

press, and the legal system. As a result of their leadership and tireless efforts, we are significantly closer to achieving political, educational, social, and economic equality for all.

As the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, I congratulate the NAACP on their 99th anniversary. Their work over the past 99 years has made us a better and more tolerant Nation. I wish them the best as they continue their efforts to eliminate discrimination from all corners of our society.

A TRIBUTE TO JILL THOMPSON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jill Thompson. Mrs. Thompson, a registered nurse, was administrator of the Lafayette County, Missouri, Health Department. Sadly, Mrs. Thompson lost her fight with cancer on January 26, 2008.

Mrs. Thompson was an employee at the Lafayette County Health Department for 29 years. She also served two terms as the rural health department representative from the Northwest District on the Partnership Council, was president of the Missouri Association of Public Health Agencies, and served on the board of the West Central Missouri Area Health Education Center. She is fondly remembered by her colleagues as someone who was incredibly dedicated to public health and passionate about serving her community.

Further recognizing her commitment to public health, Mrs. Thompson was a founding member of the Sounds of the Heart organization, which raised money to place automated external defibrillators in locations throughout the community. She was also a member of the Cancer Assistance Relief organization. This organization provides cancer patients with rides to doctors' appointments and hospitals.

Friends and family will never forget her warm personality, dedication, and intelligence. Mrs. Thompson is survived by her husband Larry, three children, and two grandchildren. I'm sure Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the life of Jill Thompson for her vision and leadership in the field of public health in the State of Missouri.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE MARY E. SMITHEY PACE LEARNING CENTER

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I wish to honor the dedication and renaming of the PACE School to the Mary E. Smithey PACE Learning Center in Duncanville, Texas.

On Sunday, February 17, 2008, a ceremony will be held honoring Mary E. Smithey for her many years as a teacher in the Duncanville school system. When Mrs. Smithey began teaching in Duncanville in 1946, she was one of eight teachers who served 287 students in grades one through twelve in one school building, now known as Central Elementary.

Mrs. Smithey was the first retiree of the Duncanville Teachers Association and spoke highly of her career, particularly of her students.

Mary E. Smithey was an exemplary teacher who was loved and respected by her students, their families and her peers. Mrs. Smithey, along with her husband, Grady Sr., have held long careers in public service in their community and the tradition continues as three of their grandchildren are teachers. The Smithey's two sons, Grady Jr. and Gary Ervin, are Duncanville school graduates.

The Mary E. Smithey PACE Learning Center is an alternative school for students, grades 9 to 12, who need additional assistance in their education. The smaller class sizes and individual learning available at this campus help young people gain confidence and success. Students study a core curriculum, along with electives, on a flexible schedule allowing them the opportunity to achieve a high school diploma.

I am honored to pay tribute to Mary E. Smithey and the Duncanville Independent School District in the dedication and renaming of the PACE School in her memory. The objectives of the PACE Learning Center will perpetuate Mrs. Smithey's legacy in education for many years to come. I am privileged to represent the Duncanville ISD in the 24th District of Texas.

DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP CHRISTODOULOS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of the life of the Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, Mr. Christodoulos, who passed away late last month.

Since becoming ordained as a deacon in 1961 and a priest in 1965, Archbishop Christodoulos showed a dedication to his faith and people that earned great admiration and respect among his followers. He was a leading voice on the origins of Christianity, and on the role Christianity had in the creation of the European world and the identity of its citizens.

It was obvious to many that Archbishop Christodoulos cared greatly for his people and worked tirelessly to represent his faithful followers. He also actively sought to bring faith to younger generations, jocularly inviting them back to the church as they were "earrings and all."

Madam Speaker, Archbishop Christodoulos was a remarkable man whose death will be mourned by many. His legacy, however, will impact generations of loyal Greek Orthodox and other members of the Dyophysite faith.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 14, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, on February 19, this Nation will recognize the 66th anniversary of the "Day of Remembrance." This was

the day in 1942 that President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.

The President's decision to intern Americans was an avoidable consequence of racial prejudice and wartime hysteria. The government at all levels was blinded by war, and made decisions that were contrary to our Constitution. The failure of each branch of government to uphold the rights of individuals must be taught so that future generations resist succumbing to the politics of fear.

Because of one of the darkest periods of our Nation's history, we learned of the damage that could be done when we let the politics of fear cloud our judgment. I hope every American will take this day to reaffirm their commitment to our Constitution and the rights and protections it guarantees for all of us. This commitment is a way to prevent such injustice from ever becoming a reality again.

Congress has not only recognized a Day of Remembrance, but it also supports and funds internment site preservation as the physical reminder of past inequality. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that future generations will be able to visit the internment camps to gain a better understanding of the previous generation's experience.

This year also marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This act proves what is great about our country. When this act passed, our Nation formally acknowledged and apologized for violations of civil liberties and constitutional rights of over 100,000 interned Americans.

As we look back on a time in our Nation's history, and how our country has responded since, we should have hope for the future. Around the world, human rights violations continue unabated. Yet, we can combat this by working with a single purpose towards a future wherein every person, regardless of race, gender, nationality or creed enjoys equal treatment in this world.

And today, 66 years after the signing of Executive Order 9066, we must renew our commitment to bringing these rights to all people.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE TOM LANTOS, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great sadness to pay tribute to my colleague, my neighbor, and my friend, Congressman TOM LANTOS.

For three decades, TOM LANTOS has been an eloquent voice for the voiceless here and around the world. With his passing, our country has lost a great champion for human rights. His dedication to his fellow human beings was rooted in having survived the Holocaust. His story of survival and escape from Nazi forced labor camps in Hungary during the Second World War is inspirational, but it was the memory of those, including his mother,