

This story has special significance to me, as I am a citizen of Long Branch. In addition, Rita Thornton and I both attended Long Branch High School and even participated in speech and debate together. I could tell back then, that she and her sisters share a true commitment to education and excellence—it is no wonder that they all received straight A's throughout high school.

This year, I would also like to recognize all recipients of the Donald and Itasker Thornton Scholarship, past and present: from 1992, Miss LaShawn Pruitt and Miss Tiffany Sanders; from 1995, Miss Natasha Dwamena; from 1996, Miss Jasmine Williams; from 1997, Miss Anetha Perry, Miss Sanetta Ponton, and Mr. Carl Little; from 1998, Miss Diane Byne; from 1999, Miss Estelle Docteur, Miss Leigh-Michil George, Miss Tiffany Little, and Miss Traymanesha Moore; from 2000, Miss Marie Guervil, and Miss Lesha Sanders; from 2001, Miss Aakia Seymour, Miss Fatiya Ilegieno, Miss Lesha Brady, Miss Betty Lin, and Miss Courtney Jackson; from 2002, Miss Melissa Thompson, Miss Tiffany Reed, and Miss Martha Tan; and from 2003, Miss Yoonieh Ahn, Miss Cassandra Brown, Miss Porschia Epps, Miss Sorochi Eschaghi, Miss Sonya Frontin, Miss Indria Harrison, Miss Quasheeda Kelly, Miss Elizabeth Meltzer, Miss Dominique Robinson, Miss Candice Spence, Miss Shakeilya Washington, and Miss Katherine Wheatle.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these aspiring women. They are truly a group that needs to be admired and praised. I want to personally thank the Thornton sisters for their twelve years of providing scholarships for young minority women of the State of New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO GRACE (SANG SOOK) LEE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Grace (Sang Sook) Lee in recognition of her dedication to assisting Korean-Americans and troubled youths in her community.

Ms. Lee was born in Seoul, Korea. She was educated in many different schools, and earned a degree in chemistry from Sacred Hearts Women's University. She married Chong Hwun Lee in 1980 and moved to the United States. Ms. Lee and her husband have three daughters, Vivian, Marian, and Joan.

At the height of the Lees' success, they owned five dry cleaners in Manhattan. Unfortunately, things took a turn for the worse and they had to sell their home in Little Neck, NY. For some period of time, they had to move every two years. During this time, Grace was able to go to night school and earn a degree in counseling and conflict resolution.

Adapting to a new culture and struggling to establish a successful business made life during the 1980s arduous. The stress caused Grace to fall into depression. However, she used this low point in her life to search for the truth in her life that would uplift her. She realized that she could no longer live for herself, and in 1990, in the teachings of her Savior Jesus Christ, she gained a new awareness that she must serve others.

During this time, she met a Korean-American inmate, which altered her life dramatically. Since that moment, she has been diligently visiting Korean-American inmates in the greater New York Area. These experiences motivated her to focus on the problems of the youth in the Korean-American community. The Korean-American Youth Center in Flushing, NY, provided her with a vehicle to work with teenagers. Because her children were getting older, she had more time to pursue her concern for all of the young people in her community.

Using all of the experiences in her life, Grace created the Youth and Family Focus, a non-profit organization of which she is the executive officer. She runs the organization with the devoted help of a few volunteers. Youth and Family Focus believes that intervention with teenagers is the best way to affect their lives positively. The organization is a youth oriented program that offers many services to the community including parent-child counseling, education programs for Korean American parents, a G.E.D. program, mentoring for teens, retreats for teenagers, and a prison ministry.

Ms. Lee's devotion and dedicated work with Youth and Family Focus have made this group an effective organization. Its success is reflected by the high regard it has within the Korean-American communities across the United States. Success is further reflected by the requests it receives from the judicial system, school system, and families for assistance with Korean American Youth.

Mr. Speaker, Grace (Sang Sook) Lee is committed to improving the lives of Korean-Americans and troubled youths. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE COMMENDING NATION'S BUSINESSES AND BUSINESS OWNERS FOR SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 201. This bill expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that American businesses should be commended for their support of our troops and their families. I would like to thank my colleague from Michigan, Mr. Rogers, for introducing this timely and appropriate tribute and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

Since September 11, 2001, the Armed Forces have undertaken more than 21 months of courageous and successful operations against terrorism worldwide. Over 216,931 members of the Reserve components have been called to leave their families and their jobs to serve our country. From my own State of Michigan, over 1,000 individuals have been called to Active Duty.

National Guard and Reserve members comprise 38 percent of our military and support by their employers is crucial. It can be a struggle for Guard and Reserve members to find a bal-

ance between serving our country and dedication to their employment. For activated service members to be successful in their missions, they need peace of mind that their families, civilian jobs, and other responsibilities will be stable and financially secure in their absence.

We have established a law to protect our troops and this law has significantly reinforced the respect and encouragement our armed forces deserve. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides job protection and rights of reinstatement to employees who participate in the National Guard and Reserve. The act seeks to ensure that members of the uniformed services are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completion of their service. They should be reinstated with the seniority, status, and rate of pay they would have obtained had they remained continuously employed by their civilian employer. The law also protects individuals from discrimination in hiring, promotion, and retention on the basis of present and future membership in the Armed Forces.

Many employers have gone above and beyond what is required under USERRA. They have expanded their pay differential and medical coverage policies for Reserve and National Guard members called to Active Duty. Along with the companies who provide a pay differential during service members' annual training and mobilization, continuation of insurance and other company benefits, establishing family support networks to maintain open lines of communication, and facilitating information sharing have been used to mitigate the psychological hardships of war.

Employers' willingness to bear the inevitable financial hardships and organizational disruptions that result from war is an important contribution to our Nation's security. In placing America's well being above their own, employers help our National Guard provide mission-ready forces to help preserve our freedoms and protect our national interests.

Our Nation's businesses and business owners serve our country in many ways, especially in these days of increased engagement of our military in strategic locations around our Nation and around the world. I would like to commend their patriotism and offer my sincere gratitude to the men and women defending America.

HONORING DR. DANIEL IVASCYN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Daniel W. Ivascyn, a constituent of the second district of Massachusetts, for his countless years of dedication to the town of Oxford and Oxford public school system.

Dr. Ivascyn is retiring this year after 34 years of devoted employment.

Dr. Ivascyn began his extraordinary career in September 1969 when he became Business Manager of Oxford. He was later promoted in 1975 to become Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs. He continued his steady climb up the chain of command in 1996 where