

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 disaggregatedly 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