

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,

Commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Orphan Drug Act and the National Organization for Rare Disorders (rollcall vote 194). Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all three measures.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, because of an emergency in my district, I missed rollcall vote No. 192. If present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF MARC HAKEN AND
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF
HILLTOP VILLAGE CO-OPERATIVE #4

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Hilltop Village Co-operative #4 in Hollis, Queens, NY, and its President, Marc Haken for his strong leadership, dedication and commitment to the Hilltop Village community.

On Sunday, August 15, 1952, the New York Times recognized the opening of this grand cooperative with a front page article. Constructed under the National Housing Act of 1952, Hilltop Village Co-operative #4 was the fourth and final completed section of the 500-unit Hilltop Village, occupying 150 acres of Queens, NY. Hilltop Village Co-op #4 opened in December 1953 with 296 apartments and Joseph Desner as its first president.

Since its completion in 1953, Hilltop Village #4 has emerged as a leader in the local community. Among the major projects the group has spearheaded and accomplished are: the creation of the Hollis branch of the Queens Borough Public Library on 202nd Street and Hillside Avenue, the construction of a Post Office on 197th Street and Hillside Avenue, and the implementation of a new bus route, the Q76, which runs down Francis Lewis Boulevard to the subway terminal at Hillside Avenue and 179th Street. In addition, residents of Hilltop Village were instrumental in the establishment of the Holliswood Jewish Center.

Community involvement has been especially prominent under the dynamic leadership of Marc Haken, who has served as president of the co-op, and has been reelected every three years since 1978. Under Mr. Haken's direction the co-op became a member of civic and community organizations such as the 107th Precinct Council, the Queens Civic Congress, whose co-op committee is chaired by Mr. Haken, and the Friends of Cunningham Park.

The co-op also makes financial contributions to several local charitable organizations including the Queens Women's Center, the Hollis branch of the Queens Borough Public Library, the Jamaica Estates Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the Hatzolah Volunteer Ambulance Corp., the Youth Committee of Community Board #8 and to the 107th Precinct of the New York City Police Department. In addition, the

co-op donates roof space for radio antennas to both the Jamaica Estates Volunteer Ambulance Corp and the New York City Police Department. It also provides landscaping services for the center divider of Francis Lewis Boulevard. In Marc Haken's 25 years as president of Hilltop Village Co-operatives, the co-op has expanded its prominent role as a leader in the local community.

I commend Mr. Haken and the Hilltop Villages' Board of Directors—Michael Rodi, Miriam Null, Bernice Ackerman, Adrienne Bayuk, Steven Kasavana and Miguel Ramos—for their continued dedication and commitment to community service. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in wishing Marc Haken, the Board of Directors, and the shareholders of Hilltop Co-operatives many more years of success as they celebrate the 50th Anniversary of this wonderful residential community.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN
HERITAGE MONTH

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and to pay tribute to the 120,000 individuals of Asian descent that live in my congressional district.

I am fortunate to represent an ethnically diverse district that has experienced first hand the economic and cultural contributions of the Asian Pacific American community.

Although less than 4 percent of the U.S. population is Asian, I am proud that 19 percent of my congressional district is of Asian descent.

Some cities in my congressional district, have a well-established Asian Pacific American community.

Monterey Park, for example, is home to a Chinese and Chinese-American community.

Monterey Park is 60 percent Chinese and its City Council is majority Asian as well.

Other cities in my congressional district, like West Covina, have experienced an increase in its Asian population in more recent times.

From 1980 to the present, West Covina's Asian Pacific American population has grown from 4 percent to 23 percent.

In addition to this recent growth, the Japanese community in West Covina has long been an important part of the city.

On June 3, the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, located in West Covina, will celebrate its 52nd Anniversary.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center provides important services like:

Japanese language classes from the kindergarten to the high school level;

Martial art and cultural classes like Japanese classical dance; and

A year round program for its Japanese American senior and retired citizens.

The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center has significantly contributed to the strength of West Covina and the greater San Gabriel Valley.

Asian Pacific Americans bring richness not only to our culture, but also to our economy and to our advancement as a nation.

Asian Pacific Americans have made vast contributions in the fields of medicine, technology, and agriculture that benefit all Americans.

Throughout times of heightened national security, Asian Pacific Americans have fought to protect democracy in every war since the Civil War.

For example, despite the disturbing racism towards Japanese Americans during World War II, Japanese Americans volunteered to serve in the armed forces as part of the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team.

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team remains the most decorated unit in U.S. military history.

Not only did these Japanese servicemen show their loyalty to the United States, but they also earned more than 18,000 individual decorations in less than two years. These noble men deserve our recognition.

In closing, I would like to honor the memory of a truly remarkable woman, the late Congresswoman Patsy Mink.

In my 2 years working with Patsy, I quickly came to admire her spirit and determination.

Patsy was a true warrior, a champion for the causes of equality, civil rights and environmental justice—causes important to the Asian Pacific American community and all communities.

As the first Asian-American woman in Congress, Patsy Mink was a hero to many.

Patsy may not be with us in body any longer, but her spirit continues to thrive as we celebrate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

HONORING BERNICE BECK OF
KILLEEN, TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 20, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, last week, Central Texas, the City of Killeen and Ft. Hood lost a friend with the passing of Bernice "Bernie" Beck. Some people will be known for their accomplishments in life. Others will be known for their strength of character. My friend; Killeen's friend; Ft. Hood's friend, Bernice Beck, will be known for both.

Some will be remembered for service to country in time of war. Others will be remembered for service to community in time of peace. Bernice Beck will be remembered for both.

I will miss Bernie Beck, because he was a dear friend, but his lasting legacies cannot be missed, not even by those who never knew him—Stillhouse Hollow Lake, Ft. Hood's III Corps Headquarters, the Soldier Development Center, the Soldier Service Center and Army family housing improvement program—these are but a few of the important projects that bear the imprint of Bernie Beck's commitment to the community and soldiers he loved.

I'll never forget the first time I met Bernie Beck. It was 1990, and I was campaigning for Congress. I asked for his support. In his typical quiet but firm determination, he said I would have it, under one condition. He wanted to know that I would work to get on the Armed Services Committee because of Ft. Hood. I