

the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry Group. I find it unusual, however, that only one Medal of Honor was awarded at the time. Nonetheless, the 442nd Combat Group emerged as the most decorated combat unit of its size in the history of the United States Army.

President Truman was so moved by their bravery in the field of battle, as well as that of African American soldiers during World War II, that he issued an Executive Order to finally desegregate all branches of the Armed Services.

I am proud to say that we must recognize Senator DANIEL K. INOUE and the late, highly-respected Senator Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii, who distinguished themselves in battle as soldiers with the 100th Battalion and 442nd Infantry.

It was while fighting in Europe that Senator INOUE lost his arm while engaged in his personal battle against two German machine gun posts. For his heroism, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. As a result of a Congressional mandate that was passed in 1999 to review the military records of these two combat units, President Clinton presented 19 Congressional Medals of Honor to the Japanese Americans who were members of these two combat groups. Senator INOUE was one of those recipients of the Medal of Honor and I was privileged to witness this historical moment at a White House ceremony.

On May 14, 2009, the House unanimously passed H.R. 347 thus granting the Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.

The wholesale and arbitrary abolishment of the constitutional rights of these loyal Japanese Americans should forever serve as a reminder and testament that this must never be allowed to occur again. When this miscarriage of justice unfolded during World War II, Americans of German and Italian ancestry were not similarly jailed en masse. Some declare the incident as an example of outright racism and bigotry in its ugliest form. I sincerely hope that these forms of legal racial discrimination never again darken the history of our great nation.

To those that say, well, that occurred decades ago, I say we must continue to be vigilant in guarding against such evil today. President Obama's recent election is a consequence of such vigilance in electing him as the first ever President of color. I know that history speaks that he is the first black President, but personally, he represents all races, genders, and ethnicities in becoming the Commander-in-Chief and leader of this great country. Now and more than ever, am I so proud to be called an American. We have elected a person who is literally an African-American, in the sense, where his father is a Kenyan and mother is a girl from Kansas. I jokingly say that this is the first President to know where the Pacific Ocean is on the map. President Obama was born in Hawaii so he's a "local boy" and for your information, he can still throw a good "shaka" sign. We in the Congress look forward to the next four years, and maybe 8, in working together with President Obama in restoring American leadership in the world. As Americans, we emphasize the importance of our ideals and values that guarantee and protect ones freedoms and is reinforced and supported by the greatest volunteer military force in the world.

We should never become complacent with the hand that is dealt to you, with the discrimination that you may see or experience. When I envision America, I don't see a melting pot designed to reduce and remove racial differences. The America I see is a brilliant rainbow, a rainbow of ethnicities, cultures, religions and languages with each person proudly contributing in their own distinctive and unique way for a better America.

Asian-Pacific Americans wish to find a just and equitable place in our society that will allow them—like all Americans—to grow, to succeed, to achieve and to contribute to the advancement of this great nation.

I would like to close my remarks by asking my colleagues—what is America all about? I can say that through our leadership and sense of volunteerism we can meet the challenges of a fast changing world. Either through personal service, education, civics, or charity, we have a responsibility to each other and must continue to exploit the freedoms that we proudly have today. Everyday the world is shrinking and it is important, as our forefathers have done so, to continue our leadership and become an example of how we admit to our faults and correct them immediately.

I think it could not have been said better than on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in the summer of 1963 when an African American minister by the name of Martin Luther King, Jr., poured out his heart and soul to every American who could hear his voice, when he uttered these words:

"I have a dream. My dream is that one day my children will be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

We have reaped what he has sowed by celebrating the contributions of Asian-Pacific Americans this month and having the first ever President of color in our great history.

That is what I believe America is all about. Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 435 to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and pay tribute to the many achievements of Asian Pacific Americans across our Nation.

The month of May marks several historical events in Asian Pacific American history. On May 7, 1843, the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, paving the way for a great movement of Asian and Pacific peoples to immigrate to the United States. Only 26 years later, on May 10, 1869, the transcontinental railroad was finished, the completion of which is largely credited to Asian Pacific Americans. Due to these events, it is appropriate to celebrate the month of May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and honor the sacrifices and contributions of this great community.

Through the years, the Asian Pacific American Communities have made significant contributions to Texas's diverse culture. In Dallas, I am privileged to represent the largest Asian American Chamber in the United States with more than 1,200 members. I believe that we all learn from those who come from different backgrounds, and I can truly say that I have learned a great deal from my Asian Pacific friends and constituents.

I would also like to recognize the one-year anniversary of the devastating earthquake that shook Sichuan Province in China in May of 2008 and send my condolences to the friends and families of the victims.

Today, there are over 14 million Asian Pacific Americans living in the United States, representing 5 percent of the population. The rich history associated with the Asian Pacific American community has left a lasting and important imprint on our country. Madam Speaker, I am proud to support this resolution and the Asian Pacific American communities in North Texas and across the United States.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 435, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title was amended so as to read: "A resolution celebrating Asian/Pacific-American Heritage."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING FLAG DAY

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 420) celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 420

Whereas Flag Day is celebrated annually on June 14, the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777;

Whereas on June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new Nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation";

Whereas the second Flag Act, signed January 13, 1794, provided for 15 stripes and 15 stars after May 1795;

Whereas the Act of April 4, 1818, which provided for 13 stripes and one star for each State, to be added to the flag on July 4 following the admission of each new State, was signed by President James Monroe;

Whereas in an Executive order dated June 24, 1912, President William Howard Taft established the proportions of the flag and provided for arrangement of the stars in 6 horizontal rows of 8 each, a single point of each star to be upward;

Whereas in an Executive order dated January 3, 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower provided for the arrangement of the stars in 9 rows staggered horizontally and 11 rows of stars staggered vertically;

Whereas the first celebration of the American flag is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin school teacher, who arranged for his pupils at Stony Hill School in Waubesa to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday" in 1885;

Whereas on June 14, 1894, the Governor of New York ordered that the American flag be

displayed at all public buildings in the State, prompting many State and local governments to begin observing Flag Day;

Whereas President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916;

Whereas in 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed legislation requesting National Flag Day be observed annually;

Whereas the United States flag is a symbol of our great Nation and its ideals;

Whereas in times of national crisis, Americans look to the United States flag as a symbol of hope, courage, and freedom;

Whereas the United States flag is universally honored;

Whereas the United States flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have given their life in the defense of the United States;

Whereas the United States flag serves as a treasured symbol of the loss of loved ones to the countless families of those who died in defense of our Nation; and

Whereas June 14, 2009, is recognized as Flag Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives celebrates the United States flag and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 420 celebrates our Nation's most enduring symbol: the American flag. With this resolution, this Chamber expresses its support for the annual recognition of Flag Day.

The gentleman from Ohio, Representative ROBERT LATTA, introduced House Resolution 420 on May 17, 2009, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform reported it out on June 4, 2009, by unanimous consent. With 64 cosponsors, it is a clear demonstration of Congress' appreciation and respect for our Nation's flag.

We celebrate Flag Day on June 14, the anniversary of the Continental Congress' passage of the first Flag Act in 1777. Since then, Americans have looked to the flag as a symbol of their country and its dearest values. The flag represents us and all of our fellow citizens, and I am always heartened to see the parades and events that occur around the country each year in commemoration of Flag Day, especially in one of my favorite towns, the town of Dedham, Massachusetts, which has a wonderful parade each year on Flag Day. And in the town of Dedham around Flag Day, it is hard to find a home without the American flag hanging on the front door.

The flag honors the countless men and women who have died during the defense of the United States in the Armed Forces. In short, the American flag is a lasting symbol of their sacrifice. As public servants, we rightly pledge our allegiance to the flag each day, as do the millions of Americans for whom we represent and serve here in this Chamber. While each day of the year the American flag stands before the entire world as a symbol of our shared values, hopes, aspirations, and ideals, I am glad to see that we set aside the time each June to celebrate the American flag and all that it represents.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of this legislation, supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

The American flag has been our national symbol for 232 years, and it remains a symbol of freedom wherever it is flown. In 1777, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the stars and stripes and its beautiful red, white, and blue design, our flag has stood for liberty and justice. Flag Day was first celebrated throughout the country in 1885, as one early supporter, Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher, wanted June 14 to be known as "Flag Birthday." The idea quickly caught on and many people wanted to participate. In 1894, the Governor of New York asked that all public buildings fly the flag on June 14 to begin observing Flag Day. And in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed Flag Day as a national celebration. However, the holiday was not officially recognized until 1949 when President Harry Truman signed the national Flag Day bill.

Since the beginning of our Republic, Americans have flown the flag to show their appreciation and pride for this great Nation. Every day Americans pledge their allegiance to the flag, and our troops carry the flag as they defend the liberties for which it stands and which represent this country, the United States of America.

On Flag Day, we remember the importance of our oldest national symbols and reflect the loss of loved ones who have died in defense of this great Nation.

Let us pledge allegiance to this flag to declare our patriotism and raise its colors high to express our pride and respect for the American way of life. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. I appreciate the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to stand before you today in support of the resolution I introduced, House Resolution 420. This resolution celebrates the symbol of the United States and supports the goals and ideals of Flag Day.

Flag Day is celebrated on June 14, which is the anniversary of the official adoption of the American flag by the Continental Congress in 1777. This was done by the first Flag Act, which stated, "Resolved, that the flag of the United States be made of 13 stripes, alternating red and white, that the union be 13 stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

Since 1777, our flag's design has been altered three times under executive orders, rearranging the designs of the stars and stripes each time a State was added.

As the gentleman from Utah has stated, the history of Flag Day traces its roots to the first celebration of the American flag, which is believed to have been introduced by Bernard Cigrand, a Wisconsin schoolteacher who arranged for his students at Stony Hill School to celebrate June 14 as "Flag Birthday" in 1885. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first nationwide Flag Day in 1916, and in 1947, President Harry Truman signed legislation requesting that national Flag Day be observed annually.

Flag Day is an important day of celebration as our flag is the official symbol of our great Nation and its ideals. Our flag serves as a beacon of hope, courage, and freedom during times of crisis and triumph alike. The flag honors the men and women of the Armed Forces who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in defending the United States and serves as a symbol for those families who have lost loved ones while defending our Nation.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I ask for unanimous consent on House Resolution 420 as we celebrate our Nation's flag.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I again urge our colleagues to join Mr. LATTA, the lead sponsor of this resolution, in affirming our allegiance to our flag and our support for the annual celebration of Flag Day by supporting this measure.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 420.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

IMPROVED FINANCIAL AND COMMODITY MARKETS OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 885) to elevate the Inspector General of certain Federal entities to an Inspector General appointed pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 885

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Elevation of certain Inspectors General to appointment pursuant to section 3 of the Inspector General Act of 1978.

Sec. 3. Continuation of provisions relating to personnel.

Sec. 4. Subpoena authority of certain Inspectors General.

Sec. 5. Corrective responses by heads of certain establishments to deficiencies identified by Inspectors General.

Sec. 6. Effective date; transition rule.

SEC. 2. ELEVATION OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL TO APPOINTMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 3 OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.

(a) **INCLUSION IN CERTAIN DEFINITIONS.**—Section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code;” and inserting “the Federal Cochairpersons of the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code; the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System; the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission; the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration; the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; or the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission;”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “or the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code,” and inserting “the Commissions established under section 15301 of title 40, United States Code, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission.”.

(b) **EXCLUSION FROM DEFINITION OF DESIGNATED FEDERAL ENTITY.**—Section 8G(a)(2) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended—

(1) by striking “the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System;”;

(2) by striking “the Commodity Futures Trading Commission;”;

(3) by striking “the National Credit Union Administration;”; and

(4) by striking “the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, the Securities and Exchange Commission.”.

SEC. 3. CONTINUATION OF PROVISIONS RELATING TO PERSONNEL.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is amended by inserting after section 8L the following:

“SEC. 8M. SPECIAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS.

“(a) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section, the term ‘covered establishment’ means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

“(b) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL COVERED ESTABLISHMENTS.**—

“(1) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO INSPECTORS GENERAL.**—In the case of the Inspector General of a covered establishment, subsections (b) and (c) of section 4 of the Inspector General Reform Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–409) shall apply in the same manner as if such covered establishment were a designated Federal entity under section 8G. An Inspector General who is subject to the preceding sentence shall not be subject to section 3(e).

“(2) **PROVISIONS RELATING TO OTHER PERSONNEL.**—Notwithstanding paragraphs (7) and (8) of section 6(a), the Inspector General of a covered establishment may select, appoint, and employ such officers and employees as may be necessary for carrying out the functions, powers, and duties of the Office of Inspector General of such establishment and to obtain the temporary or intermittent services of experts or consultants or an organization of experts or consultants, subject to the applicable laws and regulations that govern such selections, appointments, and employment, and the obtaining of such services, within such establishment.

“(c) **PROVISION RELATING TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.**—The provisions of subsection (a) of section 8D (other than the provisions of subparagraphs (A), (B), (C), and (E) of paragraph (1) of such subsection (a)) shall apply to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System in the same manner as such provisions apply to the Inspector General of the Department of the Treasury and the Secretary of the Treasury, respectively.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Paragraph (3) of section 8G(g) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.) is repealed.

SEC. 4. SUBPOENA AUTHORITY OF CERTAIN INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission, in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.), is authorized to require by subpoena, from any officer or employee of a contractor or grantee of the establishment, any officer or employee of a subcontractor or subgrantee of such a contractor or grantee, or any person or entity regulated by the establishment, any records and testimony necessary in the performance of functions assigned to the Inspector General under such Act. Any such subpoena, in the case of contumacy or refusal to obey, shall be enforceable by order of any appropriate United States district court.

SEC. 5. CORRECTIVE RESPONSES BY HEADS OF CERTAIN ESTABLISHMENTS TO DEFICIENCIES IDENTIFIED BY INSPECTORS GENERAL.

The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, and the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission shall each—

(1) take action to address deficiencies identified by a report or investigation of the Inspector General of the establishment concerned; or

(2) certify to both Houses of Congress that no action is necessary or appropriate in connection with a deficiency described in paragraph (1).

SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE; TRANSITION RULE.

(a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take effect 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) **TRANSITION RULE.**—An individual serving as Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission on the effective date of this Act pursuant to an appointment made under section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)—

(1) may continue so serving until the President makes an appointment under section 3(a) of such Act with respect to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the case may be, consistent with the amendments made by section 2; and

(2) shall, while serving under paragraph (1), remain subject to the provisions of section 8G of such Act which, immediately before the effective date of this Act, applied with respect to the Inspector General of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, the National Credit Union Administration, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, or the Securities and Exchange Commission, as the case may be, and suffer no reduction in pay.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CHAFFETZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I ask that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 885, the Improved Financial and Commodity Markets Oversight and Accountability Act. This bill, introduced by my friend Representative JOHN LARSON of Connecticut, would enhance the independence of Inspectors General at key financial regulatory agencies.

Right now we have an inconsistent system where some financial agencies like the FDIC have an Inspector General appointed by the President and