

WORCESTER—AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues that the City of Worcester, Massachusetts has won the National Civic League's All America City Award five times in the history of the fifty-one year program: 1949, 1960, 1965, 1981, and 2000. Worcester is a city that the National Civic League credits with being able to solve community problems.

On Thursday, May 24th the city will host an All-America City Celebration in Worcester City Hall when city officials and community partners will unveil five permanently-mounted plaques to commemorate this achievement.

The Worcester City Council, Worcester School Committee, Superintendent Dr. James Caradonio, the Central Massachusetts Legislative Delegation, All America City Delegates, municipal department heads, and community partners will be invited to participate in this event. Reverend Richard Wright and Mrs. Shirley Wright, Community Co-Chairs for the City's successful bid for the Award one year ago, will serve as moderators for the occasion. The event will include a brief speaking program, refreshments, and music by the Worcester Firefighters Pipe and Drum Brigade. It should be quite a party.

As Tom Hoover, Worcester's City Manager, noted: "I am very proud of our collective work to improve the lives of others and ultimately this community; it is the right thing to do!"

Mr. Speaker, I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of Worcester for this remarkable achievement.

RECOGNIZING JUDY JAMES FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SONOMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Judy James, who is retiring after twelve years of service as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

In the past twelve years, agriculture in Sonoma County has undergone profound changes. New pests and diseases have threatened production, farmers and ranchers have had to resist urban encroachment and development pressures, and environmental regulations have restricted some agricultural practices. The Farm Bureau, under the leadership of Ms. James, has successfully guided its members by adapting to these changing times.

Ms. James has always been a creative and dedicated advocate for Sonoma County agriculture.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

She developed the Government Executive Institute program to educate local policy makers about the challenges faced by Sonoma County farmers and ranchers. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau received the first of its three national awards from the American Farm Bureau Federation for this program.

Ms. James also created the Ag-Education Contribution Fund that is supported by Farm Bureau members. Funds raised through this program are used to promote Sonoma County agriculture in the local schools.

Under her direction, the Bureau's annual Crab Feed grew from serving 100 people to serving more than 600 people, thereby generating more than \$15,000 annually for Farm Bureau activities.

Although Ms. James is retiring from a leadership role in the Farm Bureau, she will continue to be an active member. She will help her husband run the family vineyard, assist her children on their 4-H livestock projects, and teach agriculture classes at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Mr. Speaker, because of Judy James' many contributions to the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and to her community, it is fitting and proper to honor her today.

INTRODUCING THE FATAL GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS ACT

**HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Fatal Grade Crossing Accident Investigations Act" to require the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate all crashes between a train and a road vehicle that result in a fatality.

The NTSB is currently charged with investigating a variety of transportation and pipeline accidents, some of which result in no loss of life or even injury. However, freight trains and cars collide 4,000 times a year resulting in 400 deaths. The NTSB gathers these statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration and feels that its work is done. Meanwhile, the NTSB is the only agency with the authority to fully investigate these fatal crashes, and its failure to do so leaves a vacuum where families have to fight with railroad companies for answers and local law enforcement agencies are powerless to help them. In some cases, the family of a lost loved one must sue the railroad for the train engine's data recorder or results of toxicology tests that railroads conduct on employees involved in a crash. The NTSB has the authority to collect this information—if it chooses to investigate the accident. My bill requires the National Transportation Safety Board to put its resources to work where a loss of life occurs on any railroad crossing.

I am offering this bill with support from a group called Citizens Against Railroad Tragedies which brought to my attention the serious gap that exists in car-train accident investigations. I encourage all Members of the House to hear the concerns of their constituents who

*May 22, 2001*

are associated with this group and to help us eliminate railroad crossing accidents by increasing the safety at intersections and investigating the crashes that tragically still occur everyday across our country.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM WILKINSON

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor a very special man—Dr. William Wilkinson, a long time physician and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California. Today, in recognition of Dr. Wilkinson's numerous contributions to the hospital and community at large, a record of achievements and service spanning more than 40 years, Beverly Hospital will dedicate its new Senior Resource Center in his name and establish the "Dr. William Wilkinson Nursing Education Fund."

Dr. Wilkinson has a long litany of accomplishments which speak to his sense of duty and responsibility to the sick, to his profession and to the community that is so much a part of his life. He has been on the Beverly Hospital Board of Directors since 1971 and also served as its President; was an official physician for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles; a member of the Founding Board of Directors of MERCI—Mentally and Emotionally Retarded Children (1962); a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Family Medicine at the University of California at Irvine (1974–1988); an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Southern California beginning in 1980; and a Trustee on the Beverly Hospital Foundation Board. In addition, Dr. Wilkinson was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Teacher of the Year (1986–1987) while at the University of California at Irvine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. William Wilkinson for his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of others. His devotion to his work and his commitment to others—the needy, the poor, the sick, the young and old alike—have endeared him to so many of his fellow medical professionals and to the countless people who have received his comfort, advice and professional care. It is indeed fitting today that we honor Dr. Wilkinson for all he has done to make life better for so many.

POWER TEAM WEEK, KENNESAW, GEORGIA

**HON. BOB BARR**

OF GEORGIA

**HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the dates Monday, May 28th through Sunday,

June 3rd, 2001, will be recognized by the City of Kennesaw, Georgia as, "Power Team Week." During this week young people from all walks of life will have the opportunity to be motivated, encouraged and inspired by their awesome displays of strength, and powerful, values based motivational message.

In Congress we struggle every day with serious issues and problems facing the youth of our country. It is encouraging to know John Jacobs and his Power Team, are motivated by a quote from Mr. Jacobs himself, "today's young people are tomorrow's future." He is absolutely correct, and for more than 20 years, he and The Power Team have been taking the message of "saying no" to drugs and alcohol, the importance of high moral standards in one's life, and striving for academic excellence, directly to the youth of America.

We commend John Jacobs and The Power Team for their continued work on behalf of America's young people, and for the City of Kennesaw for recognizing May 28th through June 3rd, 2001 as "Power Team Week."

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May 2001. Almost two decades ago, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution declaring the first Asian Pacific American Heritage Week as May 4–10, 1979. Then, a decade ago, the celebration was extended to the entire month. Finally, Public Law 102–450 approved on October 23, 1992, designated May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud that the region I represent in Congress is a diverse one and is home to many people of Asian Pacific heritage. So many of my constituents have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments in education, business, medicine and science, and other forms of public and private sector involvement, and through a strong and successful family life. To commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I would like to briefly highlight the remarkable accomplishments of three distinguished Asian Pacific American civic leaders who represent constituents from California's 27th Congressional District, which I am proud to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

John Chiang has shown a deep and genuine commitment to public service as Vice Chair of the California Board of Equalization. Elected as the representative of the Fourth District of the Board of Equalization in 1998, Mr. Chiang has promoted public-private community outreach and taxpayer-education initiatives to better serve his more than 8 million constituents in Los Angeles County. Mr. Chiang organized the first joint Board of Equalization, Franchise Tax Board, and Internal Revenue Service seminar for nonprofit organizations and joined with the Los Angeles

County Assessor's Office to hold a tax seminar for religious organizations. He has also organized business and labor forums on fighting tax evasion in the "underground economy" and sponsored state legislative reforms to enhance the California Taxpayers' Bill of Rights. John is the son of Judy Chiang, a generous and committed community volunteer, and Dr. Mutong Thomas Chiang, a thoughtful and dedicated scholar.

Carol Liu has a long-standing record of community leadership, culminating with her election last year as the representative of California's 44th Assembly District. Assemblymember Liu's top priority is to restore California's public education system to be among the very best in the nation. Prior to her election to the State Assembly, Ms. Liu's work in education included serving as a PTA President, President of the Pasadena City College Foundation Board, and Co-Chair of the Pasadena City College capital campaign to fund construction of a new physical education and sports complex. In addition, Liu sits on the Board of Trustees of the U. C. Berkeley Foundation. She also served her community as a civic leader, with her election to the La Canada Flintridge City Council in 1992, re-election in 1996 and her terms as Mayor in 1996 and 1999. Liu has been honored for her contributions to the community with the La Canada Flintridge Educational Spirit of Outstanding Service Award and the Second Baptist Church Outstanding Service Award. In 1998, when I served as a State Senator in California, I was proud to designate her as the 21st Senatorial District Woman of the Year. Liu is married to Mike Peevey, a businessman and entrepreneur, and they are the proud parents of three grown children, Jed, Maria, and Darcie, and even prouder grandparents of three grandchildren.

Matthew Y.C. Lin, M.D., is the first Asian American elected to serve as a Member of the City Council of the City of San Marino, California. Dr. Lin, a board-certified orthopedic surgeon, has an extensive record of community service. His volunteer activities include leadership positions with the San Marino Schools Foundation, Pasadena Symphony, Chinese Club of San Marino, United Way of the San Gabriel Valley and Luke Christian Medical Mission. He has sought to improve the lives of our children through his service at the West San Gabriel Valley Boys and Girls Club, Asian Youth Center, and by coaching AYSO soccer and serving as assistant coach for the San Marino High School Judo Club. He has taken part in voluntary medical missions to aid the victims of disasters, responding to the Taiwan earthquake in September 1999 and the earthquake in El Salvador in January 2001. Dr. Lin and his wife, Joy, are the proud parents of four adult children, Jenny, George, Tim and Jerry.

I am proud to recognize the community and civic accomplishments of Councilman Lin, Assemblywoman Liu and Board of Equalization Member Chiang as we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. They are truly remarkable leaders who through their service to our communities are an inspiration to us all.

AMERICA'S NATIONAL TREE—THE  
OAK

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 22, 2001*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to introduce legislation recognizing the people's selection of the oak tree as America's national tree. This past Arbor Day, April 27, Members of Congress, Agriculture Secretary Veneman, Interior Secretary Norton, and EPA Administrator Whitman joined the National Arbor Day Foundation in a ceremonial unveiling of a young oak on the Capitol grounds. Selected by the American public over a four-month long open voting process using the Internet (<http://www.arborday.org/NationalTree/ntResults.html>), the oak earned the title of America's Chosen National Tree. To recognize this distinction, I and Mr. GOSS of Florida along with Mr. OSBORNE of Nebraska are introducing legislation today granting the oak official status as America's national tree. The junior Senator from Nebraska, Mr. NELSON, has already introduced companion legislation, S. 811.

As a member of Congress representing a heavily forested district in Virginia, I fully understand and appreciate how trees add to an individual's quality of life. As chairman of the House Agriculture Subcommittee responsible for forestry, I know how trees and forests enhance the environment, add recreational opportunities and provide for the livelihoods of 1.4 million working individuals in the \$262 billion dollar forest industry. Whether one is enjoying the myriad of products generated from a forest, or the simple satisfaction of laying under a shaded giant, trees contribute to all Americans. This is why I am here today and why it is appropriate to recognize the Oak as the National tree chosen by the American public.

I would also like to commend the National Arbor Day Foundation for its use of the Internet as the primary communication tool in this endeavor to name America's National tree. As co-chair of the Congressional Internet Caucus, I applaud the powerful role the Internet played in this historic vote. Not only did this medium make possible easy, broad-based participation in the vote, but it also offered many educational opportunities for those who checked out [arborday.org](http://arborday.org) online. Having been a member of the Foundation for 16 years, I am impressed with their work in promoting trees in our communities across the country, and I am also pleased that they are using the capabilities of the Internet to educate the American public about the proper care and benefits of trees.

Along with other well-known national emblems, the oak is a most fitting selection as America's National tree. The stately oak not only surrounds us here on the Capitol ground, but also is a part of our daily lives as wood products in our homes, our offices and places of gathering. Common to all fifty states, the oak has played a huge role in America's history as a valuable resource. It helped our founding fathers establish a new nation, supplying building materials for the expanding