

resolution expresses the regret of the House of Representatives for laws that unfairly targeted the Chinese community in the United States, specifically the Chinese Exclusion Act.

I want to thank my good friend from California, Ms. CHU, for her hard work and determination in bringing this important resolution to the floor, and I am proud to join her as the lead cosponsor of this historic effort.

America's strength has always been derived from our commitment to the principles of our founders. And although we do not always succeed in living up to those ideals, we continually strive to do so, and we become stronger in the process.

Today, we have the opportunity to take another important step by recognizing one of the great—yet often overlooked—injustices in our shared history.

One-hundred and thirty years ago, just thirteen years after the last spike was driven into the first transcontinental railroad, the Congress of the United States strayed from the path laid by our founders and implemented the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

This ten-year ban on Chinese immigration and naturalization targeted Chinese immigrants for physical and political exclusion, and its passage was driven by an unfortunate mix of racism, jingoism, and intolerance.

In subsequent years, Congress expanded and hardened these laws, making it impossible for legal Chinese workers to reenter America, apply for citizenship, and reunite with their families. And it wasn't until the U.S.-Chinese alliance of World War Two that Congress finally repealed these laws and restored the rights of Chinese-Americans.

Since that time, this body has passed many reforms. Yet, over 100 years later, this chamber has yet to acknowledge its own misguided actions. Today, we have the opportunity to do just that and reaffirm our shared commitment to equality.

Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank Linda Yang, the Director of the Xilin [SI-LIN] Asian Community Center in Naperville, Illinois, whose advice and input has helped to drive this resolution to the floor.

It was she who told me about the individuals in our own community whose parents and grandparents were impacted by the Chinese Exclusion Act.

Unfortunately, many of these victims are no longer with us. But for those who remain, it is critical to address this issue now, before the opportunity is lost forever.

With that in mind, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution. Through it, let us acknowledge the past, express our regret, and promote a greater appreciation for the challenges that past generations of Chinese Americans have bravely overcome.

IN HONOR OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 90th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church in Bristol, Pennsylvania.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was built in 1922 as a place for working men and women of Southeast Pennsylvania to gather to pray. Funded by the generosity of the local community and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Fr. Nolan founded this parish to unify the communities of Croydon, Bristol, and Bensalem.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church was named after the 13th century Sicilian theologian. A prominent member of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas revolutionized philosophy, modern political theory, and ethical morality. Many consider his most notable work, *Summa Theologica*, to be one of the foundations of the Catholic faith and modern theology. His contributions to intellectual thought have allowed him to become the patron saint of academics and Catholic schools.

Although St. Thomas Aquinas Church has struggled through some setbacks in the past few years, the current pastor, Fr. Mike Davis, has made it his mission to unify the community. By recommitting his church to its original mission, Fr. Mike has rallied his parishioners to persevere through the recent closing of their elementary school, and unveil a major renovation effort to improve their facilities. Completed solely by the parishioners themselves, the new refurbishments not only update the facility's technology, but also display beautiful religious paintings and depictions from history.

As we look back on the past 90 years of commitment and service to the communities of Bristol and Croydon, I only hope that the future continues to bring more prosperity to St. Thomas Aquinas Church. I am proud to stand with Fr. Mike, his parishioners, and the members of my district in celebrating the 90th anniversary of St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church.

HONORING MRS. LUCILE JOHNSON'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DAVID SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Lucile Johnson on her remarkable 100th birthday, June 19, 2012. Lucile has lived in Atlanta for all 100 years of her wonderful life—she was blessed with 65 years of marriage to her late husband Earl Johnson, and she is the proud and loving mother of 6 children, grandmother of 15, great grandmother of 20, and last but certainly not least: great great grandmother of 1.

Lucile has been a driven and caring person her entire life and worked diligently at the Biltmore Hotel in Atlanta for many years to provide for her family. As a passionate member of her community, Lucile graciously chose to volunteer with her church missionary group in feeding the homeless of Atlanta for decades. Lucile is the matriarch of her ever-growing family and has helped to raise many of her grand children and great grandchildren. The comfort and advice she provides to her family is truly treasured and matchless.

Mr. Speaker, Lucile Johnson is an outstanding member of the community in my District and has served as an exceptional role model for her family and many others. I am delighted to join her family, friends and many

admirers in wishing her a very happy 100th birthday and continued good health and happiness for years to come.

RECOGNITION OF THE D.C. DIVAS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the D.C. Divas Football team for their eleventh season and on returning to the Women's Football Association for the 2012 season. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects people from discrimination based on gender. Passage of Title IX has helped to make it possible for teams like the D.C. Divas to accomplish great success and serve as a role model for young girls.

The D.C. Divas were established in 2000, with the first season beginning in the spring of 2001. They have been a strong team with nine winning seasons and eight division titles. The D.C. Divas are currently celebrating as the 2012 Division Champions. The team won the NWFA Championship in 2006 after completing a perfect season.

Not only have they been strong on the field, but they are actively involved within the D.C. and Maryland communities. Members of the team have participated in Recess by the River since the program began, helping educate kids on active living to prevent child obesity with kids from Ward 8. The team has also supported the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, the Northern Virginia Ronald McDonald House, and the Special Olympics of Northern Virginia. These are only some of the many organizations in which the D.C. Divas are actively involved.

I congratulate the D.C. Divas for their accomplishments on and off the field over the past twelve years. This is a great team that provides an athletic outlet for the people of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding areas. I wish them the best during the rest of their season and the many seasons to come.

TO RECOGNIZE THE 2012 LORDS AND LADIES FAIRFAX

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 19, 2012

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a dedicated group of men and women in Northern Virginia. For the past 28 years, each member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has selected two people from his or her district who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to our community. Since the program's inception in 1984, nearly 500 individuals have been recognized as a Lord or Lady Fairfax by their representative on the Board of Supervisors. I was pleased to take part in this annual ritual and recognize many outstanding community volunteers during my 14 years on the Board.

Individuals recognized as Lords and Ladies of Fairfax have made significant contributions