Colonel Michael R. Regner, who performed in an outstanding manner as the Marine Corps' Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives from May 1999 to May 2002.

Colonel Regner began his service in the military in 1976, following graduation from the Citadel. Commissioned a Second Lieutenant, he commanded Rifle and Weapons Platoons, a Rifle Company, Headquarters Battalion, and an Infantry Battalion. Colonel Regner was also a recruiter on duty in Little Rock, Arkansas. His staff assignments include duty as Battalion Logistics and Executive Officer, Staff Secretary to the 2nd Marine Division Commander and Joint Amphibious Operations Planner and Partnership for Peace Staff Officer to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Colonel Regner served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm, United Nations operations in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, and in Bosnia. He has completed the Advanced Infantry Officer's Course, Airborne Course, Marine Command and Staff College, and the NATO Defense College. He also holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration/Human Relations. Colonel Regner's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps commendation Medals.

In Colonel Regner's three years as the Marine Corps' House Liaison Officer he has provided this Congress with a working knowledge of the Marine Corps. He has been instrumental in directing Marine Corps legislative activities in Congressional hearings, official travel, constituent services, and other important legislative functions.

Colonel Michael Regner has served our Nation with distinction for the last 26 years. As he takes post as Commanding Officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Pendleton, California, I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1992 LOS ANGELES RIOTS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots, one of the worst events of its kind in our history and the first multiracial one in the United States.

Thousands of people and businesses were devastated by the three days of rioting and looting, which began on April 29, 1992. Fifty-eight people died, 2,400 were injured, and 11,700 were arrested. Damages totaled $717 million. In less than 24 hours, 1,000 fires seized Los Angeles, causing flight delays and cancellations. Governor Pete Wilson deployed 6,000 National Guard troops at the request of Mayor Tom Bradley. President George Bush sent 5,500 military troops and law enforcement specialists and put the National Guard under federal command.

The Korean American community in Los Angeles, which is home to the largest Korean population outside of Seoul, sustained the most damages. Korean Americans lost more than half of their 3,100 businesses in Los Angeles, with damages totaling more than $350 million. Out of the 200 liquor stores that were destroyed during the riots, 175 were Korean-owned. A survey, conducted by the Korean American Inter-Agency Council 10 months after the riots, found that out of 1,500 respondents, about 75 percent had yet to recover from the riots' after effects, including post-traumatic stress disorder, temporary memory loss, and suicidal tendencies. Some families moved back to Korea, declared bankruptcy, or permanently relocated their businesses to safer areas.

Korean Americans termed the tragic three days as Sa-ee-gu, which literally translates into the numbers 4.29, the first date of the riots. It is common for Koreans to refer to historically and politically significant events by their dates. Immediately following the riots, the Korean American community and its supporters held the largest Korean American demonstration in the United States. It signified the birth of a community shaken but standing firm in demanding its fair share of the riot relief funds, adequate representation in government, corporate responsibility, and accurate media coverage.

A decade after the riots, the Korean American community vividly recalls the destruction and mayhem of those three days. But more importantly, this community has risen from the ashes to reclaim their space in American society and regain their dignity as Americans through unprecedented levels of civic participation and heightened political consciousness. The 1992 Los Angeles Riots forced the Korean American community to face a grim reality, but the future holds a community that has been strengthened and made wiser by this experience. The community is in the process of building its political leadership and establishing the infrastructure and resources necessary to stand up for themselves in times of trouble and gain recognition in times of triumph.

Today, I join the Korean American community in Los Angeles and nationwide to commemorate the 1992 Los Angeles Riots and to celebrate the spirit and determination of Korean Americans throughout the country.

HONORING JOHN GURDA, 2002 POLISH HERITAGE AWARD WINNER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, On Sunday, May 5, 2002, the Pulaski Council of Milwaukee will be observing Polish Constitution Day with its 23rd annual Heritage Award Dinner. This year's Polish Heritage Award is being given to Milwaukee author and historian John Gurda.

John is a native Milwaukeean, with a lifelong love for local history. He is author of 13 books, including his most recent work, The Making of Milwaukee, a superbly written and richly illustrated account of our community's past and present.

An 8-time winner of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Award of Merit, John Gurda serves as a guest lecturer, tour guide and local history columnist for the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel. He has also received well-deserved honors from the Council for Wisconsin Writers, which awarded him the Leslie Cross Award for book-length nonfiction, and was the Milwaukee Public Library's 2000 inductee to the Wisconsin Writers Wall of Fame.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to hear John speak, read his books and articles, or take one of his neighborhood tours has truly been enriched by the experience. He is a masterful storyteller, bringing Milwaukee's colorful and fascinating past to life, and often finding, in the telling, important relevance to our community's present and future.

Milwaukee is a city of immigrants, a weave of many nationalities and cultures. John Gurda has eloquently captured the histories of our ethnic neighborhoods, including Milwaukee's Polonia, or Polish-American community. From Polonia's early struggles with poverty and language barriers to its growth to one of Milwaukee's largest ethnic groups, John has skillfully chronicled the community's rich Polish heritage.

As Gurda himself has said, ''We look back to look ahead; the deepest value of the past is to help the present shape its future.'' John Gurda's gift to Milwaukee's Polish-American community is a deeper connection to its past, and a greater understanding of its role in our city's present and future. The Pulaski Council of Milwaukee has made an outstanding choice for its 2002 Polish Heritage Award, for John's words will continue to educate, inspire and bring Milwaukee Polonia's history to life for generations to come.

Congratulations, John!

NATIONAL PARK WEEK AND NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Park Week. This special commemoration was first proclaimed in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush and has become an annual celebration of the National Park Service. This week is an opportunity to celebrate what the National Park Service is all about by educating the public about the great work performed by park rangers, resource specialists, scientists, managers and all the other important employees that make the National Park Service special.

In conjunction with National Park Week, Mr. Speaker, we also celebrate this week, the many volunteers at our National Parks. These volunteers in parks, or VIP's, play a crucial role in helping Park Service staff with their duties. I am proud to recognize the park volunteers in my own district, Mr. Speaker. These volunteers at the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor are making a difference. Whether helping guide a canoe trip down the Blackstone river or assisting with a historic village tour, these volunteers make important contributions to the success of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor.

America's democratic experiment shines through in the 24 cities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island that make up the Blackstone River Valley. It is a quilt of America's past, present and future that tells the story of America's progression from an agrarian society to