

paint to make the stripes and the blue background for the stars. The flag was presented to U.S. Army Captain John Townsend, who has two children who are students at the school. Captain Townsend is the Executive Officer for the School of Advanced Military Studies at Fort Leavenworth's United States Army Command and General Staff College.

After receiving the flag, Captain Townsend hung it in Eisenhower Hall at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for a few weeks, where, in his words, "it got rave reviews and many people commented that it was unfortunate that all service members would not be able to appreciate it." As a result of the very positive reception it received at the Fort, the flag was then mailed to an Army infantry unit conducting a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. It arrived a few days before Christmas and hung at several of their sites through the new year. From there, it was taken to an Airborne unit that "jumped" it into Tunisia, North Africa. Next it was displayed on the aircraft carrier USS *John C. Stennis*, which was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in the Persian Gulf.

Following the display on the USS *Stennis*, the Comanche Elementary School flag was flown to an Army Explosive Ordnance unit in Afghanistan, which had just lost two soldiers, one being from Kansas. After that, the flag went to the Pentagon, where it hung for three weeks in the reconstructed part of the building that had been attacked on September 11th. As Captain Townsend told me, "few people could pass it without stopping and appreciating the spirit and patriotism it displayed." The flag then was displayed at the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Capitol, before briefly being returned home to Comanche Elementary School, where it is now being displayed.

Mr. Speaker, a book that logged its travels accompanied the flag everywhere it went. At each stop the unit took pictures of its visit and then sent them on with the flag so its travels are well documented. In most cases the unit sent a letter or e-mail praising the students' patriotism. At Comanche Elementary School the students and faculty have created a large display in the foyer just inside the front door so that everyone who comes into the building can see it: a large map with the visited areas highlighted, including pictures from those locations.

As Captain Townsend told me, "I receive e-mails almost daily from soldiers and civilians around the world that have seen this flag and were thankful that they got to see it. In most cases it brought tears to their eyes. In some cases it brought a ray of hope to people that were down from losing friends/comrades and for others it was a sign of support from a community half way around the world."

I am very proud of the patriotism and creativity of Marilyn Tieszen's kindergarten class at Comanche Elementary School, who worked together to create a wonderful symbol of America during our ongoing time of great challenge. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all Members of this House will join with me in commending their spirit and thanking them for the inspirational symbol they created for display around the world.

## TAIWANESE VICE PRESIDENT LU'S NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS TO THE PRC

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on October 1st, 2002, Taiwanese Vice President Annette Lu delivered a congratulatory speech marking the 53rd anniversary of the foundation of the People's Republic of China. For the attention of my colleagues, I am submitting the full text of Vice President Lu's speech into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

NEW CENTURY, NEW THINKING, NEW CROSS-STRAIT PERSPECTIVES

(By H.E. Vice President Annette Lu)

### 1. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE PEOPLE'S CHINA

Today is the National Day of the People's Republic of China. I presume that the whole country is joyfully celebrating this occasion. Via broadcast of the Voice of America, on behalf of the people of Taiwan, I want to wish prosperity to your country. Since its foundation, the PRC has made great strides, especially in the areas of economic and infrastructure development following twenty-years of open door and reform policies. These accomplishments are truly admirable.

Besides congratulations to all of you, I also have some expectations and suggestions on this day. China should not forget its responsibility to contribute to peace and development in the Asia-Pacific region. We should seek to become good neighbors and not resort to force, but seek peaceful co-existence and cooperation.

### 2. "ONE CHINA" AND "THREE CHINESES" (THREE ZHONGHUAS)

The Beijing regime has long proclaimed that Taiwan must accept its "One China" principle that Taiwan is a part of China and that only the PRC can represent China. The people of Taiwan cannot accept this, the biggest obstacle to normalization of cross-strait relations at present. Since its establishment in 1949, the PRC has never exercised jurisdiction on Taiwan, while Taiwan has its own government, land and people. It is an undisputable fact that for half a century; neither side belonged to the other. Asking Taiwan to accept the "One China" principle is tantamount to asking Taiwan to surrender, which is totally unacceptable.

We believe that a different "Chinese" concept may be in line with New-Era thinking. Facing the impact of globalization, from the so-called "Chinese" have already emerged three categories or totally different concepts: these are "Political Chinese", "Economic Chinese" and "Cultural Chinese".

"Political Chinese" refers to the political structure of ethnic Chinese at the present historical stage, which includes "The People's Republic of China" under communist rule and Taiwan's "Republic of China" under free democratic rule. "Economic Chinese" is the "Greater Chinese Economy" advocated by various scholars, it includes economies composed of ethnic Chinese in China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and Singapore. "Cultural Chinese" comprises culturally related Chinese societies and groups as well as Chinese benevolent associations all over the world.

Obviously, these three "Chineses" occupy different areas and are essentially different.

Pursuit of economic gains may have enhanced trade and exchanges of human resources and capital between Taiwan and

China, enabling growing economic interdependence between them. However, politically, Mainland China still adheres to communism, and also deploys missiles aimed at free and democratic Taiwan.

Both sides of the Taiwan Strait share origins but are politically different and even nervously against each other. This is because they hold different views over values of human rights, democracy and freedom. While both sides share economic interests, it would be impractical and inhumane to talk about political integration if the gap in the human values we believe in cannot be narrowed.

### 3. CHINA VS TAIWAN

Among the 192 countries in the world, China ranks as the 6th largest trading nation. Taiwan is the 16th. However, Taiwan has 23 million people and is small in size, and China has 1.3 billion people. Taiwan's democracy is well developed, and people have many channels to participate in politics. They have the right to run for all elected offices, including that of president and heads of township. However, because of Beijing's unrelenting suppression attempts, Taiwan has been excluded from the international stage, which greatly alienates the people of Taiwan. Many countries want to establish diplomatic relations with Taiwan, but dare not to do so due to China's pressure. The ROC was one of the founding members of the United Nations and a permanent member of its Security Council, but both memberships were taken over by the PRC in 1971. Beijing's authorities have barred Taiwan efforts to participate in the UN ever since and does its best to insult Taiwan in the international community at every turn. May I ask how can the people of Taiwan like China if the PRC persists in its attempts to suppress Taiwan?

Although we advocate that Taiwan does not belong to the PRC, we think that our two peoples across the Taiwan Straits can work together. In recent years, many Taiwanese business people have made wide-range investments in China creating employment opportunities, foreign exchange reserves, and introducing know-how and management skills. This helps energize the economic development of China and upgrade its quality control. 70% of IC products in Mainland China are actually manufactured by Taiwanese. The people of Taiwan are willing to help you, but your government has never ceased to attempt to suppress Taiwan and deployed missiles along your Southeast coast to intimidate Taiwan. How do Taiwanese people think of this odd behavior?

### 4. NEW THINKING ON CROSS-STRAIT RELATIONS

Some say that time is on China's side in relation to enduring cross-strait issues. However, I still think that the matter regarding Taiwan and China is not a matter of time, nor a matter of unification or independence. China and Taiwan are like a lion and a kitten. How to turn the claws-brandishing lion into a gentle and auspicious lion that can make the kitten (Taiwan) want to embrace it takes great wisdom and kindness on both sides across the Taiwan Strait. In short, to co-exist peacefully, we need to help each other while maintaining a safe distance at the same time. Consequentially, the lion and the kitten can each live their own lives without provoking each other, and they can also help each other at times.

It is my belief that if cross-strait relations are to develop properly, the relations between Taiwan and China cannot be considered merely economic. Taiwan is a democratic island nation, while China is a one-party authoritarian inland nation. We believe that there should be more ideology deconstruction and better communication

between two sides, then and only then may we find some common ground. So, how should the two sides treat each other? President Chen Shui-bian openly announced that the interaction between the two sides must be based on three premises of "peace, equality and democracy", among which peace across the Taiwan Strait is the most important. Leaders across the Strait should first put aside the political dispute and start with seeking peaceful co-existence and mutual interest, and use this kind of new thinking to begin a new era in cross-Strait relations.

As to how to resolve the cross-Strait impasse regarding sovereignties, leaders of both sides should realize that in the new century, where globalization and the emphasis on knowledge are the mainstream, people all over the world are realizing that overly stressing territory and sovereignty has become out-dated, and that a country should be ruled by its people rather than its government.

Since May 20, 2000, President Chen has on many occasions expressed goodwill toward the Chinese government as well as his sincerity to reopen negotiations. Nevertheless, Beijing is still not willing to face reality, and even further attempts to suffocate Taiwan's international living space. In the meantime, it continues to use the "One China" principle as a premise to boycott cross-Strait negotiations and create barriers in cross-Strait communications. This is indeed a pity.

The new century has arrived. Looking toward the future, human rights, democracy, peace, love and technological development are universal values in the 21st century. Governments and people across the Strait should adopt the new thinking to be able to think globally and act first in the Asia-Pacific region. We should jointly seek co-existence, prosperity and sustainable development across the Taiwan Strait.

Today, as 13 billion people in China happily celebrate the 53rd anniversary of the founding of the PRC, I sincerely wish prosperity to the country and wellbeing to all its people. I would also like to urge leaders across the Strait to jointly work on creating peace for the world.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BAH[AACUTE]'[IACUTE] FAITH

#### HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the American Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] community, which has its national headquarters in Illinois, is commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the beginnings of the Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] Faith in Iran. The Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] Faith is a world religion with more than 5 million adherents in some 230 countries and territories including more than 140,000 members here in the United States. The Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] House of Worship in my district of Illinois is registered as a national historic site that has drawn more than five million visitors to enjoy its unique architecture and serene gardens since its completion in 1953.

This is a special time for the American Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] community because it was during the autumn 150 years ago that the founder of the Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] Faith, Bah[aaacute]'u'll[aaacute]h, was first overwhelmed with the Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] message of love and unity while unjustly imprisoned in one of Persia's (now Iran's) worst

dungeons, the S[iaacute]yah Ch[aaacute]l. After his release from this dungeon, Bah[aaacute]'u'll[aaacute]h promoted this message despite being banished from Baghdad to Istanbul, from Istanbul to Edirne, and eventually from Edirne to the prison city of Acre where he died in 1892 after having lived in exile for forty years for his belief in the oneness of humanity.

The Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] Faith is based on the principles of cooperation and peace outlined by Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute]h. He taught that there is only one God, that the conscience of man is sacred and to be respected, that racial diversity contributes to the overall beauty of mankind, and that women and men are equals in God's sight. He taught that a spiritual solution is required to address the disparities of wealth distribution and that religion and science must agree. He was among the first to express the need for an international auxiliary language, emphasize the importance of universal education, and advise that a commonwealth of nations was needed for establishing global peace and security. The significance of these principles could not be overemphasized in today's volatile world.

It is astounding to think how advanced these concepts were 150 years ago not only in an ancient Persian culture, but also in the United States. Slavery and persecution based on race were widely accepted facts of life at that time. Women in the United States were still 70 years away from getting the vote. Global literacy was low and universal education was unheard of in most places. Colonial exploitation was on the rise and workers enjoyed few protections.

Unfortunately, just as the Bahd'i message was met with hostility in Persia in 1852, it still faces persecution in that region today. The Islamic Republic of Iran regards Bahd'is as heretics who, according to Islamic law, should be executed. Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute]s, along with Iran's other religious minorities, are prevented from exercising their right to religious freedom. They are excluded from institutions of higher education, denied jobs, and have had many of their holy places, cemeteries and properties seized or destroyed. They are denied their most basic human rights.

Since 1982, Congress has adopted eight resolutions condemning Iran's treatment of the Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute]s, its largest religious minority. With the support of the U.S. government, the UN General Assembly has adopted annual resolutions condemning these human rights abuses. Yet, Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute]s is still await the religious freedom called for in those UN resolutions and promised in Iran's constitution. The Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] community remains an oppressed religious minority and is denied rights to organize, elect leaders, and to conduct freely its religious activities.

On the 150th anniversary of Bah[aaacute]'u'll[aaacute]h's imprisonment and the founding of the Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] Faith, we salute along with the American Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] community the ideals of universal brotherhood, peace, cooperation, and understanding espoused by Bah[aaacute]'u'll[aaacute]h. These are Bah[aaacute]'[iaacute] values, they are American values, and they are universal values. I also would like to recognize the immense sacrifices that many around the world have made striving to ensure that true liberty and justice for all becomes not just an American dream, but also a global reality.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHIP PRATHER

#### HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 13, 2002*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Chip Prather, Fire Chief of Orange County, California.

Chip Prather became Fire Chief for the Orange County Fire Authority on October 1, 1997. In this capacity he is responsible for the daily operation of one of the largest fire organizations in California. Under his direction are 1,300 career firefighters, reserve firefighters and support staff. The OCFA serves 22 cities and unincorporated areas of Orange County, with a total population of more than 1.3 million, from 59 fire stations.

Prior to becoming Fire Chief, Mr. Prather served as Assistant Director of Fire Services/Operations. He was selected by the Orange County Firemen's Association as the 1995 "Firefighter of the Year." In 1998, as a battalion chief, he was assigned to the Authority's first master plan. He was promoted to Division Chief in 1989 and a year later to Assistant Director of Fire Services.

Chief Prather served as Incident Commander for the 1993 Laguna Fire and was responsible for the after-action report that has resulted in numerous changes in policies and procedures to improve fire safety in Southern California. His report provides a case study for unified command operations and disaster management.

Chief Prather holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management and has completed the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government Program for Senior Executives in state and local government. He has also attended the United States Fire Administration National Fire Academy, completing the Executive Fire Officer Program.

Chief Prather has dedicated his life to protecting our community and is noted for his favorite saying, "Be tough, be tender, be safe."

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546, BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 12, 2002*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last night the House approved the conference report for H.R. 4546, the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003. Passage of that legislation represents an important commitment by Congress to a strong national defense and to the men and women who provide it.

As the United States continues to prosecute the war against terrorism, it is essential that our armed forces are appropriately equipped. The conference report provides vital support for homeland counterterrorism programs, increased weapons capability, and military research and development. Additionally, it recognizes the important role of our men and women in uniform by providing a 4.1 percent