

in order to build safer and more secure neighborhoods to reduce crime, decrease local violence, and lower the demand for drugs. NATW provides information, program support and technical assistance to its associated members, which include Neighborhood, Crime, Community, Town and Block Watch groups, law enforcement agencies, state and regional crime prevention organizations, businesses, civic groups, and community volunteers.

I greatly support the mission of NATW and National Night Out, and in past Congresses have introduced resolutions in recognition of NNO, and have supported continued funding for the program. The House passed resolutions in support of National Night Out in 2000 and 2001.

This year I have again introduced a resolution expressing support of the House for this important event. H. Res. 437 commends National Night Out and encourages the President and his administration to focus appropriate attention on neighborhood crime prevention and community policing, and to coordinate federal efforts to participate in "National Night Out", including supporting local efforts, neighborhood watches and local officials to provide homeland security.

I am grateful to Chairman SENSENBRENNER and the Judiciary Committee for last week's voice vote passage of this resolution, and I thank Chairman SENSENBRENNER for his great help on this issue.

Recently the Senate passed Senators BIDEN and SPECTER's companion resolution on NNO, S. Res. 284. The Senators have also authored an op-ed that appeared in several newspapers, highlighting NNO, neighborhood watch, volunteerism and community-crime prevention, I commend the op-ed written by Senators BIDEN and SPECTER and request that it be included in the RECORD.

Neighborhood watch and community crime prevention are especially important in the aftermath of September 11th and I encourage my colleagues to participate in NNO on August 6th.

HOW NEIGHBORS CAN HELP THWART TERRORISM

(By Joseph R. Biden and Arlen Specter)

Remember when neighbors knew neighbors? Remember front porches? Remember hot summer nights when families sat on the front stoop and talked over the fence?

On Aug. 6 of this year, more than 33 million people in 9,700 communities from all 50 states will participate in the 19th-annual National Night Out to revitalize the America's neighborhood spirit and remind us of a time when neighbors routinely looked out for one another, and everyone knew the cop on the beat. This year, as our nation recovers from the shock of Sept. 11, we encourage everyone to participate.

This will be a National Night Out Against Crime, and we urge every citizen from coast to coast to turn on outside lights, to took over the fence and open the gates, get to know your neighbors, meet with local police, and participate in block parties and parades.

In concert with the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out has been at the forefront of community crime prevention and neighborhood watch for nearly two decades, encouraging citizens to become active supporters and caretakers of their communities.

The effort involves citizens in all 50 states who volunteer to make a difference by leading anti-crime efforts in their communities—restoring the sense that we are all members

of a community and that our common concerns and shared values are as important as individual rights. When we act together, and look out for one another, our communities become safer and fundamentally better places in which to live and raise our families.

One of the reasons we so strongly support the concept of neighborhood watch is that it literally grew up in our back yard. The seeds of National Night Out were planted in our tri-state area of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware nearly two decades ago.

What began in a few mid-Atlantic states has now grown to become a national grassroots event supporting communities organized in local chapters to fight crime year round. It is an amazing event when you consider that currently one out of every nine Americans participates.

We believe in a neighborhood watch concept because it works. Studies show that 95 percent of all police arrests are the direct result of a citizen phone call. They also show that neighborhood watch programs effectively lower crime rates.

Neighborhood Watch programs, like those championed during the National Night Out event, have been a valuable part of crime and drug prevention for decades. Today, crime watch programs also can play an important role in heightening awareness to combat terrorism and uniting neighborhoods to respond and assist one another in the event of emergencies.

At a time when homeland security is on the minds of everyone, we support every effort to bring Americans together by persuading them to volunteer in their communities.

With the nation on a permanent terror alert, neighborhood volunteers can play a crucial role in identifying potential dangers and, if need be, alerting law enforcement and emergency officials. Psychologically, the knowledge that trusted members of our community are providing an extra measure of security should reassure everyone.

We applaud every effort to support Neighborhood Watch because it is about building community, preventing crime, and, now, thwarting terrorism. Working side by side with local law enforcement, neighborhood crime watch groups are an invaluable resource.

The tragic events of last Sept. 11 reminded us of the importance of family and friends, faith, neighbors, and communities. It also reminded us how closely all of America's communities are linked.

Every year, National Night Out serves as a great opportunity for Americans to get to know their neighbors, become involved in their communities, and show their sense of patriotism.

This Aug. 6, National Night Out will bring Americans together again to help make a difference, one doorstep at a time. Let's all be part of it.

COMMEMORATING THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF ASIAN HOLOCAUST OF WWII (1931-1945)

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Eugene Wei on the grand opening of the American Museum of Asian Holocaust, located at 400 Taylor Avenue in Falls Creek, Pennsylvania. The museum came about as a result of Mr. Wei's vision. I com-

mend Mr. Wei for having the foresight to create such an important learning institution.

The mission statement of the museum is "to remember those events of World War Two in Asia, preserve them through photographs, written word and multimedia, and to educate the public now and in the future so that the wounds of the past may be healed through repentance of the perpetrators and forgiveness from the victims and their families."

This museum will have photographic exhibits of the Asian Holocaust of World War Two, which was perpetrated by the invading and occupying forces of Japan in Asian countries including China, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia, as well as stories of the American defense of Bataan and Corregidor. The museum will tell the story of the plight of the American POWs who were forced to work for Japanese companies as slave laborers in coal mines, shipyards, copper mines and steel mills and their horrible hell ships experiences.

Existing exhibits made by the Alliance for Preserving the Truth of Sino-Japanese War (APTSJW) on the Rape of Nanking, Comfort Women, and Japanese Unit 731 biological and chemical warfare, will be on display at the museum as well. A special display on anthrax attacks in China by Japan during the years 1942-1944 will also be shown.

I commend Eugene Wei for educating the public about the atrocities that took place in the Pacific Theater during World War Two. This is not an easy history to tell, but it must be told so that we do not repeat it in the future. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all those who have the opportunity, to visit this important museum.

MINNESOTA'S 10TH ANNUAL STAND DOWN

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 26, 2002

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Minnesota's 10th annual Stand Down, held August 1-4, 2002.

Minnesota Stand Down is an annual event that provides homeless veterans and their families with a break from the daily struggles of unemployment, personal issues, and medical and legal problems. Over the past nine years, 3900 volunteers have gathered on the banks of the Mississippi River to give their time and energy serving thousands of homeless and near homeless veterans and their families. The unified efforts of these volunteers provide a brief, yet welcoming, respite for those veterans who face the struggles of the street and the despairs of poverty.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of a bill recognizing the merits of Stand Downs and increasing the number of Stand Downs in America. H.R. 3271, the Bruce Vento Stand Down Act, will enact a pilot program authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to conduct and participate in at least one Stand Down in every state. This effort will also increase the number of Stand Downs in America through a partnership between the Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans' service organizations, and community volunteers in coordinating Stand Down events for our nation's homeless veterans.