

economy. It is unconscionable that previous attempts to extend aid to those who have lost their jobs as a result of this Administration's misguided economic policies have been blocked by the majority leadership. Passing an extension of this important program has given hope to those who have, through no fault of their own, lost their jobs in these tough economic times.

Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the Woolsey amendment did not pass and that congressional leadership insists on retaining language discriminating against employees at faith-based organizations based on religion. Despite these reservations, I supported final passage of H.R. 3030, as amended by Mr. MILLER's unemployment extension amendment, and I hope the Senate will pass this important bill quickly to help millions of job seekers currently unemployed and looking for work.

DEMOCRATIC PROPOSAL TO
EXTEND UI BENEFITS

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the Republican economists, the Wall Street Journal and other conservative propaganda organs are loudly proclaiming that the recession is over. They are trumpeting a new prosperity. But there are no jobs for the more than three million who lost their jobs. In my District unemployment is an awful reality. Every worker would like to be employed in a job that allows him to bring home a check big enough to meet his family's needs. However, if you don't have a job, then you welcome the desperately needed unemployment insurance.

The stories of two unemployed workers in my district put a human face on the ugly statistics related to this calamity. John Pleck and Nina Worrell both face an uncertain future because of the Bush Administration's focus on tax cuts for the rich. John's UI benefits expired in December, leaving him with no income. He spends each day searching the "job wanted ads" while submitting applications for various jobs. The Democratic plan would provide John with more time to find a well paying job. John's story is heard everyday throughout the United States. In fact, John's current situation is very similar to another constituent in my district. Mrs. Nina Worrell spent 14 years working for United Airlines. Mrs. Worrell has been unemployed for more than a year and has struggled to pay her bills. Her UI benefits also expired in December, leaving Mrs. Worrell with few choices. While she has continued to search for a new job, the unemployment rate

in New York has continued to skyrocket. We must extend UI benefits for people such as John and Nina.

The Republican Administration continues to support policies that harm America: Continuation of the Republican war against working families; failure to appreciate contributions of working families to the overall national resources and purpose; the war in Iraq being fought by the relatives of these unemployed Americans.

Democrats prefer an economic stimulus package for jobs. The compassionate, the right action to take, the policy which best serves the national interests and national security at this time is the simple extension of unemployment insurance.

I urge a "yes" vote for this amendment.

COMMEMORATING KOREAN
AMERICAN DAY

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Korean immigrants to the United States.

On January 13, 1903, the first wave of Korean immigrants arrived in Hawaii. Although recruited to do backbreaking work on the sugar plantations, they arrived with great hope that they would find a better life for themselves and their children in this country. The second wave of Korean immigrants arrived after World War II and the Korean War. They came in search of political and educational freedom. The third influx of Korean immigrants arrived after 1965. Many in this last group were medical professionals who came to fill the shortage of health care workers in our inner cities. Since then, others have arrived and have pursued the American Dream of owning successful small businesses. These "mom and pop" shops have helped to revitalize declining neighborhoods and provide an important economic stimulus in communities throughout the nation. Despite language and cultural barriers and sometimes blatant discrimination, Korean Americans—like so many other immigrants who arrive to this country—are helping to keep America strong.

Toward this end, the Korean American community has shown its tremendous resiliency. Racial struggles exist in all communities. But we are obligated to reflect back upon certain tragedies as important reminders. Following the loss of life and extensive property damage in the Los Angeles riots of 1992, the Korean-American community and the Nation grieved and sought out better ways to prevent future

violence. Many in the Korean-American community cite the Los Angeles riots as the historical turning point that led to the political mobilization of Korean Americans nationwide and brought about a new awareness for the need to reach out and build better relationships with other ethnic groups.

Today, as we continue to heal past wounds and embrace our differences, I can say with great pride that the growing Korean American community in this country makes up a valuable, dynamic and integral part of our diverse society. Korean Americans serve in our armed services. World War II history buffs will recall the brave and heroic acts of Colonel Young Oak Kim. He became the most decorated soldier in the 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. For his bravery, he earned the Silver Star Medal for saving countless American lives. As successful entrepreneurs, Korean-American business owners contribute \$45 billion annually to our Nation's economy. Korean Americans have a great influence in the fashion industry, international trade, restaurants and many other community businesses. Korean cuisine is also crossing cultural lines. Enjoyed by Americans throughout the country, kimchi, for example, is a spicy pickled cabbage that is now famous for literally bringing tears to the faint.

Overall, Korean Americans have made significant contributions to this country in a wide variety of professions, ranging from the arts to medicine to the sciences. As a Nation, we are benefiting from this tremendous wealth of knowledge and talent.

With nearly 2 million Korean Americans living in the United States, Korean immigration is an important part of our Nation's history and collective heritage. Like most immigrants, Koreans brought with them the deeply embedded and cherished American values of hard work, sacrifice, and respect for family, church and community.

This was especially apparent at the January 13 gala dinner that I attended along with my colleague, LINDA SÁNCHEZ. The beautiful affair brought to an end a year-long celebration marking the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Korean Americans to this country. The Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the U.S. and the Korean American Day Committee are to be commended for making the celebration possible.

I would like to thank both Committees for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful celebration and, above all, for their commitment to preserving the tremendous history of the Korean American community. Because of their efforts, current and future generations will have a greater awareness of the proud legacy of the Korean American community and its important contribution over the last 100 years to the beautiful mosaic that today makes up and binds our diverse and great Nation.