

The citizens of the township of Lower Merion have many achievements of which to be proud. They have a deep sense of civic pride and involvement. In fact, the Township maintains a "Community Resources Leadership Bank" of citizens interested in participating in Township Boards or Commissions. This innovation and vision distinguishes Lower Merion and it remains one of the most progressive townships in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Township officials in Lower Merion are deeply committed to the environment. Through open space conservation and environmental protection, the Lower Merion Township continually works to improve the quality of life for its residents. Lower Merion officials have demonstrated a strong commitment to their schools and community, and the township has one of the highest ranking school systems in Pennsylvania.

I am proud to represent such an extraordinary municipality. This anniversary should serve as a tribute to hard work and dedication for all who have made the Lower Merion Township the place it is.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the City of Santa Barbara. This past Sunday, I was honored to join the citizens of Santa Barbara in celebrating the rich history and legacy of our community.

Santa Barbara is a vibrantly diverse city that draws its heritage from the Chumash, Spanish, Mexican, American and European peoples. Although the incorporation of the city was in 1850, there are other milestones that preceded this date. The community was named in 1602 by Sebastian Vizcaino, a Spanish employer, who came to the area on Saint Barbara's day. In 1782, the King of Spain directed that a presidio be constructed in Santa Barbara and in 1786, the Mission was founded. Both the Presidio and the Mission hold much cultural significance to the citizens of Santa Barbara today and serve as an important reminder of our shared history. In 1850, a charter was adopted by a vote of the citizens and established Santa Barbara as one of the five California charter cities. As a charter city, the citizens of Santa Barbara enjoy "home rule" and as a result, the city is a model of how a community can preserve and sustain a high quality of life for its people.

Today, Santa Barbara boasts strong public and private schools, the nationally recognized University of California, Santa Barbara, Westmont College and Santa Barbara City College, as well as thriving small businesses, high-tech and tourism industries. But above all, as Santa Barbarans, we pride ourselves on the beauty of our environment and the quaint charm of our community. The importance of clean water, clean air and open spaces has long been recognized as a key to our community's success and we remain committed to protecting the unparalleled beauty that Santa Barbara possesses today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very honored to represent Santa Barbara in Congress and I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the many achievements of the citizens of Santa Barbara and the contributions that the city has made to America. We wish the community of Santa Barbara 150 more years of success and prosperity.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, due to what may have been a technical difficulty, I was not recorded on rollcall vote 114. Had I been recorded, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE SOUTHERLAND HEAD START PROGRAM ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Southerland Head Start program on their 35th Anniversary. For thirty-five years this school has been serving children in need and making sure that they have the resources necessary for a successful educational future.

In Beaumont there were originally two Head Start Centers, one at Dunbar and the other at South Park. Mavis Bryant was the director at Dunbar from 1965–1984, and Claire Collier was the director at South Park from 1966–1984. In 1984, the districts merged and the center became known as Southerland Head Start, where Claire Collier served as director until her retirement in 1994. Two principals/directors have followed Claire Collier, Charles Vanderburg served from 1994–1999, and Gloria Harrison is currently serving.

Southerland serves the community well, and there are currently 460 students enrolled in the program. Southerland's motto is "Touching Children . . . Reaching Families," and they truly live up to that motto. They reach out to children, improving their self esteem, health, and physical development. Children at Southerland learn and grow in an environment that promotes positive experiences and an understanding of the world around them.

I believe that we must provide an opportunity for every child in America to fulfill her or his potential through participation in an enriching and challenging learning environment starting at birth, and programs such as Southerland Head Start help us achieve that goal. I would like to thank Dr. Carrol Thomas, Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Mae E. Jones-Clark, Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, and Gloria Harrison, Head Start Director/Principal, and all of the other people who are serving the school with unparalleled dedication.

Mr. Speaker, Southerland has served the children of Beaumont for thirty-five years, and I congratulate them as they celebrate this milestone of achievement.

LET'S CRAFT A FAIR DEAL FOR OUR VETERANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I testified before the VA, HUD Appropriations Subcommittee. In that testimony which follows, I emphasized our duty to provide adequate funds for the vital programs that serve our Nation's veterans.

I am pleased that the administration's budget for the year 2001 recognizes that the men and women who have served in uniform deserve an adequate budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs [VA], and I believe that the efforts of many members of the House VA Committee and the efforts of our veterans' service organizations, specifically in formulating the Independent Budget, have been instrumental in producing a much better budget proposal than last year. I want to acknowledge these efforts.

The \$1.4 billion increase in the health care budget will assure our aging and disabled veterans who need medical care—especially long-term care, emergency care and specialized services—that their needs are a high priority. However, I join my colleagues and the authors of this year's Independent Budget in objecting to the proposal that \$350 million of new resources for medical care authorized by the recently passed Veterans Millennium Act be deposited to the Treasury. Funds collected from veterans for the provision of veterans' health care should be used to enhance the health care for veterans—not as a substitute for appropriated dollars.

I also want to emphasize my continuing concern that the VA is not adequately meeting the benefit and health care needs of veterans who served in the Gulf war and who now suffer from various diagnosed and undiagnosed disabilities. It has been almost 10 years since the men and women of our armed services were sent to the gulf! The veterans of the Gulf war are sick with illnesses whose causes and cures remain a mystery. We must not relax our efforts to fund necessary and appropriate research. I join the authors of the Independent Budget in supporting an increase in funding for VA medical research, and specifically request that the medical research budget be increased by \$65 million as recommended in the Independent Budget and that at least \$30 million of that increase be directed to research involving the health of Gulf war veterans.

As our veterans population ages, the need for long-term care increases. One means of providing access to such care is through the funding of State Veterans Homes. A new home will be opening in April in my congressional district, and already there is a waiting list. I want other areas to have the same opportunity as the veterans in the San Diego region will have with the opening of this new home. Therefore, I am opposed to the proposed decrease in funding for State Homes and urge this committee to provide adequate funding for this critical program.

I am also pleased that this administration has recognized what Members of Congress have known for years. Additional personnel are needed if the VA is to promptly and accurately adjudicate claims for compensation and

pension benefits. This budget will help to provide a well-trained corps of adjudicators to replace those who are nearing retirement age. I want to emphasize that the continued loss of experienced adjudicators over the past 7 years together with an increased workload in the number of issues which must be decided in each claim have led to serious problems of quality and timeliness. The increased staffing in this budget is essential to stem the tide of deterioration in claims processing.

As a former college professor, I recognize the value of a quality education for our Nation's veterans. I am disappointed that no increase for the G.I. bill is provided in the administration's budget. The G.I. bill currently provides far less than is needed to obtain an education at a public institution, and I support raising the basic education benefit. I have joined with The Partnership for Veterans' Education, a coalition representing a number of associations advocating on behalf of veterans, in calling, as a first step, for an increase in the basic monthly stipend from \$535 to \$975 a month.

Veterans comprise about one-third of our Nation's homeless population, but only 3 percent of HUD funding for the homeless is directed to specific programs for homeless veterans. I strongly urge this committee to heed the testimony of Ms. Heather French, Miss America 2000, and allocate \$750,000 from the HUD fiscal year 2001 appropriation to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans to provide technical assistance to homeless providers. This assistance is critically needed to help veteran specific homeless programs receive a fair share of Federal funding for our Nation's homeless veterans.

I also urge the committee to fund the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program [HVRP] at its authorized level of \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2001. These programs are effective in placing homeless veterans in taxpaying jobs. They work and should be funded.

The administration's budget proposal recommends paying full disability benefits to Filipino World War II veterans who reside in the United States. Currently, these brave veterans who were drafted into service by President Roosevelt receive only half the amount received by their counterparts—U.S. veterans with whom they fought side by side to defeat our mutual enemy. I support this increase as an important step toward equity for Filipino World War II veterans.

However, more is needed. Because Congress, in 1946, rescinded the health care benefits for most of these veterans, Congressman GILMAN and I have introduced legislation, H.R. 1594, to provide access to VA medical facilities—both in the United States and in the Philippines—for Filipino World War II veterans. Health care is a crucial need for these men who are now in their 70s and 80s! \$30 million is all that is required to provide health care access to Filipino veterans, with the same priority status as veterans currently using the VA. I request that this amount be added to the fiscal year 2001 budget.

As we honor our veterans during their lives, so must we honor their remembrance in death. The administration's increase in funding for the National Cemetery System will improve the appearance of our cemeteries by a long-overdue and much needed renovation of grounds, gravesites, and grave-markers. I

urge this committee to fund the National Cemetery Administration and the State Cemetery Grants at the levels recommended by the House Veterans Affairs' Committee.

Again, may I say that the proposal before you represents a fine starting point. I hope that my suggestions will be useful as the members of this committee work toward a budget that gives our Nation's veterans a fair deal.

TRIBUTE TO GRAND MASTER
JHOON GOO RHEE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to recognize a great American on the occasion of his recent selection by the National Immigrant Forum, in conjunction with the Immigration and Naturalization Service, as one of 200 most famous American immigrants of all time: Grand Master Jhoon Goo Rhee.

Master Rhee, who shares the honor with such American icons as Albert Einstein, Hyman Rickover and Knute Rockne, is the sole immigrant of Korean ancestry to make the list. Well known as one of the world's foremost authorities on the martial arts and recognized as the father of Tae Kwon Do in the United States, Grand Master Rhee has established himself as more than just a famous instructor. But his road to success and achieving the American dream wasn't easy, nor would he have wanted it that way.

When Jhoon Rhee came to the United States in 1956, he spoke little English and had less money—\$46 to be exact. Still, he enrolled at Southwest Texas State Teachers College in San Marcos determined to create a better life for himself. Although at first it took him a half-hour to read one page of text, he became increasingly proficient in English through discipline and perseverance, traits that for decades he has so eloquently translated from the martial arts for people from all walks of life.

Those traits also are the core of his action philosophy, a philosophy grounded in the principles of the martial arts, but applicable to everyone. It calls for people to build confidence through knowledge in the mind, honesty in the heart and strength in the body, and then to lead by example.

Leading by example is exactly what Master Rhee does. Despite his 68 years, each day as part of his daily stretching and meditation regimen, he does 1,000 push-ups and 1,000 sit-ups. Not even the fittest 20 year-old can match those feats. But the discipline, determination and perseverance involved are life lessons that far transcend martial arts and athleticism. He has enabled people everywhere to realize their potential and apply themselves successfully to whatever it is they set themselves to do. It's the philosophy Master Rhee embraced so long ago and which has stood the test of time—the same philosophy which took him from someone who barely could speak the language of his new country, to one of the world's most sought-after motivational speakers.

There is no dream too large for Grand Master Rhee, but I'm sure even he has difficulty comprehending how many millions of people

around the world owe their positive, constructive ways of living to his wholesome influences.

Many of our colleagues, Mr. Speaker, know first hand Master Rhee's call to realize the aspects of life larger than self. We know this because he founded the U.S. Congressional Tae Kwon Do Club and has taught more than 250 current or former Members of Congress not only the art of Tae Kwon Do, but also the art of living a healthier and happier life. We know the affection he engenders to all who make his acquaintance, whether through athletics, business or when hearing his motivational presentation.

Master Rhee's success is wide ranging. Aside from his accomplishments in Tae Kwon Do and in training world-class athletes, he has starred in feature films, authored a number of books, served as a goodwill ambassador and started a hugely successful business venture. He also is held in the highest regard as an innovator and teacher.

But perhaps where he excels most is in an area that is missing so dearly in today's world—the role of husband, father and citizen. Jhoon Rhee departs himself with the utmost respect and dignity for those with whom he deals and with society in general. For more than 50 years, he has embraced the role model aspect of a life that comes with international renown, a role taken for granted by so many and perfected by so few. He gladly accepts the responsibility of presenting himself and his way of life as an emblem to be worn proudly.

This is not just my assessment. His contributions to buttress America's culture with pride and decorum are echoed by many distinguished citizens in and out of government. Among his biggest fans are boxing legend Muhammad Ali, Parade magazine Publisher Walter Anderson and motivational speaker Tony Robbins. Jack Valenti of the motion Picture Association of America has said, "Master Rhee defies the assumed rush of years. He is an ageless patriot, whose brand of unbreakable loyalty is seldom seen. . . ."

Our esteemed colleague IKE SKELTON says, "Master Rhee is an American treasure." Our esteemed former colleague Bob Livingston says it quite simply: "Master Rhee is one of the greatest Americans I know."

At an age when even the most industrious of people tend to enjoy the leisure of their later years, Master Rhee at age 68 continues with remarkable energy to exert his positive influence on people of all ages throughout the country and the globe. He has recently launched a new global project, the JhoonRhee.com Web site, where he continues to promote the martial arts, fitness, the healing arts and a way of life whereby, in his words, "Everybody is happy with every breath of life."

On March 17, 1992, President George Bush named Master Rhee one of his Daily Points of Light. President Bush said, "The true measure of any individual is found in the way he or she treats others—and the person who regards others with love, respect and charity holds a priceless treasure in his heart . . . any definition of a successful life must include others. Your efforts provide a shining example of this standard."

Master Rhee's devotion to the principles of America's Founding Fathers is unsurpassed. He instills in his countrymen the Founders' vision and demonstrates the power of that vision to people throughout the world to show