

TRIBUTE TO U.S. MARINES ON IWO
JIMA

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the courage of the first United States Marines to scale the summit of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima.

Iwo Jima is a small rocky island only two miles wide and four miles long located approximately 650 miles south of Tokyo, Japan. It is a volcanic island, much like the islands of my home state of Hawaii. A place where cool Pacific breezes rush over soft beaches and birds sing songs learned during lonely flights across the wide ocean.

For a brief moment in time, the Island of Iwo Jima became the central battleground between the Empire of Japan and the Allied Forces during those terrible and dark days of World War II. The Allied Forces were determined to take the island in preparation for a final attack on Japan, and the Japanese were unbendable in their desire to defend Iwo Jima and to prevent the Allies from moving any closer to the main islands of Japan.

On February 19, 1945, approximately 70,000 American and other Allied Forces and 22,000 Japanese soldiers locked themselves in a horrific battle that would begin the final phase of the War in the Pacific. Entrenched in a series of interlocking caves, blockhouses, and pillboxes, the Japanese fought with determination to defend their island. Debarking off a naval armada of more than 450 ships, the Allies, led by the United States, brought the full weight of their highly trained and battle-tested troops to bear with the determined goal of taking the rocky island no matter what the cost. The battle for Iwo Jima would be one of the fiercest conflicts of the Second World War. Almost 7,000 Americans were killed in action. More than 20,000 Americans were wounded. Of the 22,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived.

On February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle, Marines from the 5th Division were ordered to ascend the slopes of Mt. Suribachi, the main peak controlling the island. Four Marine squads worked their way up the mountain and, at 10:30 a.m., the officer in charge, 1st Lieutenant Harold G. Schrier, along with the platoon leader, Sergeant Ernest Thomas, and Sergeant Henry Hansen, Corporal Charles W. Lindberg, Radioman, Private First Class Raymond E. Jacobs, Private James R. Michels, Private Philip L. Ward, and Corpsman, PhMac John H. Bradley, raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi.

Today, when our Nation remembers the brave U.S. Marines of Iwo Jima, we often visualize the commanding bronze statue resting on the banks of the Potomac River. Most Americans do not realize that this memorial actually depicts the second, much larger flag that was raised on Mt. Suribachi, signaling the courage and determination of the United States to all on Iwo Jima and at sea.

In my home state of Hawaii, the Iwo Jima United States Memorial Association is working to raise the funds necessary to build a memorial to recognize the American Marines who raised the first American flag on Mt. Suribachi. I applaud their efforts, and hope that every cit-

izen across the nation will support those groups dedicated to recognizing the courage of American Marines everywhere.

IN HONOR OF NORMAN C. SPECTOR

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Norman C. Spector of Stoughton, MA for his outstanding contributions to the New England Sinai Hospital. A graduate of Harvard Law School, Mr. Spector began his career as a law clerk in the firm of Burns & Levinson. Throughout the years, he has risen in his profession to become co-chairman of the Business Law Section and the Finance Group.

Mr. Spector has acted both as a lawyer and board member during his involvement with the New England Sinai Hospital. Shortly after being hired by Burns & Levinson, he was assigned to work on the bylaws of the hospital. In 1981 he became a board member, and, in 1985, Mr. Spector represented New England Sinai Hospital in the landmark right-to-die case of Paul Brophy.

In 1993, Mr. Spector became Chairman of the Sinai Board of Directors. His intense interest in the welfare of the Hospital, his outstanding leadership abilities, as well as his keen understanding of the changing, challenging and sometimes chaotic issues surrounding healthcare led him to administer the Board successfully until 1999 when he stepped down as chairman.

When he is not practicing law or volunteering for health-care related non-profit organizations, Mr. Spector is a dedicated family man. Mr. Spector lives with his wife, Joyce, in Beverly, MA. He is the proud father of two daughters, Sharon and Joanne, and the equally enthused grandfather of one grandson.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to join with Mr. Spector's family, friends, and colleagues in honoring him for the important work he has done over the years for the New England Sinai Hospital. I urge my colleagues to congratulate him for a lifetime of distinguished achievement and to thank him for the important service he has provided to his community, his family and the New England Sinai Hospital.

**THE DARFUR PEACE AND
ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this week the House will vote on the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, legislation that could play a major role in ending the ongoing genocide in Darfur.

For the past 2 years, the international community has remained paralyzed as Sudan's state-sponsored brutality has claimed the lives of an estimated 400,000 Darfurians, and as millions more Darfurians have been forced from their homes. Those who are displaced

struggle to feed their families; an estimated 3.5 million are starving. And as the displaced women of Darfur go about their daily lives, they live in fear of rape, beating, or murder at the hands of Janjaweed militias.

Despite worldwide efforts to provide financial and humanitarian support, the lack of cooperation from the Sudanese Government has rendered the African Union powerless to stop the violence and hunger. With each day that passes, the Sudanese Government continues to commit atrocities against their own people with impunity.

Though the situation in Darfur is dire, it is not too late to save hundreds of thousands of lives. This week, Congress can take a major step in ending the slaughter and brutality in Darfur by passing the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. This legislation would authorize the administration to revitalize the African Union peacekeeping effort by giving them the tools they need to put a stop to the chaos and violence in the region. The legislation would also take a critical step by authorizing the administration to impose political and economic consequences on the Government of Sudan for the crimes they are committing against the people of Darfur. For too long we have sat and watched as innocent men, women, and children have been killed, and forced from their homes. We cannot sit idly by any longer, we must act.

In calling attention to the crisis in Darfur, and through their support of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, the Jewish community continues to lead the way in defending victims of the worst forms of social and political injustice around the world. As a cosponsor of the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, I will proudly stand with the Jewish community when I vote for this important legislation.

The Jewish community's leadership on this issue has brought it national and international attention. And as we approach the Jewish holiday of Pesach—Passover—and the celebration of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt and redemption from slavery, the Jewish community should be proud that it has given a voice to an afflicted group of men and women in a far away place at a time when few others have taken notice.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 4, 2006

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Public Health Week. I want to thank the American Public Health Association and its 200 plus partner organizers and sponsors, who have organized events around the Nation to raise awareness of the need to improve public health. Since 1995, National, State and local public health professionals highlight an important public health issue every April, to raise awareness about leading health problems affecting our nation. This year, the theme of National Public Health Week focuses on what is called the "built environment," and building healthy communities to protect and enhance our children's life.

The built environment potentially creates enhancements or challenges for our kids. The built environment is any infrastructure with