

and recovery aircraft to the World Trade Center site. By day sixteen, the squadron had tripled its alert commitment, flying 144 sorties totaling 450 hours, and expanded its area of responsibility to include the entire mid-Atlantic coast.

From September 11th until receiving orders to stand down on February 1, 2002, the 102nd Fighter Wing flew a total of 770 sorties, compiling over 3200 hours in direct support of Operation Noble Eagle and Combat Air Patrols over New York, Washington DC, and Boston. During this nearly five-month period, the unit came close to surpassing their annual flying hour allocation and witnessed an astounding 300 percent increase in operational tempo. The operation tempo increase included such tasking as escorting Air Force 1 and Air Force 2, providing air support when the President addressed the United Nations, and patrolling the skies over New York City during baseball's World Series. Hopefully, that venue will be in Boston this fall!

Especially noteworthy was the twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week aspect of the operation. Normally, major aircraft maintenance can be accomplished during non-flying periods, and all maintenance personnel can concentrate on fixing the jets instead of flying. Naturally, this is not possible with an around-the-clock flying commitment. However, the 102nd's maintenance crews rose to the challenge and were able to provide fully mission capable aircraft that enabled the squadron to meet 100 percent of its Combat Air Patrol and alert tasking. If that were not amazing enough, in addition to fulfilling its own missions, the 102nd, as a result of the superior maintenance efforts, were able to fill in for other units when those units could not meet their tasking.

When you take into account the accomplishments of the unit during this period, you cannot help but have a deep sense of honor and appreciation for the 1000 men and women that make up the 102nd Fighter Wing. No single flying organization has ever been tasked with this level of responsibility for such a long period of time. Make no mistake; every American owes each one of these citizen air-men and women a debt of gratitude to them for their hard work, dedication and tireless commitment to ensuring the operational success of each and every mission.

Earlier this month the 102nd's achievements were properly recognized when the wing was selected as the 2002 recipient of the Winston P. Wilson Trophy, given to the country's most outstanding Air National Guard fighter unit. Additionally, the 102nd is a finalist for the 2002 Hughes award, which recognizes the top fighter unit in the entire United States Air Force. The professional qualities and dedication to duty demonstrated this year by the unit were without equal and it is this Member's opinion the 102nd Fighter Wing is deserving of this honor as well.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me say that even before the events of September 11th, the men and women of the 102nd Fighter Wing personified the true meaning of patriotism. The Fighter Wing has a long and distinguished history of service to the people of Massachusetts and the nation. I am extremely honored to have the 102nd Fighter Wing in my state and particularly proud to know that when the nation called for its most capable fighters to protect America's skies, the 102nd Fighter Wing responded in true Minuteman fashion. It is my

hope that Congress will acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the 102nd Fighter Wing by considering and ultimately passing this resolution.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GUAM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, as the nation marks the ninetieth anniversary of the city of Tokyo's original gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the people of Washington, D.C. in 1912, I also would like to take the time to recognize the fiftieth anniversary of an organization centered around the annual celebration of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Fifty years ago this year, the Guam Territorial Society was organized under the Congressional charter to the Conference of State Societies. The advent of this organization brought together former residents of Guam living in Washington, D.C. and the suburbs of Virginia and Maryland. A special venue for these people was made available to gather through receptions, dinners, picnics, and a host of other events.

Since its inception, the society and its members have been responsible for making sure that Guam was represented by a princess in the National Cherry Blossom festival. On two instances, the Guam princesses were crowned National Cherry Blossom Queens—Angela Alley in 1982 and Tanya Monique Manibusan in 1993. Its affiliation with the National Conference of State Societies (NCSS), enabled two of the organization's past presidents to become NCSS presidents. General Frank Torres as NCSS president during the 1974–75 term while Mr. William Barbee, Jr. Served during the 1986–87 term.

Along with its NCSS affiliation, the society has been an active participant of the National Organization of Pacific Island Association (NOPIA) and the Asian Pacific American Heritage Council (APAHC). For years, it has co-hosted the annual Pacific Night reception which brings together the various nations from the Pacific region. In addition, the society has supported and established a working relationship with Chamorro Clubs all over the United States and abroad.

The society's commitment to Guam and its people is strongly manifested by the assistance and support it extends to the office of the delegate of Guam, the offices of the governor and lieutenant governor of Guam, the Guam Legislature, and the many Chamorro men and women in the United States Armed Forces. An instrument in bringing people from Guam together, the society hosts the largest Chamorro gatherings in the East Coast during Memorial Day, Liberation Day and the Annual Chamorro Night Ball. Its members put together annual children's Christmas parties for member's children and their guests and hosts receptions for the Guam Close-Up kids who come to visit our nation's capital.

In 1986, the Guam Territorial Society was reorganized to become the Guam Society of America, Inc. (GSA). The organization's name might have undergone a slight change but its commitment to Guam, its people, its culture and its traditions has endured. It has since or-

ganized Chamorro Language conversational classes and has established a scholarship fund. The annual Guam Society of America Golf Tournament is a fundraising event that goes towards these worthwhile efforts.

GSA promotes Guam's age-old tradition of placing high regard upon its elders. The blessings we enjoy today were made possible through their labors and their guidance. It is with great pride and pleasure that I join the society's endeavor this year to honor our mañaina. Along with the society's principal organizer, the Honorable Carlos Taitano, special individuals from the D.C. area such as Jose and Bride Bamba, Roman Benavente, Juan and Matilde Cruz, John Flores, Brigida Lizama, Margarita S. Perez, Joseph and Margaret Sablan, Isadora Taitano, Jose Taitano, Vicente Torres, George and Rosita Eustaquio, my predecessor, Ben Blaz, and his wife, Ann, possess the wisdom and pass along the knowledge regarding our culture and traditions on to future generations.

For the past fifty years, the Guam Society of America has developed into a unique civic and social club for individuals in the National Capital region who have retained ties to the island of Guam. The society and its members have brought together friends and family through its efforts towards the preservation and promotion of Chamorro culture. As the Guam Society of America celebrates its golden anniversary, we also take the time to honor our mañaina—esteemed individuals who have laid the foundations and through whose leadership and guidance the society is able to celebrate this milestone today. I also commend Linda Perez, the society's president, Cindy Atoigue, its vice president, Annie Rosario, its secretary and Doris Yanger, its treasurer, who along with the society's many members made this celebration possible. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend and congratulate the Guam Society of America, its members, and, most especially, the mañaina. The past fifty years have been fruitful, rewarding and beneficial to the friends of Guam in the National Capital region. My wife, Lorraine, and I wish the society many more such years.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF WAKE ROBIN GOLF CLUB, INC.

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2002

Mr. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 65th Anniversary of Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. In noting this milestone, I am particularly pleased to honor the outstanding contributions that the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. has made to increase the involvement of African Americans in golf.

Since its beginning in 1937, the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. has made many important contributions to expand opportunities for African Americans, particularly for women, in the District of Columbia and our nation. In 1938, members of the Wake Robin Golf Club, Inc. drafted a petition to the Secretary of the Interior requesting the desegregation of public golf courses in Washington, D.C. Three years later, because of their great persistence and energy, the Secretary issued an order honoring this courageous and groundbreaking request.