

of opportunity. Pepe came as a lone 14-year-old Hispanic immigrant who, through hard work and determination, has become the leader of one of the largest and fastest growing spice companies in the United States. Pepe's accomplishments will be highlighted at an event in South Florida by John Kross, known as Footy, and this will benefit Here's Help, a nonprofit substance abuse treatment facility which assists over 300 inner city youths.

Congratulations to our very own Joseph "Pepe" Badia, a great civic activist in South Florida.

RECOGNIZING PERIPHERAL ARTERIAL DISEASE AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. PAULSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to take a moment to recognize September as Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) Awareness Month. PAD is a very dangerous and increasingly common illness that affects approximately 9 million Americans every year. Yet a recent study showed that only 25 percent of people are even aware of its existence.

That's why I have introduced House Resolution 1438, which aims to promote increased awareness and diagnosis of peripheral arterial disease to address the high mortality rate of this treatable disease. PAD occurs when arteries in the legs become restricted or clogged with fatty deposits, reducing blood flow to the legs. This can result in muscle pain, disability, amputation, and even death.

In addition, it is often an early warning sign that other arteries, including those in the heart and brain, may also be blocked, increasing the risk of a heart attack or stroke.

Madam Speaker and fellow Members, we must take the proper steps to curb this increasingly dangerous and deadly disease.

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A TRIBUTE TO OUR FIRST NURSES

(Mr. SABLAN asked and was given permission to speak out of order.)

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, as early as the tiempon Hapones, the Japanese times, in the Marianas our local women began to train as nurses. Nursing was one of the few professions open to women. But the realities of the work meant that only those whose hearts, minds and bodies were strong could meet the arduous challenges and discipline required.

World War II opened the door wider. With thousands of military and civilian casualties littering our islands, the U.S. forces had to recruit nurses from the local population. After the war, the Navy, then the civilian administration, set up the hospitals and clinics; and

these facilities, too, demanded nursing staff.

Training was made available at a series of schools through Micronesia, raising the skills of our native nurses. From 1944 to 1978, some 250 of our local people found work in nursing.

We, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, salute these nurses and thank them for their professionalism, courage and service.

Madam Speaker, to begin the story of the pioneer, native nurses of the Northern Mariana Islands, one must go back to the late 1930s and early 1940s, to the tiempon Hapones or Japanese times in the Marianas. In those days nursing was one of the few professions open to our local women and so attracted attention. But the realities of the work meant that only those whose hearts, minds, and bodies were strong could meet the arduous challenges and strict discipline required. It is believed that Mrs. Rosa Blanco Camacho, now almost ninety, is the only one of these pre-war nurses alive today.

World War II changed everything. The Marianas were the site of some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific. After the invasion, the island of Saipan was a wasteland, littered with thousands of military and civilian casualties. Makeshift field hospitals were hastily erected, and young native women—and men—were quickly enlisted to assist military medical personnel in caring for the wounded and dying. On-the-job field training for these native nurses and corpsmen was the order of the day. Besides the challenge of learning how to take care of the wounded, these native recruits faced a more basic obstacle: they had to learn how to communicate in English. Few American servicemen spoke or understood Japanese, and few, if any, knew the native Chamorro or Carolinian languages.

They faced tasks unlike anything they had seen before; and the hours were grueling. From Monday to Sunday the nurses worked on at the hospital sites. Only on Sundays were they packed onto trucks and allowed to return to spend time with their families and the rest of the civilian population, which had been gathered up by the military and encamped at Camp Susupe.

When the war ended in 1945, the U.S. Navy built a permanent hospital on Maturana Hill, Saipan, where the native nurses were employed and which served both the military and civilian population. The Navy also built a leprosarium on Tinian with three native nurses. The U.S. also began to offer more formal training for the nurses from the Northern Marianas. Some of those from Saipan and Rota were sent to the U.S. Naval Hospital School of Nursing in Guam. When this training facility closed in 1952, those nurses who were in the middle of their studies were sent to the Trust Territory School of Nursing in Chuuk. Later, that school was relocated to Pohnpei, then to Palau, and then in the late 1960s to Saipan. The final move was to the Marshall Islands in 1986. Despite these frequent moves, over the years the Trust Territory School of Nursing graduated many students from all the Trust Territory districts, including the Marianas District.

When the U.S. Department of the Interior assumed administration of the Northern Mariana Islands in 1962, the U.S. Navy closed its hospital on Maturana Hill and the native

nurses who worked at the aging naval hospital gladly transferred to the brand new Dr. Torres Hospital on As Terlaje Hill on Saipan. Dr. Torres Hospital was a civilian-run, eighty-four bed inpatient and outpatient care facility where nurses could, with seniority and patience, develop a specialized practice, in surgery or obstetrics for example.

The population in the Northern Mariana Islands was growing now and there was a corresponding growth in the demand for nurses. Health centers on Tinian and Rota had been built and were expanding. And public health dispensaries were opened in some villages on Saipan, all of them staffed by nurses.

Nursing remained one of the few professions open to women. It still had its attractions: a regular salary, the status that the nurse's uniform conveyed. But at its heart nursing also remained—and remains—grueling work that demanded strength of mind and body, an attention to detail and self-discipline.

We, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, appreciate and salute the following nurses, who served from 1944 to 1978, for their professionalism, courage, and service:

Dolores Reyes Agulto, Joaquin Santos Aguon, Jesus Castro Aldan, Jose Palacios Aldan, Josepha Castro Aldan, Merced Deleon Guerrero Aldan, Vicente Matagolai Aldan, Estefania Rabauliman Amirez, Dionisia Taitano Apatang, Lucia Villagomez Arizapa, Elena Camacho Arriola, Jesus Saimon Arriola, Magdalena Demapan Arriola, Maria Kokure Arriola, Maria Benavente Atalig, Maria Hocog Atalig, Rosina Ayuyu Atalig, Rosario Imamura Atlaig, Rosario Cabrera Attao, Teresita San Nicolas Attao, Rosa Litulumar Ayuyu, Carmen Nekai Babauta, Maria Lizama Babauta, Roberto San Nicolas Babauta, Urbano Crisostimo Babauta, Teresita Atalig Barcinas, Lucia Castro Barcinas, Sylvia Barcinas, Felisa Chargualaf Basa, Trinidad Arriola Benavente, Maria Attao Bermudes, Maria Pura Tagabuel Billy, Olympia Selepeo Borja, Petra Hoashi Borja; Rosita San Nicolas Borja, Alejandro Reyes Cabrera, Ana Torres Cabrera, Angelica Muna Cabrera, Anita Torres Cabrera, Herminia Pangelinan Cabrera, Jose Manibusan Cabrera, Magdalena Brel Cabrera, Maria Duenas Cabrera, Dela Cruz Cabrera, Victorina Bias Cabrera, Salomae Hocog Calvo, Dolores Benavente Camacho, Estefania Flores Camacho, Fermina Mendiola Camacho, Lucia Leon Guerrero Camacho, Namiko Ketebebang Camacho, Rita Duenas Camacho, Rosa Ada Camacho, Rosa Blanco Camacho, Ana Songsong Castro, Carmen Moses Castro, Daniel Pangelinan Castro, Loretta Mesngon Castro, Maria Manibusan Castro, Ruth Albert Castro, Taeko Elizabeth Kumangai Castro, Antonia Taimanao Celis, Margarita Muna Celis, Rita Sablan Celis, Antonio Santos Cepeda, Juan Cruz Cepeda, Rosa Manibusan Cepeda, Ana Maria Gogue Charfauros;

Ramona Seman Chong, Carmen Attao Concepcion, Irminia Benavente Cox, Conrado Deleon Guerrero Crisostomo, Ana Kokure Dela Cruz, Jesus Ogo Dela Cruz, Francisco Palacios Deleon Guerrero, Gustav Acosta Deleon Guerrero, Mariana Camacho Deleon Guerrero, Anunciacion Cruz Demapan, Justina Rdiial Demapan, Luis Cepeda Demapan, Micaela Sablan Demapan, Juanita Duenas Diaz, Maria Mendiola Diaz, Elisa Maratita Dim, Elizabeth Naputi Dudley, Ines Cruz Duenas, Margarita Attao Duenas, Monica Camacho Duenas, Estefania Atalig Dumale, Luis Osomai Elameto, Amania Mechaet Elidechedong, Vicenta Lizama Evangelista, Mary Farley, Rosa Tenorio Fejeran, Rosa Maliti Fejeran, Rita Castro