

for future Supreme Court rulings, such as in 1974, the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Lau v. Nichols*. That decision enumerated the educational rights of English language learners and established that education is a civil right. As Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, we should be proud of our community and its participation in our country's civil rights movement and not forget that we have a long way to go yet.

According to the 2000 Census, only 9.1 percent of Cambodian Americans, 7.4 percent Hmong Americans, 7.6 Lao Americans, 19.5 percent of Vietnamese Americans, and 16.5 of Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are 25 years and older have a bachelors degree or higher. These numbers show that we must do a better job of disaggregating data and information about our communities and to assess the needs of those hardworking Americans who still falter behind.

To address the disparities between subgroups of the larger AAPI community, we must support greater funding for Asian American and Pacific Islander-serving institutions. This program provides Federal grants to colleges and universities that have an enrollment of undergraduate students that is at least 10 percent AAPI, and at least 50 percent of its degree-seeking students receive financial assistance.

On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressman DAVID WU and I will be working to increase the availability of loan assistance, scholarships, and programs to allow AAPI students to attend a higher education institution, to ensure full funding for teachers and bilingual education programs under the No Child Left Behind law to support English language learners; and to support full funding of minority outreach programs for access to higher education, such as the TRIO programs, to expand services to service AAPI students.

I am proud of our community's accomplishments, and I would like to recognize many of the AAPI "firsts" in the areas of art, film, sports, sciences, academia, and politics.

In 1847, Yung Wing, a Chinese American, graduated from Yale University and became the first AAPI to graduate from an American University.

In 1863, William Ah Hang, a Chinese American, became the first AAPI to enlist in the U.S. Navy during the Civil War.

In 1913, A.K. Mozumdar became the first Indian-born person to earn U.S. citizenship, having convinced the court that he was Caucasian, and therefore met the requirements of naturalization law that restricted citizenship only to free white persons.

□ 2000

In 1922 Anna May Wong, in her lead role in *The Toll of the Sea*, at the age of 17 became the first AAPI female to become a movie star, achieving stardom at a time when prejudice against Chinese in the U.S. was rampant.

In 1944 An Wang, a Chinese American who invented the magnetic core memory, revolutionized computing and served as the standard method for memory retrieval and storage.

During World War II, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team of the U.S. Army, comprised mostly of Japanese Americans, became the most highly decorated unit of its size in the history of the U.S. Army, including 22 Medal of Honor recipients.

It appears that my time is expiring. So let me quickly indicate that we have young people like Wataru "Wat" Misaka who was born in 1947 who became the first ethnic minority and the first AAPI to play in the National Basketball Association, the New York Knicks. Imagine that, an Asian American in basketball.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for this opportunity to share within a short hour the history of the Asian Americans and a variety of communities that reside in this country that have contributed, yet many of these names are still unknown.

Ang Lee is probably the most widely known today, the Chinese American director who was the first to win an Academy Award for Best Director.

Thank you very much, and we would hope that we have opportunities in the near future to be able to share more.

VACATING 5-MINUTE SPECIAL ORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. HALVORSON). Without objection, the 5-minute request of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is vacated.

There was no objection.

THOSE WHO WEAR THE UNIFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

It has been said that we sleep safe in our beds because bold men and women stand ready in the night to visit justice on those who would try to do us harm.

Madam Speaker, those bold men and women are those people throughout America that wear the uniform of a peace officer, a law enforcement officer that wears the badge on their chest to represent that symbol, to protect the community from those evildoers.

Each year, 50,000 police officers are assaulted in the United States. Let me repeat. Fifty thousand peace officers in the United States are assaulted by somebody.

On May 17, 1792, New York City's Deputy Sheriff Isaac Smith became the first recorded police officer to be killed in the line of duty. Since then, Madam Speaker, 18,340 police officers have been killed while on duty protecting the rest of us.

In 1961, Congress created Peace Officers Memorial Day and designated it to

be commemorated each year on May 15, which is tomorrow. I am proud to be the sponsor of this year's resolution that passed this House unanimously in February.

Every year the President issues a proclamation naming May 15 National Peace Officers Memorial Day. A quote by President George H.W. Bush is engraved on the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial located in Washington, D.C., that summarized the mission of the 900,000 current sworn law enforcement officers in the United States.

Here's what it says, Madam Speaker: "It is an officer's continuing quest to preserve both democracy and decency and to protect a national treasure that we call the American dream." That is the mission statement of peace officers in this country, those who wear the American uniform.

Tomorrow, Madam Speaker, on the other side of the Capitol, on the west side of the Capitol, 140 families will be assembled together. They will be surrounded by thousands of other people. Most of those people will be peace officers from somewhere in the United States, wearing their uniforms, standing at attention to honor those 140 families who lost a loved one last year in the line of duty because 140 peace officers of the United States law enforcement community were killed last year in the line of duty. Ten percent of those, 14, were from my home State of Texas.

The names of those 14, Madam Speaker, are:

Deputy Constable David Joubert. He worked for the Harris County Constable's Office, Precinct 7 in Houston, Texas.

Police Officer Matthew B. Thebeau, Corpus Christi Police Department.

Corporal Harry Thielepape, Harris County Constable's Office, Precinct 6, in Houston, Texas.

Senior Corporal Victor A. Lozada Sr., Dallas Police Department.

Trooper James Scott Burns of the Texas Department of Public Safety, working for the Highway Patrol in Texas.

Police Officer Everett William Dennis, Carthage Police Department in Texas.

Sergeant Barbara Jean Shumate who worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

A personal friend of mine, Police Officer Gary Gryder who worked for the Houston Police Department.

Another personal friend of mine, Detective Tommy Keen of the Harris County Sheriff's Department. I knew him 25 years ago when I was a prosecutor and he was still arresting outlaws.

Game Warden George Harold Whatley, Jr. who worked for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Sheriff Brent Lee of the Trinity County Sheriff's Department in Texas.

Police Officer Robert Davis of the San Antonio Police Department.