

Faleomavaega said. "In response to Mr. Neria's request, my office immediately called the U.S. Department of Education (USDOE), learned that ASCC's grant would not be funded, and informed Mr. Neria of the USDOE's decision."

"Upon learning of the USDOE's decision, Mr. Neria provided my office with additional information and requested my assistance in defending and obtaining funding for ASCC's proposal. In a letter dated June 24, 2003, Mr. Neria stated that he had been informed by his colleagues in Washington not to write, call, email or make any requests. Given the seriousness of the situation and my desire to help American Samoa's students, I wrote a letter dated July 10, 2003 to Larry Oxendine, USDOE Director of the Federal TRIO programs which includes Upward Bound. I also faxed Dr. Adele Satele-Galeai, President of ASCC, and Mr. Neria a copy of my letter."

"In my letter, I informed the USDOE that American Samoa has a dire need for the services the Upward Bound Program provides. I agreed with Mr. Neria's position that American Samoa's socio-economic status, educational disparity, and unique geographical location warranted a second review of ASCC's application. I also stated that I believed American Samoa would be credited additional points upon further review of the Needs Section and I expressed my appreciation for Mr. Oxendine's reconsideration of ASCC's application." Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"As a follow-up to my letter to Mr. Oxendine, my office continued its discussions with the USDOE. During these discussions, the USDOE informed my office that more than 1,218 Upward Bound applications were submitted and only 792 were funded. USDOE also informed me that only proposals with a score of 99.00 or greater were funded and ASCC's proposal had received a score of 98.33. ASCC's proposal had also been read and scored by three non-federal readers, as required by federal law."

"Although I was informed in July that the review process could not be reopened, additional funds became available about three weeks ago at which time the USDOE reviewed the remaining proposals that had not been funded. Of the applications remaining, 17 had higher scores than ASCC's application and all 17 received funding. An additional 17 applications had scores equal to ASCC's application but the USDOE only had money to fund one of the 17. Mr. Oxendine chose to fund ASCC's application based on the fact that we are an underserved area."

"In a letter dated October 8, 2003, Mr. Oxendine stated that my letter and the information received from my staff and President Satele-Galeai was very helpful in making the decision to fund ASCC out of the group of 17 applications with the next highest score. He also said that he was pleased to inform me that ASCC's program would be funded at \$220,000 for the 2003-2004 project period and, subject to future appropriations, USDOE would be making funding available at this level for three additional years."

"Mr. Oxendine also apologized for the delay in informing my office of his decision. In fact, he said he announced his decision at a national TRIO conference in San Diego on Monday September 29, 2003 and he was unaware that my office had not yet been informed."

"Again, I apologize for the confusion," Mr. Oxendine said in his letter, "'but I am sure you will agree that the final outcome of our mutual efforts was highly successful.' Like Mr. Oxendine, I do agree that our efforts were highly successful and I want to especially thank Mr. Neria and Dr. Satele-Galeai for working closely with my office to favor-

ably resolve this issue. "I also want to thank Chairman Boehner of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for releasing a statement saying that 'Congressman Faleomavaega worked hard to restore ASCC's Upward Bound funding, and I cannot take credit for his actions.' I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to step forward and set the record straight about this matter," Congressman Faleomavaega said.

"Chairman Boehner is a friend of mine and he should be commended for letting the people of American Samoa know that he did not restore ASCC's Upward Bound funding. In fact, the Chairman knew nothing about our Upward Bound funding until he read a fabricated story published in the Samoa News on October 1, 2003 which made claims that he worked with Mrs. Amata Radewagen to resolve this issue."

"Again, I thank Chairman Boehner for letting our people know the truth. Neither Congresswoman Deborah Pryce nor the House Republican Conference brought this matter to Chairman Boehner's attention. Furthermore, the USDOE informed my office that it received no letters from Congresswoman Deborah Pryce or the House Republican Conference regarding ASCC's Upward Bound Program funding. Other than the calls my office made, the USDOE received only one phone call in late July from a caller identifying herself as working for the House Republican Conference. Mr. Oxendine spoke to this caller only once and never heard from the caller again until after September 29, 2003. After September 29, 2003, USDOE received one more call from this same caller saying she had heard through the grapevine that an announcement had been made in San Diego and she wanted to verify the accuracy of this report."

"While I would be more than happy to credit anyone who helped to restore ASCC's funding, I am pleased that the USDOE and Chairman Boehner have cleared up the confusion surrounding ASCC's Upward Bound Program. At this time, I want to thank the USDOE and Mr. Oxendine for supporting and funding the Upward Bound grant proposal submitted by ASCC. After working with Dr. Satele-Galeai and Mr. Neria for the past several months, I also want to thank them for their hard work."

"Most of all, I want to wish our students the very best. Upward Bound is an important college preparatory program and I am hopeful that our students will take advantage of the opportunities this program provides. As always, I am also hopeful that our young people will pursue their four year college degrees and return to American Samoa to live and serve," the Congressman concluded.

#### IN HONOR OF ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

#### HON. KERRY L. BENTIVOLIO

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. BENTIVOLIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate McKenzie Hayes, Sarah Bridges, Anvitha Paruchuri, Jacob Haffey, Ruby Araj, Dania Baraka, Dalya Hazim, Ashi Arora, Jessica Kassis, and Reneh Araj, the officers and new inductees of Phi Theta Kappa, Omicron Iota Chapter, at Schoolcraft College. Phi Theta Kappa is the largest academic honor society for two-year colleges and becoming an official member of this organization is one of the highest recognitions that a stu-

dent can receive at a two-year college. Congratulations to them on their accomplishment.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

#### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,963,753,617,957.26. We've added \$7,336,876,569,044.18 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.3 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

#### EMILY ROBINSON

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 1, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Robinson for her countless contributions to Jefferson County.

As the market president for FirstBank, Emily has helped to cultivate and mentor a team of young professionals, supporting their goals and efforts to assist them in achieving a successful future. Inspired by her self-employed parents, she found her passion and career in banking by providing support and financial resources to help business owners become successful. Her passion for helping business owners at FirstBank led her to climb the corporate ladder from trainee to market president. Emily's leadership and drive even helped benefit the bank's growth during the economic collapse of 2008. Since then, FirstBank's Lakewood and Golden locations have seen a 50 percent increase in deposits, making it one of the most successful FirstBanks in Colorado.

Emily is also dedicated to enhancing the management-training program at FirstBank, having experienced first-hand the progressive programs FirstBank offers its employees. She has served on many boards throughout her career including Seniors' Resource Center, Clinic Campesina Family Health Services and The West Chamber. She has been on the Board for Community First Foundation since 2010, the inaugural year of Colorado Gives Day, which is a 24-hour online giving initiative aimed at increasing philanthropy in the state. Due to Emily's involvement, the program has raised \$58.1 million for state nonprofits. She also sits on the board for The Jefferson Foundation and Arvada Economic Development. Emily was appointed by Governor Hickenlooper to serve on the State of Colorado Banking Board in 2011.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emily for her dedication, passion, and drive. She is an incredible example for all women in the workplace and in the community.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 85th Anniversary of the founding of the Daughters of Penelope, the leading international women's organization dedicated to promoting the ideals of ancient Greece. Founded November 16th 1929 in San Francisco, California the Daughters of Penelope was established to improve the wellbeing of women through community service and volunteerism. Especially, I would like to honor the Daughters of Penelope District 5 who represent chapters in New Jersey for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of women across our great state.

Nationally, one example of the great work done by the Daughters of Penelope can be found in the Penelope House, a shelter for battered women in Mobile, Alabama. The Penelope House focuses on the prevention of domestic violence through education and public awareness. The Penelope House helps victims of intimate partner violence to gain social and economic independence through shelter, counseling, and advocacy.

Clearly, the Daughters of Penelope deserves our recognition and support as they continue to expand the opportunities, status and well-being of women and their families around the globe. Congratulations to the Daughters of Penelope on reaching such a milestone and I look forward to continuing to see the charitable efforts of such a dedicated group of people.

THE SORROW AND THE HOPE OF  
"COMFORT WOMEN"**HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue which has been close to my heart during my years of service as Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific. This is the issue of the "Comfort Women" or, as former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton more accurately termed these victims of Imperial Japan's military during the Second World War, "enforced sex slaves."

Of all the actions in my almost twenty-six years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives, one that affected me most was the convening of my first hearing on February 17, 2007 as the new Chairman of the then Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment. The fact that the issue of the 'Comfort Women' was the topic of my very first hearing signified how deeply important this issue was and is to me.

The hearing represented the first official testimony given to a U.S. government entity regarding one of the most egregious war crimes carried out in the Pacific Theater during the Second World War. The compelling and courageous testimony of the three victim witnesses, Ms. Yong Soo Lee and Ms. Koon Ja

Kim from the Republic of Korea, and Ms. Jan Ruff O'Herne from Australia, brought tears to the eyes of many in the hearing room and left no doubt as to the culpability of Imperial Japan's military in the organization and management of comfort stations.

It was a special privilege that then South Korean National Assembly member and now President of the Republic of Korea, Her Excellency Park Geun-hye, was present as a special guest of the Subcommittee at the hearing. The hearing provided an impetus for the unanimous adoption by the U.S. House of Representatives later in 2007, during the 110th Congress, of House Resolution 121. Introduced by my good friend, Congressman MIKE HONDA, H. Res. 121 "expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that the Government of Japan should formally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of young women into sexual slavery, known to the world as 'comfort women', during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands from the 1930s through the duration of World War II."

In this regard, I wish to draw to the attention of my fellow colleagues the opening of a special art exhibition titled "The Sorrow and the Hope of 'Comfort Women'" to be held in the May Gallery of Mullen Library at Catholic University in Washington, DC. As you may be aware, Mr. Speaker, Pope Francis met with "Comfort Women" survivors during his recent visit to South Korea. The special exhibition, which will be held from November 25, 2014 to January 12, 2015, is being hosted by the National Catholic School of Social Service's Center for International Social Development (CISD) and co-organized by the Washington Coalition for Comfort Women Issues, Inc. (WCCW), whose President is Ms. Christine Choi and Vice President is Dr. Julie Jung-Sil Lee. There will be a seminar held in connection with the art exhibition at Catholic University on November 25, 2014.

I would like to take special note of the fact that one of the artists whose work will be displayed at this exhibition is Eileen Marie Halpin, the daughter of my former staff member Dennis P. Halpin. Eileen graduated summa cum laude in kinetic imaging from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond in May 2013. She also attended the Gobelins School of the Image in Paris, France in the summer of 2013. She is currently working as a freelance artist. Eileen sent her artwork last year to "Comfort Women" survivors residing in the House of Sharing in Gwangju, Korea. This is a facility which I have visited on repeated occasions during my official visits to South Korea as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. I have spent many hours with my grandmas at the House of Sharing, who are examples to me of courage, strength, and the resilience of the human spirit. These women are my heroes, and I count them among my greatest friends in this life.

Mr. Speaker, although I will soon depart from this esteemed body, I will continue to be a strong advocate for closure for the victims of the greatest crime of organized, coercive sexual trafficking in the twentieth century. The overwhelming majority of these victims came from the Asia-Pacific region, a region which I have proudly represented and continue to call home. The current revisionism involving denier

history which has emerged in certain influential quarters in Japan regarding the "Comfort Women" and other war crimes related to the Second World War would never be tolerated with regard to the crimes committed in the European Theater during that war. As philosopher George Santayana famously observed, "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Mr. Speaker, we owe it to the Nigerian school girls kidnapped by Boko Haram and the Yazidi women and girls enslaved by ISIL not to forget the tragic historic warning offered by the experiences of the "Comfort Women". It is my sincere hope that this esteemed body will do all it can to ensure justice for women and young girls everywhere. This is my hope forevermore.

## RECOGNIZING CHERYL COOK-KALLIO

**HON. ERIC SWALWELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cheryl Cook-Kallio for her long service to the East Bay.

Cheryl is a dedicated teacher, with credentials in social science, English, and a supplemental credential in Spanish, in addition to her BA degree in history from the University of North Carolina, Charlotte and her MA degree in history from San Jose State University. Currently teaching classes in Advanced Placement history and government at Irvington High School, Cheryl has taught for over 30 years in the Fremont Unified School District.

For her teaching, Cheryl has received numerous awards. These include the 1997 Teacher of the Year from the Sons of the American Revolution and 2005 Irvington High School Teacher of the Year.

Cheryl's work has gone beyond the classroom as well. She has coached the Irvington High School We the People team since 2000, and her annually successful team won the California State Championship in 2005. She has volunteered as a leader in Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts as well as served on the board of the Amador Friends of Music.

Cheryl also has given back to her community as an elected official; since 2006 she has been a member of the Pleasanton City Council. She has served in a variety of roles in that position, including vice mayor and as a member of the Audit Committee and School District Liaison Committee.

As Cheryl prepares to leave the city council after her current term expires, I want to thank her for all she has done and continues to do for the East Bay. We are a better community because of her tireless efforts.

## HONORING DR. DANIEL KRAFT

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 1, 2014*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Daniel Kraft of Boynton Beach and congratulate him on his retirement