

causes of death combined. The number of these deaths has drastically declined due to the hard work of the American Heart Association, over the last fifty years. With more than 4.2 million volunteers, the American Heart Association spends more than \$100 million a year to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke through research, education, and community services.

The research supported by the AHA has helped to increase our knowledge of the effects of diet, exercise, smoking and drug therapies on heart disease and stroke. New surgical techniques, such as the use of artificial heart valves, have dramatically reduced the death rates of children suffering from congenital heart disease over the last forty years. The AHA has also helped to establish coronary care units in most of our nation's hospitals, thereby providing specially trained personal and electronic equipment to monitor and treat heart attack patients. The Nobel prize has been awarded three times to researchers funded by the American Heart Association.

The American Heart Association trains 6.4 million Americans a year in emergency training programs. The AHA also provides professional education; equipping physicians and nurses with information on a variety of topics, including how patients can control their blood cholesterol levels.

With 50% of American children overweight and 50% of adults not exercising regularly, the AHA's public education programs are vitally important. Programs such as providing heart health education materials for students in kindergarten through 12th grade, teaching employees about heart health at their places of work, and teaching people how to cook using AHA's dietary guidelines, provide Americans with potentially lifesaving skills and information.

The American Heart Association reaches seven million people a year with its message of cardiovascular health. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues to join in commending the tireless efforts of the AHA over the last fifty years and in designating February as American Heart Month.

NORTH MIAMI POLICE DEPARTMENT
1997 OFFICER OF THE YEAR
DETECTIVE JEROME BROWN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the outstanding example of honor and duty shown by the North Miami Police Department's 1997 Officer of the Year, Detective Jerome Brown. Chosen by a committee of his peers, he is a fitting choice.

Detective Brown was twice named Officer of the Month during 1997: once for his work in apprehending the armed robber of a local business; and once for the arrest of five offenders in an armed robbery. Detective Brown's reputation is for being tireless in pursuing suspects and clearing by arrest a high number of his cases.

Throughout his 27-year career, he has repeatedly been described by his superiors as

enthusiastic, persistent, compassionate, and highly self-motivated. These traits have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers, which is the ultimate compliment in any field. Congratulations to Detective Brown for his commitment to his community and his work to keep our neighborhoods safe.

TRIBUTE TO MARY TSURUKO TSUKAMOTO

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an educator, activist, and leader of national prominence: Mary Tsuruko Tsukamoto. Mrs. Tsukamoto passed away on January 6, leaving a tremendous legacy as a teacher, activist, and hero to countless Americans. Today, in Sacramento, California, she will be fondly remembered at two separate memorial services.

The child of immigrants from Okinawa, Mary Tsuruko Dakuzaku was born in San Francisco in 1915. Her family moved to the Florin area just south of Sacramento in 1925. There, she attended segregated schools. By the beginning of World War II, she has married the man with whom she would spend the next six decades, Alfred Tsukamoto. In 1942, along with their five year old daughter, Marielle, the Tsukamotos were among the more than 10,000 Japanese Americans interned in government camps around the U.S.

After the end of World War II, the Tsukamotos returned to Northern California. Al took a job at the Sacramento Army Depot, while Mary began her vocation as a teacher in 1950. It was in her role as educator that Mary Tsukamoto first began to touch the lives of so many in the Sacramento area. Her unique ability to connect with young people became the trademark of her teaching career at four different elementary schools until her retirement in 1976.

But Mary's retirement from teaching in the Elk Grove, California School District was just the beginning of the most influential period of her life. Her family's forced internment during World War II had left a profound mark on her personal and political beliefs. Fueled by the injustice of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans, Mary launched a courageous crusade to right this national wrong.

In the 1980's Mary joined the fight in support of a national apology and reparations for the Japanese Americans interned during World War II. These efforts included testifying before a congressional committee about the lasting negative impact that the imprisonment had on Japanese Americans throughout our nation. Without her steadfast and vocal championship of this legislation, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, including an apology and reparations, would never have become law.

On a very personal note, Mary's friendship and support during this often difficult legislative battle was invaluable to my colleagues and I as we fought for the reparations bill. I will always value the unique perspective, encouragement, and dedication she offered throughout this important effort.

By the time President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law, Mary had

become a nationally-recognized leader in preserving and promoting the Japanese American heritage. She helped create and plan an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution about the internment and she authored a book on the subject. Mary also launched an important effort to catalogue and preserve Japanese American artifacts, personal histories, and photographs with the creation of the Japanese American Archival Collection at California State University, Sacramento.

Her activism in these areas, and reputation as a national leader in the fight to provide restitution to the Japanese Americans who were forcibly relocated during the Second World War, brought her back into the classrooms of Sacramento area schools as a unique source of historical information for our community's students. In conjunction with the Florin Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Mary set out to retell the glorious and sometimes painful history of Japanese Americans in the twentieth century U.S.

Yet Mary Tsukamoto's activist endeavors were not limited solely to the imprisonment issue. She also found time to lead Jan Ken Po Gakko, a group which preserves the Japanese heritage in the United States. Her involvement in this organization enhanced her already remarkable pursuits in putting together lectures, creating displays, and writing about the internment of Japanese Americans.

By the early 1990's Mary Tsukamoto's achievements were gaining recognition throughout California. In 1992, a new elementary school was named after her in the Vintage Park area of South Sacramento. In May of 1997, she was named a "Notable Californian" by the California State Senate and State Capitol Museum, making her the second person to ever receive this high honor. Last September, she was presented with the California Asian Pacific Sesquicentennial Award for all of her accomplishments in the Asian/American community.

Mr. Speaker, as Mary Tsukamoto is eulogized today by her many friends and admirers, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this extraordinary activist, teacher, and powerful leader. Her impact on our national heritage and the very fabric of who we are as a country will be felt for many generations to come. I salute her personal strength and determination in educating her fellow citizens, pursuing justice, and promoting the heritage of all Japanese Americans.

A CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 27, 1998

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the beginning of a year-long celebration of the centennial of Philippine independence. June 12, 1898 is the day the Philippines gained its independence from Spain—and June 12th is celebrated in the Philippines as Independence Day by order of President Diosdado Macapagal.

This year, in the Philippines and in the numerous Filipino-American communities in the United States, lengthy celebrations are being prepared that will occur throughout the entire year. In my hometown of San Diego, a civic