

Located in the historic Little Tokyo district of Downtown Los Angeles in the 34th Congressional District, I had the privilege of nominating the Japanese American National Museum for an especially prestigious honor. The Institute of Museums and Library Services bestowed upon the museum its National Medal in recognition of the museum's "extraordinary civic, educational, economic, environmental, and social contributions." The museum was one of only 10 institutions in 2010 to receive the institute's National Medal—America's highest honor for museums. The Japanese American National Museum is only the second museum located in California to be recognized with this national distinction.

The concept for the museum originated more than 25 years ago when members of the Japanese American community realized that their families' storied history was being lost to time. The families especially wanted to preserve for future generations the stories of the tremendous hardships endured by Japanese Americans during World War II. During this time, thousands of Japanese American families lost their homes, their businesses and most of what they owned when the United States Government unconsciously incarcerated them in detention camps.

Despite this injustice, many Japanese Americans responded to the military needs of our country during World War II with great patriotic fervor. The famed 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team—made up almost entirely of Japanese Americans—became the most decorated units for their size and length of service in the history of our Armed Forces. In addition, Japanese Americans who became members of the United States Military Intelligence Service during World War II saved thousands of American lives by using their Japanese-language skills to serve our country as translators, interrogators and code breakers in the Pacific Theatre.

In 1985, the museum was founded as an almost all-volunteer organization composed of 13 different committees and only one full-time staff member with no permanent site and no endowment. In 1992, the museum renovated an important historic building for their headquarters and then expanded to a modern Pavilion in 1999. Throughout this time, the Japanese American National Museum became the repository of the history of people of Japanese ancestry in the United States, collecting more than 80,000 artifacts, photographs, documents and ephemera (such as letters, posters, and newspaper articles) that help to preserve and share their stories with all Americans.

An average of 25,000 students annually make visits to the Japanese American National Museum, guided by volunteers who lived through much of this amazing history. Visitors to the museum learn about the commonalities of the Japanese American experience with that of other ethnic groups in our country as part of the museum's core exhibition entitled, "Common Ground: The Heart of Community."

The museum's new exhibition entitled, "Fighting for Democracy: Who is the 'We' in 'We, the People'?" features profiles of seven people of various backgrounds and ethnicities who actively supported the American war effort, but who also wanted our democracy to truly serve all the people in the post-World War II era. This exhibition has traveled to the National World War II Museum in New Orleans,

the National Archives and the Tuskegee National Institute Historic Site in Alabama.

The museum also organized a five-state educational project entitled, "Enduring Communities: The Japanese American Experience in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah." The 3-year project—which involved local institutions within each state—culminated with a national conference in Denver in 2008 attended by teachers, scholars and the people from the communities who lived this history.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of the museum's 25th Anniversary and its receipt of the Institute of Museums and Library Services' National Medal, I ask my congressional colleagues to please join me and the residents of the 34th Congressional District in congratulating the Japanese American National Museum for its extraordinary achievements. I congratulate Museum President and CEO Akemi Kikumura Yano, the members of the museum's Board of Governors and Board of Trustees and all of the community members whose dedication to preserving the Japanese American story make the museum the local and national treasure that it is today. I wish the museum and everyone involved in its growth and educational mission many more years of continued success.

GOLDMAN SACHS: MAXIMUM
PROFIT, MINIMUM CONTRITION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Goldman Sachs, the most profitable U.S. securities firm in history, is on a well-publicized public relations (PR) campaign to improve its image.

Goldman is hoping that this will help erase the negative appearance that lingers in the public's mind after it paid \$550 million to settle a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) fraud suit last July. Since then, its stock has taken a beating.

But don't worry about Goldman. It's no secret that its strategy to reap billions in profits came in part by creating and selling high-risk mortgages in a form known as "collateralized debt obligations." This, while tens of thousands of families in Cleveland—and millions elsewhere—were losing their homes to foreclosure and their communities to decay and neglect. It's also well-known that Goldman had no ethical problem placing big bets against its own investment clients.

In 2008, Goldman took \$10 billion in below-market loans from the Federal Reserve, only to have the audacity to claim later that it didn't need that money after all. But those funds helped Goldman weather the financial crisis that they helped create. It's easy to claim now that they didn't need the help back when the financial system was nearly in ruins. But don't be fooled: it's still the same old Goldman, still as cunning and ruthless as ever when it comes to the pursuit of profits.

Goldman hopes its PR money will be well-spent, and that the American people will forget the way it profited so handsomely, even off of the misery of others, including its own clients.

But many of us are paying attention, and we will remember.

TRIBUTE TO SARALAND MAYOR
KEN WILLIAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Saraland Mayor Ken Williams, a beloved and dedicated public servant to many in his community, who suddenly passed away on December 27, 2010 the age of 76.

Mayor Williams began his long and successful political career as city councilman in 1992 and served until 1996 when he ran for mayor of Saraland.

He was Saraland's longest serving mayor, in office for 14 years, and was widely respected for his steadfast dedication to preserving Saraland's small town quality of life, while helping his community become one of the fastest growing towns in South Alabama.

A native of Putnam, Alabama, Mayor Williams was a local businessman and resident before entering politics. He was a retired master plumber and owned a local sporting goods business for many years. Mayor Williams is credited with a number of significant enhancements for his community, most notably the establishment of Saraland's own school system. He also supported local job recruitment and the construction of Saraland's first baseball fields.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I offer my condolences to his wife of 50 years, Margaret; their son, Thomas Michael; brother, Patrick; grandchildren, Ashley Elmore, Brandi Williams, Joshua Williams; one great grandchild, Tyler Elmore; and extended family. You are all in our prayers.

REPEALING THE JOB-KILLING
HEALTH CARE LAW ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 19, 2011

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat health care law contains a number of provisions that will cripple our economy and stifle job creation. With the unemployment rate above 9 percent, the last thing we should do is implement policies that will hinder the ability of employers to expand their businesses and create jobs. Unfortunately, ObamaCare does just that by punishing employers who do not or cannot provide government-approved health insurance to employees.

Businesses of every size are already struggling with the strain of rising health care costs. By imposing higher costs on employers, this onerous mandate will lead to lower wages and fewer workers. In fact, a study by the National Federation of Independent Business estimates the employer mandate will destroy 1.6 million jobs with more than half of those job losses coming from small businesses—the nation's primary source for new jobs.

To get our economy back on track, it is vital that we repeal ObamaCare immediately, and enact commonsense policies that will lower health costs for families and small businesses and protect jobs.

TRIBUTE TO T. MASSEY BEDSOLE

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Mr. T. Massey Bedsole, a dear friend and active supporter of higher education in the state of Alabama who recently passed away at the age of 93.

A 1939 graduate of the University of Alabama and a 1941 graduate of the University of Alabama law school, "Mr. Massey" answered his nation's call as a Navy aviator in the Pacific Theater, serving with distinction during World War II. After the war, he was discharged with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

A native of Grove Hill, Alabama, Massey Bedsole, was the proverbial pillar of the community in Mobile, Alabama, as both a leading attorney and outstanding businessman.

In 1946, "Mr. Massey" moved to Mobile where he joined the law firm that would become Hand, Arendall, Bedsole, Greaves and Johnson.

"Mr. Massey" served as an attorney for 60 years, also finding time to lend his considerable talents as president of the Mobile County Bar Association, director of the First National Bank of Mobile and director of the Alabama Power Company.

While a much respected legal mind and successful business executive, perhaps "Mr. Massey" made his greatest mark as a booster of higher education in Mobile and across the state of Alabama, as well as for his support of local charitable efforts.

For nearly four decades, "Mr. Massey" was a trustee at the University of Mobile where he was named chairman emeritus and honorary life trustee. For ten years, he also served his beloved alma mater, the University of Alabama, as trustee and then trustee emeritus.

He was also chairman of the J.L. Bedsole Charitable Foundation for over 30 years.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, I extend condolences to his wife of more than 64 years, Martha; their son, Travis, and daughter Curry; as well as grandchildren, Preston, Edward, Ashley and Daniel; and their entire family. You are all in our prayers.

ASSAULT ON CAMP ASHRAF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on January 7th of this year, residents of Camp Ashraf were attacked by Iranian agents and supporting Iraqi forces. Camp Ashraf houses over 3,400 supporters of Iran's opposition and are currently under the "protected persons" status in accordance with the Fourth Geneva Convention.

176 people, including 91 women were injured when the agents hurled stones, bottles, metal pieces and Molotov cocktails into the Camp. This barrage builds on a broader campaign against the people that were exiled from their homeland after calling for an end to the oppressive Iranian regime.

For the past 11 months, 180 loudspeakers have been installed beyond the fences of the

Camp that continuously play Iranian propaganda and messages that threaten the property, homes and lives of residents. To me, this presents a compelling reminder that the freedoms we enjoy are far from universal and there are those struggling for the same liberties. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to speak out against the Iranian and Iraqi forces involved in the assault on Camp Ashraf and remember those injured in the violence.

HONORING JOAN THAYER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Joan Thayer, who retired in January 2011 as the Assessor-Recorder of Marin County. Assessor Thayer's commitment to the highest quality of public service has benefited the people of Marin and strengthened the office she led for so many years.

Ms. Thayer began her life in public service over three decades ago in San Rafael, where she first served on the Dixie School Board from 1979 to 1983. She later ran for San Rafael City Council, becoming only the second Councilwoman in the city's history. In those roles, Ms. Thayer established a reputation as an intelligent public servant willing to take on difficult decisions and defend her views with a unique passion and integrity.

In 1994, Joan was elected to lead the office of County Assessor-Recorder, then one of only two such offices led by women in California's 58 counties. In the years that followed, she worked tirelessly to ensure that her office continued to serve the interests of Marin residents. She has been an advocate for the just and efficient property tax system our communities rely upon, and she has performed her duties with the utmost integrity and professionalism. Ms. Thayer was also a leader outside of Marin, serving as President of the California Assessors Association in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in thanking Joan Thayer for her service on behalf of Marin County, CA. Ms. Thayer has helped to build a successful and well-respected institution that embodies the strength of character she consistently brought to her work on behalf of the public.

HONORING EVIE DAVIS

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, public service is a noble profession when done honestly and well. Those who work in government, serving the people, do so with pride of accomplishment in the knowledge that they are helping to make life easier for those they serve.

Evie Davis, the District Manager of the West Nyack Social Security office began her career with the Social Security Administration 40 years ago, in October of 1970, at the Northeastern Program Service.

She held a variety of positions of increasing responsibility, rising to District Manager of the

White Plains office in 1990. She served there for eleven years before moving across the Hudson River to her current position in Rockland County.

She has served on many committees and workshops in furtherance of helping the SSA better help its clients, including the workgroup on the Limited-English Speaking Population. She has also served on the Advisory Committee of the Offices for the Aging in both Westchester and Rockland Counties.

She has always prided herself on her service to the Social Security Administration and the people it serves, touching the lives of virtually all of America's families in one way or another. She derived great fulfillment from her role in managing and always strove to contribute to a satisfying work environment. For her dedication and her abilities she has received many awards, including the Associate Commissioner's Citation.

Evie and her husband Mark are about to celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. They have two sons, Eric and Jarrod, and twin baby granddaughters.

I congratulate Evie Davis for her 40 years of public service in helping people. She has earned our thanks and praise for the good work she has done for so many years in making our lives and the lives of those around us better and more fulfilling.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HODGSON

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Mr. Robert Morton Hodgson., a respected long-time South Alabama business and community leader who recently passed away at the age of 83.

Robert Hodgson was a 1945 graduate of Baldwin County High School and a 1950 graduate of the University of Alabama.

A veteran of the Navy and the Air Force Reserve, Mr. Hodgson returned from his military service to Bay Minette, Alabama to help run the family business, Standard Oil.

Mr. Hodgson soon took the helm of another family business, Standard Furniture Manufacturing Company, where he served as executive vice president and chairman of the board. He guided the company, which at one time had 1,500 employees, for a half century.

In addition to his distinguished service as a successful businessman, Mr. Hodgson was an active booster of community service organizations, including chairman of the board and founder of Bayside Academy, chairman of the Alabama Sheriff's Youth Ranches, and chairman of the board of the Community Foundation of South Alabama, to name a few.

In 1991, he was named Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year in Bay Minette, and in 2008 he was commended by the Alabama Legislature for extraordinary professional achievement and community service for Baldwin County, Alabama.

In 1997, Mr. Hodgson was honored by President Bill Clinton at a White House ceremony recognizing business executives from around the nation who were instrumental in developing hiring practices to transition welfare recipients to employment.