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Most recently, Sy has served as president of the board of directors of SOS—Sonoma Overnight Shelter—which he and other members of the community started in an effort to extend a helping hand to the homeless and working poor who need assistance with restoring their self-sufficiency. It is a project he has dedicated himself to.

First of all, Sy points out, it is a shelter; it is designed for those who are temporarily homeless. "Most of the time the people we're dealing with are women or single moms," says Sy. These are usually women who have been dependent upon a man and suddenly find themselves alone or alone with children and without life skills needed for independent living. They may stay with family or friends for awhile until that becomes untenable and then they are out on the streets.

"And this," Sy says, referring to the astronomical Bay Area real estate prices, "is a tough place to find an affordable space."

His compassionate service is one reason Sonoma Mayor Joanne Sanders chose Sy for Alcalde. She has known Sy for 20 years and says, "When it's driving rain, late at night, and the phone rings, he's the kind of guy who'll go out and find a place for someone to stay. He's an unsung hero."

Madam Speaker, we would like to join with the City of Sonoma in recognizing the contributions Sy Lenz has made to the lives of the residents of the Sonoma Valley area.

HONORING SY LENZ

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise, along with Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the gentleman honored by the City of Sonoma as 2008 Alcalde—Honorary Mayor of the Year, Sy Lenz. The honorary position of Alcalde has been bestowed each year since 1975 on a person who has enhanced the welfare of Sonoma by his or her unselfish contributions to the community.

As Alcalde, Sy will be given a silver-headed cane as a symbol of his distinction and will appear in parades, grand openings and other special events throughout the year.

Although Sy and his wife, Harriet, have lived in Sonoma since 1989, when they moved here to be near their daughter, Sy leapt directly into community service. He used his talents as a retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Colonel and executive recruiter to volunteer on the strategic plan for the local school district. He also became active in the Kiwanis Club and with La Luz Center, a local nonprofit serving immigrants, as well as founding and developing Congregation Shir Shalom.

"One project I worked on was an attempt to establish an in-town teen club," Sy says. "We raised thousands of dollars hopefully to find a site, and although it remained out of our reach, it led to the creation of the "No-Name Cafe" at Sonoma Valley High School."

Sy's service is not limited to the younger generation. He has participated in delivering holiday meals to seniors and shut-ins, and was part of the effort to create the Senior Shade Program which provides senior citizens transportation to and from the town's holiday parades and a shady place from which to watch.

Most recently, Sy has served as president of the board of directors of SOS—Sonoma Overnight Shelter—which he and other members of the community started in an effort to extend a helping hand to the homeless and working poor who need assistance with restoring their self-sufficiency. It is a project he has dedicated himself to.

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COMMEMORATING THE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE—

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Day of Remembrance. February 19th, 2008 marks the 66th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the incarceration of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese, Italian and German ancestry. This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally acknowledged and apologized for violations of fundamental civil liberties and constitutional rights of the Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

The Day of Remembrance is of particular importance to me as I spent part of my childhood in Amache, an internment camp in southeastern Colorado. My experiences at Amache helped shape my outlook on life and influenced my political beliefs.

The purpose of the Day of Remembrance is to learn from our nation's past transgressions. In 1942, our nation's leaders failed us. Some 120,000 people were taken from their homes and incarcerated, simply because of their ancestry. Those incarcerated were denied their rights as lawful U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.

Though the Day of Remembrance has been established to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the restriction, exclusion, and internment of individuals and families during World War II, we must continue to work to educate the public about the internment of Americans in order to prevent similar injustices from ever happening again. We must not allow history to repeat itself.

In this post-9/11 world, it is imperative that we remain vigilant in the protection of our civil liberties. As we continue to fight the war against terrorism, we must reaffirm our commitment to the civil liberties granted in the Constitution and resist the urge to give into wartime hysteria. Falling victim to the same kind of racial prejudice and discrimination exhibited during World War II completely disregards the lessons of the war and the purpose of a Day of Remembrance. I am hopeful that my colleagues in both chambers will appropriate funds for Public Law 109-441 to ensure the historic preservation of Japanese American internment sites.—

Although the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 formally apologizes for violating the rights of Japanese Americans during World War II, we must not forget about the experience of Japanese Latin Americans who were also unjustly treated. These people were extricated from Latin America and brought to the United States, only to have their documents taken away from them. Without proper documentation, these Japanese Latin Americans became individuals without a country and were subsequently used as pawns in exchange for POWs in the Pacific theater. H.R. 662, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Latin Americans of Japanese Descent Act, seeks to rectify the injustices committed against these Japanese Latin Americans by establishing a Commission to investigate the relocation, internment, and deportations of Japanese Latin Americans and to recommend appropriate actions. I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor H.R. 662 to continue the healing process started by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Now, more than ever, we must strive to balance our cherished civil liberties with the need to protect our homeland. Finding this balance is the enduring lesson that the Day of Remembrance teaches us and a lesson that cannot be lost on our nation's policymakers.

LEE BOTTS—

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. I have known Lee Botts for many years, and she is one of the most active and involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to her service to protecting the Great Lakes and Lake Michigan's National Lakeshore. Today, Lee is celebrating a milestone, her 80th birthday. In her honor, a celebration will be taking place on Thursday, February 21, 2008, at the Metropolitan Club in Chicago, Illinois.

Lee Botts spent her childhood in Kansas and Oklahoma, and as a young woman, Lee