

Abbey Meyers and the other courageous individuals who advocated for the passage of the Orphan Drug Act and have given a brighter future to millions of American families over the last 20 years. For these reasons, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote for H. Con. Res. 147.

TRIBUTE TO COUNCILMAN MIKE  
GIN

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my friend, Mike Gin, who retires this week from the Redondo Beach City Council after 8 years of distinguished service.

In addition to his work on the council, Mike's service to his community covers a wide range of community groups including the Redondo Beach Historical Society, the Chinese Americans United for Self-Empowerment, and the Beach Cities Branch of the American Heart Association. He is also a member of the Redondo Beach Sister Cities Association, the Redondo Beach Jaycees, the Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Redondo Beach Rotary Club.

I consider Mike a "lunch-pail politician," who prides himself on doing the little things—like parks and potholes—that help make the City of Redondo Beach one of the nicest places to live in California. He was famous for holding Saturday morning office hours with his constituents so he could spend time listening to their concerns.

But Mike's retirement from the City Council does not mean he is giving up on public service. In fact, this month Mike left his information services job to become Deputy to another good friend, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. I am delighted that much of the area Mike will cover for Supervisor Knabe remains in my own Congressional district. My staff and I look forward to working with Mike in this new capacity.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss Mike's warm personality on the City Council but am glad he will continue to play an active role in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE VILLAGE  
REFORM DEMOCRATIC CLUB ON  
THEIR 20TH ANNUAL DINNER

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Village Reform Democratic Club on the occasion of their 20th annual dinner. For over 20 years, the Village Reform Democratic Club has led its neighborhood in addressing and resolving important political and community issues.

As is their custom the Village Reform Democratic Club will honor community leaders at their dinner. This year the honorees will be the Caring Community for 30 years of service to the elderly, as well as Saul Fishman and Barry Benepe, two men who in their own ways

have helped shape the cultural and social fabric of New York City.

For more than 30 years, professionals and volunteers at the Caring Community have helped and empowered seniors within our community, offering a broad array of programs and services, including the home delivery of over 50,000 hot meals, assistance with shopping and home repairs and assistance to seniors who are crime victims.

Most importantly Caring Community operates four centers for older adults. These four centers, at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, Independence Plaza, The First Presbyterian Church and Center on the Square, are open Monday to Friday from 9 to 5. These centers offer a wide variety of programs for seniors as well as a place where seniors can enjoy a hot meal.

One center is located at Independence Plaza, a neighbor to the World Trade Center. The seniors in Independence Plaza were displaced from their homes for weeks or longer. Without the crucial assistance provided by the Caring Community, many of these seniors would have been unable to deal with the psychological impact of 9/11 and might never have returned to their homes.

In this time, when government is reducing spending on all services, and charitable giving, especially by corporations has been severely curtailed, along with the Village Reform Democratic Club I am proud to recognize all those who contribute their time and resources to the work of the Caring Center.

Saul Fishman is a pioneer in the fight for domestic partnership for gay and lesbian couples. Beginning in 1987, Saul served as spokesman for the Coalition for Lesbian and Gays Rights and later as the chair of the Family Diversity Coalition and as a member of the Mayor's Partner Task Force.

As an activist in the Civil Service Bar Association, the union representing attorneys employed by New York City, Saul persuaded the union to become the first to offer domestic partner benefits to its members. Saul later convinced the municipal unions to demand that the City of New York grant bereavement leave to any City employee who lost a domestic partner. In a dramatic confrontation with then Mayor Koch, Saul got the mayor to accept the provision.

Having secured significant protections for the domestic partners of New York City employees, Saul turned to the wider issue of domestic partnership law to protect all New Yorkers. After I agreed to sponsor the bill in the City Council, Saul lobbied other members to be cosponsors and supporters. Passage of that first domestic partnership bill was hailed as an unparalleled victory for the gay and lesbian community. It is a testament to Saul Fishman's unending energy and unwavering belief that all people should have equal protection under the law.

In 1976 Barry Benepe had the idea of bringing fresh produce directly to the people of New York City, and with that the Green Market was born. Starting with three sites and few local farmers, over the past 2½ decades the Green Market has expanded to 18 locations bringing over 150 farmers from 4 states.

Consumers appreciate the fresh alternatives offered by the Green Market, while many environmentalists commend the transportation and environmental benefits of locally grown foods. For this Barry was awarded a Special Citation

by the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He also received a Municipal Art Society's Certificate of Merit as well as a National Recognition Award from the America the Beautiful Fund.

It is members like Saul Fishman and Barry Benepe that have made the Village Reform Democratic Club a force for social change in New York City.

In recognition of these outstanding contributions, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Caring Community, Saul Fishman, Barry Benepe and Village Reform Democratic Club on the occasion of their 20th annual dinner.

HONORING TAIWAN PRESIDENT  
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian on his third anniversary in office. Three years ago, voters in Taiwan elected Mr. Chen Shui-bian, President of the Republic of China on Taiwan, which marks the first successful and peaceful transition of power in Taiwan's history. Now in the year 2003, President Chen continues to make strides towards ensuring a robust democracy by guaranteeing the Taiwanese people freedom of speech and fundamental human rights.

Many events have transpired in Taiwan since President Chen Shui-bian has taken office. Over the last three years, President Chen has sought a meaningful dialogue and maintained a positive interaction with China. Unfortunately China has ignored President Chen's gestures of goodwill and has continued to deploy missiles along the coastal provinces aimed at Taiwan. It is my hope the leadership in China will realize that peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait is in everyone's best interest.

Taiwan has also endured the outbreak of the alarming disease Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). I wish Taiwan's government and people every success in their endeavor to fight vigorously in order to control further spread of the SARS disease. As Secretary Powell said recently, SARS recognizes no international borders. Taiwan has made significant achievements in the field of healthcare and its medical experts have the potential to greatly contribute to the science of health. That said, Taiwan shouldn't be ruled out from the World Health Organization mainly due to political concern or obstruction.

We in the U.S. Congress appreciate Taiwan's friendship and support over the years. Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Taiwan has offered assistance in helping the United States fight global terrorism. At the conclusion of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Taiwan government issued a statement supporting the Coalition of the Willing's cause and pledging to offer humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq, just as they graciously did in the case of Afghanistan. Taiwan's generosity is welcomed and I look forward to a strong relationship with Taiwan for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, on the eve of President Chen's third anniversary in office, I join my

colleagues in wishing President Chen all the best.

# TAIWAN PRESIDENT CELEBRATES THIRD ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE

**HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I am honored to pay tribute to Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian on the occasion of his third anniversary in Office. During the last 3 years, he has maintained both economic and political growth for his country. The people of Taiwan enjoy one of the best standards in Asia and full political freedom.

President Chen has also strengthened Taiwan's relationship with the United States. We appreciate his support of our war against terrorism and his pledge of humanitarian assistance to post-war Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, the spread of SARS has threatened the entire region and permeated the west with sporadic infections. We hope that President Chen will be successful in controlling the spread of SARS in Taiwan and that Taiwan will not suffer the disastrous economic and medical set back such an epidemic would promote.

Once again, I congratulate President Chen on 3 years of service to the Taiwanese people and wish him well as he strives to develop the political and economic landscape of Taiwan.

## AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to welcome the building of a new university and, in fact, a new town in the district I represent. Ave Maria University—Florida's newest university—will be an academic center of international scope founded on Catholic religious beliefs and committed to developing a Division I caliber athletics program. The university plans to grow to about 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students and will have a full curriculum of traditional liberal arts, sciences and engineering programs, as well as a comprehensive graduate program offering masters and doctoral degrees.

The campus will cover approximately 750 acres, including a world class golf course in eastern Collier County. The university, which has already begun construction on an interim campus, is seeded with approximately \$200 million from Thomas S. Monaghan, Domino's Pizza Founder and former owner of the Detroit Tigers, who is also chairman of the Ave Maria Foundation in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

The town that will house Ave Maria University will be developed through a joint partnership between the university and the Barron Collier Companies. This town will produce endless economic benefit for surrounding communities and will serve as a great home for Florida's newest university.

Ave Maria University will bring academic excellence, athletic competition and strong

Catholic principles to one of America's fastest growing communities. As America congratulates Florida on the creation of the nation's newest Catholic university, I welcome this wonderful addition to Southern Florida.

This university will provide endless opportunities for students seeking a first-rate education within a Catholic university setting. Additionally, Ave Maria University will bring growth to the surrounding areas and a great potential to recruit superior faculty and staff.

While Ave Maria University is one of my newest constituents, I speak on behalf of the 25th Congressional District, South Florida and the entire state in congratulating Ave Maria University and welcoming the university and its students to Collier County.

## ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, since 1990, we have honored the lives and accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans during the month of May. From the early 1800s to the 21st century, Asian and Pacific peoples have played a vital role in the development of the United States and have made lasting contributions in all elements of American society. Asian Pacific Americans have helped to define what it means to be an American, to work to advance the needs of all.

I am proud that the region I represent in Congress is such a diverse one and is home to many people of Asian Pacific heritage—Asian Pacific American communities such as Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Japanese, and Vietnamese Americans. In California's 29th District, cities like Alhambra, Altadena, Burbank, Pasadena, Glendale, Monterey Park, San Gabriel, South Pasadena and Temple City boast thriving, active Asian American communities. The City of Glendale, for example, boasts the nation's fourth largest Korean American population in the United States.

In fact, just last month, I was privileged to travel to South Korea to address the increasingly important political, social and economic issues that have emerged on the Korean peninsula. The Congressional delegation trip focused on security issues on the Korean Peninsula, the plight of North Korean refugees and the abysmal human rights conditions in the North—issues important to my constituents and all Americans.

But, in honoring Asian Pacific Americans this month, I also honor those individuals and organizations in my District whose accomplishments and contributions to our community have been immeasurable.

It is my honor to recognize Cause-Vision 21 and its esteemed founder, Charlie Woo. The organization is dedicated to advancing the political empowerment of the Chinese American and Asian American communities through voter education, community outreach and leadership development. Each year, they organize the Chinese American Student Internship Coalition (CASIC), a program that provides Chinese American college students with the opportunity to gain hands on experience with

the political process and a deeper understanding of issues important to the Chinese American community.

Earlier this year, I named Dr. Annie Chin Siu of Alhambra as one of the Women of the Year in California's 29th District. Her continued efforts to help our youth, the development of commerce, the preservation of our historical legacy and her devotion to the improvement of public safety are remarkable. The recipient of numerous awards, including the Los Angeles Chinese Chamber of Commerce's Service Award and the Los Angeles Chinatown Public Safety Award, Dr. Liu is the consummate volunteer. She has been active in the Chinese American Museum, Chinese Historical Society of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles Chinatown Public Safety Association, among many others.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate that my District is home to many of Southern California's most prominent and well-known Asian American leaders. California State Assemblymember Judy Chu, Monterey Park City Councilmembers Michael Eng and David Lau, and California Board of Equalization Member John Chiang have all displayed an unsurpassed dedication to their constituents.

These are just a few, specific examples of the impact people of Asian Pacific heritage have had in the communities of California's 29th District.

As a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, Congressional Caucus on Korea, the United States—Philippines Friendship Caucus, and Taiwan Caucus, I have had the opportunity to support legislative efforts important to constituents in my district.

As a nation, we must embrace the cultures that have worked to advance the needs of all Americans and have helped to define what it means to be American. I ask my colleagues to join me today and throughout this month to showcase and celebrate the contributions—both historical and present—of Asian Pacific Americans in our nation, our cities, and our communities.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERNIE FLETCHER**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, May 19, 2003, had I been present for rollcall vote Nos. 192, 193, and 194, I would have voted the following way: rollcall vote No. 192—"aye," rollcall vote No. 193—"aye," rollcall vote No. 194—"aye."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 20, 2003*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on May 19, 2003, I was unable to vote on H. Con. Res. 166, Expressing the Sense of Congress in Support of Buckle Up America Week (rollcall vote 192), H.R. 1018, James L. Watson United States Court of International Trade Building (rollcall 193), and H. Con. Res. 147,