

Honor was awarded to Francis Wai, so far the only Chinese American to have been so honored.

In the fields of science, engineering, and medicine, Chinese Americans have made significant contributions that have fundamentally changed the way we live and work, including those of Min Chueh Chang, the co-inventor of the first birth control pill; Charles Kao, the 2009 Nobel laureate in Physics who pioneered the development and use of fiber optics in telecommunications; Yuan-Cheng Fung, the founder of modern biomechanics; and NASA astronauts Leroy Chiao and Edward Lu.

Mr. Speaker, according to most recent data reported by the Census Bureau, there are more than 423,609 businesses owned by Chinese Americans generating \$142.8 billion in economic output towards the U.S. economy, along with creating over 780,000 jobs.

As the Member of Congress from the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am honored to represent a district rich in cultural and ethnic diversity and with a vibrant Chinese-American community.

Mr. Speaker, there are more than four million Chinese-Americans in the United States and Texas is home to more than 167,000 of them; of this latter number, approximately 25 percent, or 43,940, Chinese-Americans live in Harris County, making it the tenth largest community of persons of Chinese heritage in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese-Americans have made much progress in the United States since May 10, 1860, the date the first transcontinental railroad was completed.

That massive construction project transformed our country for the better and could not have been completed had it not been for the labor of Chinese immigrants.

Despite the enormous progress made challenges still remain of person of Chinese ancestry, particularly the nation's antiquated immigration system which needs to be reformed to make it fairer and more humane.

Celebrating the Lunar New Year helps us to remember how much our country has benefited from the energy, creativity, and service of Chinese Americans.

I encourage all Americans to take part in activities marking this important occasion.

RECOGNIZING THE PEOPLE OF BAHRAIN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, four years ago, thousands of Bahrainis protested for basic freedoms like the freedom of assembly and expression.

Today, I recognize the people of Bahrain in their ongoing struggle for fundamental human rights.

In many instances over the last four years, protesters have been met with violence, detention, and an unfair judicial system.

Many protesters have alleged they were tortured while in detention.

The government of Bahrain is an important ally and has taken positive steps in response to protests, but much more must be done.

Today I remind my colleagues of Dr. King's famous words, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Today, due to rising instability, areas of Bahrain are considered "off limits" to U.S. military and their families stationed there.

If this trend continues, the security of the region and of the United States could be at risk.

The United States must work with the government and the protesters, firmly and respectfully, to ensure stability in the region, for all people of Bahrain.

SUPPORTING THE GERARDO HERNANDEZ SECURITY ACT

HON. TED LIEU

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. TED LIEU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 720, the Gerardo Hernandez Airport Security Act of 2015, and in tribute to the bill's namesake.

On November 1, 2013, a gunman opened fire in Los Angeles International Airport, killing TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez and wounding three others before being apprehended. Mr. Hernandez's death was the first time a TSA officer had been killed in the line of duty since the agency's creation following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The tragic shooting at LAX jolted the city of Los Angeles and underscored the need to increase airport preparedness throughout the country. I believe the legislation we are voting on today is an important step in meeting that need.

H.R. 720 is a bipartisan bill that will direct the Department of Homeland Security to identify best practices for airport incident planning and to give necessary technical assistance to all airports under TSA's security supervision. The bill aims to verify that each of these airports have individualized working plans for responding to security incidents, including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-screening checkpoints. The Department will be required to submit a report to Congress detailing its outreach findings so that Congress can continue its oversight role on this issue.

We owe it to Mr. Hernandez and his family to ensure that our airports are prepared and passengers protected. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 720.

IN HONOR OF JAMES "JIM" D. TACKETT

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 20, 2015

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, Jim began his journey by enlisting and attending basic training December 1, 1972, assigned by the Army to a region in Alaska September of 1973, and left active duty December 22, 1978. Arriving in Colorado in 1983 with his wife and two sons, Jim dabbled in car sales. He joined the Colorado National Guard in 1987 and stayed in until his retirement in 2002. His adventures with the Department of Veterans Affairs began as a work-study student at Fort Carson in March 1986 and then hired by El Paso County February 22, 1988 as an Assistant Veteran

Service Officer to assist veterans and surviving spouses with completing disability claims.

During Jim's 27 years of service to veterans with the El Paso County Veteran Services, he received numerous awards for his outstanding efforts to serve local veterans and became a part of the community that he worked so tirelessly to help in any way he could. Jim has also been an invaluable advisor to me on all topics related to veterans' affairs. I greatly appreciated his service when he was a member of my Veterans Advisory Board for 8 years.

In 1999, Jim collaborated with local veteran organizations to create the El Paso County Homeless Standdown Committee. He served on the standdown committee for 15 years and helped coordinate the annual Standdown event to assist homeless veterans.

Since 2000 Jim has served as President of the Colorado Veterans Resource Coalition, a non-profit organization to assist with veterans' homeless issues, which is operated in collaboration with numerous other veteran service organizations. As part of this Coalition, Jim has provided executive oversight of the purchase and operation of the Crawford House, two transitional housing buildings, and an apartment complex, which provides services such as safe emergency housing for veterans who are homeless, receiving mental health care, and/or safe transitional low income housing.

From 2003 to 2008, Jim served on the Executive Board and as the Vice President of the National Association of County Veteran Service Officers. During this time Jim ensured numerous Colorado County Veteran Service Officers were accredited through the National organization.

Jim played a critical role in the planning of the new national cemetery in southern Colorado. In 2006, Jim was appointed to the Pikes Peak National Veterans Cemetery Committee and has been instrumental in the upcoming construction of a Veterans Cemetery in El Paso County that is anticipated to be open in 2018. Jim also served on a joint committee to name the new Colorado Springs VA Clinic.

Jim was appointed as the El Paso County Veteran Service Officer in 2008, and immediately began an expanded outreach program to ensure El Paso County veterans are aware of local veteran services and programs. Since this program, the Veteran Service Office has almost doubled the yearly office visits which has resulted in a 190 percent increase in the number of claims for veterans and their dependents, and has made the El Paso County Veteran Services Office one of the most active offices in the United States.

In 2014, Jim served on my Veteran Affairs Clinic Naming Committee which honored our local hometown hero, WWII Medal of Honor recipient, PFC Floyd Lindstrom. He also served on the clinic's Grand Opening Committee to open one of the largest VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinics in the United States. During this year, Jim also coordinated with Home Depot to construct a Veterans Memorial at Bear Creek Regional Park that honors El Paso County Veterans and their outstanding service.

Jim is one of the most intelligent, highly respected and dependable service officers in the great state of Colorado. He has given every bit of his heart and soul to the Pikes Peak community and he remains one of the most influential community leaders. I am very proud