

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW CHOW,
MINKU LEE, AND HELEN WU
MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL
YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF THE
UNITED STATES

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Matthew Chow, Minku Lee and Helen Wu on being selected to represent the United States in New York City and seven cities in China this summer as part of the National Youth Orchestra of the United States of America.

Each year, Carnegie Hall selects the most talented young musicians from across our country to assemble an orchestra which shares music with the world. In 2015, the National Youth Orchestra will consist of 114 members and three of them are from the 18th Congressional District of California which I'm privileged to represent.

Matthew Chow, a violist from Los Altos, Minku Lee, a cellist from Palo Alto, and Helen Wu, a violist from Saratoga, are three of the nation's finest young musicians selected to play for the National Youth Orchestra. That each of them were selected is a testament to their superb skills. That a Congressional District would produce more than one orchestra member is extraordinary. After training and performing in New York City, Matthew, Minku and Helen will represent the United States this summer, performing in seven cities in China. Each musician is a source of great pride to their families, their schools, their teachers, our entire community and their Congresswoman.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Matthew Chow, Minku Lee and Helen Wu on their extraordinary accomplishments. I congratulate and wish each of them every success as they perform with the National Youth Orchestra in New York City and China, proudly representing the best of the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE LORTON
COMMUNITY ACTION CENTER
AND IN HONOR OF FOUNDER'S
AWARD RECIPIENT MOLLY
LYNCH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 40th Anniversary of the Lorton Community Action Center and join the Center in honoring this year's Founder's Award recipient, Molly Lynch.

Since 1975, Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) has served the residents of Fort Belvoir, Lorton, Newington, and other portions of southeast Fairfax County by providing access to basic needs and the opportunity to empower themselves through self-sufficiency programs.

LCAC began as an all-volunteer organization, working out of a local school and a

church basement. The organization was founded in response to the needs of low-income families in southeast Fairfax, which was an under-served area. For LCAC's first 15 years, the agency served as a resource for information and collected and distributed food for individuals and families. Today, LCAC has a professional staff of five full-time and five part-time employees, who serve a diverse population of ages and ethnic backgrounds.

LCAC aims to break the cycle of poverty and prevent homelessness through a variety of services and programs. LCAC's food program distributes between eight and ten tons of food every month. Clients who need clothing can shop at Lorton's Attic, LCAC's thrift store. Small grants assist families with utilities, rent, mortgage, medical services, and other essential needs.

When LCAC cannot help directly, it works closely with other agencies and organizations in our area that may be able to provide assistance. Perhaps most important, LCAC helps people achieve self-sufficiency through case management, ESL classes, nutrition classes, pro bono legal services, and tutoring. All this would not have been possible without the dedication of time, talent, and resources by the thousands of community volunteers and supporters.

Molly Lynch served on LCAC's Board from 1981–82 and again from 1991–2003. Mrs. Lynch was a part of the all-volunteer organization that operated out of a small building on Gunston Elementary School property in her early board service, providing a variety of much needed services to families in the Lorton community. When Molly rejoined the board in 1991 she helped LCAC pursue new funding opportunities through participation in the Combined Federal Campaign, United Way giving, and Fairfax County Community Funding Pool grants. In 2011, a generous gift from Molly and her husband, Bill, allowed LCAC to open a 2,000 square-foot pantry that doubled LCAC's space and consolidated food operations from five locations to one.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending the staff, volunteers, supporters, and partners of LCAC for 40 years of assistance to the Lorton community's most vulnerable residents and in thanking Molly Lynch for her dedication to helping our neighbors in need.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AND
VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RE-
LATED AGENCIES APPROPRI-
ATIONS ACT, 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2029) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes:

Mr. LOBIONDO. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of the FY2016 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill. This legislation will go a long way to help facilities,

such as the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Regional Office where thousands of my constituents have their cases managed, in improving their care and treatment of our nation's Veterans. While this is another small step to address the larger problems within the Department of Veterans Affairs, this legislation continues to show The House's dedication to righting this ship. Some important provisions of this bill include:

"Strike force response teams" that would bring in experienced, high-performing managers to implement corrective actions at low-performing facilities and offices

A fully funded request for digital scanning and centralized mail, which will improve speed and accuracy issues

And, this fully funds the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) with a \$163 million increase over FY15, which will allow for more staffing for processing of appeals of claims in Philadelphia and other regional offices

I commend Chairman DENT and his subcommittee for prioritizing care of our Veterans. While South Jersey still has many challenges to be overcome in access to timely care, I am proud to support this bill which continues to fix the system-wide problems within the VA.

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that recognizes and celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Southeast Asian American community in the U.S.

Over the past 40 years, Southeast Asian Americans have become an integral part of the social and economic fabric of our country.

They left war-torn nations, tyrannical regimes, and even genocide, to make better lives for themselves and their children.

Today, over 2.5 million Southeast Asian Americans trace their heritage to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam.

In these four decades, they have contributed to our armed forces, arts, business, and politics.

In fact, I have seen firsthand their enormous impact in my own district of Silicon Valley.

This resolution honors their struggles in coming to America, and thanks them for all they've done—and continue to do—for our country.

H.R. 2028 AND H.R. 2029

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I voted against H.R. 2028, the FY16 Energy and Water Appropriations Act and H.R. 2029, the FY16 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, because they failed to provide funding for programs that help our veterans, protect the environment, and grow a