not proposed an alternative site. She ducks, weaves, bobs, and delays, but she does nothing to address this long-term problem that affects potentially every citizen in California. Rather than

addressing solutions, she ignores the advice and counsel of those who know the subject best and actively pursues a political agenda for its own sake, attempting to frighten, distort, and confuse the public every step of the way.

Presently, in the State of California, there is a very real need to find a permanent storage facility for low-level radioactive waste presently being stored in over 2,000 locations across the state. We can wait no longer. In lieu of that, the only responsible action is to determine locations for safe, interim storage sites. And where will they be built, Senator? Los Angeles? San Francisco? What alternatives do you suggest to responsibly address this problem? I believe California would be better served by less political rhetoric and demagoguery and greater emphasis on commonsense, pragmatic solutions.

It is now painfully clear, based upon recent words and actions, that the Clinton administration, like California's junior Senator, believes that the Federal Government is best suited to act as caretaker of low-level radioactive waste. After a great deal of thought and series of discussions with noted experts, I have decided to grant the administration its wish. The Low-Level Radioactive Waste Federal Responsibility Act of 1996 provides the Secretary of the Interior—one of the strongest advocates of waste storage and leading opponents of the Ward Valley site—the authority and sole responsibility of disposing of low-level waste. It is time for the Clinton administration to demonstrate through actions and not empty political rhetoric that it cares more about public health and safety than financial promises made to its Presidential campaign by the most extreme environmentalist.

California is now close to realizing an environmental crisis that endangers the public health and safety of its citizens. In the 16 years since enactment of the Low-level Radioactive Waste Act, not one new compact facility has begun receiving waste. That approach, once favored by the President and the Secretary of the Interior, has failed. This legislation, which I am introducing today, grants the Secretary the sole responsibility to dispose of low-level radioactive waste. It is time for the Secretary to act. It is time to quit the emotional demagoguery of California's junior Senator which does nothing more than further endanger the citizens of our State.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GHENT VFW

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 7, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to commemorate the golden anniversary of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 5933. This post, I am proud to say, is based in Ghent, NY, in the heart of my congressional district, and is celebrating its 50th year of service. This post personifies the outstanding efforts of the entire nationwide membership to promote a strong national defense and to help veterans and their families. And that is one reason I was so pleased to be awarded the VFW National Commander's Congressional Award several years ago.

The VFW, Mr. Speaker, has been an organization of exceptional merit and service to the