

COMMENDING ASSEMBLY MEMBER JUNG CHEONG RAE AND KOREAN AMERICAN CIVIC EMPOWERMENT (KACE) FOR LEADING EFFORTS IN WASHINGTON, DC, TO OPPOSE ONLINE WHITE HOUSE PETITION CALLING FOR REMOVAL OF COMFORT WOMAN STATUE IN CALIFORNIA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Assembly Member Jung Cheong Rae of the Republic of Korea for the outstanding work he is doing in cooperation with Mr. Kim Dong-suk, founder of Korean American Civic Empowerment, KACE, to spearhead efforts in Washington, DC, to oppose the online White House petition calling for removal of the "Comfort Woman" statue in Glendale, CA, which was submitted on the White House's open petitioning website, "We the People."

The petition includes the following text: "Please remove the statue in a public park in Glendale, California. It is a statue of a Comfort Woman masquerading as a peace statue while in essence after reading the inscription it is promoting hate towards the people and nation of Japan." The petition was signed by 125,261 people and it is estimated that most of the signees are Japanese nationals who do not reside in the United States.

This absurd petition shows why the House of Representatives had to unanimously pass the "Comfort Woman" Resolution of 2007 (H. Res. 121), which urges Japan to formally acknowledge and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal manner for its Imperial Armed Forces' coercion of as many as 200,000 young women into sexual slavery during World War II, to clearly and publicly refute any claims that the sexual enslavement and trafficking of the Comfort Woman never occurred, and to educate current and future generations about this horrible crime.

Once the U.S. House of Representatives had spoken on the issue, it was hoped that this issue could be put behind us so that we could work with our Pacific allies to face the challenges of a rising China and a nuclear North Korea. However, Japan totally disregarded what we have recommended and is trying to whitewash its war crimes.

The movement to deny the painful realities of World War II history in the Pacific represent not only a lack of progress but are, in fact, moves toward regression away from that limited level of reconciliation that has already been achieved.

Today, over 120,000 Japanese people are totally unaware, if not ignorant, of the atrocities that were perpetrated by Japan during World War II. This number will grow every day if Japan keeps disregarding H. Res. 121, the Comfort Woman Resolution.

I strongly urge the Government of Japan to formally acknowledge and apologize in order to begin the reconciliation process and to create better relationships in the future. Japan cannot move forward by erasing the past and it is of the utmost importance that Japan follows through on H. Res. 121.

A formal apology from Japan as called for in H. Res. 121 is the answer to the White House

online petition. And so, once more, I commend Assembly Member Jung Cheong Rae, who is a personal friend of mine, for taking the time to be in Washington, DC, this week and for calling upon Members of Congress and others to also exercise their first amendment rights by speaking out against the White House online petition.

It is my sincere hope that President Obama will respond soon, and make clear that he supports justice for the more than 200,000 women from Korea, China, the Philippines, Indonesia, and other countries from the Pacific who were forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during WW II.

On a personal note, I offer my deepest love and appreciation for these women, though many of them have already passed from this life. What was done to them is unconscionable, and I will stand in support of them forevermore.

I bear no animosity or ill-will towards the people of Japan and I must emphasize that our economic, strategic, and military alliance with Japan is important. However, regarding this issue, there can be no reconciliation without proper acknowledgement. The recognition of this dark chapter of Japan's history of the atrocities and sexual slavery operations authorized and implemented by the Japanese Imperial Army before and during World War II cannot be denied, and the White House must not be complicit by remaining silent.

AZERBAIJAN—BLACK JANUARY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, every four years, on January 20th, all Americans celebrate the inauguration of a new President. It is a time of hope and a quadrennial reminder of the enduring nature of our democracy and the peaceful transition of power from one administration to the next.

January is also a time for celebration and commemoration for a friend and ally, the Republic of Azerbaijan. This January marks the 24th anniversary of the events that marked the beginning of the end of Soviet rule over Azerbaijan, an occupation that existed for much of the 20th Century.

This time period is referred to in Azerbaijan as "Black January," when violent conflict erupted in Azerbaijan's capital city of Baku on January 19–20, 1990 Soviet troops killed over 100 nationalist demonstrators and wounded another 700 Azeri citizens. When Soviet troops fired on innocent civilians, including old people and children, demanding freedom, it became a defining moment in recent Azeri history.

Azerbaijan eventually declared its independence from the U.S.S.R. on October 18, 1991. In the report, "Black January in Azerbaijan," Human Rights Watch put the events into a larger perspective: "the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 was . . . an exercise in collective punishment . . . intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in the other Republics of the Soviet Union."

I ask the House of Representatives to join me in commemorating—with our friend and

ally, Azerbaijan—the events of Black January in 1990, events which began in tragedy but culminated in the birth of an independent nation and ally of the United States. May God bless this nation as it continues to move forward.

RECOGNIZING TARYN WILCOX

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Taryn Wilcox of Robbinsville, New Jersey for her tireless advocacy on behalf of those suffering from diabetes.

As you will read in her statement submitted for the RECORD, fourteen-year-old Taryn was diagnosed with Type I diabetes at the age of five. Serving as the American Diabetes Association's Teen Ambassador and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's Advocate, Taryn has chosen to make a meaningful difference by raising awareness of diabetes and joining the fight to find a cure.

I had the opportunity to meet with Taryn in my office and hear first-hand her testimony—and could not have been more impressed with her passion and focus. According to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), nearly 26 million Americans—roughly 8.3% of the population—suffer from diabetes. Diabetes is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke, hypertension, blindness and eye problems, kidney disease, nervous system damage, and amputations, among other ailments. I've worked with diabetes advocates in the past on such things as legislation I authored to extend Medicare coverage for therapeutic shoes for elderly diabetics. This common-sense solution has helped countless numbers of senior diabetics over the last twenty years.

Many young Americans—an estimated 215,000 under the age of twenty, like Taryn—are suffering from diabetes. The relative rarity at this age bracket only leads to common misconceptions about those affected by juvenile diabetes. As Taryn states, she cannot simply take a break from diabetes—it is constant. She must monitor her disease twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, both checking her blood glucose and giving herself insulin injections up to twelve times a day.

Taryn writes about teachers and swim coaches who became frustrated with her need to monitor and manage her blood sugar and publicly questioned her ability to compete. But Taryn has refused to quit, using these all-too-common incidents as motivation to succeed and accomplish her goals. She has achieved straight A's and has become one of the best swimmers in the State. Through her accomplishments, Taryn has shown that while diabetes is a daily struggle, increased awareness can assist those suffering from diabetes—providing them with positive support and enabling them to achieve their goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Taryn Wilcox of Robbinsville, New Jersey for her personal testimony and leadership in the fight against diabetes, and encourage all of you to read her testimony. Her efforts and her passion are an inspiration to us all.

CONGRESSMAN SMITH, I really appreciate the opportunity to speak to you about how diabetes affects me and the importance of finding a cure.

I am 14 years old and was diagnosed with Type I Diabetes at the age of 5. I was hospitalized, during my diagnosis, two months prior to entering kindergarten. I have had diabetes for as long as I can remember . . . for most of my life.

To be honest, it has been challenging managing my diabetes, a disease requiring 24/7 monitoring! I count carbohydrates in everything I eat, check my blood glucose up to 12 times a day as well as give myself up to 12 insulin injections a day. My parents check my blood glucose 2-3 times every night while I sleep! I've had over 68,000 needle sticks since my diagnosis. If I stacked all the needles I've used, it would reach the top of the Washington Monument 26 times!!!!

Although I try to stay positive, I'm fearful of the many complications and challenges which can result from diabetes such as blindness, amputations, cardiovascular disease, kidney failure and the arduous task of maintaining my blood sugar in a normal range. Sometimes my blood sugar will drop too low or go too high and I feel HORRIBLE. My legs shake . . . I can't think well . . . my heart beats rapidly and sometimes my vision is blurred. There are times I have to sit out during fun activities or miss class time and sit in the nurse's office. It can be a very lonely feeling. Once, soon after my diagnosis, I had a seizure while visiting my grandmother in Arizona. It was an extremely scary experience. It's frustrating not being able to have any time away or vacation from diabetes, it always comes with me.

Managing my diabetes isn't the only challenge I've had to face since my diagnosis. In 6th grade I asked my teacher to go to the nurse's office to give myself an insulin injection to lower my high blood glucose. She clearly wasn't happy about me missing class time and said loudly in front of my class. . . . "You make diabetes convenient don't you!" Trust me there's nothing convenient about having diabetes.

Years ago while in 2nd grade, I had to change schools because my teacher started treating me differently from my peers. No matter HOW much information was given to her about the disease, she became frustrated with me whenever I needed to manage my diabetes in her classroom. She couldn't understand why I had to check my blood sugar several times during school hours, leave class to go to the nurse's office when my blood sugar was too high or low and told me how unfair it was to drink juice in front of my peers. Looking back, I don't understand why she didn't think how unfair it was for a 7 year old kid to live with diabetes.

A similar challenge arose in when one of my competitive swim team coaches thought it was RIDICULOUS I had to stop swimming laps during swim practice to manage my blood sugar. One day she crouched down and looked me in the eye in front of my team mates and said, "If you can't manage to swim continuously during the 1 1/2 hours of practice, you will NEVER make a state swim team!"

The good news is . . . I became a straight "A" student at my new school and I placed 5th and 14th in State with my new swim team! It's a frustrating feeling knowing I have to work TWICE as hard as everybody else to achieve my goals because of trying to balance my diabetes with everyday life. It makes it even harder when some people around me don't have the patience to try to understand my disease. I can't take a "break" from diabetes—it's constant.

Although, I face many challenges every day, living with diabetes, I stay positive by

spreading awareness and above all, supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Diabetes Association and other organizations in their mission to finding a cure and promoting advocacy. There are over 26 million people in the U.S. who have diabetes so it is important for Congress to fund diabetes research at the highest level as possible. Hopefully, by working together Congressman Smith, we can make a difference in the lives of people living with diabetes to live a happy and healthier life and one day soon, be cured.

TARYN WILCOX.

TRIBUTE TO PETE SEEGER, LEG-
ENDARY FOLK SINGER AND
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is my sad duty to announce to the House that America has lost one of its greatest voices championing the cause of civil rights, social and economic justice, and peace. Pete Seeger, the legendary folk singer and prolific songwriter, who helped popularize the beloved "We Shall Overcome" as the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement, died yesterday in New York City. He was 94 years old.

For more than 60 years, Pete Seeger's was a powerful voice, unafraid of speaking out against what was wrong with our country, while always promoting that people stand up and speak just as fervently for things that are right.

Pete Seeger had a vision of America's potential and that idea flowed through his music to impact so many people in the United States and around the world.

Pete Seeger's humility kept us rooted as a people by reminding us of our common humanity while his songs challenged us to realize the full promise of country. The author of such iconic songs as "If I Had A Hammer," "Turn, Turn, Turn," and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?," Pete Seeger touched chords deep in the American heart and inspired many of the great songwriters of succeeding generations, including Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen.

Mr. Seeger sang about the labor movements of the 1940s and 1950s, confronted with his music the Vietnam War, civil rights and the environment. From roots residing in spirituals, songs like "We Shall Overcome," spoke to activists in the civil rights movements and became a rallying cry for their efforts.

Pete Seeger was elected to the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1972, and in 1993 received a lifetime achievement Grammy Award. In 1994 he received a Kennedy Center Honor and, from President Bill Clinton, the National Medal of Arts, America's highest arts honor, awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996. At the age of 89, Mr. Seeger won a Grammy Award in the children's music category in 2011 for "Tomorrow's Children," and another in 1997, for the traditional folk album "Pete."

With Pete Seeger's passing, the nation has lost a great champion for jobs and justice for working people. It is up to us, the living, to carry on the struggle for the causes to which Peter Seeger devoted his life.

I ask a moment of silence in honor of Pete Seeger.

RECOGNIZING VALLEY CRIME
STOPPERS FOR THEIR 20TH AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Valley Crime Stoppers as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. The tremendous efforts they have made to help crime victims in our Central Valley deserve to be commended.

Valley Crime Stoppers has built strong relationships with the city of Fresno, local media, and law enforcement. Citizens are encouraged to call the police or Valley Crime Stoppers if they have any information concerning a crime they witnessed. Victims and bystanders have a safe place to turn in Valley Crime Stoppers because it is an anonymous tip line. It is an unfortunate truth that victims are often fearful to share information with law enforcement because they have been threatened by their offender. Valley Crime Stoppers provides victims with an alternative, so they can tell their story without fear of retribution.

Educating and bringing awareness to residents are important missions of Valley Crime Stoppers. They have put together several campaigns that aim to lower crime in the Central Valley, including a television promotion that brings awareness to the very negative consequences of children being exposed to domestic violence. In addition, Valley Crime Stoppers has a poster campaign that aims to keep neighborhoods safe by getting guns out of the hands of criminals. Residents have been given the tools to act as change agents to keep the entire San Joaquin Valley safe.

As Co-Chairman of the Victims' Rights Caucus, it is my honor to recognize the good work of Valley Crime Stoppers and to thank the board members and staff at Valley Crime Stoppers for their support and activism.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Valley Crime Stoppers as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Valley Crime Stoppers has truly made a difference in our Valley, and it will continue to do so for many decades to come.

H.R. 7

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 29, 2014

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, due to a medical issue, I was unable to be in Washington, DC for votes on Tuesday, January 28, 2014. I strongly oppose H.R. 7 and had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "no."

H.R. 7 is a thinly veiled attempt to insert politics into the doctor's office and private market, and to continue the GOP assault on women. It would effectively ban abortion coverage in new plans available under the Affordable Care Act, even for women purchasing plans in the state-based marketplaces who