

TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN AND PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on May 20, the people of Taiwan celebrated the third anniversary of the ascent of Chen Shui-bian to the Presidency of Taiwan. In recognition of this anniversary, I would like to congratulate both the people of Taiwan and President Chen upon the achievement of this third anniversary and make a few observations with regard to this auspicious occasion, as well as the long-standing friendship that exists between the United States and Taiwan.

With regard to President Chen, I can only say that in his three years as leader of Taiwan have been exemplary. President Chen has, continues and shall hopefully continue to receive widespread praise around the world for his determined commitment and unswerving dedication to continued democratization, economic reform and basic recognition of human rights.

In his conduct and comments toward the People's Republic of China, President Chen has promised that Taiwan would not seek independence as long as the People's Republic would refrain from using force against Taiwan. Moreover, he has initiated solid measures that are aimed at reducing tensions in the Taiwan Straits so that the freedom of navigation in the Straits can be maintained.

President Chen has further demonstrated his leadership in bringing his diplomatic skills to the fore in gaining Taiwan entrance to the World Trade Organization. In this regard, I can only hope and wish for President Chen's continued diplomatic success in making Taiwan more present in the global community of nations. Two such measures of continued success would rest in gaining Taiwan access and entry to both the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization.

Mr. Speaker, as President Chen celebrates the third anniversary of his Presidency, I would only say that America congratulates and salutes him upon the many successes and achievements of his administration to date. And, that we wish him continued and further success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO RITA DAVE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Rita Dave in recognition of her dedication to improving the human rights in her community and throughout the world, especially among immigrant populations.

Rita immigrated to the United States with her parents when she was 7 years old. Pursuing her goal to become a lawyer, she received her Juris Doctor Degree from New York Law School, and was admitted to practice in the State of New York in 1992.

Throughout her personal and professional life, Rita has been deeply affected by the

plight of immigrants in the United States. In addition to representing mortgage lenders in her current practice, she works extensively on pro bono projects involving immigrant issues. She has worked together with local and national human rights organizations to organize and mobilize grass roots activities opposing indefinite detention and incarceration of legal permanent residents. She has provided pro bono assistance to detainees across the United States by providing them with legal case law, advising them of their rights under immigration law, and providing assistance and support to their families.

Rita has also worked hard to bring to the attention of elected officials human and civil rights violations suffered by men and women during their detention. She works to expose and remedy these violations to ensure that our legal system remains fair and just. In recognition of her tenacity and empathy for the plight of immigrants, in 2003 she was appointed chairperson of the political action committee for the Federation of Indian Americans.

On the civil rights end, Ms. Dave has founded a non-profit organization devoted to helping men and women who are factually innocent of the crime for which they have been convicted and incarcerated. The group is called The Falsely Accused and Convicted Taking Steps, FACTS. FACTS reviews the case files of individuals who assert their factual innocence then assist them in overturning their convictions.

Rita lives with her husband and 9-year-old daughter in Mineola, NY.

Mr. Speaker, Rita Dave is committed to improving the lives of those in need and those who have suffered human and civil rights violations. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

TRIBUTE TO SYLVIA PORTILLO

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible woman from my district who recently received a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program award. Sylvia Portillo earned this prestigious award through her hard work in expanding health care for the Latino community of northern Virginia.

Sylvia Portillo overcame adversity as a Spanish-speaking immigrant and low-wage worker to become a major health leader in her community. Her career in health care began in El Salvador where she worked as a nurse. Upon fleeing war-torn El Salvador, Sylvia became a home health care companion in Arlington County, to support the three children she left with relatives back home as well as her new family in the United States.

Ms. Portillo was inspired to become a health care advocate for Latinos and other underserved community residents after her experience and the roadblocks she encountered when she tried to get health care and insurance for her two youngest children. In 1996 she joined the Tenants' and Workers' Support Committee as a volunteer in the Women's

Leadership Group. There she organized the Latino community's first health fair by bringing together neighbors, doctors, local groups and city officials. In its seventh year, the fair is the only source of health care for many residents. In 1997, Sylvia became lead organizer for the committee's Health Project with a goal of increasing health access for Alexandria's Latino community. Since then, she has recruited and trained more than 80 health promoters to educate the community about preventive health practices.

Ms. Portillo has also led a campaign that won \$300,000 in medical debt relief from the leading area health system and persuaded local hospitals to hire bilingual staff. The project also has completed three landmark studies documenting conditions of Latino immigrants, including occupational health problems and the consequences of medical debt.

One of the most impressive testimonies about the work Sylvia has accomplished came from a woman who sought her help with a medical debt she could not pay since she was unable to work. Sylvia helped her understand our health system, despite her inability to read. "By working with Silvia, I am no longer afraid," the woman said.

Sylvia and the Health Project have helped countless people throughout my congressional district and northern Virginia. I am proud to have Sylvia in my district, and I look forward to seeing what else she can accomplish in ensuring that her friends and neighbors receive the health care they deserve.

HONORING THE THORNTON SISTERS FOUNDATION

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge once again a group of talented and capable women. This month marks the 12th anniversary of the Thornton Sisters Foundation, Inc. I have been following these women's struggles and accomplishments for a long time now, and after a decade of success, I still feel it is an honor to formally salute these women for a third time.

On Sunday, June 8, 2003, the Thornton Sisters Foundation will hold an awards ceremony for the 25 finalists of the Donald and Itasker Thornton Memorial Scholarship and their family members. The occasion will be hosted at Jumping Brook Country Club in Neptune, NJ.

The Thornton Sisters have an inspiring history that led to the creation of this foundation. They come from a family that has always known the intrinsic worth of a good education. In 1948, their parents, Donald and Itasker, moved the family from Harlem, New York City to Long Branch, NJ, so that their children would be able to receive a better education. And while Mrs. Thornton was unable to attend college, she pushed all of her daughters to accomplish something that she would never be able to do.

With the help of scholarships and their parent's inspiration, all six daughters graduated from Monmouth University in Long Branch. Having learned early on the importance of an education, these six sisters now want to give the same opportunity they had to other young women.

This story has special significance to me, as I am a citizen of Long Branch. In addition, Rita Thornton and I both attended Long Branch High School and even participated in speech and debate together. I could tell back then, that she and her sisters share a true commitment to education and excellence—it is no wonder that they all received straight A's throughout high school.

This year, I would also like to recognize all recipients of the Donald and Itasker Thornton Scholarship, past and present: from 1992, Miss LaShawn Pruitt and Miss Tiffany Sanders; from 1995, Miss Natasha Dwamena; from 1996, Miss Jasmine Williams; from 1997, Miss Anetha Perry, Miss Sanetta Ponton, and Mr. Carl Little; from 1998, Miss Diane Byne; from 1999, Miss Estelle Docteur, Miss Leigh-Michil George, Miss Tiffany Little, and Miss Traymanesha Moore; from 2000, Miss Marie Guervil, and Miss Lesha Sanders; from 2001, Miss Aakia Seymour, Miss Fatiya Ilegieno, Miss Lesha Brady, Miss Betty Lin, and Miss Courtney Jackson; from 2002, Miss Melissa Thompson, Miss Tiffany Reed, and Miss Martha Tan; and from 2003, Miss Yoonieh Ahn, Miss Cassandra Brown, Miss Porschia Epps, Miss Sorochi Eschaghi, Miss Sonya Frontin, Miss Indria Harrison, Miss Quasheeda Kelly, Miss Elizabeth Meltzer, Miss Dominique Robinson, Miss Candice Spence, Miss Shakeilya Washington, and Miss Katherine Wheatle.

Mr. Speaker, I would now like to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these aspiring women. They are truly a group that needs to be admired and praised. I want to personally thank the Thornton sisters for their twelve years of providing scholarships for young minority women of the State of New Jersey.

A TRIBUTE TO GRACE (SANG SOOK) LEE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Grace (Sang Sook) Lee in recognition of her dedication to assisting Korean-Americans and troubled youths in her community.

Ms. Lee was born in Seoul, Korea. She was educated in many different schools, and earned a degree in chemistry from Sacred Hearts Women's University. She married Chong Hwun Lee in 1980 and moved to the United States. Ms. Lee and her husband have three daughters, Vivian, Marian, and Joan.

At the height of the Lees' success, they owned five dry cleaners in Manhattan. Unfortunately, things took a turn for the worse and they had to sell their home in Little Neck, NY. For some period of time, they had to move every two years. During this time, Grace was able to go to night school and earn a degree in counseling and conflict resolution.

Adapting to a new culture and struggling to establish a successful business made life during the 1980s arduous. The stress caused Grace to fall into depression. However, she used this low point in her life to search for the truth in her life that would uplift her. She realized that she could no longer live for herself, and in 1990, in the teachings of her Savior Jesus Christ, she gained a new awareness that she must serve others.

During this time, she met a Korean-American inmate, which altered her life dramatically. Since that moment, she has been diligently visiting Korean-American inmates in the greater New York Area. These experiences motivated her to focus on the problems of the youth in the Korean-American community. The Korean-American Youth Center in Flushing, NY, provided her with a vehicle to work with teenagers. Because her children were getting older, she had more time to pursue her concern for all of the young people in her community.

Using all of the experiences in her life, Grace created the Youth and Family Focus, a non-profit organization of which she is the executive officer. She runs the organization with the devoted help of a few volunteers. Youth and Family Focus believes that intervention with teenagers is the best way to affect their lives positively. The organization is a youth oriented program that offers many services to the community including parent-child counseling, education programs for Korean American parents, a G.E.D. program, mentoring for teens, retreats for teenagers, and a prison ministry.

Ms. Lee's devotion and dedicated work with Youth and Family Focus have made this group an effective organization. Its success is reflected by the high regard it has within the Korean-American communities across the United States. Success is further reflected by the requests it receives from the judicial system, school system, and families for assistance with Korean American Youth.

Mr. Speaker, Grace (Sang Sook) Lee is committed to improving the lives of Korean-Americans and troubled youths. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

SENSE OF THE HOUSE COMMENDING NATION'S BUSINESSES AND BUSINESS OWNERS FOR SUPPORT OF OUR TROOPS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 4, 2003

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 201. This bill expresses the sense of the House of Representatives that American businesses should be commended for their support of our troops and their families. I would like to thank my colleague from Michigan, Mr. Rogers, for introducing this timely and appropriate tribute and urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

Since September 11, 2001, the Armed Forces have undertaken more than 21 months of courageous and successful operations against terrorism worldwide. Over 216,931 members of the Reserve components have been called to leave their families and their jobs to serve our country. From my own State of Michigan, over 1,000 individuals have been called to Active Duty.

National Guard and Reserve members comprise 38 percent of our military and support by their employers is crucial. It can be a struggle for Guard and Reserve members to find a bal-

ance between serving our country and dedication to their employment. For activated service members to be successful in their missions, they need peace of mind that their families, civilian jobs, and other responsibilities will be stable and financially secure in their absence.

We have established a law to protect our troops and this law has significantly reinforced the respect and encouragement our armed forces deserve. The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides job protection and rights of reinstatement to employees who participate in the National Guard and Reserve. The act seeks to ensure that members of the uniformed services are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completion of their service. They should be reinstated with the seniority, status, and rate of pay they would have obtained had they remained continuously employed by their civilian employer. The law also protects individuals from discrimination in hiring, promotion, and retention on the basis of present and future membership in the Armed Forces.

Many employers have gone above and beyond what is required under USERRA. They have expanded their pay differential and medical coverage policies for Reserve and National Guard members called to Active Duty. Along with the companies who provide a pay differential during service members' annual training and mobilization, continuation of insurance and other company benefits, establishing family support networks to maintain open lines of communication, and facilitating information sharing have been used to mitigate the psychological hardships of war.

Employers' willingness to bear the inevitable financial hardships and organizational disruptions that result from war is an important contribution to our Nation's security. In placing America's well being above their own, employers help our National Guard provide mission-ready forces to help preserve our freedoms and protect our national interests.

Our Nation's businesses and business owners serve our country in many ways, especially in these days of increased engagement of our military in strategic locations around our Nation and around the world. I would like to commend their patriotism and offer my sincere gratitude to the men and women defending America.

HONORING DR. DANIEL IVASCYN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dr. Daniel W. Ivascyn, a constituent of the second district of Massachusetts, for his countless years of dedication to the town of Oxford and Oxford public school system.

Dr. Ivascyn is retiring this year after 34 years of devoted employment.

Dr. Ivascyn began his extraordinary career in September 1969 when he became Business Manager of Oxford. He was later on promoted in 1975 to become Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs. He continued his steady climb up the chain of command in 1996 where