Bruce was born on November 27, 1940, in San Francisco, CA. His family relocated to Hong Kong shortly thereafter, and he experienced firsthand the occupation of Hong Kong by the Japanese during World War II, during the years of 1941–45, and the subsequent hostility and war that shook the continent. It was during his time in Hong Kong that Bruce sought out martial arts as a means to gain self-confidence and discipline, as well as to overcome repeated instances of taunting racism, and gang activity during his youth.

In 1959, with only $100 to his name, Bruce boarded a steamship in the American Presidents Line and began his voyage back to San Francisco. Soon thereafter, with much dedication, Bruce threw himself into learning colloquial English in honor and love of America and its culture. He subsequently attended the University of Washington, where he studied philosophy, psychology, drama, and other subjects.

While at college, Bruce began his legendary martial arts teaching career, initially as a means to pay for his education. Bruce's willingness to teach martial arts to non-Chinese individuals as a way to bridge the cultures angered many in the field, and he was forced to defend his freedom as well as others' rights to learn the arts.

Bruce had a true desire and the fortitude needed to expand the reach of martial arts by breaking away from the exclusionary mentality that limited its reach. His ingenuity and creativity led him to Hollywood, where he became an authentic face for Chinese Americans and an inspiration to youth across the world. Simultaneously, he began to create his own martial expression, ultimately naming it Jeet Kune Do.

To millions of people around the world, Bruce Lee remains more than a celebrity or a martial arts legend—he was a true catalyst for social change and civil rights. His memory, which is brought to life everyday by the work of his daughter Shannon Lee, who leads the Bruce Lee Foundation, remains a beacon of hope and opportunity for future generations in America.

It is my distinct honor to have introduced H. Res. 654 in this Congress, in order to honor the life of Bruce Lee and the continuing contributions of the Bruce Lee Foundation to our nation.

Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in paying tribute to the life of Bruce Jun Fan Lee, a cultural and American icon, as well as master teacher, whose legacy resonates throughout the world for posterity.

REMEMBERING WEN WANG LEE

HON. TOM McCLINTOCK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. McCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mrs. Wen Wang Lee.

Born in Taiwan in 1916 as the third daughter of a poor family in a society that favored male children, Mrs. Lee's prospects were dim. Given their meager resources, Mrs. Lee's family sought to find her an adoptive home and, when this proved to be impossible, neglected her and fed her only scraps of food. For a typical child in her situation, this could have been the end of a very short life, but Mrs. Lee showed early on that she was anything but typical. After three days of starving, her resilience and tenacity to cling to life could no longer be ignored and she was accepted back into the family.

Mrs. Lee went to work by age six, forgoing any opportunity for schooling in order to help provide for her family. From this early age her rapidly developing character was clearly evident: she was a model of extraordinary perseverance, determination, and a strong will that would eventually lead her family to a better life.

After her marriage, Mrs. Lee became the predominant provider for her family, including her eight children. Each day she would rise by three in the morning and walk two hours to an orchard, where she would pick fruit and carry it back on her shoulders to sell. On a typical day, having left home long before first light, she would return from work after dusk, and continue housework until nearly midnight. Mrs. Lee endured this hard life for almost two decades and received three awards from her village for being a model mother while providing for her family and raising her children.

From 1940 to 1960 Wen Wang Lee, with no formal education of her own, raised eight children. In resource-scarce post-war Taiwan, even satisfying basic necessities was a formidable challenge, let alone being able to set aside money for children's tuition. However, while most of the children in her village were forced to begin apprenticeships immediately after finishing elementary school, Mrs. Lee insisted that her children continue their education. Even though it meant personal sacrifices and financial hardship, she never gave up her strong belief that education would enable her children to pursue a better future. Her efforts were not in vain, as her children have gone on to excel in academics in Taiwan and consequently be accepted to pursue graduate studies in the United States. Here, her children have exemplified the amazing story of American immigrants: through hard work and dedication—undoubtedly traits inherited from their mother—they have made numerous positive contributions in both academia and the high-tech industry.

When Wen Wang Lee arrived in the U.S. in her late fifties to live with her children, her quality of life improved drastically. Even though she carried the burden of a hard life, she cast aside her worries and poured all her love into her children's families. She dedicated herself to ensure a better future for her grandchildren, who inherited her strength and perseverance and have attended some of our nation's most renowned universities and hold professional careers in science, medicine and engineering.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Lee spent her entire life leading her family to prosperity and left behind a precious spiritual legacy: carry yourself upward, advocate education, and overcome challenges with determination, fortitude, and sincere dedication. This maxim may sound familiar to Americans: when President Theodore Roosevelt was asked to define the essence of our nation he said that "Americanism means the virtues of courage, honor, justice, truth, sincerity and hardihood—the virtues that made America." I have no doubt that it was individuals like Wen Wang Lee that President Roosevelt was describing, and I am honored to rise in recognition of her life and accomplishments today.

COMMENDATION OF THE SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND

HON. HANSEN CLARKE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Mr. CLARKE of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Social Innovation Fund, operated out of the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides competitive grants to highly-successful non-profit organizations. In my district, the United Way for Southeastern Michigan was selected as a Social Innovation Fund grantee and is using its funding to develop promising, evidence-based solutions focused on replicating early childhood learning communities. The Social Innovation Fund uses a unique federal funding model that requires all grantees and sub-grantees to match federal resources 1:1, thereby increasing the return on taxpayer dollars and strengthening local support. In addition, it relies on outstanding existing grant-making intermediaries to select high-impact community organizations rather than building new government infrastructures. It also emphasizes rigorous evaluations of program results.

The Social Innovation Fund is proof that by focusing our limited resources on those organizations and programs that are proven to be successful can reap tremendous results for our country. In my own state, the Social Innovation Fund has provided the United Way for Southeastern Michigan with $4 million over two years, or over $12 million with the required match, to build on the expertise of its partnering organizations and facilitate the development of a portfolio of replicable early childhood learning communities in 10 underserved communities in metro Detroit and surrounding areas. They have a track record of using evidence to select grantees, validate programs, and support the replication and expansion of programs. The United Way for Southeastern Michigan is replicating and expanding its program from five sites, impacting 280 children, to twenty-nine sites, impacting 12,000 children. In addition, they are using the funding for a four-year longitudinal evaluation of its current early childhood grantees to measure the extent to which the program intervention improves school readiness.

I want to highlight this emphasis on evaluation and the use of evidence in picking the grantees for the Social Innovation Fund. Last month, the Office of Management of Budget released a memorandum that encourages the use of both evaluation and evidence in the government's decisions around the FY 14 budget process, which I am introducing into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. This similar commitment to evidence-based models and evaluation not only benefits the United Way for Southeastern Michigan by making them eligible for unique funding streams, but also puts them on the leading edge of change in the Federal Government's commitment to 'fund what works.'