

at Frost Middle School. She moved to Langley High School in 1975, where she has taught English, history, and art history. She earned bachelor's degrees in English and history from St. Louis University.

Brigitte runs a student-centered classroom. On any given day, students might run a Socratic seminar, give a presentation, run a student-led discussion, or participate in a writing workshop. She implores students to see the significances of history on their own, modern lives; to compare their contemporary world with the times they study, and to use the knowledge they gain to carry our culture and country forward. As the sponsor of the History Honor Society, she continues the learning process by having members adopt a human rights issue and learn how history affects life today.

She is usually first in line to volunteer for training to learn new technology and software. She also organizes an annual gift certificate for Langley custodians and food service employees and dedicates time outside classes to help students who may be struggling and she can frequently be found spending one-on-one time with students in the afternoons and on Saturdays.

Her sense of humor, a commitment to scholarship, learning, empathy, flexibility, and an ability to bring her infectious passion into the classroom are what makes Brigitte Lavey such a dedicated teacher. She has also received Langley's DeBusk Award and Human Relations Award and Fairfax County's History Teacher of the Year award. She was named a Fulbright Scholar for China and has twice been a National Endowment for the Humanities fellow.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Brigitte Lavey for her dedication to her students and wish her continued success as she mentors and teaches our next generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH
COTCHETT

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor of a remarkable American, Joseph Cotchett, of San Mateo, CA who is on everyone's list of the top 100 most influential lawyers in the nation, a distinction that I believe understates his achievements in the area of law and social justice.

Twenty years ago Joe was the lead trial lawyer for 23,000 plaintiffs defrauded in the Charles Keating/Lincoln Savings and Loan scandal, initially winning at that time one of the nation's largest jury verdicts, \$3.3 billion. Fast forward to 2009 and he is again representing consumers, this time investors victimized by Bernie Madoff's financial wrongdoings. During his 40-year legal career, he has tried more than 100 cases and settled hundreds more, but this is not the thrust of what I would like to say about him today. Throughout his career he has done extensive pro bono work for the disadvantaged, establishing himself as a true champion of social

justice. He lends his skills and talent when it is needed, not when it is convenient.

His giving is not restricted to legal work. At the local level, he has been on the board of directors for the San Mateo County Heart Association; the San Mateo Boys & Girls Clubs; the Peninsula Association of Retarded Children and Adults; the Bay Meadows Foundation and the Disability Rights Advocates. Joe and his family have been active in supporting organizations helping children, women, ethnic minorities and animals. The Cotchett Family Foundation was specifically created to aid individuals and groups in need of assistance. In 2004, Joe endowed a \$7 million fund to support science and mathematics teacher education at California State Polytechnic University, a program aimed at serving inner city and rural minority children.

He is an accomplished author, lecturer and keynote speaker. His titles include *The Ethics Gap* and *California Courtroom Evidence Foundations*. Although he has focused on legal matters, in 2002 he co-authored and published, *The Coast Time Forgot*, a historic guide to the San Mateo County coast.

Joe Cotchett truly loves the community in which he lives and works and it is only fitting, Madam Speaker, that on May 21, 2010, Notre Dame De Namur University presented him with the Community Spirit Award in honor of his work in promoting social justice through community engagement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL
DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$12,987,796,841,336.51.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,349,371,095,042.70 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

THE UNITED STATES POSTAL
SERVICE, POSTAL INSPECTORS
EQUITY ACT

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, the United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act, is intended to allow postal inspectors to receive full law enforcement availability pay (LEAP) comparable to criminal investigators of other executive branch agencies. Postal inspectors protect the U.S. Postal Service, its employees and its customers from criminal attack, and protect the nation's mail system from criminal misuse.

Under current law, compensation and benefits for postal inspectors are required to "be maintained on a standard of comparability to the compensation and benefits paid for comparable levels of work in the executive branch of the Government outside of the Postal Service." See Title 39, U.S.C. 1003(c). Currently, the Postal Service is paying postal inspectors LEAP, but such payments are not statutorily required.

As written, the bill will require the Postal Service to pay postal inspectors LEAP pursuant to statute. The United States Postal Service, Postal Inspectors Equity Act will amend Title 5, U.S.C. 5545a to define postal inspectors as law enforcement officers eligible to receive LEAP. The bill will preserve and protect postal inspectors' law enforcement availability pay and ensure that the Postal Inspection Service will be able to recruit and retain highly qualified postal inspectors.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL JOHN
L. FUGH

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 2010

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of MG John L. Fugh, who suddenly passed away on May 11th of this year. General Fugh was the first Chinese American general officer in the United States Army and became Judge Advocate General of the Army in the period following the Persian Gulf War. His distinguished service in the U.S. Army and career with the Judge Advocate General's Corps. spanned 33 years. Today, I honor his contributions to our country.

John L. Fugh was born in Beijing and after the Communist Revolution in 1949, moved with his family to Washington, DC. As the son of a public servant, he graduated from Georgetown's School of Foreign Service and attained a law degree from George Washington before entering the JAG Corps. He has served America overseas during the Cold War, doing a tour of duty through wartime Vietnam, and as a staff judge advocate for the 3rd Armored Division in Frankfurt, Germany.

Returning home, he rose up the JAG leadership and was promoted to brigadier general, undertaking non-criminal legal matters, and created the Army's first environmental law practice. Achieving the position of Judge Advocate General, the Army's top legal official, he provided strong leadership in navigating the Army's complex legal matters in the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, such as the reconstruction of Kuwait.

After retirement from the army, General Fugh continued to serve his country with respect to Sino-American relations by acting as liaison to China for several manufacturing and aerospace firms like Boeing. He also served as chairman of the Committee of 100, a non-partisan membership organization of over 150 prominent Chinese Americans.

A recipient of the Distinguished Service Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, and two awards of the Legion of Merit, it is my honor, Madam Speaker, to recognize the life achievements and contributions to our country of the distinguished General John L. Fugh.