

COMMEMORATING WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS DAY AND CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S ELECTION

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on December 10th this nation and the global community will observe World Human Rights Day 2001.

World Human Rights Day provides an opportunity to focus the attention of the international community on the most fundamental issue to all of mankind. It is a day of celebration for those, like me, who were liberated and a day of remembrance for those who still live under oppression. Human rights and democracy are like two sides of the same coin—it is impossible to have one without the other. The Republic of China on Taiwan is an example of a democratic nation which fully observes human rights for all of its people. On December 1, Taiwan held a major round of free and fair elections in which every office was contested and competition was fierce. With the strengthening of Taiwanese democracy comes the strengthening of Human Rights for the people of Taiwan.

On the eve of last years World Human Rights Day, President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan attended a ceremony at the human rights memorial on Green Island, Taiwan. President Chen pledged then to observe the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights as well as the guidelines from the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. President Chen's remarks indicate a serious movement to bring Taiwan back into the international community of human rights observers by recognizing the sanctity and universality of human rights.

Earlier this year, Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Hung-mao Tien elaborated on Taiwan's "Human Rights Diplomacy" announcing to the International Conference on National Human Rights Commission held in Taipei that it is Taiwan's intention to fully participate in international human rights activities such as the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. Moreover, Taiwan wisely recognizes poverty and lack of access to basic social services as violations of fundamental human rights. Minister Tien said in his speech in Taipei that Taiwan is generously using its economic strength to put together an effective set of international cooperation programs designed to help developing nations overcome problems associated with poverty and underdevelopment.

On World Human Rights Day 2001, I applaud Taiwan's achievements and continuing efforts to observe human rights. I hope that other countries will follow Taiwan's excellent example by committing their resources to democratization and improvement of human rights.

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the development and construction of the Native American Cultural Center and Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Great State of Oklahoma is home to 39 tribal governments. According to the 2000 Census, Oklahoma is home to a population of more than 380,000 tribal members.

Historically, prior to its becoming Indian Territory, Oklahoma was home to five tribes that are considered indigenous to Oklahoma—the Osage, Caddo, Kiowa, Comanche, and Wichita. All other tribes were removed from their ancestral homelands to Oklahoma during the period referred to as the "Indian Removal". The most noted removal was that involving the Cherokees, which is referred to as the "Trail of Tears".

The 39 Indian nations of Oklahoma each have their own distinct culture, traditions, history, and language. This uniqueness should be celebrated. By passing H.R. 2742, we will be able to properly honor and preserve the rich history, culture, and legacy of the American Indian.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this very important piece of legislation.

IN MEMORY OF JEFFREY THOMAS CLAPPER

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members of the 107th United States Congress, I wish to offer heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Jeffrey Thomas Clapper.

He was an outstanding member of his community, a much loved son and friend. He will be truly missed by all who knew and loved him.

His generosity and profound sense of duty left a lasting impression on all those who knew him, and his personal sacrifices of time and energy to his country, his community, his family, and his friends stand as testament of an exceptional human being.

Jeffrey Thomas Clapper was born on June 28, 1967, the son of Thomas and Judith Clapper. A graduate of Hoover High School and Walsh University, Clapper served his country as an Orthotic Specialist in the United States Air Force and his community as a registered nurse and as an EMT with the Greentown Volunteer Fire Department. In each of these roles, Clapper embodied civic virtues we should all strive to meet.

In light of the tragic loss of this outstanding citizen, I offer my deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO WINFIELD H.S.

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Winfield High School in recognition of their achievement as an "exemplary" school.

Winfield High School has been selected as one of the top 50 schools of West Virginia. "Exemplary" status is based on Stanford Achievement Test results, attendance, drop out rates, and writing exam scores.

I commend the leadership and faculty on their dedication to the children that walk through their doors each day. They have set an incredible example for the other 817 schools in West Virginia.

I equally commend the students and parents of Winfield High School for their commitment to a quality education and a bright future.

Efforts to bring superior education to all of West Virginia and America are among our top priorities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Winfield High School.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT HYDER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Robert Hyder, former mayor of Jefferson City, Missouri. He was 91.

Robert Hyder was born on February 26, 1910, in West Plains, Missouri, a son of L. M. and Mae Hyder. He was married May 18, 1957, to Ruth Lockwood. Robert graduated from Drury College with a degree in geological engineering and from the University of Texas with a law degree. During World War II he served in the Navy as a frogman.

After graduation from law school, Robert served as assistant state attorney general in Missouri and as assistant U.S. attorney general. He then went to work for the Missouri Highway Commission retiring as chief legal council after 23 years of service. Robert then started a private law practice in Jefferson City before deciding to run for mayor.

Robert Hyder served as mayor of Jefferson City for four years, beginning in 1975. His colleagues remember Robert as, "one of the finest mayors I ever worked with" and "a real people person." After leaving office, Robert served on the Cole County Industrial Development Authority board. He was also head of the V.F.W. and the American Legion in West Plains. As a commemoration to his work as mayor, the Jefferson City Housing Authority dedicated the Robert Hyder Apartments and Addition.

Mr. Speaker, Robert was a valuable leader in his community and will be missed. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Ruth, and his children, Robert and Mary.