

Several months ago, Southeast Asia was devastated by a tsunami. This terrible tragedy claimed the lives of countless thousands of people and caused horrific damage to the lives of those who survived it. Ms. Hanson was deeply touched and saddened by the lives of the children affected. Seeking to make a difference in the lives of these traumatized children, she started a toy drive she called "Teddy Bears for Tsunami Children."

Ms. Hansen set up boxes with signs at local retail establishments, banks, and nonprofit organizations requesting donations of new and previously loved clean teddy bears and small, plush toys. The first shipment of 240 stuffed animals left San Diego for India, tightly packed into the suitcases and duffle bags of 62 doctors and nurses with Project Compassion. Approximately 300 more animals were sent in a package to Sri Lanka by Debbie and Mano Appapillai of Carmel Valley, California. Ms. Hanson is currently collecting 500 or more toys which will find their new homes this month. Ms. Hanson has worked very hard to publicize her project into North San Diego County. She utilized newspapers, drop off points, and television to get her message out. Her determination and effort are rare and worthy of the highest praise. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have Beverly Hanson as a constituent.

CONGRATULATING GEORGE K. LAI ON BEING NAMED 2005 GUAM SMALL BUSINESSPERSON OF THE YEAR BY THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend Mr. George K. Lai on being named 2005 Guam Small Businessperson of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration. George Lai's hard work and perseverance embody the spirit of the American Dream, and the SBA could not have selected a more worthy recipient.

Like many of this Nation's great entrepreneurs, George came to the United States as an immigrant. Having grown up in Hong Kong with very little formal education in the English language, he worked hard to take advantage of opportunities for formal secondary education in Guam. After graduating from Guam's John F. Kennedy High School with honors, George gained admission to Texas Agriculture and Mining University, where he earned a B.S. in Petroleum Engineering in 1982. After several years of working for Dower Schlumberger, a Houston-based oil service company, he and his wife, Deborah Larsen Lai, moved back to Guam and established Quality Distributors in 1986. Quality Distributors has since become the largest food wholesaler on the island.

George has provided sound leadership for Quality Distributors, which led to its awarding as "New Contractor of the Year" by the Defense Logistics Agency in 2002. Quality Distributors was subsequently awarded "Prime Vendor of the Year" by the Defense Supplies Center of Philadelphia in 2003 in recognition

of its outstanding performance in the Pacific Region. Under George's leadership, Quality Distributors has continued to provide efficient wholesale services to local retailers and value to Federal procurement officers. Because of this sound business leadership, Quality Distributors helps foster local economic growth and new jobs.

In addition to providing business leadership, George is an active participant in local trade organizations that work to enhance the overall competitiveness of firms located in Guam. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association and for the Guam Environmental Protection Agency; as Vice President of the Chinese Merchant Association; and has maintained an active role in the Guam Chamber of Commerce and Guam Visitors Bureau. He has also supported the Guam community by serving as Treasurer and Director of Finance for the Guam Football and Soccer Association and as Chairman of the Women's National Soccer Team. George has also been generous in providing corporate sponsorships for important programs supporting public education, youth sports, and disaster relief in the Pacific Region.

George is a business leader, an inspiration for us all, and an individual deeply committed to utilizing his talents for the benefit of the entire Guam community. I congratulate George for being selected as the 2005 Guam Small Businessperson of the Year. Our island celebrates his national recognition with his wife Deborah and daughters Samantha and Breanna. George, we are all proud of you and we wish you continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I inadvertently voted "yes" on H.R. 1268, the Emergency Supplemental Wartime Appropriations Act. My intention was to vote "no" for the following reasons:

The President is asking for another blank check, despite the fact that its policies in Iraq have made our country and the world less safe.

The President has neither accounted for the funds spent pursuing these unsuccessful policies nor have they offered the American people a plan to stabilize the situation in Iraq and bring our troops home.

March 19, 2005, is the second anniversary of the war in Iraq and the world is a more dangerous place. To date 1,500 American troops have died in Iraq and 11,000 have been wounded.

I want to make clear that I support the courageous men and women in combat and I think it is imperative that we bring our troops home as quickly and safely as possible.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF SAN MARCOS CITY COUNCIL MEMBER GAYLORD BOSE

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of San Marcos City Councilman Gaylord Bose, of my Congressional District.

Gaylord Bose was born near Avoca, Nebraska near Cass County, and graduated in 1957 from Avoca High School. In 1958 he enrolled at the University of Nebraska, and in 1960 he began his own business.

Mr. Bose was involved in many community activities in their hometown, he served on the school board, as a member of the Weeping Water co-op Association, Secretary of the Volunteer Fire Department, president of the local sports program for young people, a 4-H club leader, church council, Sunday school teacher, and member of the Cass County 4-H Board.

In 1982 Gaylord and his family moved to Waller, Texas to work for Star of Hope Rescue Mission, a substance abuse rehabilitation program. Wanting to expand his ability to help others, he enrolled at the University of Houston and studied chemical abuse counseling program. He later earned a license as a chemical dependency counselor. In 1989 he was offered a job with the Wackenhut Corporation and became the Center Director of the Kyle facility.

After Gaylord Bose moved to San Marcos he became an active member Greater Castle Forest Neighborhood Association, and he was appointed by the San Marcos City Council to the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize Gaylord Bose for his dedication and contributions in the community.

A TRIBUTE TO DEBRA A. JOHNSON, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2005

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 17, 2005*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women during the month of March. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District.

I would like to recognize an outstanding woman in my Congressional District, Ms. Debra A. Johnson. For many years, Debra has brought an abounding spirit and energy to her service in the community. Those fortunate enough to meet and work with Debra instantly recognize her joy, enthusiasm and passion for helping others, especially young people.

Born in New York, Debra moved to California in 1974, while working as a Marketing Representative for Pacific Bell, now SBC. She began her nearly 30 year volunteer career in the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD)