

STATEMENT OF JAMES T. MURPHY, IN RESPONSE TO MITSUBISHI APOLOGY TO WWII POWS, DELIVERED AT THE MUSEUM OF TOLERANCE, SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER—LOS ANGELES, CA, JULY 19, 2015

This is a great day to be here at the Museum of Tolerance because at this place and at this time, history will truly be made.

We have just heard Mitsubishi's [Materials Corporation] representative, Mr. [Hikaru] Kimura, present a stirring, heartfelt, warm and sincere apology to former U.S. Prisoners of War who were forced to work for Mitsubishi Mining during World War II.

His apology meets all the criteria necessary to satisfy the elements of an acceptable apology. It admits to wrongdoing, it makes sincere statements showing a deep remorse for the wrongdoing and it assures that the wrongdoing will not recur.

As a former Prisoner of War of the Japanese Imperial Armed Forces who was forced to work at the Mitsubishi [Osarizawa] copper mine near Hanawa, Japan during part of 1944 and part of 1945 and being one of the few surviving workers of that time, I find it to be my duty and responsibility to accept Mr. Kimura's apology!

Hopefully, the acceptance of this sincere apology will bring some closure and relief to the age-old problems confronting the surviving former Prisoners of War and to their family members.

Additionally, even though the Japanese people and the American people have a long-standing friendly relationship, the action that we are taking today will further enhance, expand and assure an enduring trust and friendship benefitting both nations.

Furthermore, I join others in this group who foster the idea of encouraging the dozens of other Japanese companies who used forced labor by the Allied Prisoners of War to offset their workforce shortage to follow Mitsubishi Materials' progressive leadership.

Solving this long overdue problem would permit the companies and their former laborers to look forward to a better future rather than continue to look backward to their differences. Such actions would have positive results for both of our nations by strengthening our trust, confidence and friendship.

Perhaps other nations with similar problems will follow our example here today with similar actions. Such actions would result in the betterment to all mankind.

Mr. Kimura, we thank you and the other members of your team for your hard work and long hours spent formulating and presenting Mitsubishi Materials' apology.

STATEMENT BY MITSUBISHI MATERIALS CORPORATION, SENIOR EXECUTIVE OFFICER HIKARU KIMURA IN THE MEETING WITH A FORMER AMERICAN POW AND FAMILIES OF FORMER POWS

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen, speaking on behalf of Mitsubishi Materials, thank you very much for this opportunity to meet with you today at the Museum of Tolerance.

Mitsubishi Mining Company Limited, the predecessor of Mitsubishi Materials, was engaged in coal and metal mining during World War II. As the war intensified, prisoners of war were placed in a wide range of industries to offset labor shortages. As part of this, close to 900 American POWs were allocated to four mines operated by Mitsubishi Mining in Japan.

I joined Mitsubishi Materials as a postwar baby-boomer and have worked in the company for 34 years. I have read the memoirs of Mr. James Murphy, who is present here at this ceremony, and those of other former POWs, as well as records of court trials. Through these accounts, I have learned

about the terrible pain that POWs experienced in the mines of Mitsubishi Mining.

The POWs, many of whom were suffering from disease and injury, were subjected to hard labor, including during freezing winters, working without sufficient food, water, medical treatment or sanitation. When we think of their harsh lives in the mines, we cannot help feeling deep remorse.

I would like to express our deepest sense of ethical responsibility for the tragic experiences of all U.S. POWs, including Mr. James Murphy, who were forced to work under harsh conditions in the mines of the former Mitsubishi Mining.

On behalf of Mitsubishi Materials. I offer our sincerest apology.

I also extend our deepest condolence to their fellow U.S. POWs who worked alongside them but have since passed away.

To the bereaved families who are present at this ceremony, I also offer our most remorseful apology.

This cannot happen again, and of course, Mitsubishi Materials intends to never let this happen again.

We now have a clear corporate mission of working for the benefit of all people, all societies and indeed the entire globe. Respecting the basic human rights of all people is a core principle of Mitsubishi Materials, and we will continue to strongly adhere to this principle.

Our management team wishes for the health and happiness of our employees every day, and we ask that all of them work not only diligently, but also with a sense of ethics.

Mitsubishi Materials supplies general materials that enrich people's lives, from cement to cellphone components and auto parts, all of which are closely related to people's lives. We also place a strong emphasis on recycling for more sustainable societies, such as recovering valuable metals from used electrical appliances and other scrapped materials.

Here in the United States, we have plants for cement and ready-mixed concrete, and a sales headquarters for our advanced materials and tools business, all in California, as well as a polysilicon plant in Alabama. We believe that our company provides fulfilling jobs for local employees and contributes to host communities through its business.

The American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Museum in Wellsburg, West Virginia archives extensive records and memorabilia of POWs. These records and memorabilia will be handed down to future generations for educational purposes.

I will visit the museum the day after tomorrow to view the exhibits and visualize how POWs were forced to work under harsh conditions. For now, however, I am pleased to announce that Mitsubishi Materials has donated 50,000 US dollars to the museum to support its activities.

Finally, I sincerely thank Ms. Kinue Tokudome and the members of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society for creating this opportunity to meet with you today. I also express my sincere thanks to Rabbi Abraham Cooper for offering the Museum of Tolerance as a venue for the ceremony. And I express my deep gratitude to all others involved in arranging this gathering.

I would also like to thank the family members of a non-U.S. POW [Mr. Stanley Gibson from Scotland, whose father also was a slave laborer in the Mitsubishi Osarizawa mine] who have come from very far away to attend this ceremony.

I truly hope that this gathering marks the starting point of a new relationship between former POWs and Mitsubishi Materials.

Thank you very much.

HONORING CARMEN "DOLLY" VAZQUEZ FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE TO WORCESTER COUNTY AND CONGRATULATING HER ON HER RETIREMENT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Carmen "Dolly" Vazquez. Next month Dolly will retire from Centro Las Americas after 23 years of service to the Latino community in Worcester County.

Dolly was born and raised in Bayamon, Puerto Rico. She came to Central Massachusetts from San Francisco, California and began her cultural involvement in Worcester by volunteering at WCUW community radio station. At WCUW, she hosted a bi-weekly radio show, Herencia Puertorriqueña for 13 years.

Dolly was first hired in 1993 by Centro Las Americas to help manage their Latin American Festival, and she was later asked to head the organization's new Cultural Department.

Since that Dolly has co-produced the annual Latin American Festival, the annual Latino Film Festival and the biennial Viva El Arte art show, among other endeavors.

Dolly has been an active member of our community through her involvement with Hispanics Achieving and Celebrating Excellence of QCC, and Latino Dollars for Scholars. She is also an incorporator of the Worcester Art Museum, YWCA, the Joy of Music Program, and the Worcester Historical Museum. For eleven years she also served as board member of the Mass Cultural Council and is a former board member of You Inc.

I want to thank Dolly for her years of service to Worcester County and I wish her the best of luck in the future. She is a remarkable person who has done so much for the community. I'm also proud to call her a close and treasured friend.

CELEBRATING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF MCABW

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the 10th anniversary of The Montgomery County Association of Business Women of Montgomery County, Texas. Founded by my good friend Carol Gooch in 2005, the MCABW not only provides a forum for business women to develop and enhance professional and personal relationships with their peers, the group actively works to improve Montgomery County.

After graduating from Leadership Montgomery County in 2003, Carol decided to form a group so that women could network and grow their businesses. The group was one of the first womens' networking associations in Montgomery County and its success has spurred the creation of many more similar groups.

In addition to providing an invaluable forum for women to network, the group has continued to give back to their community. MCABW

sponsors college scholarships for women graduating high school in Montgomery County and supports members who wish to continue their education. At their inaugural fundraising event this year, the group raised \$12,000 which will be used to fund additional scholarships and charities.

Not only does the group mentor women, MCABW has helped virtually every non-profit organization in Montgomery County including: Interfaith of the Woodlands, Montgomery County United Way, Children's Safe Harbor, Humane Society, and the Montgomery County Food Bank, just to name a few.

Beyond the ranks of MCABW have grown far beyond the original 52 members in the ten years since its founding, the mission of the group has continued to focus on a team effort. By working together, the group has grown to the largest nonprofit business women's networking association in Montgomery County. Members enjoy monthly coffees, luncheons and evening mixers while continuously mentoring new members who want to start their own business, learn more about networking or social media, or who just want to meet other like-minded women in the community.

MCABW has helped organize the annual WISE (Women Inspiring, Supporting, Empowering) Conference. These conferences have given female entrepreneurs access to tremendous speakers and learning opportunities while raising money for charity. This year's WISE Conference has partnered with Rettsyndrome.org to raise funds for research for treatments and a cure for Rett Syndrome.

The women of MCABW represent all walks of life—there are members returning to the world of work, young members who are just starting their careers, and seasoned professionals willing to pass on their wisdom and knowledge.

Today, I ask all of America to join me in congratulating the dynamic Carol Gooch, and all members of the MCABW, on ten years of excellence. I can't wait to see what the future holds for the Montgomery County Association of Business Women.

CONGRATULATING PIKE COUNTY

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pike County on their bicentennial anniversary and celebration.

For 200 years Pike County has stood proudly at the heart of Southern Ohio.

Created by the Ohio General Assembly in 1815, Pike County was named after American Brigadier General and explorer Zebulon Pike. Over the next 200 years, the people of Pike County have lived up to Pike's relentless American spirit.

Throughout its two century-long history, Pike County has proudly contributed to the strength, prosperity, and growth of our state and our nation.

Pike County residents fought and died for the United States in defense of this nation since the days of the Civil War. That service continued into the Cold War, where their hard work and industriousness in the heartland provided the nuclear technology and tools that continued to secure our blessings of freedom.

Pike County fostered the freedom and economic prosperity that are pillars of the American Dream, from an active role in the Underground Railroad to a key link in the Ohio-Erie Canal that connected commerce across Ohio.

I am honored to represent Pike County today, an area of the state with a rich history and strong community. Again, I congratulate Pike County on this historic milestone and I wish them the best over their next 200 years.

AGNES FENTON

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Agnes Fenton, who will be turning 110 years old this Saturday, August 1, 2015. Mrs. Fenton will be the oldest person living in the City of Englewood, New Jersey.

Mrs. Fenton was born in 1905 on a farm in Mississippi. After her father passed away when she was only an infant, her mother raised her alone. Upon the age of 14, Mrs. Fenton moved to Memphis, Tennessee.

It was in Memphis where Mrs. Fenton ran a restaurant called Pal's Duck Inn, which specialized in serving southern comfort food. Mrs. Fenton would be one of the first African-American women in the city to own and operate a restaurant. The days were long and the work was tiring, as she would often work from 6 a.m. to midnight on a regular basis, but Mrs. Fenton always kept her spirits high.

During her time running the restaurant, Agnes got married to Vincent Fenton. But sadly after contracting pneumonia, Mr. Fenton passed away in 1970.

Following many years of running her successful restaurant, Mrs. Fenton decided to get a new job in the kitchen of an Emerson, New Jersey company, and eventually worked for the Chapman family in nearby Oradell for many years afterwards. It was hard work and self-reliance that forged her into the strong person she has been throughout her life.

Mrs. Fenton moved to Englewood in the early 1950's. She has resided there ever since, and is known to have a remedy for any health concern that you can think of. She is also well-known for her Lemon Ice Box Pies and Apple Lattice Pies, which she has given to her family and neighbors during the Christmas holiday seasons.

Mrs. Fenton has always made room for God in her life, as she has been a member of the St. Mark's United Methodist Church in New York City since moving to Englewood. Mrs. Fenton was honored to be inducted into the Centenarian Society, where she is an active participant in the New England Centenarian Study being conducted by the Boston School of Medicine. Although the study may credit Mrs. Fenton's 110 years to her genetics, she partly attributes this to her daily regimen of consuming a shot of Johnnie Walker and three Miller High Life's a day.

Throughout her entire life, Mrs. Fenton has been able to live independently, even through hard times. She continues to cook her own meals and bake for her family and friends during the holiday season. Mrs. Fenton's life is one we can all look upon and recognize as one lived through hard work and sacrifice, but

most importantly, a life filled with so much happiness and love.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the life achievements of individuals such as Mrs. Agnes Fenton.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Mrs. Fenton's family and friends, all those whose lives she has touched, and me, in recognizing the 110th birthday of Mrs. Agnes Fenton.

CONGRATULATING FRED AND BETTY WILLIAMS ON THEIR 70TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fred and Betty Williams, of Carrollton, Texas on achieving this incredible milestone of 70 years of marriage on August 30th, 2015.

While Fred and Betty both grew up in east Texas, they moved to Carrollton after retiring and reside there today. As long time members of the Nazarene Church, serving on the church board and in missions, they are beloved members of the community and strong role models. It is an honor to be able to call them my constituents and friends.

In their successful marriage, Fred and Betty have been blessed with a family of three children, eleven grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren. It is my sincere hope that their family may gain much joy and wisdom from Fred and Betty's wonderful journey together. May their lives and inspiring story pass down through generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Fred and Betty Williams on their prosperous 70th wedding anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Centennial Anniversary of the Okaloosa County, Florida Sheriff's Department.

As a former Deputy Sheriff, I understand the important and sometimes underappreciated role that law enforcement officers play in local communities across the Nation. In Northwest Florida, we are fortunate to have many world-class Sheriff's Departments and Police Departments that are working each and every day to protect their neighbors and community. For the last 100 years, the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Department has served a thriving community that has grown from a population of less than 10,000 when the department was created to a home for nearly 200,000 people today.