

November 13, 2000

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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TRIBUTE TO LYN CHAN, RECIPIENT OF THE NEA'S CHRISTA MCAULIFFE AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lyn Chan, a recently retired fourth-grade teacher who taught at the Skyline Elementary School in Daly City, California in my Congressional District. Ms. Chan has been awarded the Christa McAuliffe Award. This award, which is presented annually by the National Education Association (NEA), is the highest professional honor that the NEA can bestow upon its members.

Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, the Christa McAuliffe Award was created to honor the memory of Christa McAuliffe, the teacher chosen by NASA to be the first private United States citizen to participate in a space flight. After her death during the ill-fated Challenger shuttle launch in 1986, the NEA established an award in her honor to pay tribute to her professionalism, dedication, and desire to "touch the future" through excellence in teaching.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Chan is certainly most deserving of this high honor. She exhibited outstanding innovation and contributed extraordinary service in the field of education. Utilizing advanced technologies such as laser discs, CD-ROMs, camcorders, robotics, and other such means, she fired the inquisitiveness of her students in their study of the sciences. Too often we hear about American students lagging behind the rest of the world in math and science skills. Ms. Chan is one teacher doing all she can to rectify this problem, and she deserves our commendation for her efforts. It is my sincere hope that other teachers will follow her excellent lead.

Ms. Chan also served as a mentor for the NEA Foundation's The Road Ahead program.

This NEA program paired Ms. Chan with an elementary school and its faculty in Columbia, South Carolina. As a mentor to her South Carolina colleagues, Ms. Chan was able to provide her fellow teachers with advice, knowledge, and other tools necessary to integrate technology with teaching and learning.

Mr. Speaker, Lyn Chan was characterized by one of her colleagues as a "teacher who goes the extra mile not for rewards or recognition, but simply out of her love for teaching and a desire to help all students succeed." I cannot think of a higher compliment to extend to an educator. Mr. Speaker, it has also been said that Ms. Chan is the model of excellence in teaching because of her constant pursuit of new knowledge and skills to enhance her role as a professional educator, and through her innovative approaches in applying new technologies to teaching and learning. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring and commending Ms. Chan on her accomplishments and particularly to join me in congratulating her for receiving the National Education Association's Christa McAuliffe Award.

HONORING MAYOR JIMMIE R. YEE
OF SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 13, 2000

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to Mayor Jimmie R. Yee of Sacramento, California. After Mayor Joe Serna, Jr. passed away, Jimmie Yee has filled in admirably as Mayor of Sacramento. A tribute dinner will be held in his honor on November 13, 2000. As his friends and family gather to celebrate, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his outstanding career.

Over the years, Jimmie Yee has amassed a wealth of experience, both as a public servant and as an engineer. After obtaining a Bachelor

of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley in 1956, he went on to work as a California Structural and Civil Engineer. He proudly served his nation as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve Corps of Engineers from 1957-1965.

As an engineer, Jimmie Yee has been an active and influential member of our community. He has served as a Fellow on the American Society of Civil Engineers since 1954. In addition, he has been a Fellow, a member of the Board of Directors, Secretary-Treasurer, and President of the Structural Engineers Association of Central California. Furthermore, he has been affiliated with the Consulting Engineers Association of California and the National Council of Engineering Examiners, just to name a few.

Jimmie Yee first became involved in public service in 1973 as a member of the Sacramento Citizens Committee on Police Practices. Since then, he has served in numerous positions throughout local government. Most recently, he has served as a City Council member for the Fourth District of the City of Sacramento, a post he has held since 1992. After the death of Mayor Joe Serna, Jr. in 1999, Jimmie Yee was an overwhelming choice to fill in as interim Mayor.

In his short term as Mayor, Jimmie Yee has further enhanced his reputation as an honest and trustworthy public servant. He now plans to resume his position with the Sacramento City Council where he remains one of Sacramento's most popular and well-respected elected officials.

Mr. Speaker, as the grateful citizens of Sacramento gather for Mayor Yee's tribute dinner, I am honored to have this opportunity to pay tribute to a truly remarkable citizen of Sacramento. Jimmie Yee's contributions to our community as an engineer, community servant, and elected official have indeed been commendable. Every resident of Sacramento owes him a debt of gratitude. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing him continued success in all his future endeavors.