

company flourished, becoming one of the largest international distributors of specialty tubular products.

In addition to his strong business ethics, Maurice was known for his generosity in his private life. He had earned a reputation of having a commitment of giving both time and resources to improve the quality of life for his family and his neighbors. He was the embodiment of a renaissance man: a constant learner, a collector, accomplished tennis player, scholar of art history, and a man of culture who sought to bring the joys of the fine arts to the Butler community. He was also known for his devotion to many charitable causes. Maurice served as a director for the Butler County Memorial Hospital, worked with the United Way, and the Butler YMCA. In addition, he served as president and chairman of the board of Irene State Community Mental Health Center, and was chairman of the Tri-State District of the United Jewish Appeal.

The life of Maurice Horwitz serves as a role model for us all to follow. He embodied the word service in its finest sense through his kindness, hard work and generosity and will greatly be missed by all.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in commemorating the life of Maurice Horwitz.

RECOGNIZING THE COAST GUARD,
COAST GUARD AUXILIARY AND
NATIONAL SAFE BOATING COUNCIL
FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO
PROMOTE NATIONAL SAFE
BOATING WEEK

SPEECH OF

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and support the efforts of the United States Coast Guard, the Coast Guard Auxiliary, and the National Safe Boating Council as they coordinate yet another successful National Safe Boating Week, May 21–27, 2005.

In 2003, an estimated 78 million Americans enjoyed recreational boating on the approximately 13 million recreational vessels registered throughout the nation. Boating has truly become a treasured piece of American culture.

Thanks to the efforts of many, boating is becoming safer as it grows more popular. Boating fatalities have been cut in half since the 1970's due to increased boater education, more widespread use of life vests, and safer boating equipment.

Nonetheless, we have much work to do. In 2003, 703 Americans died in boating-related accidents. Sadly, half of these deaths could have been prevented had proper flotation devices been used.

I have co-sponsored, along with Representative JIM COOPER and Representative GENE TAYLOR, House Resolution 243, which aims at increasing boating safety education and accident prevention and supports the goals of National Safe Boating Week. As Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Boating Caucus, I certainly understand the importance of these issues on recreational boaters.

Mr. Speaker, the upcoming Memorial Day holiday marks the unofficial start of the sum-

mer boating season in South Florida. As such, we must continue to support boating education and awareness so that our waters can be a fun and, above all, safe place for all Americans to enjoy.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF GENE A.
LUNDQUIST

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent and friend, Mr. Gene A. Lundquist, of Bakersfield, California, upon his recent retirement from Calcot, Ltd., where he had an accomplished 36-year career. Although I will miss working with Gene on issues of importance to Kern County and California, I wish Gene and his family well as he enters this next stage of his life.

Gene was born in Bakersfield, California, graduated from Arvin High School, and earned his Bachelor of Science from Colorado State University. He then served two years in the Army, where he was awarded the Decorated Army Commendation Medal.

Gene joined Calcot in 1969, and spent the next 36 years working hard to further the interests of cotton growers in California and Arizona, who grew to admire him for his dependability and effectiveness. During his career, he directed the grower relations program, was active in Management Committee and Board of Directors activities, and most recently served as the Vice President of the Legislative and Public Affairs Department. Through his strong relationships with growers, manufacturers, and legislators he was able to expand markets for raw cotton to textile producers.

During his distinguished career, Gene used his talent and time to serve Kern County and local farmers on a broad range of agricultural and water issues through his active involvement with various agencies, committees, and boards. In fact, Gene became an integral component of the local agriculture and water communities and is known simply as someone who can get the job done.

Gene's involvement in these organizations was broad but deep. For instance, Gene served as Chairman of the Water Association of Kern County, Chairman of the Board of the Agricultural Council of California, Director of the California Farm Water Coalition, President of the Kern County Water Agency (he remains on its Board of Directors), Member of the Cotton Board, and as Delegate to the National Cotton Council of America. He also was appointed to the California Governor's Agricultural Summit, and participated in the California Agricultural Leadership Program, where he traveled to Africa to learn more about the governments and economies of Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.

As he enters retirement, Gene leaves behind a legacy of dedicated service, expertise, and accomplishment. Accordingly, I thank Gene for all of his contributions and wish him well.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Asian Pacific Heritage Month and honor the Asian Pacific Americans who make such a positive impact in the state of California and my district.

California is home to more Asian Pacific Americans—4.6 million—than any other state and it has also seen the greatest increase in this population since 2000. In my congressional district, more than 76,000 Asian Pacific Americans contribute to the vibrancy and diversity of our communities. Their effect in the community has also been felt on an economic level, including the many thriving small businesses they run. It has also been felt on a spiritual level, as a number of Buddhist temples—including the nation's largest in Hacienda Heights—has helped raise cultural awareness throughout our communities.

Since the early 1800's, Asian and Pacific Americans have been crucial to the development of our country. They helped build our transcontinental railroads and have fought for our nation, beginning with the Civil War. While our country wrongly imprisoned many Asian Americans in internment camps during World War II, Japanese Americans and Filipinos valiantly fought for this country and our freedom and continue to do so today.

It took our country much too long a time to apologize and compensate the Asian Americans that were wronged. And it is shameful that the United States continues to fail Filipino veterans by not keeping our promise to give them full veteran's benefits for their service. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 302, which would repeal the provisions that deny benefits for those who served our country, fought in the organized military forces of the Philippines and as Philippine Scouts in World War II.

As the chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I have also seen the same type of barriers placed before our Asian and Pacific American brothers and sisters that have troubled my fellow Latinos. We are working with the Tri-Caucus—consisting of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus—to close the gap in affordable health care coverage and accessibility that continues to heavily impact all of our communities. Together in the last session of Congress, we cosponsored the Healthcare Equality and Accountability Act, H.R. 3459, and expect to reintroduce the bill in the coming weeks. So many issues, especially dealing with healthcare, small business assistance and education difficulties for bilingual students, affect both of our communities.

I am committed to reducing the inequities for all our minority populations. As we celebrate our nation's Asian Pacific heritage this month, be assured I will continue to work year round to ensure future generations have the tools and opportunities they need to thrive.