

this body. On behalf of the State of Colorado and the US Congress I congratulate Bill on this prestigious and well-deserved award. Congratulations!

HONORING MIKE QUERING FROM
THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF COLO-
RADO

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a constituent of mine from the Sixth Congressional District of Colorado, Mike Quering, and join others throughout the state of Colorado in recognizing the efforts of the Eighth Air Force and proclaim every October 8–14 as Mighty Eighth Air Force Week.

Mike is a member of the Eighth Air Force, which was formed and dispatched to England in 1942 to become the largest military unit in World War II, and the largest bomber force of all time. Over 350,000 airmen served in Europe and the Eighth Air Force has continued as an operational combat unit to this day with over one million serving our country in war and in peace.

In the one week period between October 8–14, 1943, the Eighth Air Force lost over 100 Heavy Bombers to enemy action over the skies of Europe, and despite heavy losses, many feel that this was the turning point for daylight strategic bombing. Targets during the week were as follows: on October 8th, over Bremen, Germany, the force lost 14 bombers and 3 fighters; on October 9th, over Anklam, Germany, they lost 6 bombers; on October 10th, over Munster, Germany, the Eighth Air Force lost 30 bombers and 1 fighter; and on October 14th, over Schweinfurt, Germany, the force lost 60 bombers and 1 fighter.

I think it is important, at this time, to point out that no Mighty Eighth mission was ever turned back due to enemy action—at a cost of 26,000 killed in action and over 28,000 taken as prisoners of war. The number of missing in action and wounded have even today not been counted.

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society, the largest single military unit veterans group in history, holds its annual reunions in the month of October and today 20,000 Eighth Air Force Historical Society members are seeking to inform future generations of the contribution and sacrifice made by their generation to perpetuate America's freedom and way of life.

The Mighty Eighth stands as proof to America and the rest of the world of the sacrifices that our World War II veterans made to ensure that freedom and democracy survive and flourish around the world.

And so, as many proud veterans do every year during the week of October 8–14, I rise to proclaim this week of October 8–14 as Mighty Eighth Air Force Week. I would also ask every Eighth Air Force veteran and friend of the Eighth to wear and display items identifying them with The Mighty Eighth to honor and remember their comrades and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice.

HONORING NATIONAL DAY FOR
THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON
TAIWAN

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday, October 10th, marked the National Day in the Republic of China on Taiwan. The so-called "Double 10"—the tenth day of the tenth month—commemorates the founding of the Republic of China on October 10, 1911.

This "Double 10" observance in Taiwan this year is cause for both celebration and sobriety. The reason for celebration is obvious. As every Member knows, Taiwan once again conducted a national election, this past March. Chen Shui-bian, the former mayor of Taipei and a veteran of the pro-democracy campaign in the 1980's, was elected president.

As the reins of government were transferred from one party to another, the final phase of Taiwan's democratic transformation was completed. And a remarkable transformation it has been over the past decade—a renegotiation of the "social contract" that was conducted without the kinds of chaos and confrontation that have attended such sweeping political changes in some other countries.

There are many heroes in the democratization of Taiwan. President Chen, for one; and, his predecessor in the presidential office, Lee Teng-hui, for another. The 22 million people of Taiwan, who have taken so readily to democracy and have participated so enthusiastically in the whole electoral process, are also heroes.

So on the occasion of this year's "Double 10," all of Taiwan and its many American friends can join in a celebration of democracy and in a renewed commitment to the principles of a free society and a free market economy that have proved so successful in Taiwan, the United States, and many other countries.

But, Mr. Speaker, this is also a time for sobriety. The past seven-and-a-half years have witnessed a fundamental shift in U.S. policy toward Asia. Without the benefit of a thorough strategic analysis or an informed national debate, there has been a concerted attempt to redirect U.S. policy into a China-centric focus at the expense of our other traditional allies.

The perception in international circles that Taiwan has been stigmatized as the "problem" in U.S./China relations was most dramatically reinforced during President Clinton's trip in July 1998 to the People's Republic of China, during which he implicitly endorsed the P.R.C.'s interpretation of the "One China" doctrine.

Concurrent with the ill wind from Washington has been the rapid and provocative buildup of forces in the P.R.C.'s People's Liberation Army. A member of Representative ROHRBACHER's staff, Al Santoli, traveled to the region during August and filed a report that was published by the American Foreign Policy Council. Among Mr. Santoli's key findings:

The PLA's modernization and joint war fighting capabilities are developing at a rate far more rapidly than the Pentagon's previous predictions. The Nanjing Region exercises have showcased the PLA's new high-

tech capabilities, based on U.S. military tactics with information technology and weapons systems purchased or stolen from the U.S., Russia, and Israel.

During ongoing large-scale military exercises, China has demonstrated significant new joint-service war fighting skills "under high-tech conditions" that are steadily altering the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait . . . The PLA's doctrine of "asymmetrical" warfare emphasizes paralyzing the high-tech strength of the U.S. and our allies, through attacks on military, economic, and governmental computerized information systems.

Mr. Speaker, there is much more that could be said. I will leave it simply at this: No one can predict with certainty when the hour of maximum danger will come, but it is entirely possible—if present trends are permitted to continue much longer—that the candidate we elect as President next month will be the man who will eventually be confronted with a choice between defending Taiwan and its democracy or appeasing Beijing and thereby sacrificing U.S. strategic interests in Asia for generations to come.

So during this year's observance of "Double 10," let us celebrate what has been achieved in Taiwan—the victory of democracy and the blessings of a free society. Let us also be resolved to do whatever is necessary to protect Taiwan and to preserve its way of life. In standing by Taiwan, we are also standing up for ourselves.

HONORING DR. MURRAY PRITCH-
ARD OF WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate a very special man, Dr. Murray Pritchard of West Plains, Missouri. Dr. Pritchard was recently named Outstanding VA Health Care Provider of the Year at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention held in Las Vegas, Nevada. I am very pleased to honor the distinguished career of Dr. Pritchard and all the contributions he has made to veterans in Southeast Missouri.

Dr. Pritchard served this country in the Army during World War II. He was captured in North Africa in February 1943, and spent two years in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. When Dr. Pritchard returned from the war, he went to medical school and became a doctor of osteopathy while also completing a masters degree in public health administration. After several years in private practice, our community was lucky to have him join the staff of the John J. Pershing VA Medical Center in Poplar Bluff in 1973. Dr. Pritchard worked in the outpatient department until he retired in 1985.

But retirement didn't last very long. Soon Dr. Pritchard helped lead the innovative process of starting the VA Mobile Clinic program. Many veterans in rural America live 100 miles or more from the closest VA medical center. Traveling to see a doctor, to get a check up, or even to get necessary prescription drugs is a hardship to these men and women. But Dr. Pritchard and the folks at the Poplar Bluff VA wouldn't let distance stop them from giving top-notch care to veterans. If the vets couldn't

go to the clinic, Dr. Pritchard made sure the hospital would come to them. On the road about 4 days a week, Dr. Pritchard and his wife make sure that no veteran is left without the necessary, quality health care they deserve and were promised.

Dr. Pritchard not only serves the veterans of Southeast Missouri, but he also is concerned with the well being and health of all Americans. When Hurricane Andrew hit southern Florida, Dr. Pritchard headed up a team of health care professionals who took their mobile clinic to help treat the victims of the hurricane. His team helped ease the suffering of about 150 hurricane victims a day in Florida. And if that isn't enough, Dr. Pritchard has many other notable accomplishments such as: holding the post of past commander of the Missouri Association of Former POW's, serving as president of the Missouri Society of American College of General Practitioners in Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and as past president of the Association of Military Osteopathic Surgeons.

Dr. Pritchard is a dedicated doctor, and a kind and generous human being who answers the call of service to his fellow man.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Murray Pritchard is more than worthy of receiving the honor of Outstanding VA Health Care Provider, and I hope that all of my colleagues will join me today in recognizing this truly remarkable man.

HONORING ORLYN BELL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to honor a remarkable human being, Orlyn Bell. For over three decades Orlyn has fought hard to ensure that the water of western Colorado is being distributed correctly and fairly. Orlyn is retiring as the Division 5 water engineer, a position he has held in Glenwood Springs for just over 17 years. As Orlyn moves on to bigger and better things, I would like to take this opportunity to commend him on his service to the western slope of Colorado.

Orlyn began his career in engineering as far back as 1965 where his summer job had him measuring the flow of a major flood of the South Platte River after it hit Denver. His work during this traumatic time earned him not only a citation from the Governor, but also sparked an interest that would soon become the focus of his professional career. In 1968 he graduated from the University of Denver, with a degree in civil engineering. After spending a few years working for the Washington Highway Department he moved back to Colorado where he began his legendary career in the state engineer's office.

For almost two decades now, Orlyn has been one of seven engineers in charge of the seven different major river basins. The area in which he has represented is vast in size and the demand for water is much larger than the actual supply. This large area spans from the Continental Divide in central Colorado all the way through the Grand Valley on to the Utah border.

The battle for water in Colorado is one that has sparked a great deal of controversy over

the years, but Orlyn was able to manage these issues fairly and earn the respect of both eastern and western Colorado. Orlyn's contribution to the citizens and farmers of western Colorado is immeasurable. Orlyn you have served your community, State and Nation proudly and I wish you the best in your future endeavors.

TEACHERS' APPRECIATION DAY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 12, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, a proclamation signed by Acting-Governor Madeleine Bordallo on September 1, 2000, designated the month of September as "Teacher's Recognition Month." Three years ago, the Guam Legislature designated September 28th as "Teachers' Appreciation Day" in order to pay tribute and acknowledge the important role played by teachers on the island of Guam.

Intended to coincide with the birthday of the Chinese philosopher, Confucius, the month-long celebration was set aside to honor those who have dedicated themselves to the teaching profession. Regarded as one of the world's greatest philosophers and teachers, Confucius has been given credit for the development of public education. Hence, for the past three years, the Confucius Society of Guam, under the leadership of its president, Robert Kao, has worked towards raising the community's awareness regarding the importance of teachers to every community.

In this year's events, the island of Guam chose to celebrate the legacy of its teachers by honoring current teachers whose families include generations of classroom teachers among its members. Among those honored are Phyliss L. Leon Guerrero, Debra R. Mariano, and my very own daughter, Sophia R. Underwood.

Phyliss, who is from George Washington High School in Mangilao, has been a teacher for eight years who has four generations of teachers in her family. Her great-grandmother, Asuncion Martinez Cruz, taught at a school run by the Spaniards in the 1890's. Her grandmother, Vicenta S.A. Leon Guerrero, taught in schools established by the Americans from 1922 until 1962. She is the daughter of Virginia Artero Leon Guerrero, an elementary school teacher who taught for 14 years, and Wilfred Leon Guerrero, the former president of the University of Guam.

Debra, a four-year veteran, teaches at Agueda Johnston Middle School. Her grandfather, Cayetano A. Quinata, served as a teacher and principal at several elementary schools for a period of 39 years. Her grandfather, Alejo L.G. Quinata, taught under the Japanese during the occupation of Guam during World War II. Her mother, Mary Q. Mariano, taught at P.C. Lujan Elementary, Price Elementary and the Guam Community College.

My daughter, Sophia, has been teaching for more than five years. She also comes from a long and solid line of teachers. My grandfather, James H. Underwood, taught English at night school soon after the Americans took possession of Guam in 1898. He taught until 1905. My parents, John and Esther, as well as my wife, Lorraine, and I have been teachers.

Mr. Speaker, public officials, such as ourselves, do not officially gain the title "Honorable" until the constituents we serve grant us their mandate through our election. It was not until 1992 that the title was granted to me. However, I firmly believe that I, together with my colleagues in the field of education, have earned the title long before—by having been a teacher, a member of a most honorable profession.

Over the years, teachers have insured a bright future through the education of our youth. Teachers have been willing to share their knowledge and adjust to meet the needs of students. In our present society where the family unit is under constant exposure to external and internal conflicts and pressures, we look toward our teachers to be role models who play a vital role in the development of every child placed under their supervision. On Teachers' Recognition Month and, especially, on Teachers' Appreciation Day, I commend and congratulate my esteemed colleagues in the field of education, the teachers of Guam.

PIPELINE SAFETY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE SKEEN

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support S. 2438, the Pipeline Safety legislation, and also to implore the House of Representatives to pass it quickly and send it to the President for his signature.

In August, in my Congressional District in New Mexico, a pipeline explosion took the lives of eleven family members who were camping in an area located south of Carlsbad along the Pecos River. This terrible tragedy shook our state to the core. I visited the site of this disaster and I cannot begin to describe what I saw and the impact it has had on the lives of countless citizens in New Mexico.

This legislation is bipartisan and it passed the U.S. Senate with no opposition. This bill will help us avoid these terrible accidents in the future. Congress does not have time to play politics with this legislation. We don't have time for extended conferences on this legislation. Those who feel more is needed in this bill can introduce those changes next year. If we don't pass this bill we will have no legislation for at least another two years. It is unconscionable for this Congress not to pass legislation this year. To those who would vote against this legislation I say shame on you. This bill imposes new pipeline testing requirements on pipeline operators. It imposes higher penalties for safety violations and invests in new technology to improve pipeline safety. This bill increases the funding for pipeline safety as well as increasing state oversight and local government input. President Clinton supports this bill, Senate Democratic Senators support this bill.

I want to thank Chairman SHUSTER and the leadership of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for all of the hard work they have done in bringing this important legislation before us. We need to pass S. 2438.