

society found nowhere else. Today, more than 2 million Puerto Ricans have migrated to the United States. The values and traditions that were brought with them have strengthened American society, and our country has been enriched with the infusion of Puerto Rican culture, folklore, hospitality, and way of life.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending the Puerto Rican Parade and Cultural Organization of Northwest Indiana for its commitment to remembering Puerto Rican heritage, as well as its commitment to improving the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District. May this year's cultural celebration be a joyous one.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FEDERAL CREDIT UNIONS FOR ITS OUTSTANDING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the National Association of Federal Credit Unions for deciding to take a leadership role in helping to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial.

At its annual Defense Credit Union Summit, NAFCU President Fred Becker announced that association members will be encouraged to make a personal donation, or by encouraging their credit union members to support the memorial through a NAFCU/World War II Memorial pledge card. Members will also be able to use the pledge card to submit names for the Registry of Remembrances for the Memorial.

I believe that all veterans and all families of veterans will appreciate this special campaign by the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. I encourage all of our colleagues to read the press release from NAFCU that I am submitting and to promote the program within their own Congressional Districts for the benefit of all World War II veterans.

NAFCU JOINS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL

HONOLULU, HI.—The National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU) announced today at its annual Defense Credit Union Summit that it will take a leadership role in helping to raise funds for the National World War II Memorial.

NAFCU President Fred Becker made the announcement at a gathering of defense credit union officials, just miles from Pearl Harbor where the war began for America in December 1941. The Defense Summit is a one-day, defense credit union meeting that precedes NAFCU's Annual Conference and Exhibition, held this year at the Hawaii Convention Center, July 19-22.

President Clinton signed legislation authorizing the establishment of a National World War II Memorial in 1993, and a fundraising campaign spearheaded by Senator Bob Dole and FedEx Corporation CEO Fred Smith has now raised more than \$92 million of the estimated \$100 million required to design, construct and maintain a memorial. The NAFCU Board voted last month to lend

NAFCU's support to the campaign and to encourage its members to promote the effort as well.

"I think it is appropriate that we announce our participation in the campaign here, in Honolulu, where the battleship Missouri and the Pearl Harbor Memorial serve as solemn reminders of America's involvement in the last world war," Becker said. He noted that 16 million Americans served in uniform during the war, and more than 400,000 died. "World War II was the most significant event in the last century," he said. "Without the sacrifice of that generation, we would not enjoy the freedoms and opportunities we have today."

"The World War II Memorial Campaign sincerely appreciates the efforts of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions and the support of the nation's federal credit unions and their members in helping to make this memorial possible," said Senator Dole.

NAFCU members will be able to participate in the campaign in two ways: either by making a personal donation, or by encouraging their credit union members to support the memorial through a NAFCU/World War II Memorial pledge card that can be obtained from the NAFCU website (or by diskette) and distributed as a statement stuffer.

The NAFCU/WWII Memorial pledge card also will allow credit union members to submit names for the World War II Registry of Remembrances, which will include the names of veterans and individuals on the home front who contributed to the war effort. The registry will be kept on permanent display at the National World War II Memorial.

"The memorial and its registry will be a fitting tribute to those who served," said NAFCU Chair Ron Keeler. "I know that many NAFCU credit union leaders and their members either supported or served in World War II. This is a unique opportunity to create a lasting legacy commemorating their efforts." Keeler said that America is losing its WWII veterans at the rate of 1,000 a day, adding a sense of urgency to the campaign. "Of the 16 million Americans who served, fewer than six million are alive today," he said.

The artwork for the NAFCU/World War II Memorial pledge card will be available on NAFCU's website at www.nafcunet.org. Copies of the artwork can also be obtained by calling Joelle Hahn in NAFCU's Marketing Division at 1-800-336-4644, ext. 227.

NAFCU is the only national organization of credit unions that focuses exclusively on federal issues affecting credit unions, representing its members before the federal government and the public.

HARRIET TUBMAN DAVIS VETERAN STATUS PROPOSAL TO THE HOUSE FLOOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation to grant Harriet Tubman veteran status for her service in the Union Army from 1863 to 1865.

With a letter from governor John Andrews of Massachusetts Harriet Tubman reported to General David Hunter at Hilton Head, South Carolina in 1863 where she worked as a

nurse, scout, spy and cook for the Union Army.

In the spring of 1865 she worked briefly at a freedman's hospital in Fortress Monroe, Virginia.

Harriet Tubman recruited Union Army soldiers in the South. On March 6, 1863 the Secretary of War was informed that seven hundred and fifty blacks who were waiting for an opportunity to join the Union Army had been rescued from slavery under the leadership of Harriet Tubman.

After the Civil War Mrs. Tubman married Nelson Davis, a private in the US Colored Infantry Volunteers. He died in 1888 and Mrs. Tubman received a pension as his widow. Mrs. Tubman applied for an increase in her pension. H.R. 4982, of the 55th Congress, was never enacted but it proposed that Mrs. Tubman be given a pension as a veteran of the Civil War at her request. Senator William H. Seward of New York, the Secretary of the State under Lincoln during the time of the Civil War and knew Mrs. Tubman personally. Mr. Seward advocated Mrs. Tubman's placement on the pension roll, for her service in the war as a nurse in the United States Army.

Mrs. Tubman lived the remainder of her life after the Civil War in Auburn, New York. She is buried in Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn with military honors.

Prior to 1863, Harriet Tubman was a conductor on "The Underground Railroad." After escaping from slavery in 1849, she returned to the South repeatedly freeing other slaves before joining the war effort in 1863. She is reported to have personally brought over 300 slaves to freedom including her brothers, sisters, and elderly parents.

In 1913 Harriet Tubman died of pneumonia without being formally recognized as a veteran of the Civil War. I propose that Harriet Tubman be awarded veteran status through this bill posthumously.

VANISHING WILDLIFE STAMP ACT OF 2000—H.R. 4872

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 4872, the Vanishing Wildlife Stamp Act of 2000. This important legislation calls upon the U.S. Postal Service to issue a commemorative wildlife semi-postal stamp.

Such a stamp would have broad appeal to the public, would supplement the modest appropriations for U.S. Government recovery programs, and would assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in filing the gap between congressional authorization and appropriations.

By providing this convenient vehicle for members of the public to "vote with their pocketbooks" for a federal program that they support, the vanishing wildlife stamp will help relieve pressure and complete reliance on federal appropriations and shift wildlife conservation away from big government solutions and toward a first-hand example of public-private cooperation to achieve a common goal.

I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor this important legislation.