

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders (rollcall vote 194). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall vote No. 192. If present, I would have voted "yea."

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IN HONOR OF MARC HAKEN AND  
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
HILLTOP VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVE #4

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Hilltop Village Co-operative #4 in Hollis, Queens, NY, and its President, Marc Haken for his strong leadership, dedication and commitment to the Hilltop Village community.

On Sunday, August 15, 1952, the New York Times recognized the opening of this grand cooperative with a front page article. Constructed under the National Housing Act of 1952, Hilltop Village Co-operative #4 was the fourth and final completed section of the 500-unit Hilltop Village, occupying 150 acres of Queens, NY. Hilltop Village Co-op #4 opened in December 1953 with 296 apartments and Joseph Desner as its first president.

Since its completion in 1953, Hilltop Village #4 has emerged as a leader in the local community. Among the major projects the group has spearheaded and accomplished are: the creation of the Hollis branch of the Queens Borough Public Library on 202nd Street and Hillside Avenue, the construction of a Post Office on 197th Street and Hillside Avenue, and the implementation of a new bus route, the Q76, which runs down Francis Lewis Boulevard to the subway terminal at Hillside Avenue and 179th Street. In addition, residents of Hilltop Village were instrumental in the establishment of the Holliswood Jewish Center.

Community involvement has been especially prominent under the dynamic leadership of Marc Haken, who has served as president of the co-op, and has been reelected every three years since 1978. Under Mr. Haken's direction the co-op became a member of civic and community organizations such as the 107th Precinct Council, the Queens Civic Congress, whose co-op committee is chaired by Mr. Haken, and the Friends of Cunningham Park.

The co-op also makes financial contributions to several local charitable organizations including the Queens Women's Center, the Hollis branch of the Queens Borough Public Library, the Jamaica Estates Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the Hatzolah Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the Youth Committee of Community Board #8 and to the 107th Precinct of the New York City Police Department. In addition, the

co-op donates roof space for radio antennas to both the Jamaica Estates Volunteer Ambulance Corp and the New York City Police Department. It also provides landscaping services for the center divider of Francis Lewis Boulevard. In Marc Haken's 25 years as president of Hilltop Village Co-operatives, the co-op has expanded its prominent role as a leader in the local community.

I commend Mr. Haken and the Hilltop Villages' Board of Directors—Michael Rodi, Miriam Null, Bernice Ackerman, Adrienne Bayuk, Steven Kasavana and Miguel Ramos—for their continued dedication and commitment to community service. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in wishing Marc Haken, the Board of Directors, and the shareholders of Hilltop Co-operatives many more years of success as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this wonderful residential community.

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ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
HERITAGE MONTH

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent that live in my congressional district.

I am fortunate to represent an ethnically diverse district that has experienced first hand the economic and cultural contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

Although less than 4 percent of the U.S. population is Asian, I am proud that 19 percent of my congressional district is of Asian descent.

Some cities in my congressional district, have a well-established Asian Pacific American community.

Monterey Park, for example, is home to a Chinese and Chinese-American community.

Monterey Park is 60 percent Chinese and its City Council is majority Asian as well.

Other cities in my congressional district, like West Covina, have experienced an increase in its Asian population in more recent times.

From 1980 to the present, West Covina's Asian Pacific American population has grown from 4 percent to 23 percent.

In addition to this recent growth, the Japanese community in West Covina has long been an important part of the city.

On June 3, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, located in West Covina, will celebrate its 52nd Anniversary.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center provides important services like:

Japanese language classes from the kindergarten to the high school level;

Martial art and cultural classes like Japanese classical dance; and

A year round program for its Japanese American senior and retired citizens.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center has significantly contributed to the strength of West Covina and the greater San Gabriel Valley.

Asian Pacific Americans bring richness not only to our culture, but also to our economy and to our advancement as a nation.

Asian Pacific Americans have made vast contributions in the fields of medicine, technology, and agriculture that benefit all Americans.

Throughout times of heightened national security, Asian Pacific Americans have fought to protect democracy in every war since the Civil War.

For example, despite the disturbing racism towards Japanese Americans during World War II, Japanese Americans volunteered to serve in the armed forces as part of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team remains the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

Not only did these Japanese servicemen show their loyalty to the United States, but they also earned more than 18,000 individual decorations in less than two years. These noble men deserve our recognition.

In closing, I would like to honor the memory of a truly remarkable woman, the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

In my 2 years working with Patsy, I quickly came to admire her spirit and determination.

Patsy was a true warrior, a champion for the causes of equality, civil rights and environmental justice—causes important to the Asian Pacific American community and all communities.

As the first Asian-American woman in Congress, Patsy Mink was a hero to many.

Patsy may not be with us in body any longer, but her spirit continues to thrive as we celebrate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

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HONORING BERNICE BECK OF  
KILLEEN, TEXAS

**HON. CHET EDWARDS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last week, Central Texas, the City of Killeen and Ft. Hood lost a friend with the passing of Bernice "Bernie" Beck. Some people will be known for their accomplishments in life. Others will be known for their strength of character. My friend; Killeen's friend; Ft. Hood's friend, Bernice Beck, will be known for both.

Some will be remembered for service to country in time of war. Others will be remembered for service to community in time of peace. Bernice Beck will be remembered for both.

I will miss Bernie Beck, because he was a dear friend, but his lasting legacies cannot be missed, not even by those who never knew him—Stillhouse Hollow Lake, Ft. Hood's III Corps Headquarters, the Soldier Development Center, the Soldier Service Center and Army family housing improvement program—these are but a few of the important projects that bear the imprint of Bernie Beck's commitment to the community and soldiers he loved.

I'll never forget the first time I met Bernie Beck. It was 1990, and I was campaigning for Congress. I asked for his support. In his typical quiet but firm determination, he said I would have it, under one condition. He wanted to know that I would work to get on the Armed Services Committee because of Ft. Hood. I