

the home." The City's Health Commissioner at the time viewed the project as being "of unlimited value to the community and will be felt for many years to come." Christmas parties for children and care of orphans, the provision of tennis courts for public use, baseball fields, and support of an "Old Folks Home" in a neighboring community are some of the projects they have supported over the years.

As federal resources and support were reduced in Webster Groves in the mid-1930s, the Webster Lions increased their participation with the local chapter of the American Red Cross to provide for the welfare needs of the community. Expenditures during 1935 in today's dollars exceeded \$60,000 for community welfare alone. Their work with the American Red Cross during the worst days of the Great Depression was just a small portion of the good work in which they were involved. Their involvement and concern for their community continues to this very day, with sons and grandsons of the original members often taking their places in the organization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Webster Groves Lions Club on its 75th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker—Yesterday morning I was unavoidably detained and unfortunately missed two votes. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

H. Con. Res. 253, Sense of Congress Objecting to Any Effort To Expel The Holy See From The UN As A State Participant By Removing Its Status As A Permanent Observer—Yea.

H.R. 4442, National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act—Aye.

TRIBUTE TO KOREAN WAR
VETERANS FROM PUERTO RICO

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to your attention the considerable valor during the Korean War of Julio Mercado of West Haverstraw, N.Y., Donato Santiago-Molina of Paterson, N.J., Guillermo Alamo of Newark, N.J., and Asuncion Santiago-Cruz of Philadelphia, PA. I also wish to call to your attention the deeds and tragic deaths of John A. Pabon and Ramon Gaya-Arce, who were tragically killed in action as members of the 65th Infantry Regiment, which was comprised of soldiers from the great island of Puerto Rico.

Fifty years ago, on June 27, 1950, U.S. forces launched a military effort to battle communist North Korea. Soon after, they were joined by soldiers from Puerto Rico, plucked from their Caribbean homeland to fight on a distant continent. Many were dirt poor from hill

country and didn't speak a word of English. Some became U.S. soldiers because they needed a job; others were drafted.

Waging war on some of the world's harshest terrain, through the sweltering heat of summer and the bone-chilling winds of winter, the steely group of Puerto Rican soldiers fought with incredible determination and courage.

These Puerto Rican soldiers gave their hearts to the fight and helped sweep the North Koreans back to the 38th parallel. Working side by side with the U.S. forces from Maine to California, they then attacked Chinese forces that had entered the fray on behalf of the North Koreans.

Through months of bitter battle, in which the warring factions worked themselves into a bloody stalemate, the Puerto Rican soldiers fought valiantly along side GIs from Maine to California, sacrificing their lives for the ideals of democracy.

Negotiators finally signed an armistice agreement at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953. The North Koreans returned to the northern side of the 38th parallel, while democracy was allowed to once again flourish in the Republic of South Korea.

In later years, the Korean War would be called "The Forgotten War." But for the Puerto Rican soldiers who gave everything they had to preserve freedom, this war will never be forgotten.

As we prepare to commemorate "National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day" on July 27, let us thank the Puerto Rican soldiers who demonstrated their love for America, although they did not have a vote—and still don't—in the affairs of this great nation.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to bring to your attention the actions of three individuals who have worked selflessly to raise public awareness of Korean War veterans from Puerto Rico. Specifically, Puerto Rico Senator Kenneth McClintock, retired U.S. Army Sgt. Angel Cordero of Paterson, N.J., who serves as a Junior ROTC instructor at Eastside High School in Paterson, and Ruben Pabon, Jr. of Northvale, N.J. should be lauded for enlightening us of the Puerto Rican veterans' valiant efforts on behalf of our nation. Sadly, Mr. Pabon is waiting for the body of his late brother, Cpl. John A. Pabon, to be recovered from Korea some fifty years after the end of the war.

Let us all pray that democracy can reach every corner of the Earth, from Havana, Cuba to Beijing, China. And, just like our brave soldiers in the Korean War, may we remain ever vigilant against those who threaten our inalienable rights.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, the people of New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the United States in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to our nation of Julio Mercado, Donato Santiago-Molina, Guillermo Alamo, Asuncion Santiago-Cruz, as well as John A. Pabon and Ramon Gaya-Arce, who are no longer with us.

As we honor these men today, we in turn bear in mind the stand of the many courageous Puerto Rican soldiers against Communism, which has laid the foundation for the peace and freedom that America and many nations enjoy today. We also recall the grief of

the Puerto Rican families who lost their children in this war, and remember the gratitude still expressed by the people of South Korea.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEW
JERSEY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
MEDAL RECIPIENTS

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 12, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recipients of the Distinguished Service Medal, New Jersey's highest military commendation.

Through extraordinary courage and patriotism, each of these recipients went beyond the call of duty during their military service. Because of their dedication and sacrifice, America succeeded in its fight against naked aggression, defeating the dark forces of tyranny, so that the world could continue its pursuit of democratic ideals.

It is not difficult to comprehend the gratitude America feels for the sacrifices and contributions these veterans made to ensure our freedom; and the Distinguished Service Award is a wonderful way to show our appreciation. I personally want to recognize and thank the following individuals from my district for their distinguished military service: Salvatore F. Acerra; Thomas J. Beeh; Anthony J. Brescia; Joseph E. Callandrillo; Walter F. Camporeale; Harold E. Cerbie; Richard B. Clark; John P. Conlon; Anthony R. Costantino; John O. Coughi; John F. Dellaluna; Maximilian Desonne; Peter J. Di Stefano; George H. Edler; Max J. Elsasser; Craig J. Fallon; Sol C. Feith; Joseph T. Fitzgerald; Edwin H. Gaffney; John M. Habermann; Richard Hamilton; Sean Healy; John T. Hoey; Norman Holtzberg; Albert J. James; Edward K. Janiga; Robert J. Jones; John Keselica; George F. Kimball; Chester Latko; Harry Lazarov; John G. Le Pore; Patrick T. Lioi; Angelo Mack; Nelson Martinez, Emil A. Masciandaro; Anthony M. Melone; Robert Menzel; Conrad J. Minutillo; Augustine A. Monahan; Alphonso J. Mosca; Michael J. Napolitano; Donald T. Nevins; Vincent L. Ortizio; Robert V. Palmeri; Ralph C. Pasqua; John H. Phillips; Howard J. Plunkett Jr.; Joseph A. Pona; Antonio Raffaele Jr.; James A. Robinson; Ivan Romero; Joseph E. Rooth; Richard F. Rush; William A. Sears; Granger W. Searvance Sr.; Francis H. Seidal; Anthony Sikora; Albert F. Skirpstunas; Joseph H. Skrocki; James W. Smith; Edward J. Stacy; Walter Suty; Francis P. Trench; Francis H. Vannucchi; Miguel Vazquez; Dominick J. Vitone; Frank B. Wasniewski; Sanford L. Weiss; Eugene J. Wickeresty; Joseph Wigodner; L. Harry Wolpert; Francis Woods; and Anthony F. Zucaro.

Today, it is my honor to recognize these exceptional individuals. With courage, honor, and integrity they have each made invaluable and enduring contributions to America. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing them as well.