

Proto, sister, Diana Proto Avino, and four of Mr. Proto's cousins.

His parents, Matthew and Celeste Proto, were active in Connecticut's civic and political life. Celeste immigrated to the United States in 1916 from Italy. Mr. Proto's pride for his Italian heritage led him to also found the Antonio Gatto Lodge of the Sons of Italy in Laurel, Maryland.

I am honored to join with others in praise for this remarkably-gifted and dedicated public servant from Connecticut. Mr. Proto's strategic and practical aid to the protection of our nation and our country's troops—from the Cold War to the Gulf War—is deserving of recognition and admiration. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life of this great man.

2009 TOP COPS—SERGEANT PAUL  
E. JOHNSON

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today recognizing the outstanding law enforcement officers across our country who received a 2009 TOP COPS award from the National Association of Police Organizations, NAPO. Today, especially, I want to highlight the work of a Sergeant in my home state of Washington and thank him for his exemplary public service.

Sergeant Paul E. Johnson of the Olympia Police Department was recognized as an Honorable Mention TOP COPS award recipient. Johnson, a Sergeant in the Patrol Unit, is a 29-year veteran of the Olympia Police Department and has served in various capacities, including several stints as a detective, as well as serving as Sergeant in the Narcotics Task Force and Detective Bureau. Johnson is known department- and city-wide for his attention to detail, his professionalism working with residents and staff, and the pride with which he wears his uniform: all hallmarks of policing "the Olympia way", a policy guided by professional enforcement, prevention, planning and coordination. Johnson's son, Corey, is also an officer with the Olympia Police Department and I wish him the very best throughout his career in law enforcement.

As a 33-year veteran of law enforcement and the co-chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, this is a topic close to my heart and it is a pleasure to recognize a wonderful public servant such as Sergeant Paul E. Johnson—and the rest of the recipients around the country—for being honored by NAPO with a TOP COPS award. As this House and law enforcement officers continue to serve the people of the United States, I know this House will continue to serve and support our law enforcement officers.

A TRIBUTE IN RECOGNITION OF  
THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Japan America Society of Southern California, a non-profit charitable and educational organization dedicated to fostering friendship, understanding and relationship building opportunities for the people of Japan and the United States, on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

Sixteen American and Japanese volunteer leaders in Los Angeles founded the Japan America Society of Southern California in 1909. These visionaries understood the long-term role that such a unique organization could play in their diverse community and were committed to its establishment during a period of increasing anti-Asian sentiment. The fledgling society soon grew to as many as 800 members by the time of the opening in Los Angeles of the first Consulate General of Japan in 1915.

Since those early, formative years, the Japan America Society has undertaken the primary responsibility for forging relationships between Americans and the Japanese in Southern California. Its mission is to promote mutual understanding and to strengthen economic, cultural, governmental and personal relationships between Americans and the Japanese.

The Japan America Society offers unique opportunities to become involved in the business and cultural relationship between the two countries. Its active calendar of events includes breakfast and luncheon programs, business networking mixers, weekend family events, and programs highlighting art, music, fashion, film, performing arts and other special activities. Annual events include the Anniversary Gala Dinner, Golf Classic & Tennis Open, Family Fishing Trip and Family Whale Watch Cruise, Japan America Kite Festival® and United States-Japan Green Conference.

Throughout the year of its Centennial, the Japan America Society is celebrating its history by presenting an extraordinary series of programs focusing on the United States-Japan relationship. It will showcase Japan-related programming through collaborations with numerous Japanese-American and Japanese organizations, and other cultural and educational organizations throughout Southern California and Japan.

The Japan America Society's Centennial Dinner & Gala Celebration, scheduled for June 15, 2009, at The Globe Theatre, Universal Studios Hollywood, will commemorate the important role of the United States-Japan relationship, past, present and future.

The future agenda of the Japan America Society includes the establishment of a Japan America Language Center that will offer comprehensive introductory, advanced and business Japanese-language courses for Los Angeles residents. These language courses will be designed to build and improve upon the language skills of non-native Japanese speakers so they can more fully appreciate Japanese history and culture and open doors to

lasting personal and professional relationships. Other specialized courses and workshops will be offered, including shodō (Japanese calligraphy). In addition, the Center will cater to native Japanese speakers living in Los Angeles by providing English conversation (ESL) classes and a Japanese Language Teacher Training Program.

The society also plans to expand the elementary school Hitachi Japanese Kite Workshops that take place throughout Southern California, including Los Angeles, every fall. The workshops are "hands-on," in-classroom special events that help to teach our very young children the concept of different perspectives. They also provide a positive introduction to Japan and Japanese culture through the building of a traditional Japanese kite. Led by Japanese kite masters from Japan, elementary students learn how to build and fly a Japanese bamboo and washi (rice paper) kite. To date, nearly 4,000 students have benefited from this program.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the Japan America Society of Southern California's 100th Anniversary, I join today with fellow leaders from throughout the state in recognizing Board Chairman Robert Brasch, Co-Vice Chairs Kappei Morishita and Nancy Woo Hiromoto, President Douglas Erber, the Board of Directors, the Board of Governors and the organization's employees and members for their outstanding work to promote mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. I extend my thanks on behalf of the residents of the 34th Congressional District for their passion to provide educational opportunities for school children and their determination to strengthen economic, cultural, governmental and personal relationships between Americans and Japanese, and I wish them many years of continued success.

EDWIN WAY TEALE HISTORICAL  
MARKER

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 2009*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take this time to recognize the Indiana Historic Bureau's unveiling of one of their 500 historical markers to honor the late Pulitzer Prize author, photographer, naturalist, and former Porter County, Indiana, resident, Edwin Way Teale (1899–1980). The historical marker is located at the center of Furnessville, Indiana, where Edwin Way Teale and his family once lived. Furnessville, a community with undefined borders, lies between Pine and Westchester townships, at the north end of Porter County. An unveiling ceremony of the historical marker will take place on Saturday, May 30, 2009, in the center of Furnessville near Musette Lewry, estate of the late American Naturalist, Edwin Way Teale.

Edwin Way Teale put Furnessville on the map with his autobiographical book *Dune Boy: The Early Years of a Naturalist*. The book was an account of the time he spent as a child on the farm owned by his grandparents, Edwin and Jemina Way, discovering the dunes of Northwest Indiana. In 1915, his grandparents' farm burned down. Next, The Maples, in the center of Furnessville, became home to his