

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, this May, all Americans take time to commemorate Asian Pacific Heritage Month. As a proud member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I honor and celebrate the culture, achievements and valuable contributions of Asian Pacific Americans.

This May marks thirty years since the first ten days of May were designated Asian Pacific Heritage Week. This was extended to a full month once it became quite clear that a week would not be nearly enough time to do justice to the abundant contributions Asian Pacific Americans have made to our Nation, without which we could never have reached the heights we have today.

Asian Pacific Americans are one of the most diverse, talented and successful ethnic groups in America today. There are nearly 16 million Asian Pacific Americans who call America home, representing more than 5 percent of the U.S. population.

In my district, they are without question the fastest growing ethnic group. In Fort Bend and Harris counties, the growth of Asian Pacific Americans has been dramatic. In many cases the growth of Asian Pacific Americans has been more than three times the growth of the overall population. Fort Bend now has the largest percentage of Asian Americans of any county in Texas. In particular, in Sugar Land and my home, Stafford, Asian Pacific Americans make up more than 20 percent of the overall population.

However, population growth is only part of the story. As the grandson of immigrants, I know true assimilation means preserving tradition while achieving success. I am in awe at how quickly the Asian Pacific-American community has mastered both. Asian Pacific Americans have quickly taken hold of many of the most prominent civic, industry, philanthropic and research-based positions in the Houston area.

I would specifically like to honor the trailblazing Asian Pacific American elected officials in my district. Natalie Ong, M.J. Khan, Thomas Abraham, Daniel Wong, Neeta Sane, Ken Mathew, Sonal Bhuchar, and Natasha Kamrani have broken barriers and shattered stereotypes and opened the door for a future generation of Asian Pacific American leaders.

With values of hard work, discipline, community and family, it's no wonder that Asian Pacific Americans are one of the fastest-growing, best-educated and highest-earning ethnic groups in the U.S. From the medical professionals who care for us, the educators who teach us and the titans of industry large and small, Asian Pacific-Americans are one of the most indispensable parts of our Nation's ever-growing national tapestry. Asian Pacific-Americans are authentic Americans, and proof that the American dream continues to thrive.

I am very proud of my friendship with the Asian Pacific-American community. I remain committed to working with my friends to create and promote policies that help the community and its needs. I will continue to seize every opportunity to recognize the valuable contribu-

tions Asian Pacific-Americans make to our community and to the nation.

HONORING SGT. WILLIAM P.
TREECE ON BEING NAMED 2008
VETERAN OF THE YEAR

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. JORDAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I am honored this day to commend to the House the distinguished service of Sgt. William Patrick Treece for his sacrifices to his country on two different tours of duty. I would like to recognize Sgt. William Patrick Treece as his selection for Veteran of the Year 2008.

Sgt. Treece is a Findlay, Ohio resident. A 1988 graduate of Findlay High School, he has made a career of serving his country and his proud family of three children of the ages twelve, six, and three.

Sgt. Treece served his first tour of duty from 1989–1994 in the Gulf War; followed by a second tour from 2000–2005, serving in Iraq and Kuwait. He finished his service as a Police Sergeant.

The list of citations, honors, and medals awarded to Sgt. Treece is as long and distinguished as his active service to this Nation. He was awarded: the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Coast Guard Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Iraq), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Iraq), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal (twice), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), and Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation.

I am honored to be one of the many to add my voice in recognizing, and commending, Sgt. Treece for his invaluable and distinguished service for his country. He is a shining example of our mutual responsibility to serve those who devoted their lives to protecting the freedoms we enjoy.

IN HONOR OF JUANA BORDAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Juana Bordas, President of Mestiza Leadership International, and in recognition of her dedication, advocacy, and promotion of leadership in the Hispanic Community.

Juana Bordas, is a national speaker and trainer who has worked tirelessly to promote leadership skills in minority communities since the beginning of her illustrious career. Her vision enabled her to found several important organizations and programs. In 1977, she founded what is now considered a national model of women's empowerment, Mi Casa Women's Center in Denver, Colorado, where she served until 1986. Mrs. Bordas is also the founding President and CEO of the National Hispana Leadership Institute, the only program

of its kind in the United States that prepares Latina women for national leadership. Through this program, Mrs. Bordas partners with Harvard's JFK School of Government and Center for Creative Leadership to provide training for Hispanic women. She is also currently serving as President of Mestiza Leadership International, a unique company that focuses the promotion and fostering of leadership, diversity and organizational change.

A former Peace Corps volunteer, Mrs. Bordas has served as advisor to Harvard's Hispanic Journal on Public Policy and the Kellogg National Fellows Program. She was also a former faculty member for the Center for Creative Leadership (CCL), where she guided and mentored students in the Leadership Development Program, which is considered the most utilized executive training program in the world. She is currently the Vice President of the board of Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership and a trustee of the International Leadership Association. Mrs. Bordas has inspired countless readers through many of her publications and essays including, "Passion and Power: Finding Personal Purpose", an essay in "Reflections on Leadership" and is a contributing author to "Leadership in the 21st Century" in the book "Rethinking Leadership". She has been recognized for her innovative and important work on empowering members of minority communities by numerous organizations and institutions. She has been inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, is the recipient of the Wise Woman Award from the National Center for Women's Policy Studies; the Franklin Miller Award from the U.S. Peace Corps and the 2006 Leadership Legacy Award from Spellman College's Center for Leadership. She was one of fifty leaders chosen by the Colorado Legislature to design the state's future plan and was selected by Colorado Business Magazine as one of the top one-hundred influential people in the state.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KUTZTOWN FIRE COMPANY NO. 1

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Kutztown Fire Company No. 1 as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of service to their community. Organized on January 14, 1908 and incorporated on April 1, 1918, the countless hours of service and examples of heroism are a testament to the brave men and women who strive each and every day to keep our communities safe.

The Kutztown Fire Company No. 1 was organized on January 14, 1908, merging what remained of other smaller companies. It was incorporated April 1, 1918, as a completely volunteer fire company, consisting of 10 officers and 10 charter members.

During the early years of the company, funds were raised by sprinkling the streets of the borough, holding band fairs, renting the hall to outside organizations and operating a social quarters.

On October 22, 1931, the company purchased land adjacent to the Fire Dam to build