

Reserve Bank of New York as well as private banks in the United States.

While the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act extends immunity to foreign central banks, the ECB's immunities under this act are not assured because of the ECB's unique status resulting from its multinational ownership. Although the International Organizations Act extends to international organizations the same immunity enjoyed by foreign governments, for the purpose of this act, the reference to "international organizations" only includes organizations to which the United States is a member; and of course, the United States is not a member of the EU.

In January of this year, I introduced this legislation to protect the legal security of the ECB's foreign reserves by amending the IOIA by designating the ECB, all of which is a mouthful, as an international organization for the purposes of this act. A significant number of other organizations of which the United States is not a member have been designated in this way, including the Organization of African Unity, the European Space Agency, and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The extension of immunity provided by the IOIA to the ECB would assure the protection of their foreign reserves equivalent to that enjoyed by other foreign central banks. If we refuse the ECB request, we would, in effect, penalize monetary unions exercising sovereign Central Bank functions by, among other things, making the ECB vulnerable to private litigation. In this context, providing the ECB this status is entirely equitable and reasonable and amounts to the kind of mutual accommodation that we should be emphasizing at a time when so much friction is building between the United States and the European Union on a host of commercial and political issues.

Indeed, in a historical context, the United States, in effect, created a monetary union when we replaced the original Articles of Confederation with a Constitution that restricted the capacity of individual States to tax each other. The European Union wisely matched this step 2 centuries later, and the newly created European Central Bank is an emanation of this daring initiative. It is incumbent on those on this side of the Atlantic to express our support and respect for this historical movement and for the institutions necessary to make it a cohesive success.

The Committee on International Relations approved H.R. 3656 by a voice vote on March 20. The Federal Reserve, the Treasury Department, and the Department of State are in strong support of the legislation. I recommend an "aye" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker I rise in strong support of this bill.

This is a very straightforward measure to provide the European Central Bank the same immunity from judicial process that we routinely provide to foreign central banks under the Foreign Services Immunities Act. I want to commend the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), and also chairman of our Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, for his authorship of this bill.

The ECB was established in June of 1998 in accordance with the treaty establishing the European Union. The ECB is an independent legal entity owned by the central banks of the EU member states. Like any central banks, its role is to define and implement the monetary policy of the European Union and to maintain price stability. It also conducts foreign exchange operations and holds the official foreign reserves of the EU states.

Given the nature of the ECB, it makes absolute sense to extend to it the same legal treatment we routinely provide to other foreign central banks.

Unfortunately, since the ECB is a new type of central bank, it does not fit the definition of a foreign central bank under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act; and it is, therefore, not granted the immunities provided by that act.

The ECB is likewise excluded from the judicial process immunities normally provided to the international organizations by the International Organizations Immunities Act because the IOIA only extends its immunities to international organizations of which the United States is a member.

Therefore, H.R. 3656 amends the IOIA to include its provisions to the European Central Bank in the same manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same conditions as they may be extended to a public international organization in which the United States participates.

This extension of the IOIA will simply provide the ECB with the same immunity we routinely grant to foreign central banks.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker; and I urge my colleagues to support it. Again, I commend my good friend from Iowa for his sponsorship of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers; and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would just conclude with my appreciation for the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and his thoughtful approach to all issues of the day.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House sus-

pend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3656.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

WELCOMING MADAME CHEN WU SUE-JEN, THE FIRST LADY OF TAIWAN, TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 533) welcoming Madame Chen Wu Sue-jen, the first lady of Taiwan, to Washington, D.C.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 533

Whereas Taiwan's First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen, wife and political partner to her husband President Chen Shui-bian, has been unwaveringly and courageously striving for justice, human rights, and democracy in Taiwan and has herself held a seat in the Legislative Yuan;

Whereas Taiwan is now a model vibrant democracy and one of the top ten trading partners of the United States;

Whereas supporting democracy, human rights, and free market economies has been a longstanding policy of the United States;

Whereas the Government and people in Taiwan have consistently provided tremendous support and generous contributions to the United States after the terrorist attacks against the United States that occurred on September 11, 2001;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu was one of the main forces behind Taiwan's charity and humanitarian assistance for the victims of the terrorist attacks;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu will visit the United States beginning on September 22, 2002, and will bring with her a strong message from her husband and the people of Taiwan that Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in this joint anti-terrorism campaign will continue and be further strengthened;

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu, on behalf of President Chen Shui-bian, visited France in November 2001 to receive the International Human Rights Award; and

Whereas First Lady Chen Wu, confined to a wheelchair due to a tragic traffic accident during a political campaign, is a strong and effective advocate for Taiwan's physically challenged citizens; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives extends its warmest welcome to Taiwan's First Lady Chen Wu Sue-jen during her visit to Washington, D.C., in September 2002.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 533, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), our good ranking minority member, for expediting consideration of H. Res. 533, a resolution welcoming Madame Chen Wu Sue-jen of Taiwan to Washington.

Madame Chen's visit comes at an important moment in our Nation's relationship with Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. Although the United States has repeatedly asked Beijing to resolve its difficulties with Taiwan through peaceful means, the Communist Chinese military has placed hundreds of ballistic missiles on the coast of China aimed at Taiwan. To make matters worse, Communist China is building more and more of those missiles.

The Communist authorities portray the peaceful cause of Taiwan independence as a terrorist movement. Nothing could be further from the truth. Taiwan threatens no one. On the contrary, Taiwan has been 100 percent supportive of the war against terrorism; and it has, for example, given generously to the humanitarian effort in Afghanistan and trying to help the Afghan Government in this very pivotal moment. China, on the other hand, has helped the Taliban. While the Taiwanese has been helping those people trying to create a more democratic society in Afghanistan, trying to create a more peaceful environment, the Communist Chinese, on the other hand, have been helping the Taliban. They have helped them build a 14,000 secure-line telephone system; and I might add that on September 11, the Communist Chinese authorities flew in to Kabul and signed a trade agreement with the Taliban.

China has also assisted Iraq in building a fiber optic communications network that is used for the Iraqi military. So it is clear who supports terrorism and who does not.

First Lady Chen Wu will be bringing with her a strong message from her husband and the people of Taiwan that Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in its anti-terrorism campaign will continue and will strengthen in the future. This is the sort of mature behavior that the world has come to expect from Taiwan.

We hope that Beijing will soon follow in Taiwan's footsteps and become a truly constructive member of the world community. The threats that it is making against a peaceful Taiwan, the threats of military action, are irresponsible; and we should take note that the rest of the world should take note of Communist China's behavior. Such a

change in behavior on the part of Communist China toward the people of Taiwan should be also noted. We would invite the Communist Chinese to take a second look at their policies.

In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 533 and welcome the First Lady of Taiwan, Madame Chen to the United States. Madame Chen and her husband represent democratically elected leaders. Her husband was elected President of Taiwan. No one has elected in a free election those so-called leaders in Beijing who threaten Taiwan with violence and military action.

Let us take this moment to tip our hat respectfully to the wife of an elected President of a country, and that is what Americans should be doing instead of kowtowing and being afraid to anger tyrants overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman of our Committee on International Relations, for his support and leadership in bringing this legislation to the forefront. I also want to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for his authorship of this resolution, and of course, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and his management of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I would first like to commend, as I said earlier, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) for introducing this important resolution. As the ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on East Asia and the Pacific, I was very pleased to join the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member of our side of the Committee on International Relations, as an original cosponsor of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, the economic and political transformation of Taiwan over the past decades is truly remarkable. From the depths of poverty in the 1950s, Taiwan has turned into an economic power house which is now one of America's top 10 trading partners.

Turning away from one-party rule, Taiwan has become a vibrant democracy, serving as a beacon to those across the Asia-Pacific region who yearn for freedom and showing that democracy can thrive in a Chinese context, especially within the context of meeting with the people of China.

Mr. Speaker, the election of Chen Shui-bian to the presidency in March of 2000 further demonstrates the depth and strength of Taiwan's democracy, as President Chen is the first member of the opposition to serve as President.

As a result of these positive developments, the relations between the

United States and Taiwan have never been closer. There is no better example of this close relationship than the visit to the United States this week of Taiwan's First Lady, Madame Chen Wu Sue-jen.

First Lady Chen Wu has long fought for democracy and human rights and humanitarian causes in Taiwan. The First Lady previously served in Taiwan's legislature. She has provided critical assistance to her husband in his political efforts.

Maybe not known to the Members of our body, Mr. Speaker, but First Lady Chen Wu was seriously injured in a traffic accident years ago; and as a result, she has become a paraplegic, but what is more important is the tremendous courage and her fortitude in continuing to support her husband, not only to stand as a symbol, a beacon for democracy to the people of Taiwan but certainly an example of someone who has that determination as First Lady Chen Wu has demonstrated, not only to the people in Taiwan but certainly to the people here in America.

□ 1500

Mr. Speaker, since the horrendous tragedy of September 11, the First Lady has also been a driving force behind Taiwan's charity and humanitarian assistance for the victims of the terrorist attacks. The First Lady will be on Capitol Hill tomorrow to meet Members of Congress, and I do strongly urge my colleagues to take this opportunity to meet her. I have no doubt that they will be impressed by her strength, her sense of compassion, and her commitment to building stronger ties between the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge support from my colleagues for this House Resolution 533. Again I could not have asked for a greater advocate and champion of freedom and democracy in the Asia Pacific region than the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) and I commend his leadership and management of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself just a few moments to close this debate.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and I visited many hot spots around the world in our time together, and he has always demonstrated a love of liberty and justice, and I think that today this resolution demonstrates that in a democratic society even where there are some disagreements, and we all understand people have disagreements on various issues, that fundamental values that this body represents cross party lines.

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) and others who have been so active on the Committee on International Relations,

sometimes we have heated debates, but quite often those debates are not about the fundamentals but are instead about details, and today we are talking about something that is very fundamental, and that is showing respect to a country that has a democratically elected government. We show our respect to that country by tipping our hat and greeting the First Lady of that country who is visiting with us, a lady who has herself endured many, many crises and challenges in her life and demonstrates a courage, and a lady who is married to a man who was elected the first really democratically elected leader of a Chinese people and a man now who represents the republic there in Taiwan and is a good friend to the United States.

So I would urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H. Res. 533.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Ms. Wu Sue-jen, Taiwan's First Lady, in her visit to Washington, DC, and in strong support of H. Res. 533, a resolution welcoming Madam First Lady to the Capitol of the United States.

Throughout her life, Ms. Wu has been a reliable partner for President Chen Shui-bien and a determined fighter for democratic development in Taiwan. While she has been paralyzed from the waist down since 1985, Ms. Wu has nonetheless remained politically engaged and continued to play a key role in Taiwanese politics. She was elected and served as a member of Taiwan's Legislative Yuan in 1986, and has played a great role in President Chen's ascension first to the Mayor of Taipei, and later, Taiwan's presidency.

While I am not able to welcome President Chen in Washington, DC today, it is a great pleasure to welcome Ms. Wu to our nation's capital. I believe it is critically important to America's commitment to democracy for the U.S. Congress to welcome representatives of a democratic and free people to our capital, and I look forward to future opportunities to welcome democratically elected leaders of the Taiwanese people.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support for H. Res. 533, a resolution welcoming Madame Chen Wu Sue-jen, the first lady of Taiwan, to Washington, D.C.

First Lady Chen has sacrificed so much for the freedom of her countrymen and women. Her efforts to establish political pluralism in Taiwan led to a botched assassination attempt that left her permanently paralyzed from the waist down. Yet she continues to work tirelessly for the ideals that she so strongly believes in—self determination, the rule of law and human rights.

Self-determination is a right that the Taiwanese should not be deprived of, and it is in our interests to demand that communist China immediately stop threatening Taiwan when its leaders simply state a fact of truth . . . Taiwan is independent and it should be a full-fledged member of the United Nations. Taiwan's courageous leaders have every right to express their people's desire to be independent . . . especially from the gruesome dictatorship in Beijing. As President Chen so bravely articulated: "Taiwan's future and destiny can only be decided by the 23 million people living on the island."

We support the efforts of the Bush Administration to clearly articulate a policy on Taiwan

that places more emphasis on Taiwan's interests and less on our concerns with the People's Republic of China. Accordingly, it was disappointing to learn that our U.S. representative to Taiwan recently criticized the government there for viewing "the mainland through the prism of economic threat." It makes no sense to shrug aside Taiwan's fears that their businessmen may be inadvertently assisting the communists to build up their military resources.

We need to work closely with our Administration so that there is a single strong focused unambivalent message from the United States that our government understands the aspirations and the fears of the people of Taiwan. Madame Chen is an inspiration to all of us and we heartily welcome her here to the United States.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 533.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING HEROISM AND COURAGE DISPLAYED BY AIRLINE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 110) honoring the heroism and courage displayed by airline flight attendants on a daily basis.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. CON. RES. 110

Whereas over 100,000 men and women in the United States serve as flight attendants;

Whereas flight attendants dedicate themselves to serving and protecting their passengers;

Whereas flight attendants react to dangerous situations as the first line of defense of airline passengers;

Whereas safety and security are the primary concerns of flight attendants;

Whereas flight attendants evacuate passengers from an airplane in emergency situations;

Whereas flight attendants defend passengers against hijackers, terrorists, and abusive passengers;

Whereas flight attendants handle in-flight medical emergencies;

Whereas flight attendants perform routine safety and service duties on board the aircraft;

Whereas 25 flight attendants lost their lives aboard 4 hijacked flights on September 11, 2001;

Whereas 5 flight attendants helped to prevent United Flight 93 from reaching its intended target on September 11, 2001;

Whereas flight attendants provided assistance to passengers across the United States who had their flights diverted on September 11, 2001;

Whereas flight attendants on American Airlines Flight 63 helped to subdue Richard Reid on December 22, 2001, thereby preventing him from detonating an explosive device in his shoe intended to bring down the airplane and kill all 185 passengers and 12 crew members on board; and

Whereas flight attendants helped to prevent Pablo Moreira, a Uruguayan citizen, from breaking into the cockpit on February 7, 2002, during United Flight 855 from Miami to Buenos Aires: Now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) expresses its profound gratitude for the faithful service provided by flight attendants to make air travel safe;

(2) honors the courage and dedication of flight attendants;

(3) supports all the flight attendants who continue to display heroism on a daily basis, as they had been doing before, during, and after September 11, 2001; and

(4) shall send a copy of this resolution to a family member of each of the flight attendants killed on September 11, 2001.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA).

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon we take up as a body Senate Concurrent Resolution 110. That resolution addresses a long overdue requirement of this House, and that is to honor the heroism and also the courage displayed by our flight attendants not only on September 11 but on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001, more than 3,000 innocent people lost their lives. This devastating number includes some 25 flight attendants who were on board the four hijacked aircraft on that day. As a result of the tragic events of that fateful day, the vital role that these men and women play as a very first line of defense became painfully evident. Flight attendants react and they also provide essential guidance to passengers during emergency situations. Flight attendants are in fact responsible and primarily concerned with passenger safety. Once the aircraft door is closed, they not only provide safety for the traveling public but also become our very first line of defense in aircraft security. They also guarantee that there are in fact additional eyes and ears on guard for suspicious and threatening behavior.

Examples of their acts of heroism and service include the actions of the 25 flight attendants who lost their lives on September 11 in the four aircraft that were hijacked that day. Mr. Speaker, we have honored firefighters, police, pilots, and ordinary citizens. Today it is fitting that we take some time to recognize those flight attendants who served both the aviation industry, the public, and America so