

and extend congratulations upon its 40th anniversary.

COMMEMORATING DR. SHELDON  
HARRIS

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. Sheldon Harris. Dr. Harris' most notable achievement was the exhaustive research and publication of his landmark study, "Factories of Death: Japanese Secret Biological Warfare, 1932-45, and the American Cover-Up," a timely and important historical document exposing human rights abuses and chemical weapons development. Dr. Harris passed away on August 31, 2002, leaving behind a wealth of knowledge and inspiration for countless students, researchers, and people interested in historical justice.

Dr. Harris was born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated at Brooklyn College, Harvard, and Columbia University. He went on to teach history at the University of Massachusetts, Cal State-Northridge, and the University of California at Los Angeles. As part of an academic exchange program in China in the mid-1980s, Dr. Harris became aware of large-scale biological warfare experiments conducted in China during World War II. After some preliminary research and informal interviews with colleagues, it became apparent to Dr. Sheldon that a special Japanese army unit had carried out biological warfare experiments that cost the lives of not only thousands of military prisoners, but also Chinese civilians. He then began studying recently declassified U.S. military records addressing the experiments and their results, as well as other written resources in various Asian languages. Certain interests in the U.S. military diligently guarded the records Dr. Sheldon requested, while the Japanese government simply denied any knowledge or involvement pertaining to the issue. In spite of these roadblocks, Dr. Harris continued his research and his pursuit of the truth.

By 1994, Dr. Harris was ready to share his research with the world. He published "Factories of Death" based on years of study, travel, and interviews. The book is as influential as it is unsettling. Dr. Harris established as fact that Unit 731 of the Japanese Army tested live human beings, both military and civilians, with agents such as anthrax, dysentery, cholera, and typhoid. Throughout the Japanese occupied region of Manchuria, guarded buildings were erected to host the experiments, as well as the incarceration and eventual execution of the prisoners held there. Sometimes, neighboring villages would be infected outright with various germs, then burned to the ground once the inhabitants were overcome with the symptoms.

According to Dr. Harris' research, the men in charge of these experiments and mass exterminations escaped prosecution as part of a deal made with certain U.S. intelligence agencies. In exchange for the data from the experiments, the leaders of the biological weapons programs received complete immunity—an exchange that was kept secret within the highest levels of the international intelligence commu-

nity. During the decades that followed, the Japanese government denied any involvement with the experiments carried out in China; U.S. intelligence kept the data secret and stonewalled outsiders pursuing it. These policies have been largely maintained to this day, but in a remarkable turn of events, a Japanese court finally proclaimed that Japan's government had been involved in developing biological weapons in China from 1932-45. The court's decision, based in part on Dr. Harris' work, was delivered four days before Dr. Harris' death.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in honoring Dr. Sheldon Harris and the important work he has done for the international community. He was never vindictive in his efforts to bring closure to those hurt by this horrible chapter of human history. His harsh indictment against chemical weapons is relevant to all peoples and governments, as it extracts a meaningful lesson from so much senseless violence and cruelty. The importance of Dr. Harris' work may be demonstrated again and again as the issue of biological weapons is addressed today and in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DOUG AND  
TYLER MELZER

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I recognize the alpine accomplishments of Doug and Tyler Melzer of Lake-wood, Colorado. Doug and Tyler have recently joined other family members as part of an elite group of individuals who have hiked the entire Colorado Continental Divide. As they celebrate their journey's completion, I would like to pay tribute to their family legacy and their extraordinary accomplishment.

The Melzer family tradition began in the summer of 1936 when Doug and Tyler's great-grandfather and grandfather, Carl and Bob Melzer, first hiked the 800-mile journey along the Continental Divide. They embarked on this journey solely in the pursuit of adventure. They wanted to experience the outdoors, breathe the fresh air and experience the mountains in a way few ever have. Bob was only 8 years old when he completed the trip with his father, and together they became the first people to complete the hike in its entirety. In the summer of 1976, Doug and Tyler's parents, Tom and Judy Melzer, accomplished the same feat, and Judy Melzer became the first woman to ever complete the hike.

Last summer, Doug and Tyler joined their family, becoming the fourth generation of Melzer's to make the journey. Tyler was able to hike over 800 miles from New Mexico to Wyoming, while his brother had to suspend part of the trip to recover from a leg injury. After Doug recovered from his injury, he re-joined his brother just outside of Rocky Mountain National Park to complete the journey. After making it into Wyoming, the two brothers then drove back to the San Juan Mountain range to complete the 70-mile portion they missed due to the injury.

Although Doug and Tyler represent a proud legacy of Melzers who have hiked the Conti-

ental Divide, they also represent something much more profound and significant: an entire population of proud Coloradans who love their state and its incredible natural beauty. It is of profound significance that four generations of the Melzer family have been able to make such an incredible journey through such a rugged terrain.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I recognize Doug and Tyler Melzer before this body of Congress and this nation for their outstanding accomplishment in hiking the Colorado Continental Divide last summer. After hearing the many stories told by their parents and grandparents of experiences on the Divide, Doug and Tyler can finally add to that legacy with some unique stories of their own. I wish them the best of luck in all of their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF MILES PARK  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the Miles Park Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Debra Brathwaite and Principal William Bauer for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Miles Park Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include increasing the percentage of students passing all five parts of the Ohio Proficiency and off-grade tests to meet targets at each grade level; creating a safe, nurturing environment; and improving the academic and social performance of all special needs students. Recent accomplishments from last year include above average on proficiency tests, and receipt of the Ohio Reads Literacy Grant.

I commend the Miles Park Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. MARY  
SULIMAN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 16, 2002*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Mrs. Mary Suliman, born September 2, 1898, in recognition of her 104th birthday celebration.

Mary Suliman migrated from Newbern, North Carolina to New York over sixty-two years ago. She married Mr. Samona Suliman from New Jersey and had two beautiful children, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren. All of Mary's loved ones call her "Nana."