

step toward commemorating the sacrifices and the strength of the Japanese-American community, and to recognizing an important chapter in the history of Bainbridge Island, my State, and our Nation.

I am proud to represent a State with a history of electing a diverse group of citizens to public office. In 1993, Filipina-American Velma Veloria became the first Asian-American woman to serve in the Washington State Legislature. Over the past decade, her work to fight human trafficking and promote peace and social justice has truly made my State a better place. Since then, Washington State has also seen the service of Gary Locke, Washington's first Asian-American Governor, and Paul Shin, the first Asian American to serve in the State senate. In fact, the rich history of Asians and Pacific Islanders holding elected office in Washington State dates back to 1962, when Wing Luke, a decorated World War II veteran and former Assistant Attorney General of the State of Washington, won a seat on Seattle's city council. Today, his legacy is commemorated in Seattle's Wing Luke Asian Museum, along with the stories of thousands of other Asian immigrants. I am personally honored to be involved in renovating the museum's East Kong Yick building, one of the first two buildings in Seattle owned by nonwhites. The museum is both a local and national treasure, respected as a Smithsonian affiliate and honored at the White House 10 years ago with the National Award for Museum Services.

As this year's Asian Pacific American Heritage month begins, I believe it is important to preserve the lessons of the past, while recognizing the immense benefit we all receive from living in a diverse country built on the contributions of immigrants from around the globe. Diversity, and the exposure to other customs and ideas that it involves, leads to opportunity and gives the United States much of its strength. In celebrating the rich history, culture, and traditions of Asian and Pacific Islanders this May, we recognize their important contributions to the strength and diversity of our country, and to the bright future that lies ahead.

#### PASSING OF VICKI COTTRELL

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, with the untimely death of Vicki Cottrell, Utah's executive director of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, NAMI, a powerful and compassionate voice who spoke for those who suffer the effects of mental illness has been silenced. Vicki Cottrell's untiring efforts across Utah, in the legislature, in the jails and mental health courts, among community and religious leaders, and among families, will be difficult to replace. The passionate spirit and vision that she shared with her staff will continue.

Before working for NAMI Utah, Vicki worked in computer software sales. But

after her daughter was diagnosed with schizophrenia, Vicki formed her own support group for people who have loved ones with a mental illness. Eventually, she merged her group with NAMI Utah.

Over the past 20 years, Vicki has worked for the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill's Utah affiliate. She started as a volunteer teaching classes and worked her way up to the executive director's post. Going the distance to places like Logan was common for her, and she took a message of advocacy around the State. Vicki's influence did not just reach inside Utah's borders, though. Upon hearing of her death, NAMI members and friends from across the country brought forth an outpouring of sympathy.

Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. expressed his condolences noting that Vicki helped educate many about mental illness and the way new medical treatments help the afflicted lead very productive lives. He said, "She traveled throughout the Nation sharing this message of hope and will be greatly missed by all who knew her."

Vicki was a member of my Advisory Committee on Disability Issues for the State of Utah. She worked closely with my office and visited with me and my staff in both Washington and Utah to advocate for the needs of the mentally ill. Her strong commitment to those suffering from mental illness was well known throughout Utah. She provided valuable insights to the Advisory Committee and will be missed by all of the committee members.

The love and respect so many felt for Vicki Cottrell came from her willingness to use her own family's struggle with schizophrenia as an example and turn it into something to help others cope. She worked hard to eliminate the stigma often attached to mental illness, and was tireless, energetic and motivated in her mission.

Vicki's grace, humanity, and love touched every life she met. Her public life never overshadowed her deep devotion for her 6 children and 10 grandchildren. She was a loyal friend and enjoyed close relationships with many. Her beautiful and well-attended garden was a metaphor for her life.

I ask that my colleagues please join me in extending heartfelt sympathies to Vicki's family and friends. The magnitude of the loss for Utah and the Nation is substantial.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### HONORING MG RICHARD S. COLT

• MR. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to honor one of the great Army Reserve generals in the United States of America. MG Richard S. Colt has served as the commanding general of the 77th Regional Readiness Command based at Fort Totten, NY, for the last 4 years, and I am honored to recognize him on the floor of the Senate. He celebrates

his retirement after 38 years of service to this country. While I am a Senator from Idaho and he is a commanding general from the State of New York, he deserves all of our praise because he was on duty in New York City on September 11, 2001.

Major General Colt is a Vietnam veteran who has always put soldiers first. His emphasis on readiness and training has prepared our citizen soldiers for the current global war on terror.

General Colt is among the finest this country has to offer, and he leads by example. He trains, teaches, and leads his soldiers. He will be sorely missed by his soldiers and by all of us who cherish freedom. We honor his service, congratulate him on his retirement, and reflect on the accomplishments of this great leader.

His dates of service are from July 25, 1967 to June 19, 2005. I know that his family is very proud of him, including his wife Dorothy and his daughters Mary Colt and Jennifer Sullivan and grandson Ryan Richard Sullivan.●

#### A LIFE OF TEACHING, A LOVE OF LEARNING, A HEART FOR CHILDREN

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize a truly remarkable individual today. Gail Chumbley is a history teacher at Eagle High School in Eagle, ID. A high school history teacher; there are many individuals who can claim this job title but few who have done so much. Gail is an amazing teacher, passionately devoted to teaching our American experience to her students. Not only does she teach about events in our Nation's history, she has ventured into the next realm, moving the tenets of American citizenship into the real world for her students.

I first heard of Gail's efforts 4 years ago when she became actively involved in the Library of Congress's Veterans Oral History Project four years ago. At that time, she had organized the recording of over 300 oral histories for Eagle High School's library alone. She expanded the effort to include other Idaho schools and collaborated with local civics groups to record literally hundreds more interviews that went to both the Eagle High School archives and the Idaho Oral History Center. One of the most significant accomplishments of Gail and her students was their participation in the Veterans Stand Down in Boise where homeless veterans were given the opportunity to record interviews. Her efforts were not confined to veterans of past wars. Gail and her students also have sent gift boxes and cards to our current service women and men in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2002. She was instrumental in making Eagle High School the top school donor for the World War II Memorial, with a donation of close to \$25,000. The list of her accomplishments, enhanced further with her national recognition by the Daughters of