

Americans whose civilian aircraft were shot down by the fighter planes of the brutal Castro regime. For those who doubted the cruel means the Cuban dictator is willing to employ to protect his stranglehold on the island nation, this act was a shocking example.

On this first anniversary of their death, it is important to remember those who have given their lives to fight against Fidel Castro and to realize that this fight is still far from over. Of all of the lessons arising from this tragedy, perhaps the most telling is the need for America to maintain its resolve, to lead by example and to show that these patriots did not die in vain.

Most of the Members in this Chamber were here last year when we voted on the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act, sponsored by Senator JESSE HELMS and Representative DAN BURTON. The passage of Helms-Burton was a bold step toward tougher sanctions on Cuba and signified an American commitment to add teeth to our policy toward Castro. Helms-Burton was not meant to punish the Cuban people, but rather to focus our efforts on Castro himself and to highlight the hypocrisy of those who choose to do business with the oppressive dictator.

Mr. Speaker, I find it unfortunate that it took a tragedy in the Florida Straits to energize Congress and the administration to act on tougher sanctions. I am hopeful, however, that the passing of these four brave individuals will help usher in a new era of change for Cuba and that we will forever remember the risks some are willing take for the promise of freedom.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 79TH ANNIVERSARY OF LITHUANIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 79th anniversary of Lithuanian Independence. On Sunday, February 16, 1997, the Detroit-area Lithuanian community marked the event by holding a commemorative ceremony at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield, MI. The guest speaker was Majoras Valdos Sarapinas, the Military Attaché from the Lithuanian Embassy in Washington, DC.

For nearly 55 years, Lithuania was occupied by Russian military forces. In the past 4 years, the people of Lithuania have been able to enjoy and celebrate the freedoms and privileges of a free nation.

Since 1991, when the United States granted Lithuania most-favored-nation status, Lithuania has been trying to align itself with Western nations. In 1996, Lithuania reaped the benefits of economic reform with lower inflation rates and stable currencies. Their GDP was expected to grow 6.1%. The integration of Western economic and security structures along with the desire to join NATO has transformed Lithuania into a growing competitive nation.

I am optimistic that the recent economic and political progress in Lithuania will continue. Lithuania has my full support in joining the Western nations and institutions as they strive to build their country upon the principles of de-

mocracy. This celebration marks the fourth anniversary of freedom from the military forces deployed inside Lithuania.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their vigilance through the many difficult years and I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 79th Anniversary of Lithuanian Independence.

SMALL 401(K) PENSION PLAN DISCLOSURE ACT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I have today introduced the Small 401(k) Pension Plan Disclosure Act of 1997. This legislation is of importance to millions of working Americans sav-

ing for their retirement. Current law requires that pension plans file detailed investment reports with the Department of the Treasury and make the reports available to any participant. Small pension plans, those with fewer than 100 participants and active beneficiaries, are exempted from this requirement.

Firms that sponsor traditional, defined benefit pension plans guarantee that investments will provide the promised question and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation insures the plan. Neither applies to 401(k)'s. Participants assume the risk of poor investment return of a 401(k). It is only fair that participants in small 401(k) plans be told how their contributions are invested.

The Small 401(k) Pension Plan Disclosure Act of 1997 would require that the Secretary of Labor issue regulations requiring that small 401(k)'s provide each participant with an investment report once a year. The details of the report are left up to the Secretary. The bill also encourages the Secretary to provide for delivery of the reports through company e-mail to bring down costs. Participant-directed 401(k) plans are exempted because those participants already receive investment reports.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge our colleagues to examine this legislation and to cosponsor this bill of great importance to hard-working American families.

H.R.—

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Small 401(k) Pension Disclosure Act of 1997".

SEC. 2. REQUIREMENT OF ANNUAL, DETAILED INVESTMENT REPORTS APPLIED TO CERTAIN 401(K) PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 104(b)(3) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1024(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "(A)" after "(3)"; and
(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(B)(i) If a plan includes a qualified cash or deferred arrangement (as defined in section 401(k)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) and is maintained by an employer with less than 100 participants, the administrators shall furnish to each participant and to each beneficiary receiving benefits under the plan an annual investment report detailing such information as the Secretary by regulation shall require.

"(ii) Clause (i) shall not apply with respect to any participant described in section 404(c)."

(b) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor, in prescribing regulations required under section 104(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (29 U.S.C. 1023(b)(3)(B)(i)), as added by subsection (a), shall consider including in the information required in an annual investment report the following:

(A) Total plan assets and liabilities as of the beginning and ending of the plan year.

(B) Plan income and expenses and contributions made and benefits paid for the plan year.

(C) Any transaction between the plan and the employer, any fiduciary, or any 10-percent owner during the plan year, including the acquisition of any employer security or employer real property.

(D) Any noncash contributions made to or purchases of nonpublicly traded securities made by the plan during the plan year without an appraisal by an independent third party.

(2) ELECTRONIC TRANSFER.—The Secretary of Labor in prescribing such regulations shall also make provision for the electronic transfer of the required annual investment report by a plan administrator to plan participants and beneficiaries.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to plan years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

HON. CHARLES T. CANADY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. CANADY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending Hope Lutheran Church on the occasion of its 40th anniversary, and Community Christian School on its 20th anniversary. Located in Plant City, FL, Hope Lutheran Church and Community Christian School celebrated their anniversaries on February 22, as families and friends gathered to give thanks to God for His many blessings over the years.

As five families met together in February 1957, little did they know that their small congregation would one day grow to become Hope Lutheran Church. Forty years later, this church body is a thriving force in the community and a testimony to God's gracious leading along the way.

Community Christian School, celebrating its first 20 years, is the only Christian day school in Plant City. With its excellent programs and opportunities, students are receiving a solid education as well as a moral foundation for their lives. Community Christian School is preparing our young people well for the challenges they will face in the future.

As we commemorate the anniversaries of Hope Lutheran Church and Community Christian School, we recognize God's blessings on these two institutions. King David reminded us in the Psalms, "Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain who build it." Likewise, we understand that it is God who has made this church and school flourish. He is the reason for this celebration, and we look forward to seeing the wonderful things that He will continue to do in the future.

I want to take a few minutes to recognize some of the servants of Hope Lutheran Church. Rev. Gerald Renken, who served as Hope Lutheran's first pastor back in 1962, returned to the church for the special anniversary celebration. After Rev. Renken, Rev. James Peter and Rev. Donald Little served as the next two pastors of the church. Today, Rev. Dean Pfeffer is the pastor. All of these gentlemen have served the people of Hope Lutheran in a powerful way through their instruction, encouragement, and faithful leadership.

In addition to the pastoral staff, I would like to recognize several individuals who have dedicated their lives in service to the people of Hope Lutheran Church and Community Christian School. Mrs. Christine Mansell, the church organist, has played beautiful melodies for Hope Lutheran for 25 years. Mrs. Libby Warren has taught preschool for 18 years. Mrs. Lana Baldwin, a kindergarten teacher, and Mrs. Sandy Howell, a first grade teacher and the former principal of Community Christian School, have both worked for 15 years. Finally, Mrs. Sue Griffin has taught preschool for 14 years. It is my pleasure to commend these individuals for their tireless dedication and excellent service.

As we remember these faithful servants and the many others who have contributed so much to Hope Lutheran Church and Community Christian School, we are filled with thanksgiving. We now look ahead with faithful expectancy to see how God will continue to use this church and school in Plant City in the coming years.

TAIWANESE PEACE DAY

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, the date February 28, 1947 is etched into the hearts and minds of the Taiwanese people. It was a day in which thousands of Taiwanese gave their lives fighting for freedom and democracy. February 28, 1997, the 50th anniversary of this day, is one that should be honored here in the United States, because we share with Taiwan a common quest for freedom and democracy.

Fifty years ago to the day on February 28, 1947, thousands of Taiwanese began the long, historic struggle for a democratic Taiwan. Since that time, Taiwan has made tremendous political, economic and social progress toward a democratic and representative government. Taiwan successfully and peacefully elected their first president by a direct popular vote in March 1996, despite China's missile exercise threat.

Taiwan's progress toward democratic rule is matched only by its extraordinary economic success. Today, Taiwan ranks sixth in trade with the great State of Texas. We can attribute this economic accomplishment to Taiwan's dedication to the principle of democracy and capitalism.

Mr. Speaker, a democratic Taiwan contributes to the stability and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region. This day, Taiwan Peace Day, is recognized as an important date in Taiwan's historic evolution to full democracy. It should be spent as a day of healing, reconciliation,

and unity among Taiwanese people all over the world. I hope we take the time to recognize the Taiwanese people and congratulate them on both their struggle and their success.

HONORING ROY CUTBIRTH OF LYNCHBURG, TX

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a valued member of my community, Mr. Roy Cutbirth of Lynchburg, TX. Mr. Cutbirth is a man who truly loves his community, and his dedication and commitment of Lynchburg has won him the admiration and respect of his fellow citizens. He is the election judge of Lynchburg, but to the community he is so much more. The following article from the February 20, 1997, Highlands Star Courier illustrates what Roy Cutbirth means to Lynchburg:

[From the Highlands Star Courier, Feb. 20, 1997]

A SALUTE TO ROY CUTBIRTH

In the wake of a recent election, it is fitting to recognize one resident of Lynchburg who is a highly noted figure in our community. He has probably been to your home collecting for the Highlands Volunteer Department or for the Lynchburg Flower Fund. You may even have driven by his house and been greeted with his characteristic wave—a quick twist of his hand with a pointed index finger. Most likely, you have seen him at the local election sites when you cast your vote. He has even been lightheartedly referred to as the "Mayor of Lynchburg" (even though we do not have a mayor). Who is this man? He is our own Election Judge. Mr. Roy Cutbirth.

Roy Cutbirth and his lovely wife, Pauline, have lived in Lynchburg since 1950 and have raised four children here. Their daughter, Gladys Leap, lives in the Woodlands with her husband Howard; Roy, Jr. and his wife, Janie, live in La Porte where son, Roy III is a high school student; Paula and her husband, Barney Stagner, have two children—Bo and Jennifer—and live in Spring; and Jason Cutbirth and his wife, Tiffany, make their home in Dallas where they are raising four young children—Jason, Jr., Austin, Katelyn, and little Christian Tucker Cutbirth.

Roy worked for Exxon/Humble Oil Refinery for 38 years and retired in 1986. But he has more than a few memorable stories to share about 18 of those years when he was a Master Firefighter. He recalls the day in 1974 at 2:05 a.m., when a tugboat full of gasoline hit an underwater line and exploded and how it took 23 hours, 2 fire boats, and Roy with his men on dock No. 4 to put out the fire. Three men were killed in that explosion. In another incident, Roy sustained burns on his head and his hands in one of the worst accidents he could recall.

"An 85-ft. tower had a line about 20-ft long coming down beside it and that line split like a watermelon. It shot up flames about 350 feet high. It took 6 big diesel fire trucks, 1200 gallons of water, and aerial truck with a 100-ft. boom, and 50 ladders to put it out."

Mr. Cutbirth is now in his 34th year as an election judge and says that he first got involved with politics because his mother was always active in politics. He says, "When my mother believed that someone would do the best job in a political office, she would go out and hand out materials and try to get him elected. My dad was not involved like

that because he was busy making a living for us kids."

In his years as an Election Judge, Roy has had an opportunity to meet a few special people. He has met "lots of senators", and during one of the campaigns while at the Rice Hotel, he shook hands with President Lyndon Johnson and Vice President Hubert Humphrey.

When he first started in 1959, Roy and Pauline took the responsibility of election judge as a team, with Pauline as Alternate Judge. Pauline does all the paperwork but could step in for Roy if needed. Currently, their back-up is Liz Parsons with help from Jim and Kathryn Johnson and Joanne Shaw.

AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, because of the press of other business I was unable to join my colleague from California [Mr. FILNER] in the Special Order he took out to celebrate the great achievements of Americans for Democratic Action. ADA has been for 50 years one of the most important organizations in America for the articulation of liberal principles. From its inception through today, it has been a source of thoughtful, well reasoned political activity on behalf of a fairer and more prosperous America. I am very proud to have been active in ADA myself for more than 30 years, and to have served as president of the organization. Indeed, I join many of my most cherished colleagues in having had that honor.

ADA was founded to provide a platform for liberals committed to the principles of social justice and individual liberty. Throughout its history it has fought extremists of the far left and far right, and has consistently maintained a forceful commitment to the Governmental principles first articulated by Franklin Roosevelt in his New Deal. The challenges to American society now presented by the effect of technological change in globalization on the ability of working people to maintain a decent standard of living testify to the continued relevance of the viewpoint that ADA has upheld for so long. I continue to be proud of my affiliation with Americans for Democratic Action and I look forward to a continued advocacy of ADA and its members on behalf of a set of public policies that will improve the qualities of fairness and freedom in American life.

HONORING CLARK K.H. CHEN

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Clark K.H. Chen and his service not only to Taiwan, but to the people of Guam as well.

Mr. Chen was instrumental in establishing the sister city relationship between Taiwan's and Guam's respective capitals, Taipei and Agaña, in 1973. In 1974, he arrived on Guam as Vice Counsel on Taiwan. During his appointment, he encouraged stronger economic ties between our islands.