

and Connecticut waged war on the Tribe. In a little more than an hour, hundreds of Pequot men, women and children died. The survivors were dispersed, and the settlers took their land.

As a testament to the bravery and resiliency of the Pequot people, these tragic events did not bring about the end of the Pequot Tribe. Rather, the past three centuries has marked a period of strife, conflict, and a determination to regain its land and bring its people home.

Mr. Speaker, two important themes run through the Pequot history: a persistence to maintain a tribal identity and a struggle to hold onto tribal land. By the mid-17th century, the Mashantucket Pequots had already returned to the land from which they had been banished. In the decades that followed, they were relocated to an area within their historic territory, but then were slowly and wrongfully deprived of most of that land as well. Throughout the centuries, the reservation's population dwindled as Tribal members were forced to seek jobs and housing elsewhere. For many years, the State of Connecticut blocked the return of Tribal members to their land. Still, the Tribe endured.

Finally, in 1983, after years and years of struggle, the Congress enacted the legislation that settled the Tribes' land claim and provided federal recognition to the Tribe. The legislation transformed all aspects of the Tribe's existence and was critical in the Tribe's dramatic economic resurgence. Through the years, Tribal members have worked to re-establish a community and are achieving self-sufficiency by providing employment, health care, social services, education and infrastructure to their people.

A primary concern of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation continues to be the preservation of Pequot history and culture. To accomplish this, the Nation maintains a Cultural Resources Department and a Historical and Preservation Committee made up of Tribal members. The Tribe has also worked to protect important archaeological sites within its territory.

Mr. Speaker, in a short twenty years, the Mashantucket Tribal Nation, led by their elected leaders, have done so much to protect and enhance the tribal sovereignty of their people. They have persevered as a Tribe for centuries under the harshest of conditions and their status as a federally recognized Tribe has been long overdue. Today, the Tribe is an economic catalyst in their community and they employ over 13,000 people, mainly non-Indians needing jobs and opportunity.

The Mashantucket Pequots are also responsible neighbors. Over the last 20 years, the Tribe has generously donated to the Connecticut Special Olympics, the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, the Mystic Marine Life Aquarium, the United Way and many other organizations. Additionally, their revenue sharing agreement with the State of Connecticut has provided State coffers over \$1.5 billion in additional revenue.

We ask our colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join us in congratulating the Mashantucket Pequots on the 20th anniversary of the passage of this legislation and wish them continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING DR. TONDA  
HUGHES

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Dr. Tonda Hughes, who was recently named to the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame for her scientific contributions and advocacy in lesbian health.

Dr. Hughes has spent over a decade conducting research on the health needs of lesbian women. She is currently conducting the first long-term assessment of lesbian women's drinking patterns, the results of which will have important policy implications for treatment and prevention. Lesbian health has been largely ignored by scientists, and Dr. Hughes' work represents much-needed efforts to better the lives of lesbian Americans and all Americans.

Dr. Hughes is an associate professor of nursing at the University of Illinois at Chicago and is the director of research for the University's Center of Excellence in Women's Health. She has published professional journal articles, book chapters, and government monographs. In addition to her scholarly work, Dr. Hughes serves on advisory boards for several Chicago-area health foundations.

Each year since 1991, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has honored members of the Chicago lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. The only municipal hall of fame of its kind, the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame recognizes members of the Chicago community whose volunteer and professional activities have enriched the lives of gay and lesbian residents and the city of Chicago as a whole.

I congratulate Dr. Tonda Hughes for this honor and applaud her important research and the beneficial effects her work has had on the well-being of lesbian women in Chicago and beyond.

FIFTH ANNUAL RACE FOR THE  
CURE IN TEMECULA, CALIFORNIA

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, there will be an estimated 21,100 new cases of female breast cancer in California this year. Breast cancer is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in women in the United States. Every 3 minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.

All of us know someone who has been touched by this disease. That is why I am proud to announce that this Sunday, October 19, the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will sponsor the fifth annual Race for the Cure in Temecula, CA.

All the funds raised during the event will go to support breast cancer research grants, meritorious awards, educational and scientific conferences and local breast health and breast cancer outreach programs.

Mr. Speaker by supporting such private efforts as the annual Race for the Cure, we pay

tribute to the victims and survivors of breast cancer. We also honor those whose efforts will one day eradicate breast cancer as a life-threatening disease.

HONORING THE UNIVERSITY  
COMMONS NURSING CARE CENTER

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the city of Worcester in celebrating the University Commons Nursing Care Center's 10 years of service. During the week of October 20–25, 2003, the Center will celebrate its anniversary with events honoring residents, staff, and families.

Affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Health Care, The University Commons Nursing Care Center is a 164-bed facility that provides skilled, sub-acute, and long-term care services. Residents benefit from an environment that provides expert rehabilitation and medical services. Residents also benefit from social and cultural activities that are designed to maximize opportunities for stimulation and growth. Moreover, the University Commons Child Care Service offers educational day care services to children of employees as well as the community at large. This provides residents with an on-going intergenerational program.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the University Commons Nursing Care Center for its 10 years of service to the community.

SECTION 8e LEGISLATION

**HON. DOC HASTINGS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 16, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, Washington state the largest pear and sweet cherry producing state in the nation. In recent years pear and cherry growers in Central Washington have invested time and resources into developing the market for high quality fruit.

Under federal marketing orders U.S. fruits and vegetables are held to certain grade, size and quality standards. The bill I am introducing today simply holds foreign grown pears and cherries to these same standards.

My bill would add pears and cherries to Section 8e of the Agricultural Adjustment Act. Section 8e lists certain imported fruits and vegetables that are held to the same federal requirements as domestic produce.

Agriculture is at the heart of Central Washington's economy and our farmers are working harder than ever to produce some of the world's finest products. My bill would ensure that our pear and cherry farmers are able to compete more fairly and aggressively with foreign growers in the U.S. marketplace.