For example, they support youth and educational opportunities through international student exchange programs, and, each year, they award eight different scholarships to Arkansas' college students.

Along with serving our community, many members of the Rotary Club have bravely served in our nation's Armed Forces.

They will be recognized next week in Little Rock, and I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their bravery and their service to our nation and preserving our freedoms.

The Rotary Club of Little Rock Rotarians are proud to share that the Little Rock Rotary Club has been recognized by the United States government as a prime supplier of corn and soybeans from the nation's farms to its military forces. The club has been a member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus for many years.

This year, the club is proud to recognize Taiwan's role in the defense of the United States, Taiwan's prime supplier. Taiwan helps to provide American products, Taiwan's prime supplier.

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the military appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for the military.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013
SPEECH OF
HON. CHIP CRAVAACK
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, May 17, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the military appropriations for fiscal year 2013 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for the fiscal year 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. CRAVAACK. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would express a sense of Congress that fighter wings performing the 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert missions provide an essential service in defending the sovereign airspace of the United States in the aftermath of 9/11. Mr. Chair, the tragic events of 9/11 exposed holes in our nation's defense security and reinforced the need for the U.S. military to take the steps necessary to significantly increase our ability to intercept hostile aircraft. Today, there are fighter jets placed at strategic points all across the United States, charged with the mission to provide air defense through the detection, deterrence, and if necessary, defeat of hostile air attacks. These sites, known as Aerospace Control Alert sites, have fully armed aircraft and trained personnel on 24-hour alert, 365 days a year.

One such Aerospace Control Alert site resides in my district. The 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard, also known as the "Bulldogs," operates out of Duluth, Minnesota, and provides force protection of our country's northern border between Madison, Wisconsin, and Ashland, Oregon. The Bulldogs have been performing the ACA mission successfully for years and were selected for the Raytheon trophy, which is awarded for outstanding performance to an Air Force or Air National Guard fighter unit with a mission in air defense. In fact, I am proud to say that the Director of the Air National Guard, Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. Wyatt III announced just this month that the 148th Fighter Wing was selected as the 2012 Air Force Association Outstanding Air National Guard Flying Unit. Given the importance of the 24-hour Aerospace Control Alert mission in our nation's security, I was greatly concerned when I learned a few months ago that NORAD's proposed reduction of the 24-hour alert mission requirement at two Aerospace Control Alert (ACA) sites in the Continental United States. It is my understanding that this proposal was submitted in line with the President's budget request for FY 2013 and the U.S. Air Force's decision to make force structure changes.

My concern grew when I learned of a January 2012 GAO report that reviewed NORAD's 2010 analysis on whether it could change the number and location of its fighter sites without affecting the military's ability to defend the United States against airborne attack. GAO's conclusion was that this NORAD analysis did not adequately balance risk with targeted budget reductions.

I recognize that our country's current fiscal reality necessitates the Department of Defense to tighten its belt and look for ways to do more with less. However, I think it is imperative that decisions that directly affect our nation's ability to defend itself should be made on the basis of risk-management principles that balance risk and costs.

Therefore, I also rise today in support of Section 352 in the underlying bill, which would direct the Secretary of Defense to maintain our nation's existing eighteen ACA sites until the Secretary submits a report that shows the cost-benefit analysis and risk-based assessment of how future ACA changes would affect the DOD budget and force structure.

I would like to thank Congressman LoBiondo for adding this important provision to the bill, and I urge the adoption of my amendment in recognition of a critical asset in our nation's defense system.

REMARKS ON THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

HON. NANCY PELOSI
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, May 18, 2012

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge—a great feat of technological and engineering mastery, a San Francisco landmark, and a national treasure. Today, it is my distinct honor and high privilege to mark its 75th birthday on the floor of the House of Representatives.

Proving that in times of hardship, America has always invested in big things, the Golden Gate Bridge was built in the midst of the Great Depression. San Franciscans were out of work and saw no end to their woes. Yet voters nonetheless approved the construction bonds to build the bridge. As collateral, San Franciscans offered the toll dollars, which would go to support their homes, their farms and their businesses—their very livelihoods, in the hope that the toll dollars would help pay back the bonds. The Golden Gate Bridge was a symbol of hope and a vision for the future.

Joseph Strauss envisioned the Bridge, which takes its name from the Golden Gate way that links the Pacific Ocean to the San Francisco Bay. It was Irving Morrow who designed the Art Deco styling and its world-famous orange color that made the Bridge distinct and unique. The many engineers who constructed the Bridge all shared the American spirit that makes our country great. When it opened on May 27, 1937 Strauss shared his poem, "The mighty the task is done" which encapsulated all that had been accomplished.

Twenty-five years ago, I had the distinct pleasure of participating in the 50th anniversary celebrations where hundreds of thousands of people crowded onto the Bridge to celebrate. The enormity of the crowd was so unexpected that the Bridge flattened under its weight. Today, the Golden Gate Bridge remains the most graceful and spectacular bridge in the world, beloved by our city and visited annually by millions of people.