

hands-on projects that require them to have an understanding of many different disciplines. He also has demonstrated the courage to do what he thought was right, even when decisions were controversial. His approach earned him the respect of the teachers and the entire school community, and it has helped turn King Middle School into a real success story.

I cannot say enough good things about Mike and his impact on King Middle School, the city of Portland, and Maine education as a whole. When I recently convened a panel of Maine educators to share their perception on reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Mike brought his strong voice to the table. His has always been an invaluable perspective. Through his experience and input, educators across Maine are better off as they work—just like Mike—to broaden their students' horizons and prepare them for success in a rapidly changing world.●

CELEBRATING THE "YEAR OF DAWES"

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I recognize former Illinois resident and Vice President of the United States, Charles Gates Dawes, in honor of the 150th anniversary of his birth on August 27, 1865. Charles Dawes holds a special place in American history, devoting much of his life to public service, and today his memory lives on in Evanston, IL, the place where Dawes and his family called home for nearly 60 years.

Serving as Vice President of the United States from 1925 to 1929 under President Calvin Coolidge, Dawes distinguished himself in the service of his country on a national and international scale. Dawes served as brigadier general in charge of the American Expeditionary Force Office of Supply during World War I, where he led the Allied Supply Board and subsequently received medals for distinguished service from each of the Allied countries. On December 10, 1926, Dawes was awarded the 1925 Nobel Peace Prize for his work on the "Dawes Plan" that restructured German reparation repayments following World War I and temporarily helped to restore balance to Europe, easing tensions between Germany and France.

In addition to his work under the Coolidge administration, Dawes served four other U.S. Presidents in various offices that included Comptroller of the Currency, First Director of the Federal Bureau of the Budget, and President of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Dawes also served as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, a position he held until 1931. As Ambassador, Dawes successfully helped to negotiate treaties in international law and arms limitations. As the American delegate to the London Naval Conference in 1930, he specifically worked to broker an agreement between Japan, France, Italy, Great Britain, and the

United States to limit the number of Navy war vessels and regulate submarine warfare. Dawes was also a dedicated humanitarian, who personally established and funded extensive networks of food and housing for the homeless and less fortunate.

Charles Dawes is also remembered for his contributions and service to his local community of Evanston, IL. Dawes owned an Evanston based utility business, and he and his extended family were a part of the fabric of the community, attending local schools and participating in countless Evanston organizations. In 1942, he arranged to bequeath his home to Northwestern University and the broader Evanston community for the conservation of its cultural history. Today the Dawes home serves as the headquarters of the Evanston History Center, which will be honoring the life of Charles Dawes and the 150th anniversary of his birth through its "Year of Dawes" celebration. I commend the Evanston History Center for its dedication to educating the public on the remarkable life of Charles Dawes and preserving the Dawes family history for future generations.

I ask all my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "Year of Dawes" and honoring the 150th birthday anniversary of Charles Gates Dawes.●

TRIBUTE TO JAN THOMPSON

● Mr. KIRK. Mr. President, today I commemorate my constituent from Carbondale, IL, Ms. Jan Thompson, for her extraordinary work on behalf of American veterans. Ms. Thompson is a professor at Southern Illinois University and the founder and president of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor—ADBC—Memorial Society. On Sunday, July 19, 2015, Ms. Thompson and ADBC had the historic responsibility of being offered the first Japanese corporate apology for forced labor by American prisoners of war—POWs—during World War II.

Over 900 American civilian and military POWs were slave laborers in four mines owned by Mitsubishi Mining Company Ltd. during World War II. Ms. Thompson, whose organization represents surviving POWs, their families, descendants, and researchers working on POW history, accepted on their behalf an apology offered by Mitsubishi Mining's successor company, Mitsubishi Materials.

Thompson's father, Robert E. Thompson, was a Pharmacist's Mate aboard the USS *Canopus*—AS-9—a submarine tender moored in Manila Bay at the outbreak of the war on December 8, 1941. The tender was the only heavy ship left to service the submarines during the defense of the Philippines. The crew scuttled her the night before Bataan was surrendered on April 9, 1942 and escaped to fight on Corregidor Island.

Robert Thompson attended to the wounded during the final month of the

siege of Corregidor. Surrendering on May 6, 1942 in the face of great odds, he was assigned to the Bilibid Prison Hospital in Manila and survived the three "Hell ships" *Oryoku Maru*, *Enoura Maru*, and *Brazil Maru*.

On July 19th, Mr. Hikaru Kimura, a Senior Corporate Executive of Mitsubishi Materials Corporation and Senior General Manager of Global Business Management at the Paint Finishing System Division of Taikisha Ltd delivered the apology at a ceremony held at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles.

I applaud Mitsubishi Materials' courage and good corporate citizenship. I ask unanimous consent that the statement of Jan Thompson be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATEMENT OF JAN THOMPSON, PRESIDENT,
AMERICAN DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORREGIDOR MEMORIAL SOCIETY
DELIVERED AT THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE
SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER—LOS ANGELES, CA,
JULY 19, 2015

Thank you Rabbi [Abraham] Cooper for moderating today and for having the Museum of Tolerance as the venue for today's meeting.

I thank [Ms.] Kinue Tokodome, Mr. [Hikaru] Kimura, Mr. [Yukio] Okamoto and the Mitsubishi Materials Corporation for inviting me to be a witness to this extraordinary occasion.

I have known Kinue for many years as a dear friend and an advocate for our former POWs. She has worked very hard over the years to bring all of us together today for this important event and she should be recognized for her dedication and perseverance.

I had three roles in the room: one role as a daughter of a former POW, Robert E. Thompson; another role as a filmmaker; and as President of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor [ADBC] Memorial Society.

Being a witness today is meaningful to me. Seventy years ago our countries were at war and we were enemies. Terrible things happen during war. Our 16th President, Abraham Lincoln stated "We cannot escape history," and perhaps Prime Minister [Shinzo] Abe was paying homage by saying at his recent address to Congress: "We cannot avert our eyes . . ."

For some former POWs an apology is important and they are grateful.

For others, the apology is 70 years too late. Unfortunately for those who have passed away [they] were not able to hear the moving words of Mr. Kimura.

The mission of the ADBC Memorial Society is education and to preserve the legacy of those who had been POWs of Imperial Japan. Our mission is to preserve their history accurately. We see this apology today as an acknowledgment that their use of forced labor for Mitsubishi Mining violated their human rights and their dignity. This apology is important to silence those who deny these facts.

It is obvious that this decision to apologize did not happen overnight. It took people with the same mind, the same goal, and the same courage to make this happen.

Mitsubishi Materials Corporation should be a role model for other Japanese corporations: to come forward and apologize. We hope the citizens of Japan will support today's action. The employees of Mitsubishi