

Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Toko Fujii's friends and family gather to celebrate and honor his legacy and many contributions, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most well respected citizens. His successes are unparalleled, and it is great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his accomplishments. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating the deeds of an extraordinary leader.

HONORING WESTFIELD WORKS
WONDERS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifth annual Westfield Works Wonders event which is being celebrated in shopping malls across the nation. Over the last five years, this wonderful charity event has raised millions of dollars for national and local non-profits and charities.

First implemented in Connecticut in 1997, the Westfield Works Wonders program began as a project to benefit local non-profits and charities. In just three years, the event achieved outstanding results raising upwards of one million dollars and attracting more than 120,000 shoppers to the four centers in Connecticut. Due to its local success in Connecticut, Westfield Wonder Works was rolled out as a national program in 1999. In its two-year national history, malls across the nation have raised almost three million dollars in contributions for thousands of non-profits and charities.

The simplicity of the program is one of its greatest benefits. Westfield Works Wonders is a one-day three hour event held in November when shoppers are ready to begin their holiday shopping. For a five dollar donation, shoppers enjoy a private evening at Westfield Shoppingtowns with special discounts, in-store promotions, prize giveaways, entertainment, celebrity appearances, free photos with Santa, and more. All ticket proceeds are donated directly to participating organizations. In Connecticut alone, over sixty non-profits and charities will receive invaluable funding.

It is important to recognize the dreams and wishes that are made a reality by this special event. The money raised helps thousands of children and families receive much needed services. Hospitals, schools and a variety of national and local charities all benefit from the generosity of the over half a million people who attend this event nationwide. With a small donation, people can make a real difference in the lives of many.

I am proud to stand today to recognize the tremendous contribution Westfield Shoppingtowns are making to communities across the nation. I am honored to take this opportunity to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of those—from Westfield America to the thousands of retail employees—who make this evening possible. Your efforts are truly inspiring.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEBBIE
JOHNS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Debbie Johns and thank her for the contributions she has made to the School District 51 Board in Clifton, Colorado. Debbie has served on the school board for over sixteen years, and though she will be dearly missed, I am happy to congratulate Debbie on her retirement.

Debbie was elected to School District 51 Board in 1985. She ran for office because of concerns she had over school redistricting and how it would affect her children's lives. Since then, Debbie has been elected three more times to the board with the help of her campaign staff and her family. She has been instrumental in many changes that have occurred to the district during her tenure. While in office, six new schools have been built and another twenty have undergone renovations.

When not meeting with the board, Debbie can be found distributing her time between managing a doctor's office and caring for her family. This is no easy task considering Debbie works an average of seventy hours per week in her management position. Despite her newfound freedom, Debbie already plans to fill the void by donating her time to the Mesa County Public Library literacy program.

Mr. Speaker it is a great privilege to honor Debbie Johns and wish her the best as she steps down from the School District 51 Board. She has dedicated her energy and time to the community for the last sixteen years and certainly deserves the praise and admiration of this body. Debbie, thank you for your dedicated service.

UNITED THROUGH IT ALL

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem for the RECORD.

UNITED THROUGH IT ALL

(By Mike Allen and Randall Bayne)

On an island in the harbor,
Lady Liberty's darkest day,
Terror rose against our land,
Evil had its way.

We witnessed two strong towers
As they came crashing down,
Innocent lives were sacrificed
In rubble on the ground.

We stood in awe, in disbelief,
Souls of thousands fell.
In the horror of the picture,
In the midst of this hell.

We bound our spirits in resolve
To answer freedoms call.
This is America,

We'll rise above it all.
We're united in our victory,
United in our cause.
We'll stand against all enemies,
Liberty has no walls.

We're stronger than those towers,

This country will not fall.
We are Americans,
United through it all.

We'll bind our wounded.
Grieve for those who died.
Praise the heroes' efforts.
And sing out with pride,
"America, America
God shed his grace on thee,
And crown thy good
With brotherhood."

For we're united in our victory,
United in our cause.
We'll stand against all enemies,
Liberty has no walls.
We're stronger than those towers,
This country will not fall.
We are Americans,
United through it all.

UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARDS
HAITI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep concern regarding current United States policy towards Haiti.

Haiti's human and development statistics are alarming. The life expectancy of the average Haitian is only 53 years, and this number is certain to decline as the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the country becomes even more severe. According to UNAIDS, the United Nations agency responsible for addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic, more than 5% of the adult population is HIV-positive, and some sectors of the population have infection rates of over 50%. In other human development categories, Haiti's record is just as lamentable. Half of Haitian adults are illiterate, and more than 1 in 4 children under the age of 5 are malnourished. Haiti ranks 152nd out of 174 on the United Nations Development Program's Human Development Index, below such countries as Bangladesh and Sudan.

In previous years, the United States pursued a constructive relationship with Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Between FY 95 and FY 99, the United States provided \$884 million in critical development assistance funds to support agricultural development, democracy and governance, teacher training, health care, and many other programs. The United States also supported multilateral institutions that worked to improve the lives of ordinary Haitians. More recently, however, the United States has pursued a myopic policy towards Haiti and has used its veto power to prevent the disbursement of funds from multilateral institutions such as the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The board of directors of the IDB has already approved \$146 million in social sector loans for Haiti, but because of United States policy, these funds have been blocked from improving the lives of 8 million Haitians. This policy must change.

In order for the living standards and life chances of ordinary Haitians to improve, international development assistance is critical. The United States must change its current policy towards Haiti so that it may receive multilateral funds for pressing development needs.

IN HONOR OF THE PUERTO RICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, INC.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the Puerto Rican Association for Human Development, Inc. (PRAHD). PRAHD is a non-profit organization in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, dedicated to providing health, educational, and social services to low-income residents of Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Since 1974, PRAHD has emerged as one of the premier non-profit organizations in the State of New Jersey. This dynamic organization provides a wide range of social services essential to low-income and elderly residents of Middlesex County. PRAHD currently sponsors pre-school child care programs, HIV/AIDS educational services, substance abuse prevention classes, and health care services for homebound senior citizens.

The outstanding success and efficiency of this organization can be attributed to its committed staff, which is working tirelessly to ensure that adequate social services are provided for residents in Middlesex County. PRAHD, which is governed by a Board of Directors and is managed by an Executive Director, currently employs 38 full-time and 74 part-time staffers. It is also supported by the diligent efforts of numerous community leaders, who volunteer their skills and services.

As a result of its hard work, PRAHD has vastly improved the standard of living for thousands of New Jersey families.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring PRAHD for its service to the community of Perth Amboy and for its countless acts of kindness and compassion.

HONORING VERNE L. WIKERT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Verne L. Wikert and his contributions to this country. Verne began his service to this nation in the 1940's, serving as a Merchant Marine in the Pacific theatre during World War II.

Mr. Wikert joined the Merchant Marines at the age of seventeen. Tasked with the position as oiler aboard the S.S. Coast Trader, Verne and his crew were responsible for supplying the Pacific theatre with troops and supplies throughout the war. On June 7, 1942, a Japanese submarine torpedoed his ship. Following the attack, Verne fought his way from below deck to escape the sinking ship. This event put the crew through a five-day ordeal, fighting for their survival off the coast of the state of Washington. Upon rescue, Wikert, in a coma, was near death.

Mr. Wikert recovered from this experience and continued his service to his country, surviving two more torpedo attacks before the end of the war. As is customary in the Merchant Marines, he received no awards or

decorations for his contributions to the war effort, but is worthy of the praise of this body of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Verne L. Wikert for his service to this country. He served selflessly during a time when the country was in great need. His actions have brought great credit to himself and his nation.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT PRESIDENT ISSUE PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING A NATIONAL LAO-HMONG RECOGNITION DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 88, a resolution urging the President to issue a national proclamation recognizing the important contributions of Hmong and Laotians to our great nation.

Unfortunately, few Americans know that many Hmong and Lao people came to the United States as refugees fleeing genocide and persecution for fighting against the spread of communism in Laos, a country once part of the French colony known as Indochina, which also encompassed Cambodia and Vietnam.

Following the French rule over Indochina from 1863 until its withdrawal from the region in 1954, the United States became involved in the struggle for democracy and independence for Indochina from 1955 to 1975. During this period which became known as the Vietnam War, the United States recruited Hmong and Lao people to fight against the communist Vietnamese Army and the Pathet Lao. Hmong and Lao soldiers flew thousands of deadly combat missions in support of the U.S. Armed Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, and fought in conventional and guerrilla combat clashes with extreme casualties against communist Vietnamese and Pathet Lao. More than 35,000 Hmong and Lao soldiers lost their lives in defense of democracy and many more were seriously injured and disabled.

After the United States pulled out of Vietnam in 1975, many of the Hmong and Lao soldiers and their families were forced to live in communist concentration camps known as "reeducation camps" by the Pathet Lao. While in these camps, thousands of Hmong and Lao people were subjected to chemical bombings, tortures, and genocidal murders. Many eventually escaped to refugee camps in Thailand and some refugees fled to the United States. It is estimated that between 1975 and 1995, the communist Pathet Lao government killed more than 300,000 people in Laos, including the Royal Lao family.

Only in recent years have we begun to recognize and commemorate the contributions thousands of Hmong and Lao Americans have made during the period of the Vietnam War. In the 106th Congress, Congress passed the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act introduced by our esteemed former colleague the late Congressman Bruce Vento, which expedited naturalization procedures for Hmong and Lao refugees who fought in the special guerrilla units in Laos.

Today nearly 195,000 Hmong and 135,000 Lao Americans live in the United States. Large Hmong and Lao communities have been established in parts of California, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Carolina and Colorado.

In closing, I would like to congratulate Congressman Tancred for his work on this legislation and urge my colleagues to stand in strong support for the passage of H. Con. Res. 88.

68TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAMINE-GENOCIDE IN UKRAINE

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Ukrainian Caucus, I rise today to commemorate the memory of millions of innocent victims ruthlessly murdered at the tyrannical hands of Joseph Stalin and other Soviet communists. This year marks the 68th anniversary of the Famine-Genocide perpetrated by Stalin in an attempt to subjugate the people of Ukraine.

In order to achieve his vision of a strong industrialized Soviet Union, Stalin sought to force Ukraine into compliance. However, his policy of forced collectivization was strongly resisted by the freedom-loving peasantry. In an effort to break the spirit of the Ukrainian people, Stalin used food as a weapon, starving between six and eight million people to death, while confiscating and exporting massive quantities of grain. This was a naked act of genocide against Ukraine and her people.

The famine was entirely the creation of Stalin's totalitarian policies. The Communist State's prohibition of private land ownership and Stalin's excessive seizures of agricultural products created an intolerable life for the Ukrainian peasantry. This situation escalated when state-sanctioned production quotas could not be filled. The quotas were designed to guarantee failure. The failure of quota fulfillment was interpreted, by Stalin, as anti-Soviet behavior, as treason, and acted upon accordingly.

Stalin ordered the Soviet secret police, the GPU (State Political Directorate), later the NKVD (People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs), to enforce his quotas by whatever means necessary. The GPU, with the help of local party officials, seized all the available food and seed, rendering the peasantry incapable of producing even enough to feed themselves in the most fertile regions of Europe and Asia. As a result, a mass migration of peasantry loomed. Many sought a chance for survival in the cities, others merely brought their children to urban areas and left them in the hope they would survive, returning, themselves, to their villages to die.

To prevent the migration, the "social parasitism" Stalin implemented a passport system, which forced the peasantry to remain in their villages. Those caught hiding food were either deported to Siberian labor camps or shot. Often, the grain collected would begin to rot while it waited for pickup. Those trying to steal even the rotting grain faced the same fate as those hiding it. Anyone who did not appear to be starving was suspected of hoarding food and faced death or deportation. Unable to eat,