

be joining with us as we enter the new millennium.

TRIBUTE TO KIYOSHI PATRICK OKURA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kiyoshi Patrick Okura on the occasion of his 88th birthday and the 10-year anniversary of the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. It is my great pleasure to count Pat as a personal friend, as well as one of the most esteemed members of the Japanese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Okura is not one to rest on the accolades of his exceptional list of accomplishments and contributions. In fact, even at age 88, he continues to contribute enormously to those around him. But I would like to take time now, in honor of the celebration of himself and his successes, to commend his constant efforts to improve all the communities he has lived in, and his willingness to serve the public.

Pat's leadership in the Asian American community, both local and national, has led to incredible gains in Asian American participation in Government. As the National President of the Japanese American Citizens League, Pat expanded the JAACL's tradition of political engagement and brought the organization his message of empowerment. There are very few leaders who impress upon the younger members of a community the importance of engaging the political world as well as Pat. But when he shares his experiences as a Japanese American, his heartfelt encouragement and strength inspires youth with a remarkable motivation.

Pat's dedication to his country and his community shows through in his more than 50-years of work for government and service organizations. Perhaps even more dramatic than his career and volunteer work, however, was Pat's firm commitment to this nation and his personal ideals when he was threatened with slander, racism, and ignorance.

Early in his career, Pat distinguished himself as the first Japanese American to work for the City of Los Angeles' Civil Service Department. The leadership Pat displayed in his job was used against him, however, during the hysteria following the outbreak of the War in the Pacific. Despite his U.S. citizenship and years of working in public service, a writer from the Los Angeles Times falsely accused Pat of plotting espionage against the United States. Eventually Pat, his wife, their families, and thousands of other Japanese Americans, spent 9 months living in horse stables as internees at Santa Anita racetrack before being taken into internment camps.

In spite of the injustices thrust upon he and his family during the War, Pat continued to demonstrate his steadfast desire to help other people, becoming a psychologist at Father Flanagan's Boys Homes in Boys Town, Nebraska—a position he held for seventeen years.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Years later, Pat focused his leadership and compassion on winning reparations for the Japanese Americans arrested during World War II. Pat's efforts combined with other leaders in Asian American community and on all levels of government to win reparations and an apology to more than 120,000 Japanese Americans.

Ten years ago, Pat and his wife Lily founded the Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation. During the past decade, the Foundation has raised awareness for the very specific mental health issues in the Asian American community. Each year, the Foundation brings Asian Americans to Washington, D.C., to meet with health professionals and learn how to work with federal and state agencies to improve the health of their patients and community.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday at the Ft. Myer's Army Base Officer's Club in Arlington, Virginia, there will be a very special event in Pat's honor. Pat and Lily will be joined by many of the dozens of young men and women who have benefited from their time as Okura Fellows, as well as many other well-wishers, to celebrate Pat's 88th birthday and commemorate his many accomplishments. As a friend of Pat's it gives me great joy to add to their voices in commending him on his tireless efforts and his well-earned successes. He has been a true leader for so many generations and communities who will always owe their heartfelt gratitude for his life's work.

A TRIBUTE TO MORTON COLLEGE FOR THEIR SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a distinguished community college located in my district, Morton College. Morton College, the second oldest community college in Illinois, recently celebrated their seventy-fifth anniversary.

Morton College is a pioneer in the community college concept. Morton College serves various communities in my district, including Lyons, Berwyn, Cicero, McCook, and Stickney, Illinois. It was the people of these communities who in 1924 took note of the national movement towards junior colleges and established Morton College. It was originally housed on the third of floor of Morton High School in Cicero and came close to closing on various occasions, but was saved by the community residents. Since its creation, Morton College has grown from its enrollment of 76 students to 5,000 students.

Morton College has shown its gratitude to the community by providing working-class students with an affordable, home-based access to a university degree. The school's nighttime, weekend, and summer courses allow students to have part-time and full-time jobs and is especially convenient for new immigrants, working parents, and those wishing to go "back to school." Morton College's mission statement begins: "As a comprehensive Community Col-

lege, recognized by the Illinois Community College Board, Morton College has the mission to cultivate a dynamic learning environment for its students and the community * * * Morton College has continuously met and exceeded this high standard of excellence.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to celebrate Morton College's fine educational achievements and wish them continued success in the future. Please join me in recognizing and congratulating them on their seventy-five years of dedicated service.

CELEBRATING THE APPOINTMENT OF LYNNE UNDERDOWN AS THE NEW CHIEF PATROL AGENT FOR THE MIAMI BORDER PATROL SECTOR OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 21, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lynne Underdown on her appointment as the new Chief Patrol Agent for the Miami Border Patrol Sector and also to commend INS Commissioner Doris Meissner on Ms. Underdown's groundbreaking appointment.

Ms. Underdown will serve as one of 23 Chief Patrol Agents nationwide in the U.S. Border Patrol, the largest uniformed federal law enforcement organization. Ms. Underdown will be the first female chief in the 75 year history of the Border Patrol, the uniformed enforcement arm of the Immigration and Naturalization Service with more than 8,000 officers charged with protecting our Nation's borders.

I would like to share with my Colleagues the attached News Release from the Immigration and Naturalization Service announcing Ms. Underdown's appointment and detailing her wide-ranging professional experience.

Mr. Speaker, the Border Patrol performs a critical mission—to facilitate legal immigration and commerce and prevent illegal traffic in people and contraband, while ensuring the safety of those living in border communities. In Miami, our frequent and unhappy experience with immigrant smuggling makes it particularly essential that the Border Patrol and all immigration-related agencies discharge their responsibilities professionally and with sensitivity for the people involved.

I am sure that Ms. Underdown's wide-ranging background and experience with detention and deportation issues will serve her well in her new position. Hopefully, her appointment also will promote the development of additional professional opportunities for women in all branches of law enforcement.

NEWS RELEASE, SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

INS NAMES NEW CHIEF PATROL AGENT FOR MIAMI SECTOR

WASHINGTON—Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Commissioner Doris Meissner today named Lynne Underdown, currently the Director of INS in New Orleans, as the new Chief Patrol Agent for the

Miami Border Patrol Sector. Underdown will be the first female chief in the 75-year history of the U.S. Border Patrol, the uniformed enforcement arm of INS charged with protecting the nation's borders.

"Lynne Underdown brings 19 years of distinguished service to the job. Her appointment underscores my continuing commitment to appoint the best-qualified applicants to key positions throughout the agency. It is a special pleasure that for Miami the result is our first female chief," said Meissner.

The Miami Sector has 55 Border Patrol Agents and 36 support staff stationed in Florida. In addition, the sector has jurisdiction over North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

"I have great respect for the hard working and dedicated agents for the Miami Sector. They have accomplished a great deal when faced with extraordinary challenges. It will be my privilege to represent them," said Underdown.

Underdown began her career with INS in 1980 as a Border Patrol agent in San Diego. While in San Diego, she served as a field agent and also worked as Field Training Officer, Sector Training Officer and Recruiting Officer.

In 1987, Underdown was promoted to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent in Yuma Sector, where she was supervisor of the Criminal Alien (BORCAP) unit. She also supervised Employer Sanctions, the K-9 Tactical Unit and all Sector recruiting activities.

In 1990, Underdown transferred to the El Paso Sector, where she was stationed in Carlsbad, New Mexico and continued her work with the Criminal Alien unit and employer sanctions. She also handled outreach activities with the community and local employers.

In 1992, Underdown was promoted to Assistant District Director for Detention and Deportation in the New Orleans District. She was responsible for supervising one of the largest and most complex detention and deportation operations in the country, covering a five-state jurisdiction and the Oakdale Federal Correctional Institution for criminal aliens. She was promoted to District Director in New Orleans in June 1998.

Born and raised in Chicago, Underdown has a brother on the Chicago police force and another brother who works for the Cook County Sheriff's Department. Her father was a 30-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department. "I come from a law enforcement family and I am proud to carry on that tradi-

tion," said Underdown. She currently resides in New Orleans with her two children and her husband, who is Chief Patrol Agent of the New Orleans Border Patrol Sector.

Underdown will serve as one of 23 Chief Patrol Agents nationwide in the largest uniformed federal law enforcement organization. The U.S. Border Patrol was officially established on May 28, 1924 by an act of Congress passed in response to increasing illegal immigration. The initial force of 450 officers was given the responsibility of combating illegal entries and the growing business of alien smuggling. The Border Patrol now numbers more than 8,000 well-trained and well-equipped officers.

While the Border Patrol has changed dramatically since its inception 75 years ago, its primary mission remains unchanged—to detect and prevent the unlawful entry of aliens into the United States and to apprehend those persons found in the United States in violation of immigration laws. Together with other INS officers, the Border Patrol helps maintain borders that work—facilitating the flow of legal immigration and goods while preventing the illegal traffic of people and contraband and ensuring the safety of all those living in border communities.