

causes of death combined. The number of these deaths has drastically declined due to the hard work of the American Heart Association, over the last fifty years. With more than 4.2 million volunteers, the American Heart Association spends more than \$100 million a year to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke through research, education, and community services.

The research supported by the AHA has helped to increase our knowledge of the effects of diet, exercise, smoking and drug therapies on heart disease and stroke. New surgical techniques, such as the use of artificial heart valves, have dramatically reduced the death rates of children suffering from congenital heart disease over the last forty years. The AHA has also helped to establish coronary care units in most of our nation's hospitals, thereby providing specially trained personal and electronic equipment to monitor and treat heart attack patients. The Nobel prize has been awarded three times to researchers funded by the American Heart Association.

The American Heart Association trains 6.4 million Americans a year in emergency training programs. The AHA also provides professional education; equipping physicians and nurses with information on a variety of topics, including how patients can control their blood cholesterol levels.

With 50% of American children overweight and 50% of adults not exercising regularly, the AHA's public education programs are vitally important. Programs such as providing heart health education materials for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, teaching employees about heart health at their places of work, and teaching people how to cook using AHA's dietary guidelines, provide Americans with potentially lifesaving skills and information.

The American Heart Association reaches seven million people a year with its message of cardiovascular health. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in commending the tireless efforts of the AHA over the last fifty years and in designating February as American Heart Month.

NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT
1997 OFFICER OF THE YEAR
DETECTIVE JEROME BROWN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding example of honor and duty shown by the North Miami Police Department's 1997 Officer of the Year, Detective Jerome Brown. Chosen by a committee of his peers, he is a fitting choice.

Detective Brown was twice named Officer of the Month during 1997: once for his work in apprehending the armed robber of a local business; and once for the arrest of five offenders in an armed robbery. Detective Brown's reputation is for being tireless in pursuing suspects and clearing by arrest a high number of his cases.

Throughout his 27-year career, he has repeatedly been described by his superiors as

enthusiastic, persistent, compassionate, and highly self-motivated. These traits have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, which is the ultimate compliment in any field. Congratulations to Detective Brown for his commitment to his community and his work to keep our neighborhoods safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARY TSURUKO TSUKAMOTO

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an educator, activist, and leader of national prominence: Mary Tsuruko Tsukamoto. Mrs. Tsukamoto passed away on January 6, leaving a tremendous legacy as a teacher, activist, and hero to countless Americans. Today, in Sacramento, California, she will be fondly remembered at two separate memorial services.

The child of immigrants from Okinawa, Mary Tsuruko Dakuzaku was born in San Francisco in 1915. Her family moved to the Florin area just south of Sacramento in 1925. There, she attended segregated schools. By the beginning of World War II, she has married the man with whom she would spend the next six decades, Alfred Tsukamoto. In 1942, along with their five year old daughter, Marielle, the Tsukamotos were among the more than 10,000 Japanese Americans interned in government camps around the U.S.

After the end of World War II, the Tsukamotos returned to Northern California. Al took a job at the Sacramento Army Depot, while Mary began her vocation as a teacher in 1950. It was in her role as educator that Mary Tsukamoto first began to touch the lives of so many in the Sacramento area. Her unique ability to connect with young people became the trademark of her teaching career at four different elementary schools until her retirement in 1976.

But Mary's retirement from teaching in the Elk Grove, California School District was just the beginning of the most influential period of her life. Her family's forced internment during World War II had left a profound mark on her personal and political beliefs. Fueled by the injustice of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans, Mary launched a courageous crusade to right this national wrong.

In the 1980's Mary joined the fight in support of a national apology and reparations for the Japanese Americans interned during World War II. These efforts included testifying before a congressional committee about the lasting negative impact that the imprisonment had on Japanese Americans throughout our nation. Without her steadfast and vocal championship of this legislation, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, including an apology and reparations, would never have become law.

On a very personal note, Mary's friendship and support during this often difficult legislative battle was invaluable to my colleagues and I as we fought for the reparations bill. I will always value the unique perspective, encouragement, and dedication she offered throughout this important effort.

By the time President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law, Mary had

become a nationally-recognized leader in preserving and promoting the Japanese American heritage. She helped create and plan an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution about the internment and she authored a book on the subject. Mary also launched an important effort to catalogue and preserve Japanese American artifacts, personal histories, and photographs with the creation of the Japanese American Archival Collection at California State University, Sacramento.

Her activism in these areas, and reputation as a national leader in the fight to provide restitution to the Japanese Americans who were forcibly relocated during the Second World War, brought her back into the classrooms of Sacramento area schools as a unique source of historical information for our community's students. In conjunction with the Florin Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Mary set out to retell the glorious and sometimes painful history of Japanese Americans in the twentieth century U.S.

Yet Mary Tsukamoto's activist endeavors were not limited solely to the imprisonment issue. She also found time to lead Jan Ken Po Gakko, a group which preserves the Japanese heritage in the United States. Her involvement in this organization enhanced her already remarkable pursuits in putting together lectures, creating displays, and writing about the internment of Japanese Americans.

By the early 1990's Mary Tsukamoto's achievements were gaining recognition throughout California. In 1992, a new elementary school was named after her in the Vintage Park area of South Sacramento. In May of 1997, she was named a "Notable Californian" by the California State Senate and State Capitol Museum, making her the second person to ever receive this high honor. Last September, she was presented with the California Asian Pacific Sesquicentennial Award for all of her accomplishments in the Asian/American community.

Mr. Speaker, as Mary Tsukamoto is eulogized today by her many friends and admirers, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary activist, teacher, and powerful leader. Her impact on our national heritage and the very fabric of who we are as a country will be felt for many generations to come. I salute her personal strength and determination in educating her fellow citizens, pursuing justice, and promoting the heritage of all Japanese Americans.

A CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the beginning of a year-long celebration of the centennial of Philippine independence. June 12, 1898 is the day the Philippines gained its independence from Spain—and June 12th is celebrated in the Philippines as Independence Day by order of President Diosdado Macapagal.

This year, in the Philippines and in the numerous Filipino-American communities in the United States, lengthy celebrations are being prepared that will occur throughout the entire year. In my hometown of San Diego, a civic

parade showcasing Filipino culture is among the many events planned to commemorate this milestone.

Historians tell us that the Philippines was "discovered" in 1521 by Portuguese sailor Ferdinand Magellan, who worked for Spain. In spite of a bloody battle between Filipino fighters and the invaders in which Magellan was killed, Spain colonized the Philippines and held power for nearly four hundred years.

In 1896, Filipinos mustered the courage to bond together to overthrow the Spanish colonialists. Filipino revolutionaries, led by General Emilio Aguinaldo, took to the streets in his hometown of Kawit, about 15 miles southwest of Manila, and proclaimed an end to Spanish rule. The open resistance of the imperial power of Spain led to the declaration of independence two years later on June 12, 1898 and with it the birth of Asia's first independent nation.

But in real terms, just as Spain slipped out, came the colonizing power of the United States. Spain "ceded" the Philippines to the United States, blatantly ignoring the Filipinos' own proclamation of freedom. So, practically, the century of independence is somewhat of an illusion, for the Philippines was a territory and then a commonwealth of the United States until July 4, 1946.

However, Independence Day is celebrated for good reason on June 12th, because the victory in 1898 symbolizes to the Filipino people the triumph of political will and physical endurance by Filipinos against foreign control. Today, Filipinos are free and they have proven their quest for freedom in countless battles—most recently as part of the American Army in World War II.

Filipino soldiers were drafted into the Armed Forces by President Franklin D. Roosevelt—and promised full benefits as American veterans. But these benefits were rescinded by the 79th Congress in 1946. Congressman Ben Gilman and I have now introduced the Filipino Veterans Equity Act (H.R. 836) which would restore the benefits promised when these soldiers were drafted into service by the President of the United States and fought side-by-side with soldiers from the American mainland against a common enemy.

Over 175 of our colleagues have co-sponsored H.R. 836, in support of these brave veterans. A most appropriate way to commemorate this centennial year of Philippine independence is to pass H.R. 836 and restore honor and equity to the Filipino veterans of World War II!

As Congressman of the Congressional district which includes more Filipino-American residents than any other except for Hawaii, I am very honored to have been chosen as their representative in Congress. I look forward to participating in the 1998 celebrations commemorating their Independence Day and the spirit, resourcefulness, warmth, and compassion of the people of the Philippines and of Filipino-Americans.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE FRANCISCO DUENAS PEREZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the island of Guam lost a very valuable member of its community on December 22, 1997. Mr. Francisco Duenas Perez, a farmer, businessman, government administrator, and legislator was called to his eternal rest at the age of 84. The late Francisco Perez worked early on in life at the U.S. Navy's Bureau of Yards & Docks. He graduated from Guam Evening High School and in 1984 received an honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from the University of Guam.

Frank Perez accomplished many things during his lifetime. He was the first Chamorro farmer to successfully incubate imported fertilized eggs from the United States and sell locally produced eggs to stores throughout Guam. In 1983, he was commissioned as a captain in the Guam Militia. During the World War II occupation of Guam he risked his life by secretly operating a radio to rescue two American escapees. He was named administrator for the Agricultural Department under the Bureau of Naval Intelligence in 1944 and later went on to begin a long and distinguished career in the Guam Legislature. He is also known as the "father" of the Guam Economic Development Authority, having formulated the concept of developing a government agency to help promote and attract new businesses to Guam. He introduced the idea of tax breaks, known as qualifying certificates, as a valuable economic stimulus. In 1947, he co-founded the Pacific Construction Company. He served as its president until 1951, when he founded what is now known as Perez Bros. Inc., a construction company and the island's first private subdivision. In addition, he was a cofounder of the Guam Contractors Association in 1960 and contributed to that organization's work with economic development activities on Guam.

Frank Perez was recognized for his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the success of Guam's economy by being elected to the Guam Chamber of Commerce's Business Hall of Fame in 1995. He was one of Guam's outstanding leaders whose experiences during World War II shaped several generations. His dignity, his selfless service, his commitment to family and to Guam serve as reminders of the qualities which our island needs. His passing is a great loss and his presence will be missed.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I offer my condolences and join his widow, Mrs. Carmen Camacho Duenas Perez, and their children and spouses namely: Mr. Frank and Mrs. Christina Perez, Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Donna Perez, Mr. Gregory and Mrs. Ernestina Perez, Mr. George and Mrs. Tressie Perez, Mr. Thomas Perez and Ms. Karen Kasperbauer, Mr. John and Mrs. Patricia Perez, Ms. Mary Perez, Dr. Sulpicio and Mrs. Carmen Soriano, and Ms. Margarita Perez, along with their 29 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, in mourning the loss of a husband, a father, and an invaluable citizen who dedicated his life for the people of Guam. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Tun Francisco.

INTERNATIONAL PAPER CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION TO TAKE PLACE AT HUDSON RIVER MILL

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a very special event taking place on January 28, 1998 in Corinth, New York, located in my congressional district. On that day, the employees of International Paper will launch a year long celebration of the company's Centennial Anniversary at its Hudson River mill. This location is particularly fitting because the Hudson River mill is the oldest operating mill in International Paper's worldwide mill system. The facility was built in 1869 by one of the first manufacturers of paper using wood fiber, then joined with 17 other mills in 1898 to form International Paper, the nation's largest producer of newsprint at that time.

Today, International Paper is the world's largest forest products company, with operations in 31 countries employing more than 85,000 people. Its many products include printing papers, packaging, and forest products, and it continues to manage more than 6 million acres of forest land nationwide.

In honor of the 100 year anniversary, International Paper Chairman John Dillon is hosting a special ceremony at the Hudson River mill, featuring a long list of distinguished guests which include Governor George Pataki. The most important people at this event, however, will be the many generations of dedicated employees who, by building lasting relationships with the local communities, have made International Paper an outstanding corporate citizen.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the more than 600 men and women who work at the Hudson River mill, both for the history they celebrate this year and for the tremendous contributions they continue to make today. One good example of these activities is the new de-inking facility which allows the mill to produce high-quality recycled and virgin grades of coated publication paper.

One individual whom I would like to particularly recognize is Alice Boisvaert, a retiree from International Paper's Hudson River mill, who will be honored at the January 28th celebration. Alice, now 95, worked in the mill during the 1940's, when one of her wartime duties was to paint the mill's windows black in accordance with civil defense air-raid regulations. Alice's grandson, Jim, as well as his father, later worked at the Hudson River mill. Among Jim's initial tasks was scraping that black paint off of the windows.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Alice, her family, and the rest of the International Paper family on a century of service and commitment to their communities. I ask that all Members join me in rising to thank these individuals for their civic dedication, technological contributions, and environmental stewardship over the last hundred years. May the next hundred be even better than the first!