

are no longer isolated ethnic enclaves. As the APA community has spread and grown, these historic neighborhoods have become vibrant centers of cultural exchange and learning.

As a former mayor and native of San Francisco, I can safely say that my hometown would not be the wonderfully vibrant, bustling city it is without the conditions of the Asian Pacific American community.

Finally, Asian Pacific Americans played an important role as we built our country into what it is today. I am pleased to take this time today to honor the accomplishments of these remarkable Americans during this Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

PROMOTING FAIRNESS WITHIN THE FEDERAL CONTRACTING PROCESS

Mr. AKAKA. Over the past 3 days, I have discussed the need to honor public servants, especially Federal workers, during Public Service Recognition Week. I thought back to last week when I participated in the nomination hearing for David Safavian, who has been nominated to serve as the Administrator for the Office of Federal Procurement Policy. This position serves as the gatekeeper for the Government's contracts. Much of our discussion with Mr. Safavian centered on making sure that Federal employees have the right to protest competition decisions and that agencies have adequate funds to compete to retain work in-house.

Some of the concerns expressed at our hearing stemmed from what I consider to be misguided principles set forth under the President's Management Agenda, which required agencies to implement quotas that could have resulted in the contracting out of up to one-half of all Federal work. Congress, in a bipartisan manner, voiced its opposition to this government-wide approach of contracting out quotas through provisions in the Fiscal Year 2003 Transportation, Treasury, and General Government Appropriations Act. In response to this action and others, the administration dropped this approach in favor of agency-specific plans. With the recent policy reversal of the administration on contracting quotas, I had hoped that the change would have resulted in a fairer approach to the contracting out of Federal work. Therefore, I was disappointed that a February 2004 report on competitive sourcing by the General Accounting Office, GAO, Congress's independent auditor, found that agencies have focused more on following OMB guidelines on the number of positions to compete at the expense of achieving savings and improving performance.

As the ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Financial Management Subcommittee and the Armed Services Readiness Subcommittee, I understand that without adequate management structures, management

information systems, and program review structures, government contracts will not realize savings for the American people. This has been proved time and again by GAO. Contract management and acquisitions have long been identified as high-risk areas. As such, we must ensure that Government contracts are awarded only to responsible parties who generate cost-savings throughout the life of contracts. To counter cost overruns and stop erroneous and improper payments, agencies need the resources to improve the speed and accuracy of contract data collection.

The GAO report also noted that six out of the seven agency offices examined had only one or two employees overseeing outsourcing activities. More must be done to make certain that agencies have the people, skills, and technologies needed to oversee \$230 billion in contracts.

The key to achieving success requires strengthening the Federal Government's acquisition and contract management workforce. We must recognize that this corps of professionals make decisions every day affecting how hundreds of millions of Federal dollars are spent. For a number of years now, the acquisition workforce has been drastically downsized and many of those remaining are eligible to retire.

Whether we are discussing quotas or the acquisition workforce, concerns about competitive outsourcing within the Federal Government are essentially about accountability. Approximately 2 million Federal employees and another 8 million private sector employees work for the Government on grants and contracts. This situation raises concerns about who is ultimately responsible for contracted work. It also draws attention to the long-term implications of competitive outsourcing, both in terms of money spent, efficiencies gained, and the retention of institutional knowledge and experienced Federal employees.

As we near the end of Public Service Recognition Week, I want to thank our acquisition workforce for their efforts in managing Government contracts. I also urge my colleagues to support efforts to increase and train the acquisition workforce and implement the systems and structures needed to ensure that Government contracting is transparent, accountable, cost effective, and fair to Federal workers.

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICER THOMAS STEINER

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, flags were flown at half-staff recently in memory of Thomas J. Steiner, a California Highway Patrol, CHP, officer allegedly killed by a teenager who wanted to impress a gang. Officer Steiner was 35 years old and left behind a wife, Heidi, and two children, Bryan and Justin. I am honored to stand before my colleagues to memorialize this dedicated officer.

On Wednesday, April 21, 2004, shortly before 3 p.m., Officer Steiner exited the Pomona South Courthouse after testifying in traffic court. Before he could get to his patrol car, shots were fired at the officer from behind the wheel of a car. Officer Steiner died at a local hospital later that evening. An arrest was made in the case.

Thomas Steiner died because he wore a uniform. Our law enforcement officers know the dangers and demands of their profession, but despite the daily challenges they face, they commit themselves to protecting others and do so selflessly. A five-year CHP veteran, Officer Steiner clearly exemplified the very best. CHP Chief Mike Brown told a news source that Steiner "loved being a cop. He loved putting on the uniform. He wore it with pride." CHP Commissioner D.O. "Spike" Helmick called Steiner a "quiet family man always ready to help." Steiner was also known as a mentor to newcomers to the department. He will be deeply missed by all those privileged to have known him.

Officer Steiner's murder sent shockwaves through the community. Steiner was known as a solid officer and devoted family man. Whether drinking his morning Gatorade at the station or bottle-feeding his baby on the homefront, Officer Steiner's goals seemed to be simple: to do his job well and be a good husband and father.

As the community reflects on the life and memory of Officer Steiner with a very heavy heart, I salute his legacy as a dedicated officer and family man, and extend my deepest condolences to his entire family and to his friends.

THE EFFORTS TO ATTACH THE ENERGY BILL TO S. 150, THE INTERNET TAX BILL

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I would like to explain my votes on two amendments that were offered to S. 150, the Internet access tax bill that the Senate debated last week. I was pleased to support the amendment offered by the Senator from South Dakota, Mr. DASCHLE, No. 3050. I support the renewable fuels title of this amendment and the measures that increase the supply of ethanol. I also support language to consolidate the number of reformulated gasoline blends. I have worked closely with Congressman PAUL RYAN in an effort to reduce the number of Federal reformulated gasoline blends and increase gasoline supplies. In recent years, fuel supply shocks such as pipeline problems and refinery fires have contributed significantly to gasoline price spikes in southern Wisconsin. Chicago and southeast Wisconsin use a specialized blend of reformulated gasoline to meet Federal Clean Air Act requirements that is not used elsewhere in the country. When supplies of this type of gasoline run low, Wisconsin is unable to draw on supplies of gasoline from other areas.

I could not, however, support the amendment offered by the Senator