

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