and recovery aircraft to the World Trade Center site. By day sixteen, the squadron had tripled its alert commitment, flying 144 sorties totaling 450 hours, and expanded its area of responsibility to include the entire mid-Atlantic coast.

From September 11th until receiving orders to stand down on February 1, 2002, the 102nd Fighter Wing flew a total of 770 sorties, compiling over 3200 hours in direct support of Operation Noble Eagle and Combat Air Patrols over New York, Washington DC, and Boston. During this nearly five-month period, the unit came close to surpassing their annual flying hour allocation and witnessed an astounding 300 percent increase in operational tempo. The operation tempo increase included such tasking as escorting Air Force 1 and Air Force 2, providing air support when the President addressed the United Nations, and patrolling the skies over New York City during baseball's World Series. Hopefully, that venue will be in Boston this fall!

Especially noteworthy was the twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week aspect of the operation. Normally, major aircraft maintenance can be accomplished during non-flying periods, and all maintenance personnel can concentrate on fixing the jets instead of flying. Naturally, this is not possible with an around-the-clock flying commitment. However, the 102nd's maintenance crews rose to the challenge and were able to provide fully mission capable aircraft that enabled the squadron to meet 100 percent of its Combat Air Patrol and alert tasking. If that were not amazing enough, in addition to fulfilling its own missions, the 102nd, as a result of the superior maintenance efforts, were able to fill in for other units when those units could not meet their tasking.

When you take into account the accomplishments of the unit during this period, you cannot help but have a deep sense of honor and appreciation for the 1000 men and women that make up the 102nd Fighter Wing. No single flying organization has ever been tasked with this level of responsibility for such a long period of time. Make no mistake; every American owes each one of these citizen air-men and women a debt of gratitude to them for their hard work, dedication and tireless commitment to ensuring the operational success of each and every mission.

Earlier this month the 102nd's achievements were properly recognized when the wing was selected as the 2002 recipient of the Winston P. Wilson Trophy, given to the country's most outstanding Air National Guard fighter unit. Additionally, the 102nd is a finalist for the 2002 Hughes award, which recognizes the top fighter unit in the entire United States Air Force. The professional qualities and dedication to duty demonstrated this year by the unit were without equal and it is this Member's opinion the 102nd Fighter Wing is deserving of this honor as well.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that even before the events of September 11th, the men and women of the 102nd Fighter Wing personified the true meaning of patriotism. The Fighter Wing has a long and distinguished history of service to the people of Massachusetts and the nation. I am extremely honored to have the 102nd Fighter Wing in my state and particularly proud to know that when the nation called for its most capable fighters to protect America's skies, the 102nd Fighter Wing responded in true Minuteman fashion. It is my hope that Congress will acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the 102nd Fighter Wing by considering and ultimately passing this resolution.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE GUAM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the nation marks the ninetieth anniversary of the city of Tokyo's original gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the people of Washington, D.C. in 1912, 1 also would like to take the time to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of an organization centered around the annual celebration of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Fifty years ago this year, the Guam Territorial Society was organized under the Congressional charter to the Conference of State Societies. The advent of this organization brought together former residents of Guam living in Washington, D.C. and the suburbs of Virginia and Maryland. A special venue for these people was made available to gather through receptions, dinners, picnics, and a host of other events.

Since its inception, the society and its members have been responsible for making sure that Guam was represented by a princess in the National Cherry Blossom festival. On two instances, the Guam princesses were crowned National Cherry Blossom Queens—Angela Alley in 1982 and Tanya Monique Manibusan in 1993. Its affiliation with the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS), enabled two of the organization's past presidents to become NCSS presidents. General Frank Torres as NCSS president during the 1974–75 term while Mr. William Barbee, Jr. Served during the 1986–87 term.

Along with its NCSS affiliation, the society has been an active participant of the National Organization of Pacific Island Association (NOPIA) and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Council (APAHC). For years, it has co-hosted the annual Pacific Night reception which brings together the various nations from the Pacific region. In addition, the society has supported and established a working relationship with Chamorro Clubs all over the United States and abroad.

The society's commitment to Guam and its people is strongly manifested by the assistance and support it extends to the office of the delegate of Guam, the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor of Guam, the Guam Legislature, and the many Chamorro men and women in the United States Armed Forces. An instrument in bringing people from Guam together, the society hosts the largest Chamorro gatherings in the East Coast during Memorial Day, Liberation Day and the Annual Chamorro Night Ball. Its members put together annual children's Christmas parties for member's children and their guests and hosts receptions for the Guam Close-Up kids who come to visit our nation's capital.

In 1986, the Guam Territorial Society was reorganized to become the Guam Society of America, Inc. (GSA). The organization's name might have undergone a slight change but its commitment to Guam, its people, its culture and its traditions has endured. It has since organized Chamorro Language conversational classes and has established a scholarship fund. The annual Guam Society of America Golf Tournament is a fundraising event that goes towards these worthwhile efforts.

GSA promotes Guam's age-old tradition of placing high regard upon its elders. The blessings we enjoy today were made possible through their labors and their guidance. It is with great pride and pleasure that I join the society's endeavor this year to honor our mañaina. Along with the society's principal organizer, the Honorable Carlos Taitano, special individuals from the D.C. area such as Jose and Bride Bamba, Roman Benavente, Juan and Matilde Cruz, John Flores, Brigida Lizama, Margarita S. Perez, Joseph and Margaret Sablan, Isadora Taitano, Jose Taitano, Vicente Torres, George and Rosita Eustaquio, my predecessor, Ben Blaz, and his wife, Ann, possess the wisdom and pass along the knowledge regarding our culture and traditions on to future generations.

For the past fifty years, the Guam Society of America has developed into a unique civic and social club for individuals in the National Capital region who have retained ties to the island of Guam. The society and its members have brought together friends and family through its efforts towards the preservation and promotion of Chamorro culture. As the Guam Society of America celebrates its golden anniversary, we also take the time to honor our mañaina—esteemed individuals who have laid the foundations and through whose leadership and guidance the society is able celebrate this milestone today. I also commend Linda Perez, the society's president, Cindy Atoigue, its vice president, Annie Rosario, its secretary and Doris Yanger, its treasurer, who along with the society's many members made this celebration possible. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate the Guam Society of America, its members, and, most especially, the manaina. The past fifty years have been fruitful, rewarding and beneficial to the friends of Guam in the National Capital region. My wife, Lorraine, and I wish the society many more such years.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAKE ROBIN GOLF CLUB, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 65th Anniversary of Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. In noting this milestone, I am particularly pleased to honor the outstanding contributions that the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. has made to increase the involvement of African Americans in golf.

Since its beginning in 1937, the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. has made many important contributions to expand opportunities for African Americans, particularly for women, in the District of Columbia and our nation. In 1938, members of the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. drafted a petition to the Secretary of the Interior requesting the desegregation of public golf courses in Washington, D.C. Three years later, because of their great persistence and energy, the Secretary issued an order honoring this courageous and groundbreaking request.

Members of the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. worked alongside other minority clubs to encourage the Professional Golf Association to abandon its ''Caucasian-only'' rule for eligibility, until the PGA finally integrated. The club also helped to organize and support the United Golfers Association, which hosted tournaments throughout the country for stellar African American golf professionals, including Ted Rhodes, Charlie Sifford and Lee Elder. This country needs many more cutting edge organizations to follow the extraordinary example of Wake Robin Golf Club.

The Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. endured and prospered while its members fought to end the exclusionary practices in golf. Today, there is still no fancy clubhouse, no driving range, no practice putting green, and no home golf course for members. But the club membership continues to grow with over 50 active members who play weekly in the Washington area. There are weekend matches, monthly tournaments, a five year incremental anniversary tournament and a club championship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in honoring Wake Robin Golf, Inc, whose dedicated and unwavering leadership has made and continues to make a significant impact on African American golf players.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT PART II

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, most of this body is aware of the so-called concurrent receipt penalty affecting our military retirees with service-connected disabilities. While Congress has undertaken gradual steps to remedy this situation, numerous veterans in my home state of Oregon have contacted me about a situation which I feel is equally unfair.

With the conclusion of the Cold War, the Department of Defense employed numerous separation programs to comply with Congressional mandates and decrease the number of active military personnel. The DoD implemented the Special Separation Benefit (SSB), and the Variable Separation Benefit (VSI) which were both designed to award servicemen and women with immediate compensation in return for early retirement from the Armed Services.

What many of these servicemen and women did not know is that by agreeing to leave active duty and accept the SSB or VSI payment, they were effectively signing away the right to receive future service-connected disability payments from the Veterans Administration. As it currently stands, any service member who accepted the SSB payment and is diagnosed with a service-connected disability must repay their payment in full before he or she can receive disability pay. Likewise, members who receive the VSI payment cannot receive the full disability payment to which they would otherwise be entitled.

I find this practice reprehensible. Many service-related disabilities might not become apparent for several months or years after separation. Consequently, everyone who made use of these programs could not have possibly known the way in which they would be affected by the offset provisions. What's more, many service members made the decision to accept the separation pay only because the alternative would be an eventual, forced retirement.

To remedy this problem, I am introducing bipartisan legislation with my colleagues Congressman Richard Baker from Louisiana and Congressman Jim Gibbons from Nevada which would revise current law and allow for full concurrent receipt of separation and disability pay. Additionally, I urge all of my colleagues to join us in ending this objectionable practice.

A TRIBUTE TO WTC WORKERS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the heroic people who have dedicated so much to the clean up of the ''Ground Zero''. I am pleased that the House passed H. Res. 424 to bring recognition to their sacrifice.

No one will ever forget the horrible events of the morning of September 11, 2001. It seems like just yesterday that I could look across the river from my district in Brooklyn and see those two glimmering towers watching over the city. In the course of a few hours, those symbols of strength and comfort would turn into over three thousand innocent lives lost and a pile of over 1.6 million tons of torn and twisted metal.

From the moment the towers were felled, hundreds of thousands of volunteers and professionals rushed to the scene without regard to their personal well-being. Many of those people stayed at the site for days with barely a moment's rest. They were only interested in doing whatever they could to help in the recovery effort. There was no thought of rest or personal safety as workers looked for potential survivors in the devastated area that we have come to know as ''Ground Zero''. Many workers remained on site without any respiratory equipment despite fires burning and toxic fumes surrounding them. After it became clear that it would not be possible to find anyone else alive, the workers remained on site as the search evolved from a rescue and recovery effort into a clean-up effort. Throughout the long hard work, the workers remained committed to their work and showing the families of the victims the respect that they deserve. Every victim that was pulled out of the devastation was given a ceremonial burial.

Mr. Speaker, the workers who have spent the last nine months at the WTC-site helped bring our country together. They showed all Americans how important it is to come together, and America responded. People from all across this great nation volunteered and donated whatever was requested. Our country was unified against a common enemy and for a common purpose. There is no way to repair the damage that was caused to our national psyche or our City's glory on September 11. But the hard work and dedication of the ''ground zero workers'' has given us all hope for the future and an understanding of what is necessary to overcome our enemies. As the clean-up operations draw to a close on May 30, 2002, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring these truly heroic people who have given so much in the name of their fallen comrades and our national honor.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO AMEND THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1965 TO AUTHORIZE GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION SERVING ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would provide higher education institutions serving a significant population of Asian American and Pacific Islander American (AAPI) undergraduate students federal funding opportunities. This legislation would authorize the Department of Education to designate Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions with an undergraduate enrollment of at least 10 percent AAPI students to improve their capacity to provide higher education opportunities to these populations.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders are one of the fastest growing minority populations in the United States, yet many are left behind in numerous programs which help minority students bridge the gap to higher education attainment. Historically Title III and Title V of the Higher Education Act were established to aid colleges and universities to expand educational opportunities for financially needy and minority students. Currently, the Department of Education has the authority to designate minority serving higher education institutions for Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, American Indian Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities, Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions, and Alaska Native Serving Institutions, but not for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is long overdue and an important issue to Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across the nation. In the January 2001 Interim Report of the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the Commission recognized the need to establish a designation of Asian American and Pacific Islander Serving Institutions as a focus for outreach, employment recruitment, research, and program development.

During a Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus Summit on the Higher Education Status of Southeast Asians and Pacific Islanders held on May 18, 2001, the College Board and various federal officials identified a deficiency in the data collection and reporting of Asian American and Pacific Islander students. Their statements concluded that when data for subpopulations are disaggregately reported, the disparities in educational attainment increase dramatically and reveal that subpopulations with higher number of low-income households indeed have fewer opportunities for higher education.

My bill seeks to encourage higher education institutions to address this disparity by improving their capacity to serve these populations. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the original co-sponsors of this legislation, and