

also represented the island of Guam in national and international conferences. In 1985, he was the Guam representative to the United Nations Conference in Bangkok for the 3rd Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development. In 1986, he represented Guam in the American Society on Aging's 36th Anniversary Meeting in San Francisco and the Pacific Gerontological Society's Conference on Aging in Hawaii.

After years of distinguished and dedicated service, Mayor Cruz has chosen to step down and retire. His achievements and service to the community have resulted in great benefit to the island of Guam, more particularly, the people of Merizo. He is a role model, a leader and a great representative of his island home. I join his wife, Maria, their children, and their grandchildren in celebrating his accomplishments throughout his long and successful career. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend his achievements and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Mayor Cruz.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ON ITS NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our colleagues in the United States Congress and our great Nation, I want to take this opportunity today to extend President Chen Shui-bian, Vice President Annette Lu, and the good people of Taiwan our deepest congratulations on their National Day of celebration.

Mr. Speaker, President Chen and Vice President Lu are to be commended for their capable and skilled leadership of Taiwan, which is reflected by Taiwan's continuing stability, robustly democratic government, and prosperous economy—all of which are the envy of the Asia-Pacific nations at the dawn of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, President Chen and Vice President Lu are to be further commended for their efforts seeking greater international recognition of and substantive relations with the Taiwanese Government, including an increasing role and participation with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is too important an economic force and democratic ally to be relegated to the political backwaters of global isolation.

I am further encouraged, Mr. Speaker, with President Chen's statesmanship and vision, as exemplified by his critical work in pursuing positive relations with the People's Republic of China. In recognition of that vital goal, President Chen has sought to engage on all levels the leaders of the People's Republic of China. Support of the Cross-Strait Dialogue with the PRC is crucial for resolving misunderstandings between Beijing and Taipei and Washington, which, Mr. Speaker, is the foundation for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and, indeed, for all of Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States and the good people of Taiwan share

a deep, close and enduring friendship that has extended for over five decades. At this auspicious time of celebration for Taiwan's National Day, I join my colleagues in the United States Congress to salute and honor the 23 million citizens of Taiwan who have created and sustained one of the most vibrant, thriving and prosperous democracies in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Speaker, I join with all Americans who take pride in the tremendous accomplishments of our very close and dear friends in Taiwan.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the enormous strides that Taiwan has made in becoming a full democracy. Mr. Chen Shui-bian was recently elected president through free and fair elections. With Mr. Chen's election, Taiwan continues to refine its democracy by improving safeguards for human rights and contributing to the international community.

Unfortunately, Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations have often been thwarted for political reasons beyond Taiwan's control. It is unreasonable for the people of Taiwan to be excluded from full participation in international institutions due to threats from mainland China. Denying Taiwan membership in the United Nations and other international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, obstructs access to important international resources.

The people of Taiwan have proven that freedom and democracy are not just American ideals; they are universal principles that apply to every individual, to every community and every nation.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China on October 10, 1911, under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. This is the day which the people of Taiwan celebrate as their national holiday. Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the people of Taiwan on this special occasion.

Mr. Speaker, this is a unique celebration of this anniversary, and one that reflects the great progress which the people of Taiwan have made in institutionalizing democratic principles and democratic practices. I want to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian, the recently elected President of Taiwan. Today is especially significant because it marks the first national day under a President elected from the Democratic Progressive Party. Taiwan has done something that very few nations have been able to do successfully—complete the

peaceful transition of power based on a free and democratic election.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this transition did not come at an economic cost—quite the contrary, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse. In just the first six months of this year, Taiwan's exports exceeded \$74 billion, an increase of 21 percent. I hope other countries facing political issues will look at Taiwan's success in both business and politics as a sign that democracy does work, that democracy does not have to come at an unacceptable economic price.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the new Representative from the Republic of China on Taiwan, Ambassador C.J. Chen. While Ambassador Chen is no stranger to Washington, this is the first time he has come here as the head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations Committee, I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with Ambassador Chen in building an ever-stronger relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special holiday for the people of Taiwan, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in extending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the 22 million inhabitants of this remarkable island.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KENNETH L. AKINS, M.D. FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the State of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on August 31, 2000, Dr. Kenneth L. Akins retired as Coroner of Ottawa County, Ohio, after nearly two decades of distinguished service.

Early in life, First Lieutenant Ken Akins wore his country's uniform during the Korean conflict. Since that time, he has dedicated his life to serving the people in his community as a family physician. Dr. Akins has combined his sound medical skills with his compassionate, personal approach to the practice of medicine for thirty-four years. His medical career alone distinguishes him as a most valued citizen, but Dr. Akins has contributed so much more.

In addition to his service as Ottawa County Coroner, Dr. Akins has been active on the medical staff at H.B. Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton throughout his medical career. He has served as Magruder's Chief of Medical Staff and on the Infection Control Committee. He acted as a consulting physician in the early days of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station operation in the Port Clinton area. He has provided many dedicated hours as a member of the Ottawa County Board of Health.

Dr. Akins' philanthropic activity includes participation with Volunteers in Missions, an organization that provides free medical care to persons in third world countries. He is active in his church, serving on the administrative board of the Faith United Methodist Church. Out of

concern for his area's seniors, Dr. Akins serves on the Board of Directors of the Vineyard, the Presbyterian retirement community in Port Clinton.

Dr. Akins' dedication to his community is second only to his great love for his family. Along with Naomi, his loving wife of more than forty-one years, he is blessed with two children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Dr. Akins for many years and have the highest regard for his character and abilities as a physician. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to Kenneth L. Akins, M.D. His professionalism and service as Ottawa County Coroner are a credit to the local government service everywhere. We thank him, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERB B. SIPERSTEIN, RECIPIENT OF THE HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS (JWV) OF THE U.S.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Herb B. Siperstein, recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the New Jersey Department of Jewish War Veterans (JWV) of the U.S. This award is bestowed on those exceptional individuals, who have consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the fight against bigotry and discrimination.

Herb Siperstein was born on October 6, 1923, in Jersey City, New Jersey. After high school graduation, he began fulltime-work for the family business, Siperstein's paint store. Siperstein's was founded by his parents, Nathan and Lottie.

From 1943 to 1945, Mr. Siperstein served in the 7th Infantry in World War II. As a Jewish American soldier, Mr. Siperstein served with exceptional courage and valor. In the process of defending his country and fighting against the worst aggression the world had ever seen, Mr. Siperstein received numerous accommodations: the Bronze Star Medal; the Good Conduct Medal; two Bronze Arrowheads; six Campaign Stars; the Presidential Unit Emblem; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; the Combat Infantry Badge; the Expert Infantry Badge; the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII; and the French Fourragere.

After the Second World War, Mr. Siperstein returned to the family business, and as the president, he has seen Siperstein's Paint and Wallpaper grow and prosper. Today, there are seventeen stores in New Jersey and six new stores in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Herb Siperstein has given back to the community in a profoundly caring fashion, including financial support for local churches, tem-

ples, and schools. In addition, the Sipersteins have made extremely generous donations to their community, resulting in an auditorium at B'nai Jacobs and a Library at St. Peter's Preparatory School. Mr. Siperstein has also received many awards from civic organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League's David H. Litter Humanitarian Award and the New Jersey Department of Jewish War Veterans' Humanitarian Award.

Last year, the Mayor of Jersey City, Bret Schundler, declared October 12th, Herb Siperstein Day in recognition of his contributions to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Herb B. Siperstein for his unparalleled contributions and commitment to our community.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JESUS AGUON AQUININGOC ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate one of Guam's municipal leaders on his well-earned retirement. The Honorable Jesus Aguon Aquiningoc, the mayor of the village of Umatac, will step down upon the completion of his term at the end of this year.

Mayor Aquiningoc was born in Umatac on October 10, 1932—the son of Juan Quinata Aquiningoc and Concepcion Aguon Aquiningoc. Having graduated from George Washington High School in 1952, he enlisted in the United States Navy in the following year. During his 26-year Navy career, Mayor Aquiningoc served aboard the U.S.S. *John R. Craig* (DD-885) and the U.S.S. *Galveston* (CLG-3). He was additionally given assignments in San Diego, California; North Island, California; Guam; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Thailand; and the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

Mayor Aquiningoc returned to Guam upon his retirement from the Navy in 1979. Upon his return he worked for the University of Guam as a personnel specialist. Later, he served as the administrative services officer for the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, a position he held until his retirement from the Government of Guam in 1993.

All this time, Mayor Aquiningoc's was deeply dedicated to the Catholic faith and deeply involved in church related activities. He is the Charter Grand Knight of the San Dionicio Council 11630 of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he serves as president of the San Dionicio Church Parish Council, as a Eucharistic minister, and as a teacher for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Mayor Aquiningoc's involvement with civic and community activities has led him to serve terms as president of the F.Q. Sanchez Elementary School Parent Teacher Association,

the Guam Beautification Association, and the Guam Society of Norfolk. He has also served as an advisor for the Umatac Youth Organization and as supervisor-coordinator of AHRD summer trainees.

The service dedicated by Mayor Aquiningoc to the nation, the church, the community and the island of Guam has truly earned him a place in our hearts. I join the mayor's wife, Maria, who, along with his children and their spouses, namely, Leslie and Lourdes, Ruby and Anthony, Mark and JoAnn, and Rodney and Theresa, and their grandchildren Roland, Lauren, Brittany, Nicolas, Daisy, Benny, Teresa, Paul, Marion, Anika, Desirae, Mariah and Camaria in proudly celebrating his career and his achievements. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Mayor Aquiningoc.

IN HONOR OF MR. DIONICIO MORALES

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is with utmost pleasure and privilege that I rise today to recognize a wonderful American, Mr. Dionicio Morales, for his pioneering efforts as a leader within the Mexican American community and his commitment to improving the lives of others.

As a first-generation American, Dionicio Morales has surpassed social and economic barriers throughout his life, and forever changed the opportunities available to Mexican Americans in this country. Mr. Morales' own life embodies the American dream. Having come from modest roots, as the son of farmworkers who spent many years of his childhood living in a tent, he has become a nationally respected community advocate for over three decades. Specifically, Mr. Morales has served as an advisor to the United States Secretary of Labor, was a Presidential appointee to the President's Committee on Community Relations, and the Advisory Committee of the North America Development Bank, and was a former member of the California State Apprenticeship Committee, the California Employment Development Advisory Committee, the Century Freeway Commission and the United States Senate Task Force on Hispanic Affairs.

The crowning professional achievement of Mr. Morales' life however, was the founding of the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF) in 1962. On the eve of the civil rights movement, Mr. Morales was a trailblazer in establishing a structure to empower Mexican Americans to obtain professional training and employment. Mr. Morales has served as the President and CEO of MAOF since 1962, and has grown the organization into a full-service social service entity which currently provides not just job training but also child care, Head Start programs, English as a second language courses, citizenship classes, family services, and much more.