

The history of Brooklyn has roughly paralleled that of neighboring municipalities in the industrial area along the Mississippi River, across from St. Louis. Many of its residents readily found work in the stockyards and factories that flourished into the middle of the last century. As those industries left, so did the jobs that allowed the citizens of Brooklyn to provide for their families.

Despite recent hard times, the same spirit that led those first courageous settlers to establish this community still lives on. The village motto is, "Founded by Chance, Sustained by Courage," and those words inspire the current generation to seek new opportunities for their community. The "North Star" Corridor Economic Alliance Project is one example of a new implementation of the community's founding values.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 133rd anniversary of the Village of Brooklyn, Illinois and to wish them the best as they move forward in the years to come.

KIMBERLY FLYNN ON 9/11 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to read the statement of Kimberly Flynn, a member of 9/11 Environmental Action, a community group in New York City focused on environmental and health impacts of the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Ms. Flynn gave this statement at a rally in New York City that I attended to bring attention to the health problems that continue to exist from 9/11.

Good afternoon. I'm Kimberly Flynn and I represent 9/11 Environmental Action. We're community activists. For nearly 5 years, we've been fighting for the comprehensive EPA cleanup that never happened. And we're also fighting for the health needs of all those harmed by 9/11 pollution to be met.

In the days after 9/11, like many people, my mother in New Orleans was glued to CNN. Now, my mother has no expertise in occupational health and safety, but she called me with concern in her voice: Kim, why are some people digging through all that rubble wearing respirators, but most people are not? Isn't that going to cause serious problems down the line?

How is it that our government, whose job it is to protect human health from the unprecedented and obvious hazards never asked that question?

After 9/11, when two of the tallest buildings in the world were reduced to rubble, and the air was thick with dust and smoke . . . when toxic dust penetrated into buildings throughout the area, they told all of us it was safe.

At a time when your heroism and patriotism were the admiration of the entire world, they told the people of Lower Manhattan it was their patriotic duty to go about their business.

Well, I have a question for President Bush and Governor Pataki: It has been nearly 5 years, when are you going to do your patriotic duty?

To Governor Pataki: Your Ground Zero legacy is at stake. You must act to fix the unconscionable workers comp fiasco . . . NOW.

To President Bush: We will not let you leave office without acknowledging to the American people that so many of those workers, volunteers and cleanup workers who came to the rescue on and after 9/11 are sick . . . as are many others who live, work and go to school in Lower Manhattan. And that they need and deserve our government's help . . . NOW.

We will not let you leave office without making a full commitment to provide for the long-term 9/11 health needs of everyone harmed by these obvious and unprecedented hazards.

These are days of desperation for many of you, and our hearts go out to you and all those suffering from their Ground Zero exposures. But more than that, we are with you! We are yours in the struggle for justice, for the duration.

IN HONOR OF ELAINE CASS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elaine Cass, whose law career represents success, accomplishment, and community service. Throughout an illustrious career spanning both the professional and academic realms of law, Elaine's tireless dedication has provided inspiration for friends and colleagues alike. As City Attorney, Elaine represented citizens and their elected representatives on behalf of the cities of Hollister and Seaside.

Elaine was born and raised in Toronto, Canada, graduating from William Lyon Mackenzie High School in 1968. She attended the University of California, Berkeley where she received her Bachelor of the Arts degree in English literature. In 1975 she received her law degree from Santa Clara University and was admitted to the California State Bar the following year. Wasting no time, Elaine immediately embarked upon her law career working for the next six years with Legal Aid Society of Monterey County. Elaine returned to academia in 1978, becoming a law lecturer at both Santa Clara University and Monterey College of Law. While she continued to practice law throughout her university lecturing years, Elaine's educational contributions did nothing to diminish her professional ambition. If anything, lecturing on the ethical nature of law seemed to enhance her already impressive career trajectory.

Elaine served as the City Attorney for Seaside for 11 years. She also served in the same capacity for the City of Hollister, where she initiated the first code enforcement program with an emphasis on substandard housing. It was later expanded to include a relocation program which requires landlords to compensate tenants displaced by such housing. Always mindful of community interests and individual concerns, Elaine successfully blended responsibility and conscientiousness to be an attorney who is both respected by her colleagues and admired by the people she represents.

Elaine is married to Robert Zweben, and has two children, with her first grandchild on the way. Masterfully balancing family, career, and the desire to give back to society, Elaine's many achievements cannot be overstated.

Mr. Speaker, throughout her career, Elaine has made significant contributions, both professionally and academically, to the study of law. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to congratulate the accomplishments of Elaine Cass and express my sincere gratitude for her commitment to her community.

“COMFORT WOMEN”

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, United States and Japan have, since the end of hostilities in 1945, enjoyed a strong friendship, an economic partnership, and a diplomatic alliance.

Because our countries have such a durable relationship, it is possible for us, when circumstances demand, to offer criticism to each other in regard to issues of grave concern.

The occasion of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visit to the United States, in which he will be meeting with President Bush and other prominent Americans, provides a special opportunity for gentle but pointed criticism of one of our ally's shortcomings.

Mr. Speaker, our colleagues, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. Smith) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Evans) have introduced H. Res. 759, legislation that calls on Japan to acknowledge and accept responsibility for forcing women and girls into sexual slavery during the World War II era. In Korea, China, the Philippines, and other countries in the Pacific region, the Japanese use of women and little girls as sex slaves known as "comfort women" was among the most horrific degradations imaginable.

Sadly, despite decades of democratic rule and engagement with the United States and other countries that have condemned human trafficking of the past and of today, the Japanese government refuses to apologize to the world for its role in this atrocity. In fact, it will not even acknowledge Japan's responsibility for the suffering of so many women and girls forced into prostitution.

"Comfort women" were recruited in countries throughout Asia and the Pacific as Japanese troops advanced through conquest in the 1930s and 1940s. The suffering and humiliation of these girls and women ended only with the peace that came with the end of the war.

H. Res. 759 sends a strong signal to Japan, a friend and ally of the United States, that American leaders are not satisfied with the silence of the Japanese government on this human rights issue. I urge my colleagues to become cosponsors of this resolution and to bring this issue close to their hearts.

Mr. Speaker, on this issue, I commend to the House an article that appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Sunday, June 18, written by international health consultant Cesar Chelala and entitled "Japan Must Atone for Acts of Savagery."

[From the Philadelphia Inquirer,
June 18, 2006]

JAPAN MUST ATONE FOR ACTS OF SAVAGERY
(By Cesar Chelala)

Japan's continuing refusal to reach an agreement with the former "comfort

women"—women from conquered countries who were forced into sexual slavery to serve Japanese troops—has been sharply criticized by Amnesty International, which has called on the Japanese government to accept full responsibility.

Of the estimated 80,000 to 200,000 comfort women, 80 to 90 percent were from Korea. Girls as young as 11 were forced to serve between five and 40 soldiers a day, and almost 100 soldiers daily on weekends. Those who resisted were beaten, burned or wounded with the soldiers' swords. During the Japanese retreat, many were left to starve or were executed to eliminate any trace of the atrocities.

For many years after the Second World War, Japan insisted that the comfort stations had been private brothels. Only in 1993 did Japan admit any military responsibility. Although many of the comfort women have died, and many are now quite old, Japan must make restitution. The principle is not so much war as the human dignity of women, and as long as Japan does nothing, it implies that it does not care.

The first South Korean woman to tell her story was Bae Bong Ki in 1980. Kim Hak Soon, who died in 1997, related in 1991 how Japanese soldiers had abducted her when she was 17 and forced to carry ammunition by day and serve as a prostitute by night. Her testimony sparked several others. Evidence of comfort stations has already been found in Korea, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Burma, New Guinea and Okinawa.

Chung Seo Woon, interviewed by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson in the book *Making More Waves*, was the only child of a wealthy landowner in South Korea. Her father was sent to prison and badly tortured. When she was 16, she was allowed to visit him. She was told that if she agreed to work in Japan for 2 years, her father would be released. Despite strong objections from her mother, she agreed.

Chung Seo Woon was placed on a ship with many other girls and women. Her group went from Japan to Indonesia, where they were sterilized and sent to Semarang, a coastal town, where they were forced to serve dozens of soldiers and officers daily. In the process, she was forced to become an opium addict. When Chung Seo Woon attempted to commit suicide by swallowing malaria pills, she was revived, and, she remarks, "It was then that I made up my mind to survive and tell my story, what Japan did to us." When war ended and she returned home, she found her house deserted. Her father had died in prison, and her mother, humiliated by a rape attempt by Japanese soldiers, had committed suicide.

Chung Seo Woon kicked her opium addiction after 8 hard months of struggle and worked hard to regain her dignity. She was never able to attain a normal sex life, but found companionship and care from a physician who had had a nervous breakdown after serving in the Japanese army.

In November 1994, an international commission of jurists stated that "it is indisputable that these women were forced, deceived, coerced and abducted to provide sexual services to the Japanese military" and that Japan "violated customary norms of international law concerning war crimes, crimes against humanity, slavery and the trafficking in women and children. . . . Japan should take full responsibility now, and make suitable restitution to the victims and their families."

Still forthcoming is a formal, clear and unambiguous apology to the victims of sexual abuse by Japanese soldiers, adequate monetary compensation, and punishment of those involved.

In 1995, the Japanese government introduced the Asian Women's Fund as a response

to international criticism. But the fund is widely perceived by survivors as a way for the Japanese government not to fulfill its legal responsibilities. As Purna Sen, director of Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific Program, has stated: "The Japanese government must finally right the wrongs of over 60 years by providing full reparations to the survivors of this horrific system of sexual slavery."

The money is more than money; it carries with it an important symbolism. During her testimony at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995, Chung Seo Woon declared, "I might be poor, but not that poor. I demand the compensation that is rightly due to me, even if I would burn the money after it is in my hand. It is not a matter of money but of principle. The Japanese have defiled my body but not my spirit. My spirit is strong, rich and proud."

Contact César Chelala at cchelala@aol.com.

PRESIDENT SASSOU-NGUESSO'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 28, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on June 6 of this year, the President of the Republic of Congo, Mr. Denis Sassou-Nguesso, met at the White House with President Bush.

Not a mere photo opportunity, this meeting was substantive and included discussions of the situation in Darfur (Sudan), terrorism in Somalia and other parts of Africa, combating HIV/AIDS, and debt relief.

These discussions were important because, in addition to being leader of his own country, President Sassou-Nguesso serves as chairman of the African Union. Congo is also currently a member of the United Nations Security Council.

The two presidents exchanged views on issues of importance to the entire African continent, in particular the crisis of Darfur (Sudan), the electoral process in Congo's neighbor, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and the situation in the Ivory Coast.

President Bush welcomed President Sassou-Nguesso's assertion that Africa should take the lead in the search for solutions to Africa's problems. In regard to the crisis of Darfur, the two heads of state agreed on the sending of U.N. forces to replace those of the African Union. There is a delegation of the U.N. Security Council currently carrying out a mission in the Central African Republic, and they agreed that this mission should remain in place to supervise operations in Darfur, the DRC, and Chad. President Sassou-Nguesso thanked President Bush for the U.S. leadership in the fight against the HIV pandemic in Africa.

They also discussed ecological management of the Congo Basin and the Gulf of Guinea as well as bilateral co-operation between the Republic of Congo and the United States. Congo is one of the countries eligible to participate in trade and investment opportunities under the terms of the African Growth and Opportunity Act of 2000.

After the meeting, President Bush stated: "We had a very constructive discussion about a variety of issues. We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in

Darfur. I appreciate the President's leadership in helping negotiate a peace agreement, and I appreciate his leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmeted as quickly as possible.

"And one of my interests, of course, is to join with African nations in combating HIV/AIDS, and I want to congratulate the President for the low infection rate in Congo."

For his part, President Sassou-Nguesso said: "President Bush is absolutely right, we discussed a lot of issues that we're all interested in: peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world. We talked about terrorism, we talked about the Iranian nuclear issue, we talked about the dialogue that's about to open up, I hope, and that will bring good results to that problem.

"And on behalf of all of Africa, I thank President Bush for his commitment in fighting AIDS, the commitment of the United States in the fight against HIV/AIDS. As you know, we had a special meeting on AIDS at the United Nations General Assembly, and as you know also, Africa is the continent that suffers the most from this scourge.

"And we also talked about African development issues. We talked about the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin, the NEPAD, Project for African Development in Africa. And I was happy to see President Bush give his entire support to the development of Africa."

Mr. Speaker, the emergence of the Republic of Congo as a leader in African diplomacy and economic issues is worth noting. Only a few years ago, this small country was suffering from the aftermath of protracted civil conflict. President Sassou-Nguesso has diligently embarked on a program of political reform, social reconciliation, and economic modernization that can serve as a model for other parts of Africa.

I hope that the talks at the White House result in concrete measures for addressing the many issues President Bush and President Sassou-Nguesso discussed.

SCIENCE, STATE, JUSTICE, COMMERCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 27, 2006

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, the Fiscal Year 2007 Science, State, Justice and Commerce Appropriations bill would fund the JAG-Byrne program at \$367 million, which leaves a gap beyond what many States and local law enforcement agencies can fill without cutting multi-jurisdictional task forces which are critical in fighting the war against drugs.

At a time when meth and other drug crime enforcement has already stretched funding resources thin, this funding reduction will certainly have a negative impact. Most of Iowa's meth is in the purer form of "Ice." It is coming into my State from a foreign nation, Mexico. Our cocaine seizures are almost all of Mexican origin.

Recent marijuana seizures in Iowa are of Mexican origin. States, like Iowa, can use Federal assistance in dealing with this now