

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S INDEPENDENCE IN THE FACE OF INCREASED CHINESE THREAT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Taiwan, and to call upon the leaders of the United States Government to defend this democratic nation against any Chinese aggression in this time of global crisis. The war on terrorism is, in fact, a war for the preservation of democracy, human rights, and freedom—the fundamental principles upon which America was built. While terrorism has occupied the country's immediate consideration of global security, prudent Americans must remember that the clear intention of a totalitarian country to conquer a democratic nation is a greater threat with greater repercussions.

China's aggressive posture and clear intention to occupy Taiwan, coupled with its recent shift in budgetary priorities toward military buildup, is cause for great concern. It threatens the stability of the entire region. The additional funding is expected to bolster China's missile program and revamp its military into a more offensive force. China already has 400 ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan, and since it has threatened the use of force, it is reasonable to assume some of the military build up will be used to achieve China's publicly stated intentions. This type of foreseeable belligerence cannot be tolerated. I am comforted and heartened that U.S. official policy on this question clearly obligates our country to responding to such eventual belligerence.

Taiwan continues to be a beacon of democracy in an unstable region. Its democratic progress culminated in achieving a peaceful transfer of power from a Nationalist government to the freely elected Democratic Progressive Party in 2000. Since September 11th, Taiwan has been a resolute ally in the War on Terrorism. Moreover, Taiwan has maintained its desire for self-determination and international recognition as a free nation, despite unyielding pressure from China. The courage of the Taiwanese people, and their commitment to democratic principles should be recognized and rewarded.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the United States Government to maintain its long-standing commitment to Taiwan. Additionally, I urge President Bush to seek from China, a renunciation of the use of any force, and the threat of force, against Taiwan's self-determination.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES E. BICKFORD, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a military veteran, dedicated public servant, and all around great Kentuckian, Brigadier General James E. Bickford, U.S. Army (Retired). I want to express my deepest gratitude for his many contribu-

tions to the people of our state and this great nation.

General Bickford is a highly decorated military veteran who has spent most of his life serving our country. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army as a young man, his duties took him all over the world, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Throughout his military career, General Bickford received a host of service awards and decorations, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was the man in charge of logistics for the Persian Gulf War and I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony in Washington, DC this spring as he was inducted into the Defense Logistics Agency Hall of Fame.

In addition to his reputation as a strong and effective military leader, General Bickford is widely known for his compassion and commitment to helping others. Born in West Virginia and raised in the hills of Harlan County, Kentucky, he is especially interested in the well being and prosperity of Appalachia. Upon completion of his military service, he found his heart calling him back to Kentucky. He was appointed Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet in December of 1995, and has worked tirelessly ever since to protect and enhance the natural resources of the Bluegrass State. Let me publicly state for the Record that we are absolutely delighted that General Bickford and his lovely wife, Shirley, decided to come back home.

It is through his service to Kentucky that I have had the great fortune of getting to know General Bickford. Our paths first crossed in 1997, when we were both invited to speak to a group in Louisville, Kentucky. Although we had never met, our speeches were stunningly similar and our goal was the same—to tackle the daunting task of cleaning up Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

As natives of the 5th Congressional District, we both knew that the environmental problems in our region were extensive and could only, if at all, be remedied through a coordinated federal, state and local effort. After our first meeting, we pulled our resources together—those of the Kentucky State Government and the United States Government—and got to work. Right away we began asking local mayors, judges and area development districts to join forces in our effort to clean up the region. Then we asked the public to help. Thus was formed the PRIDE program, which stands for Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment. The response has been overwhelming. Thousands are involved in improving their home region, thanks to General Bickford's dedication and leadership.

Through our federal, state, and local partnership, we have made significant strides in cleaning up our rivers and streams, helping our counties address sewage and trash problems, and educating our children about the importance of a clean environment. As a lifelong resident of Southern and Eastern Kentucky, words cannot describe how wonderful it is to see our region being reborn. Because of the success of the PRIDE program, and modeled after it, we are now implementing initiatives to enhance tourism, improve our economy and bring new jobs to the 5th Congressional District. These initiatives would not be possible without the efforts of General Bickford.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend General Bickford for the time, energy, and devotion he has invested in making our world a better place. I am especially grateful for his unwavering commitment to the PRIDE program and the people of the 5th District of Kentucky. There is no doubt in my mind that we will continue to benefit from his profound contributions for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH GEIGEL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Dr. Kenneth Geigel from New Jersey, who is being honored by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County.

Born in 1938, in the South Bronx, Dr. Geigel attended St. John Chrysotom's Elementary School. He had a short-lived career as a TV repairman before going to work at the Bank of America on Wall Street. Upon graduation, he returned to the Bronx and started to work for Casita Maria, a settlement house in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. It was at Casita Maria that he met his wife Carmen. Eager to continue his education, Dr. Geigel, enrolled at New York University and received a Master of Arts in Human Relations. It was during the same time that he became involved with a small group of Hispanic Leaders in Manhattan and was instrumental in the founding of ASPIRA. Dr. Antonio Pantoja, the first Director of ASPIRA, hired him as the fund-raiser for the newly formed organization. Dr. Geigel left in 1967 and went to work for the New York City Board of Education as a Field Project Administrator. In 1968, he became a Special Administrative Assistant to the Board Members working on decentralization. After decentralization was passed in 1969, he was appointed by Mayor Lindsey to the Commission of Human Rights, the Hispanic Affairs Division. He resigned after one year and took another challenging opportunity as the Associate Director of the Higher Education Program at NYU.

Dr. Geigel and his family moved to Freehold, New Jersey. The commute into the city became hectic for him as well as unbearable for his wife who was still working at Casita Maria. He was offered the position of Registrar at Livingston College, a newly formed College of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He was the first Hispanic to hold such a position at a major University within the State of New Jersey.

While working at Rutgers, he earned his Doctorate Degree in Education and became a founding father of the Hispanic Association of Higher Education of New Jersey. As a resident of Freehold Township, he became involved with the large Hispanic population in the borough. Working with the Catholic Church of St. Rose of Lima and the Bishop, they were able to locate a vacant building and transform it into what is now the St. Rose of Lima Hispanic Parish Center, a multi-service center for the community. Presently, Dr. Geigel serves as a council member of the Freehold Township Human Rights in the consulting firm of Johnson, Geigel and Yucht Associates, specializing in teaching and mentoring life skills to low-income groups.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Dr. Kenneth F. Geigel as the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County honors him for his unfaltering dedication to the Latino community.

TRIBUTE TO MOELLER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, Cincinnati Archbishop Moeller High School is one of America's best High Schools. As a 1980 graduate of the institution, I rise today to commend Moeller for its years of excellence in education and for advancing the Marianist philosophy in a Christian academic setting.

Father William Chaminade, the founder of the Marianist order, inspires Moeller's philosophy. He intended all Marianist schools to be places where Christian Faith would grow and prosper. Moeller continues to meet Father Chaminade's challenge by making the religious faith of its students the center of their lives.

According to the school's mission statement, Moeller achieves these goals by teaching students about our responsibilities to God, family, neighbors and self; by engendering a willingness to serve the human community; learning how to interact faith with culture, changing the culture towards Christian values; assisting all to "develop" the "Marianist Family Spirit," and, to value the qualities of Mary the Mother of God, such as compassion, tolerance, patience and willingness to assist the poor in working for a just society.

The faculty at Moeller strives to pursue excellence in all academic disciplines. Students are encouraged to use their God-given talents to the fullest. Intellectual curiosity is stressed. Critical thinking and the development of skills for life-long learning are promoted.

The school is named after the Most Reverend Henry Moeller, the fourth Archbishop of the Cincinnati Catholic Archdiocese. Conceived in 1958, the idea for the boy's Catholic school became a reality in September 1960 when the doors opened for the first time. Moeller High School has since graduated over 6,000 graduates including our colleague Mr. Boehner of Ohio.

Moeller is well known throughout the country. The school has set hundreds of records on a local, state and national basis in academics and athletics achieving numerous championship titles at all levels.

Most of all, Mr. Speaker, the students and graduates of Moeller High School are the kind of men for whom Father Chaminade prayed. His vision of a family of well-rounded Christian academic settings has produced some of America's best citizens and disciples of Jesus Christ. Moeller has succeeded in developing students into productive, successful and mature adults with the ability to share and work with all people.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to be a graduate of Moeller High School and part of the Moeller family. I'm exceedingly proud to represent it today as a Member of the United States Congress here on the floor of the House of Rep-

resentatives and to speak on behalf of what is clearly an uncommon school of remarkable accomplishment.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in commending Moeller High School for its leadership in American education, citizenship, and piety. May Moeller continue to prosper in its noble goals and may everyone associated with the school's mission continue to enjoy God's greatest blessings.

RECOGNIZING THE GOLDBERG B'NAI B'RITH TOWERS

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers, which will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary on October 20, 2002. The Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers has demonstrated an immense commitment to the elderly community in Houston, and their hard work is to be commended.

In addition to hosting an event celebrating their anniversary, Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers will honor several individuals who have demonstrated tremendous dedication to the success of this residential community. In addition to Helen Mintz, who has volunteered her time as a painting instructor for the past 25 years, the Towers will also commend the generosity of Robert and Edith Zinn, who provide funding for the medical transportation program, and the Paulene Sterne Wolff Foundation for its support of the meal and housekeeping services. These people definitely deserve recognition for their tireless efforts to improve the lives of others.

The Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers began in 1971 as a vision of the late J.B. Goldberg. Goldberg, along with a dedicated group of men, sought to transform that vision into a reality by establishing an apartment complex for the elderly. Following the model set forth by B'nai B'rith International, ground was broken for the first building of the complex in 1976. It opened in 1978 and included 150 units. In 1982, the second building was opened, bringing the total capacity to 380 residents. Over the past 25 years, the Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers, which are owned and managed by the B'nai B'rith Senior Citizens Housing Committee of Houston, have provided a home for over 850 individuals.

The invigorating atmosphere this facility creates continues to have a positive impact on the lives of its residents through its many programs and support services. With meal preparation, housekeeping, geriatric nursing, and transportation services to medical appointments, the Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers enables its residents to maintain an active lifestyle. Additionally, the myriad of activities offered at the Towers include classes in computer training, painting, ceramics, and citizenship, as well as an open game room and exercise facility.

Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers has also been a strong proponent of multi-culturalism and diversity in Houston. The wide variety of religious resources available in the Towers undoubtedly serve the spiritual needs of its residents. Nondenominational Bible study, Torah study, Shabbat services, Catholic mass, and a

Chinese fellowship organization, that minister to a variety of groups, facilitating an environment for spiritual and cultural expression.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Goldberg B'nai B'rith Towers on its 25th anniversary and commend its staff and volunteers for their devotion to the residents of this facility. I wish the Towers continued success in the future, as its presence in the Houston community has been invaluable.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GYLMAR (GIO) ROBERTO SIMOES

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a constituent in the 6th District of New Jersey. It is with great pleasure that I introduce Mr. Gylmar (Gio) Roberto Simoes, who is being honored by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County.

Gylmar Simoes was born in Brazil and moved to the United States in 1979. He and his wife Linda as well as their three children, Jonathan, Samantha and Emerson live in Long Branch. Gio, as he is best known around town, is not only very active in the community, he is also the owner and editor of the Latino USA Newspaper which is published in both Spanish and Portuguese.

In 1996, Gio founded and directed the "Annual Brazilian Day in Long Branch Festival" which is celebrated every Labor Day weekend and draws over 7,000 Latinos every year. In 1997, he founded and directed the "Annual City of Long Branch Soccer Cup" which became the largest adult soccer tournament in the State of New Jersey, with participation of over 35 soccer teams from five states including New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Georgia. Gio was one of the Principals in the creation of the Latino Chamber of Commerce of Monmouth County and was the founder of the PEB (Pais de estudantes Brasileiros) Parents of Brazilian Students of Long Branch. Gio has also worked as a Spanish and Portuguese translator for the Assembly of God Church, the prisons and drug rehabilitation centers in New Jersey and New York.

Gio founded the Latino USA Newspaper 2 years ago to serve the Latino Communities throughout Monmouth County. The newspaper can now be found in 21 cities throughout New Jersey. It is in full color and reaches over 60,000 Latino readers per edition. The newspaper was awarded "La Pluma de Oro" in January 2002 by the APH (Asociacion de Periodistas Hispanos) as the fastest growing Latino newspaper in the tri-state area.

In 2001, Gio received the Brazilian Man of the Year award given by the Brazilian Association of Monmouth County and in 2002 received the Long Branch Mary Cox "Man of the Year" award.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing, Mr. Gylmar Simoes, as the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County honors him for his unwavering commitment to the Latino community.