to save the lives of Denmark's Jews. That selfless action established that a people deeply committed to basic human decency can prevail against an overwhelmingly powerful evil force.

In many regards, Preben Munch Nielsen's participation in the saving of Danish Jews is typical of what other Danish citizens did during the horrific period of the Nazi occupation of Denmark. Munch Nielsen was born on June 13, 1926, and was raised in Snækkersten, Denmark, a small fishing village some 25 miles north of Copenhagen. Every day he commuted to Copenhagen, where he attended school with a few Jewish students. Munch Nielsen, however, did not think of them as Jews. As he explained, the Jews in Denmark "were considered neighbors, friends, schoolmates and nothing else."

The Nazi-invasion of Denmark on April 9, 1940, initially brought little change to the lives of Danish Jews. The Danish government and the Danish laws remained in effect ensuring, among other things, that no Jew in Denmark ever had to wear the yellow star. Munch Nielsen joined the resistance movement, helping with the distribution of illegal papers.

On August 29, 1943, the Danish Government resigned under strong pressure from the active Danish anti-Nazi resistance. The Nazi's took over the government and declared Martial Law that very same day. Under the military government, the night of October 1, 1943, was set as the date on which all Jews and communists were to be deported and transferred to concentration camps. On September 28, G.F. Duckwitz, a German diplomat with contacts among the Danish Social Democrats, learned about the deportations that were planned for two days later. He informed the leading Danish Social Democrat, Hans Hedtoft, who quickly passed on the warning to the Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, the actions of Preben Munch Nielsen were typical of the response of Danes to this effort to exterminate the Jews of Denmark. As Mr. Munch Nielsen said, participating in this effort to save the Jews was "the only way to retain self-respect." He helped guide Jews to hiding places while they were waiting to be taken by boat from harbors and beaches along the Danish coast. He also helped transport Jews on the "illegal" boats and fishing vessels which crossed the straits to the freedom and safety of Sweden, and he aided the fishermen by calming frightened passengers during the crossing.

The results of this heroic effort, Mr. Speaker, were remarkable. Of Denmark's 8,000 Jews, only 475 were caught and deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. What Jews, only 475 were caught and deported to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. What

As a participant in this remarkable rescue, Preben Munch Nielsen personally was involved in helping to transport nearly 1,400 refugees to Sweden. On a courier mission to Sweden in November 1943 Munch Nielsen was urged by friends of the resistance movement to remain in Sweden because returning to Denmark was too dangerous. In Sweden, he joined the Danish voluntary forces in Sweden ("Den Danske Brigade") and only returned to Denmark May 15, when Denmark was liberated from Nazi occupation forces.

After returning to Denmark, Munch Nielsen began working in the import-export business. Only at the age of 59 did he consider a role as a public speaker and educator. After sharing his story with some Jewish travelers to Denmark, he was encouraged by friends to continue to share his personal experience and educate people about the rescue of the Danish Jews in 1943. Now a successful businessman, the head of his own company and the father of three sons, Munch Nielsen tours the world with his wife Sonja, sharing the magnificent story of the rescue of the Danish Jews.

Mr. Speaker, I have the greatest admiration for Preben Munch Nielsen for his courageous participation in helping to save his fellow countrymen at the risk of his own life. I join Munch Nielsen when he says: "That your fellow citizens should be doomed because their human value was considered nothing because of their race is an impossible thought."

A TRIBUTE TO THE EMPLOYEES OF MCCLELLAN AIR FORCE BASE

HON. DOUG OSE
OF CALIFORNIA

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, we rise in tribute to the outstanding employees of McClellan Air Base. On April 9 and 10, 2001, McClellan will host two events honoring the men and women who have been part of the McClellan workforce for the past 63 years. McClellan has always been a leader in supporting the defense of the United States of America. In the 5 years since the base closure was announced, numerous awards have been won, and this has been a testament to the abilities and distinction of the men and women of McClellan. Just in the past 3 years, McClellan has won two of former Vice President Al Gore’s “Hammer Awards” for improving the way government and the Air Force does business. Base environmental programs, medical programs, financial management programs, and many more individuals and organizations have also been identified as exceptional. These awards have been won for good reason. The employees of McClellan have continued to distinguish themselves despite the pressures of a pending base closure. The expected turmoil of large-scale reductions in force, vacating facilities and moving equipment caused the Air Force to budget for McClellan to lose $146.6 million over the last 3 fiscal years. Instead, McClellan’s workforce managed to turn a profit of $9.1 million, saving the American taxpayers $155.7 million. The men and women of McClellan should take great pride in the completion of their mission with the utmost of professionalism and honor.

As important as these accomplishments have been, it is especially important to note the awards and recognition honoring the people of McClellan for their community involvement. This has included efforts to help feed the poor of Sacramento, supporting the Special Olympics, tutoring disadvantaged students, and raising money for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Even as McClellan approached closure, its people worked to make their community a better place. Their selflessness in the face of a difficult situation is inspiring and deserves praise.

Mr. Speaker, as the exceptional people of McClellan Air Force Base are recognized, we are honored to pay tribute to some of our areas most important contributors. McClellan has been an invaluable resource to the Sacramento Area, the State of California, and the United States. We ask all of our colleagues to join us in thanking the men and women of McClellan Air Force Base for their hard work and dedication over the years.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH Awardees

HON. DALE E. KILDEE
OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Pontiac, Michigan branch of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc., who on April 7, will hold their annual Sojourner Truth Scholarship and Awards ceremony and present awards to 12 deserving recipients.

The Sojourner Truth Awards are given each year by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women’s Clubs, Inc. as a reminder of the endless effort which freedom demands of those who would be free and to recall the fact that slavery comes in many forms: enveloping the spirit as well as the body. In this regard, the Club annually acknowledges those members of the community who have shown to represent these ideals with dignity and distinction.

One such award is the Club’s Frederick Douglas Award, which this year will be given to Rev. Douglas P. Jones of Welcome Missionary Baptist Church in Pontiac, Mi. In addition to his duties as head of the congregation of two thousand, Pastor Jones is one of the area’s most influential and respected citizens. He is the founder of the Greater Pontiac Community Coalition, former Director of the Pontiac Area Urban League, and has been at the forefront of such projects as the Youth in Government and Business Program, and the Woodward Dream Cruise, among many others.

The next award is Black Woman Achiever Award, presented to those women making significant strides in their professions. This year, there are four such people. The first is a colleague of mine, Oakland County Commissioner Brenda Causey-Mitchell of Pontiac. Prior to serving on the County Commission, she served for many years as a Trustee and ultimately President of the Pontiac School Board. She has also been a well-respected member of the city’s executive staff. For many years she has worked diligently toward the improvement of our community. Another such