

My mother told me how helpless she felt. She knew what her government was doing was wrong but she didn't know how to change it. She felt powerless but also felt guilty and ashamed because of what the United States government had done.

She was a life long Democrat and cast her first Presidential vote for FDR . . . but she never agreed with what he did to her neighbors.

There was no apology, no financial support, no help from the Federal Government until many years later.

Finally, on February 19, 1976 President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066.

And, at long last, on July 21, 1980 Congress adopted legislation establishing the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to investigate the claim that the incarceration of Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens during World War II was justified by military necessity.

On August 10, 1988 the Civil Liberties Act was signed into law, authorizing payments of \$20,000 to each person that suffered from internment and established the Office of Redress to identify, locate, and pay these individuals, 82,219 were paid.

By then my neighbors and my parents neighbors who had been unjustly incarcerated—Ed Kawazoe, Jimi Yamaichi, Ted and Raiko, and many others—received at long last an apology. Some lived long enough to receive the compensation provided for in the law.

These efforts were celebrated in the community of Japanese Americans. But they were also celebrated in the broader community because Americans who were not incarcerated, like my mother, felt the shame and the guilt.

And while an apology could not undo the injustice and the compensation did not fully cover the loss, it helped that our country admitted the mistake and tried to make amends.

On March 4, 2004 H. Res. 56, introduced by Congressman MIKE HONDA, passed the House by a unanimous vote of 404-0. The resolution supports the goals of the Japanese, German, and Italian American communities in recognizing a National Day of Remembrance on the day FDR signed the infamous Executive Order 9066—February 19, 1942. It also seeks to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II.

Today, I support Mr. HONDA's resolution to recognize February 19th as the Day of Remembrance. It is the least we can do—spend one day per year reflecting on the horrors of internment, remember those who suffered, and work to find ways never to repeat that terrible page in history.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 16 I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BUSH ONCE AGAIN SKIRTING LAW IMPACTING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Congress should not allow the United Arab Emirates port deal to go through. It must be stopped, and House Republicans should grow a backbone and finally stand up to the president in the name of national security.

This deal shows once again the lengths the Bush administration will go to bend the laws to their advantage. The administration failed to conduct a 45-day investigation that is legally required. This, in itself, should be enough to stop this deal.

The national security implications are simply too important to ignore. And, unfortunately, House Republicans have neglected our vulnerable ports since 9/11. Over the past four years, House Republicans have opposed and defeated Democratic efforts to increase funding for port security. Right now, only six percent of cargo coming into the U.S. is being checked, producing a large hole in our homeland security. Democrats have tried to increase port security funding on this House floor FOUR TIMES over the last four years, and House Republicans defeated our efforts every time.

It's time Republicans make port security a priority.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND WORK OF MS. MARY JO AVERY, ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of a community and labor leader in the 4th Congressional District. Ms. Mary Jo Avery, long-time member and officer of Local 4603 of the Communications Workers of America, has dedicated her life to public service. I salute her for her achievements as she retires from SBC-Ameritech after 32 years of service.

Within the labor movement, Ms. Avery worked tirelessly to advance women's leadership and to advocate for solutions to the unique difficulties women workers often face. An award-winning union leader, she also played a pivotal role in developing the Wisconsin Women's Network into a vibrant and powerful organization. She helped mentor, develop, support and advance women leaders, not only within the labor movement but in the broader community. Herself a devoted parent—mother of four, grandmother of 9, and great-grandmother of 5—she argued for establishing policies and practices that would facilitate workers' efforts to maintain a work/family balance. CWA's leadership on this issue no doubt drew many lessons from Ms. Avery's own personal experience.

Also a noted civil rights activist, Ms. Avery connected the labor movement to local and

national civil rights struggles. She received the National A. Philip Randolph Rosina Tucker Award for civil rights leadership and the Black Women's Network's Outstanding Achievement Award. Since 1995, she has served as President of the Milwaukee Chapter of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and was previously appointed to the City of Milwaukee's Civil Rights Commission.

I have known Ms. Avery for over 20 years. She has been an important ally in the struggle to realize ideals we both share, and has been a personal source of inspiration and support. In all she does, Mary Jo works to ensure that the promise of America is extended to those often left out—women, people of color, and other vulnerable communities. I commend her for these accomplishments, thank her for her groundbreaking leadership, and wish her a long and enjoyable retirement.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES PEACE CORPS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, it was exactly 45 years ago today, on March 1, 1961, that President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order establishing the Peace Corps under its first Director, Sargent Shriver. Five months later, in that distant summer of 1961, the inaugural group of volunteers prepared to leave for the African country of Ghana. These first Peace Corps volunteers "boarded a chartered Pan American propeller driven plane for the 17-hour flight to Accra." This was the beginning of not only a life-shaping experience for these 56 pioneers but also the commencement of the entire Peace Corps saga which we are honoring today. These fellow citizens had responded to the clarion call contained in President Kennedy's inaugural address, which had challenged all Americans to "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Since that first summer, over 170,000 volunteers have answered the late President's call, serving in over 137 countries. These are our diplomats of the highways and byways. They bring the smiling face of American optimism, the famous American can-do spirit, and the American dedication to democratic values to the far corners of the globe. Their "offices" are found in dirt-floor village classrooms, at rural health clinics, on Third World farms, in development projects in some of the world's worst urban slums, and at orphanages for the abandoned children of the world. Their rewards are found in the shy smiles of students, the grateful laughter of children, and the hearty handshakes of senior citizens who have finally found their longed-for American friend. The price these volunteers are willing to pay for their unique experience of service often includes sweat and toil, loneliness and frustration, but also the hearty laughter of welcomes and the sad tears of fond farewells. They are the unsung heroes of America's continued engagement with the peoples of the developing world. At a time when anti-Americanism has become the fashion in certain quarters overseas, Peace Corps volunteers have served