

and a vigorous (I can assure you!), a vigorous and energetic free press for Taiwan!

In our Legislative Yuan we have four major parties and one independent group. You will be 'shocked' to know we sometimes quarrel, we shout, we argue, we debate into the night. But on matters concerning the mutual interests of the free people of Taiwan and the United States, we—like you—stand firmly united.

I pledge that we will continue to do all in our power to strengthen US-Taiwan ties and to advance mutual economic, diplomatic and security interests.

On two issues in particular I want to ask your help. Both concern our cousins across the Taiwan Strait, the People's Republic of China.

The people of Taiwan earnestly hope for a dialogue with the authorities in Beijing. We want to discuss matters of health. We want to discuss trade, security, transportation, improving people-to-people exchanges.

We have many issues of common interest to explore with the PRC. There is much we can learn from each other. There is much we can accomplish together. The peoples of the entire region desire peace and security, but there must be a mutual willingness for dialogue. So we ask our friends in the United States to use your important relationship with the authorities in Beijing. Encourage them to engage us in a dialogue unburdened by preconditions. It can only advance the interests of all concerned.

The second issue where we ask your help is in the area of health and Taiwan's international human rights.

Taiwan has weathered a terrible scourge in recent months as SARS swept the region. Lives have been lost. Livelihoods have been threatened. Commerce has been disrupted. People throughout the world have suffered from the PRC's cover-up of the SARS epidemic. At the same time the leaders in Beijing prevented Taiwan from receiving support from WHO, and other countries, by insisting that all assistance had to be approved and channeled through the PRC. Although the PRC could not handle its own problems with SARS it had the audacity to claim it was helping Taiwan, which did not receive anything.

Throughout this time, Taiwan has been seeking to participate in the programs of the World Health Organization. Not as a member state—we recognize that nomenclature would offend some in Beijing—but simply as an observer. Yet the stubborn rejection of our effort by the PRC—their international arm-twisting, bullying and threatening trade partners—has been shameful, a clear violation of Taiwan's international human rights. It is a crystal clear example for all to see of how a dictatorship places power politics above the interests of people—people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait who have suffered. Advice and support from the WHO did not arrive in time because of the PRC's interference. Health should not be a political issue used for gain and punishment. It is a life and death people issue and those who are chosen to govern must look to the people's interests first.

The fact is the SARS crisis will pass. But other health and economic challenges of an interdependent world will surely confront us. Taiwan can make its own contributions to the world's fight against disease, but it cannot be treated as a pariah. The time for the people of Taiwan to secure the benefits of international organizations, especially one as important as the WHO, has surely come. Taiwan's international human rights demand that its people should not be prevented from participating in international organizations and programs that will further their health and welfare and that of the world at large.

Under the landmark Taiwan Relations Act, the U.S. has pledged to work to benefit the welfare and human rights of the free people of Taiwan. I call upon you and your colleagues to hold hearings—consistent with this legislative requirement—on how the U.S. can advance Taiwan's health, human rights and security by pressing for Taiwan's inclusion in appropriate international organizations. We hope the American belief in fair play will encourage you to reach out to other friends and allies and urge their support for Taiwan's place in the community of international organizations.

Dear Friends, let me close with a personal note.

I have been honored by my colleagues and placed in a position of leadership in our national legislature. I have been honored by my president and asked to convey a message to our most important allies. Today, I have even been honored to work in that arsenal of democracy where the fighting forces of freedom are captained, the Pentagon.

But it is a signal honor of my career to be with you here today in the United States Capitol, truly the people's house, where the beacon of liberty shines forth for all around the globe to see.

Thank you so very much. May God bless you, and God bless the American people.

COMMENDING MRS. DEPOALA'S FIFTH GRADE CLASS ON THE CREATION OF THEIR PEACE QUILT

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to commend the children of Mrs. Sally DePoala's Fifth Grade class at Cahill Elementary School in Saugerties, New York for their contribution to the national dialogue in support of peace and hope. Last Friday I had the good fortune to spend some time with these young people and receive from them a Peace Quilt that they had spent a good part of the year creating. After reading an African folk tale earlier in the year, the students were inspired to create an artistic quilt that expressed their deeply held commitment to peace here in the United States of America and throughout the world. All of the students in the class contributed to the beautiful quilt and asked to present it to me so I may assist them in eventually having it displayed at a memorial for the World Trade Center in New York City.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have had a profound effect on the Nation and the world. Together, we have sought out ways to deal with the fear, anger and grief that struck us all on that fateful day. Indeed, we as a nation have come together to find strength in the masses and to recommit ourselves to our families, our communities and our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud that the fifth grade students in Mrs. DePoala's class at Cahill Elementary decided to express themselves in this very thoughtful and traditional way. In a simple way, they have profoundly communicated the dream of our future generations to embrace peace and hope and to seek out strength from within our communities. I'm grateful to have been chosen as the messenger of the spirit of these young people and

I will enthusiastically seek to have their wonderful Peace Quilt displayed prominently at the site where the world will remember the tragic events of September 11, 2001. In the meantime, I will proudly display this quilt in my Kingston district office so that our local community can appreciate this profound statement by our future generation.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRITTANY ATKINS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brittany Amber Atkins of Smyrna, Tennessee, for being chosen as the National Exchange Club Youth of the Year.

Brittany recently graduated from Battle Ground Academy with a 4.1 GPA. Her list of accomplishments while in high school are long. Among the honors and awards Brittany has received are Tennessee District Youth of the Year for the National Exchange Club, Brentwood Exchange Club Youth of the Year, Helen and Ralph Brown School Spirit Award, Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award, President's Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence, Music Medal, Drama Medal and Harvard Book Award.

Brittany was also involved in a host of extra-curricular activities, including Student Council, Leadership Council, Speech and Debate, plays, choirs, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Spanish Club, Key Club and Dance Team.

While her awards and extracurricular activities contributed to Brittany becoming the National Exchange Club Youth of the Year, I found her essay, "America's Young Patriots: Believing and Achieving for a Better America," to be most impressive. She writes, "America's future rests in the hearts, dreams, and preparations of these young patriots—no matter race, religion, place of residence, or economic status. It is through the beliefs and achievements of today's youth that America will thrive in the future." Brittany believes patriotism is found within the unlimited opportunities for one's education, profession and service to his or her community.

Brittany concludes her essay by pledging to "concentrate on service before reward, to introduce problems with solutions, and when encountering conflict, to interject love and humor." I commend Brittany for her many accomplishments and awards, and wish her the best of luck in future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING JOE GUNN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, after 14 years as president of the Texas AFL-CIO, Joe Gunn has announced that he will retire. I rise today to congratulate Joe and to wish him well in his retirement.

Joe Gunn has actively served the workers of the State of Texas for many years.

He went to work for Southwestern Bell in 1949 and joined the Communications Workers of America, Local 6222 on the same day. During his 22 years with Southwestern Bell, Joe spent 11 years in full-time service to Local 6222.

Joe ran for job steward and was easily elected. Within a very short time, he ran for Chief Steward and was again elected. Always looking for more challenges, Joe ran for and was elected first as a vice president and then as president of Local 6222. That is when I met Joe in 1972.

In a short time, Joe was elected and served as a vice president and as the president of the Harris County AFL-CIO.

In January, 1979, Joe was elected as the secretary-treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO. He served in this capacity until his election as president on July 29, 1989.

But Joe's life has involved more than the CWA or the AFL-CIO. Joe also served for seven years as a Commissioner on the Texas Employment Commission, the precursor to the Texas Workforce Commission. He was first appointed to this position by former Governor Dolph Briscoe.

He has also served his community by holding such positions as vice president of the Harris County United Way, the Houston Council Boy Scouts Executive Council, and youth director of his church.

Joe is married to Dorothy Ann Taylor Gunn. They have ten children, six of which were foster children. He and his wife attend the United Methodist Church in Austin.

Joe Gunn never forgot that his purpose was to improve the working conditions of all Texans. He has always represented workers and has worked tirelessly for a safe workplace, fair pay and respect for all employees, union and non-union.

He is a legend and a force in Texas politics and will not be forgotten or easily replaced.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Joe Gunn for his many years of service and to wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, I was participating in the World Economic Forum in Amman, Jordan with Congressman JIM KOLBE and other Members of the House and Senate. As a result, I missed four recorded votes.

I take my voting responsibility very seriously and would like the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to reflect that, had I been present, I would have voted yes on recorded vote number 297, yes on recorded vote number 298, yes on recorded vote number 299, and yes on recorded vote 300.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC SERVICE OF BILL JONES

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of

Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Police Commissioner Bill Jones, who will retire from his post on August 31 after 47 years of law enforcement work.

Bill Jones became the police commissioner in my hometown of Murfreesboro 16 years ago. Since then, he has initiated a number of programs that have bolstered law enforcement and enhanced the quality of life in Murfreesboro. My hometown has experienced tremendous growth during Bill's tenure as police commissioner. The police department has doubled in size, but more importantly, the expansion of the department has been an efficient one.

Bill started his career in law enforcement as a Tennessee state trooper shortly after returning home from service in the United States Navy during the Korean conflict. Bill rose through the ranks of the Tennessee Highway Patrol before finally leading the organization as its safety commissioner.

After nearly half a century in law enforcement, Bill has decided to remove the badge and enjoy his family without any distractions. The community of Murfreesboro, as well as the state of Tennessee, has been served well and with distinction by Commissioner Jones. I congratulate him for his tireless, dedicated service to law enforcement and wish him well in his retirement.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR VICTIMS OF ALGERIAN EARTH- QUAKE

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of H. Res. 264 expressing sympathy for the victims of the devastating earthquake in Algeria on May 21, 2003.

Natural disasters, such as earthquakes, can wreak havoc in a community or nation.

At times like these, it is vital to come to the support and aid of our friends.

I am pleased that our nation has assisted the Algerians in the emergency phase of their response to the earthquake and I encourage our government to support the Algerians as they seek to rebuild their homes and communities.

Algeria is an important partner and friend of the United States in many respects, not the least of which is in the war against terror—the Algerians have experienced the horrors of terrorism in their own land for many years.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO PUEBLO COMMUNITY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to recognize an academic institution that has served Pueblo, Colorado for the last 70 years. Pueblo Community College (PCC) has maintained its focus on quality education over the course of a lifetime

as it has expanded to meet the state's needs. As we reflect upon this 70th anniversary, I commend Pueblo Community College for the positive impact that it has had upon individuals and families throughout the State of Colorado.

Pueblo Community College traces its origins back to the incorporation of Southern Colorado Junior College in 1933. Since the original graduating class of 17 in 1935, enrollment at PCC has increased enough to warrant expanding to three additional campuses in Cañon City, Durango, and Cortez. The total enrollment in PCC now exceeds 5,000 students, all of whom value PCC's affordability, flexible hours, and varied degree programs.

More than half of Pueblo Community College's students are employed and would not have access to higher education if not for the flexibility offered by Pueblo Community College. Students at PCC have the opportunity to work toward Certificates of Completion, Associate of Science, Associate of Arts, Associate of General Studies, and Associate of Applied Science degrees. The assortment of programs allows first-time college students and working adults alike the opportunity for a brighter future.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Pueblo Community College before this body of Congress and this nation. PCC provides many Coloradans access to higher education and the skills necessary for a successful career. I congratulate Pueblo Community College on its success and commend the institution for the positive impact that it has made upon Colorado's citizens for the past 70 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, on June 23, 2003, due to flight delays, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 297, 298, 299, and 300. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all four votes.

IN REGARD TO MR. CHARLES MULCAHY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Wisconsin native Mr. Charles Mulcahy for his nomination by HM King Albert II of Belgium to become a Knight in the Order of Leopold.

Mr. Mulcahy has served with distinction as Honorary Consul of Belgium since 1985. He has provided guidance to the development of bilateral economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and educational relations, assisted Belgian citizens, and promoted Belgian interests over the past 15 years.

Mr. Mulcahy has been an active participant in business and economic development matters for over 25 years. He is a senior partner with the law firm of Whyte Hirschboeck Dudek in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and is known for his