

GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN TO
APOLOGIZE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of the underlying bill, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 121. This resolution calls on the Government of Japan to finally acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility for the coercion of over 200,000 young girls and women into sexual slavery during World War II and the colonial occupation of Asia in the 1930s and '40s.

Known to the world as "Comfort Women," these women suffered unimaginable dehumanization. These women deserve a justice that is long overdue. While the facts of these crimes are incontrovertible, Japan has not officially accepted responsibility for these atrocities. The Japanese government needs to recognize these injustices so that wounds of these women can begin to heal.

With less than 300 "comfort women" alive today, we can no longer turn a blind eye to these women's stories and sacrifices. It is our moral obligation to urge Japan to restore the dignity that was stolen from so many women over 50 years ago.

I commend Representative Honda for his deep commitment to this issue and for championing the meaningful underlying legislation. The history of the comfort women is the history of the world, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

CELEBRATING THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
COLORADO DRAGON BOAT
FESTIVAL**HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the seventh annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.

Last weekend, thousands of people gathered at Denver's Sloan's Lake Park for 2 days of Asian cuisine, performing artists, crafts, and even a dragon boat race on the lake.

Over the course of its short history, the Colorado Dragon Boat Festival has seen a tremendous growth in interest from the community. The festival drew an estimated 16,000 spectators in 2001. This year, organizers expected over 100,000 people to attend the festival.

Since its inception in 2001, the festival continues to highlight Colorado's rich pan-Asian American heritage. This year the festival featured the "Explore Asia" area that will house educational displays and demonstrations from the Mongolian, Hmong and Vietnamese communities.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to represent a State with such a vibrant and active Asian-American community. The annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival does much to highlight the many contributions the Asian-American community makes to our State and our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating

the seventh annual Colorado Dragon Boat Festival.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, July 30, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 2750, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 580, H. Res. 580, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 579, and H. Res. 579 and wish the RECORD to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 758 on suspending the rules and passing H.R. 2570, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 759 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 760 on passing H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eightmile River in the State of Connecticut, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 761 on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision, I would have voted "nay."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 762 on passing H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision, I would have voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to make the following rollcall votes on July 30, 2007:

H.R. 2750, the NASA 50th Anniversary Commemorative Coin Act. On motion to suspend the Rules and pass, as amended, rollcall 758, I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut. On ordering the previous question, rollcall 759, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 580, providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 986, to designate the Eight Mile River in the State of Connecticut. On agreeing to the resolution, rollcall 760, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision. On ordering the previous question, rollcall 761, I would have voted "nay."

H. Res. 579, providing for consideration of the bill, H.R. 2831, to amend title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the American With Disabilities Act of 1990, and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to clarify that a discriminatory compensation decision. On agreeing to the resolution, rollcall 762, I would have voted "nay."

CONGRATULATING REACH OUT
AND READ ON RECEIVING THE
2007 CONFUCIUS AWARD**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Reach Out and Read, ROR, for receiving the 2007 Confucius Award for Literacy from the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, UNESCO. The theme for this year's prize was "Literacy and Health," and Director-General of UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, made the award on the recommendation of an international jury. He honored ROR's success in reaching low-income children most at risk of school failure by offering literacy guidance to their families and promoting a reading culture.

The nationally recognized program, started at Boston Medical Center in 1989, makes imaginative use of pediatric medicine to encourage early literacy. Parents trust their pediatricians, and Reach Out and Read has built upon this relationship. Through this program, parents receive a free book to read aloud to their child at every well-child check-up. This innovative program will distribute more than 4.8 million books to 2.8 million U.S. children this year, and operates in all 50 States to reach about 25 percent of children who live at or near poverty in the United States.

I have the deepest admiration for Reach Out and Read, and I congratulate them on this well-deserved honor. This award will help ensure that Reach Out and Read continues to grow and change the lives of American children for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JIM WHAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism of Mr. Jim Wham of Centralia, Illinois. Mr. Wham delivered a passionate speech this past May 5th expressing the importance of winning the War on Terror.

In his brief message, Mr. Wham, an attorney at law in my district, remarked on the immense debt we owe our fighting men and