

combined histories that provide a foundation for exchange. Immigrants from the region of Czechoslovakia migrated to the United States since the 1800s, many finding their way to Missouri and a home in the Kansas City area. In the Fifth District, Sugar Creek has a rich heritage fostered from their Czechoslovakian immigrants, many who found work at the oil refinery.

In 1989, we witnessed the overthrow of communist totalitarian rule in Czechoslovakia with the Velvet Revolution, a modern day revolution for independence, which brought a new beginning for the people of Czechoslovakia.

In 1993, Czechoslovakia evolved into two independent states: the Czech Republic and Slovakia. On March 12, 1999, the Czech Republic became an international member of NATO. Today, Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic, a tourist destination with its rich architectural treasures, educational opportunities and the center of activities and events.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in proudly recognizing Honorary Consul Valasek's appointment as an opportunity for cultural exchange and economic advancement to further our shared goals for both of our nations.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES B. FORBES

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the sad passing of Charles B. Forbes, who leaves a lasting impact on the district I represent. Charlie is survived by his wife Barbara Cameron Forbes, known to all as Cam. While the passing of this fine man saddens me, I am grateful for the 80 years he lived, many of them publishing local newspapers and serving community organizations. This morning, the Times-Review papers on Long Island published an obituary on Charlie's life. I'd like to submit this piece for the RECORD.

CHARLES BOWMAN FORBES

Charles B. Forbes, former publisher of Long Island's first Sunday newspaper, The Sunday Review, and the state's largest newspaper, The News-Review of Riverhead, died Sept. 22 at his home in Hampton, N.H., at age 80.

The youngest of five sons, he was born in New Rochelle, N.Y., on May 24, 1923, to T. Harold and Carrie Forbes.

Mr. Forbes was a graduate of Manhasset (L.I.) High School and Colgate University, and served with the U.S. Army during World War II. He started his newspaper career at the New York Daily News. After he sold The Sunday Review and The News-Review to Cowles Communications in the 1970s, Mr. Forbes worked for The Traveler-Watchman in Southold and WRIV Radio in Riverhead.

Mr. Forbes was a longtime member of the Riverhead Rotary Club and Riverhead Chamber of Commerce, a former president of the Quogue Board of Education and a member of Quogue Fire Department. He and his wife, Barbara (known to all as "Cam"), were among the early members of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in Westhampton Beach and are the only husband and wife to be honored and named, separately, as grand marshals of the popular parade. He later relocated to New Hampshire and worked with his son, Tom, founder of

Forbes Marketing Group, an advertising specialties business.

Mr. Forbes is survived by his wife; his son; five daughters, Susan Lilley, Cameron Howard, Lisa Ryan, Shelley Natalie and Melissa Forbes; and four grandchildren.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO FERN DOHERTY

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Fern Doherty of Trinchera, Colorado has worked tirelessly to promote and preserve a Western heritage, the ranching way of life. Fern is an active and devoted member of her community who donates her time to numerous community groups. For her tireless efforts and years of service, I am honored to pay tribute to Fern here today.

For eighty-two years, Fern has been an active member of the Las Animas County community. She has molded the community's youth by serving as a 4-H leader and by remaining active with the local Parent Teacher Association. An active member of the ranching community, Fern has served as President of the Las Animas County CowBelles, an organization devoted to advancing the interests of the beef industry, and was recently named the Las Animas County Cattleman of the Year for 2003. In addition, Fern was the 2000 Silver Queen for the Trinidad Round-up, which honors the courageous outlook on life and youthful spirit of a senior in that community.

Mr. Speaker, Fern Doherty exemplifies the true spirit of the American West. She is devoted to her family, committed to her community, and active in her support for the ranching way of life. Her dedication and hard work keep the tradition and heritage of the West alive, and I am honored to join with my colleagues here today in extending my thanks to Fern and in wishing her the best of luck in the future. Thank you, Fern, for your service to Colorado.

IN HONOR OF MARIA NOLFO

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Maria Nolfo for her 32 years of leadership and dedication to the students of Bayonne. Ms. Nolfo will be honored with the Italian-American Educator Award by the Bayonne Columbus Committee at the 2003 Honoree Dinner-Dance on September 27, 2003, at the Chandelier Restaurant in Bayonne, New Jersey.

Since 1972, Ms. Nolfo has been an exceptional educator in Bayonne's public schools. She began her career in the school system teaching English as a Second Language, helping children adapt to a new language and new environment. Her dedication and gift for teaching led Ms. Nolfo to teach courses in conversational Spanish for fellow teachers in the Bayonne school district.

In 1974, Ms. Nolfo became a teacher at Bayonne High School, where she remained until her retirement in 2002. In her final year, she was voted Bayonne High School Teacher of the Year by her students and peers.

Born and raised in Bayonne, Ms. Nolfo attended the Academy of Saint Aloysius and received her bachelor's degree from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Ms. Nolfo received a master's degree from Rutgers University.

Ms. Nolfo is not only an inspiration in the classroom but a leader in her community. A member of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, she is a mass lector and former director of the Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults program. Ms. Nolfo was also president of the Bayonne Italian American Committee for Culture and Education.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Maria Nolfo for her tireless work in educating the youth of Bayonne and leading them towards a brighter future.

LET TAIWAN BACK IN THE UNITED NATIONS

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Republic of China on Taiwan's re-admission to the United Nations. For the last 32 years, Taiwan's people have had no representation in the United Nations. It is incongruous that a world body founded on the principle of universality and self-determination excludes a free, democratic and independent nation of 23 million people—a population larger than three quarters of the U.N.'s current member states.

Let's be clear. Taiwan does not seek the expulsion of the People's Republic of China from the United Nations, but asks only that it be given a voice at the U.N. There are well-established precedents for parallel representation of divided nations at the U.N. East and West Germany, now unified, and the still divided Republic of Korea and Democratic People's Republic of Korea are the outstanding examples.

Taiwan's participation in international bodies is well documented as shown by its membership in the Asian Development Bank, its admission to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation group as a full member, and its membership in the World Trade Organization.

Taiwan possesses ample resources to contribute to the work and funding of the U.N. as shown in its many contributions of humanitarian aid. Such projects by Taiwan include relief supplies for Iraq and Afghanistan, AIDS prevention in Africa, the dispatch of rescue teams following natural disasters in El Salvador, Nicaragua and Turkey and assistance to victims of the 9/11 disaster here in the United States.

Taiwan's accession to the United Nations is long overdue. Its 23 million people deserve this important vehicle to full participation in the global community.

As Taiwan bids to return to the United Nations, I wish to say that I totally support Taiwan's aspirations to be a member of this global body. Taiwan has all the qualifications: a

sound political system, a much-admired economy and a genuine desire to maintain peace and prosperity in East Asia and the world.

With membership in the United Nations, Taiwan will become a truly useful international player, contributing its finances and ideas to combat nuclear proliferation, environmental abuses, and the spread of infectious diseases such as AIDS and SARS. As of now, Taiwan has not been invited to any of the various U.N.-sponsored conferences and programs on HIV/AIDS. Moreover, no U.N. bodies are willing to accept Taiwan's aid for Afghanistan and Iraq. This is not in the interests of the Afghan and Iraqi people.

Also, with membership in the United Nations, Taiwan will be able to incorporate itself into the international system of human rights protection, abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. It is heartening to know Taiwan's commitment to human rights is very serious. It is establishing a National Human Rights Commission in accordance with the principles outlined by the United Nations.

Being the world's 17th largest economy, Taiwan will most certainly be able to carry out all United Nations Charter obligations. Taiwan's efforts to help other countries would be much more effective if they could be coordinated with international efforts sponsored by the U.N. and its specialized agencies.

Perhaps one of the best reasons for supporting Taiwan's membership in the United Nations is that Taiwan is willing and anxious to be a full contributing member of the United Nations. So, let's speak up for our friend and ally, the Republic of China on Taiwan. Let's tell the world how unfair it has been to deny the 23 million people of Taiwan their voice and representation in the United Nations and especially their willingness to other nations in need.

HONORING RAFAEL PALMEIRO

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express appreciation to my colleagues for passing H. Res. 315 on September 10, 2003. Most will recall this legislation as recognizing the outstanding feat of Rafael Palmeiro, an alumnus of Mississippi State University (MSU), who hit his 500th homerun as a major leaguer at Arlington Park, Texas, on May 11, 2003.

Also, I want to extend a personal thanks to my good friend Representative PETE SESSIONS for introducing and sponsoring this legislation.

As most of you know, MSU is the flagship university in Mississippi's Third Congressional District. Located in Starkville, it is known throughout the country for its great baseball tradition under legendary Coach Ron Polk, who began his 30th season in 2002 with an 1165-558-1 career record. He is ranked 8th among active NCAA Division I baseball coaches.

It is with pride in the University, pride in Coach Polk, and pride in Rafael, better known to the MSU family as "Raffy" that I present these remarks to identify, and further amplify,

the many achievements of this great athlete during his college career.

In addition to the achievements specified in H. Res. 315, "Raffy's" college career highlights include:

Three-year starter in left field for MSU.

Set MSU & SEC career record for home runs (67), runs batted in (239) and total bases (530).

Led SEC and ranked second nationally with 29 home runs in 1984.

Led SEC and ranked third nationally with 94 RBI in 1984.

In 1984 became the SEC's first Triple Crown winner, leading the league in batting average (.415), home runs (29) and RBI (94). Named Baseball America's Freshmen of the Year in 1983.

Became SEC's first three-time All American in Baseball.

Helped lead MSU to its highest national finish in baseball (tied for 3rd in 1985).

Named to 1983 SEC All-Tournament Team.

Named to NCAA regional all-tournament teams in 1984 and 1985.

First round draft pick (22nd overall) of the Chicago Cubs (June 1985).

Named All-American in 1983, 1984, and 1985.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt in my mind that one day in the near future Rafael Palmeiro will be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, New York. He is a super star par excellence that we all can relate to. He has proved himself as a great athlete, a great and caring American, a great role model among Cuban-American, and an inspiration to all those seeking the American Dream. Because of his love for baseball, his MSU family, and his country, it gives me great pleasure to join with the full House in congratulating Rafael Palmeiro for hitting his 500th homerun and his outstanding baseball career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COLLEGE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit, with fifty-one of my colleagues in the House, the College Opportunity for a Better America Act.

Higher education has long served as a critical vehicle to move the country forward and provide the opportunity for a better life to millions. But too many low and middle income students and their families are struggling with soaring college costs, taking on mountains of debt and working long hours that hurt their academics and overall college experience. And still many others cannot afford to attend college at all.

The College Opportunity Act for All will establish innovative programs to allow students to earn their degrees quicker, increases opportunities for Latino families to pursue advanced degrees, and encourages the best graduates to pursue public service careers.

Republican tax policy and education budget cuts have weakened American higher edu-

cation at exactly the time that more people need college training to be competitive in the global marketplace. Instead of meeting that challenge, virtually every state—crippled by federal policies that increased national and state debts—is cutting college funding and raising tuitions at public colleges: a one-two punch that is closing the doors of higher education to millions including disadvantaged and minority students and those who need more education to find new jobs. And the President has frozen the major federal higher education grant program, forcing students to take on more debt or forgo college.

The College Opportunity Act for All goes in a very different direction—it would increase college opportunities for millions of Americans through smart investments and innovations.

The College Opportunity Act for All will: Allow student borrowers burdened with high interest rates to refinance their loans and save money; stop the unfair tax on working students, allowing students who work to save more of their earnings for college costs; double the maximum federal college scholarships (Pell Grant) to \$11,600 by 2011, to help restore its buying power; establish a new competitive grant program to expand graduate-level degree programs at Hispanic Serving Institutions; greatly increase the investment in all Minority Serving Institutions, providing the resources necessary to serve the burgeoning population of minority students; provide public service scholarships to students who pursue careers in teaching, nursing, and other national high priority needs which are having difficulty recruiting and retaining trained personnel; and drastically simplify the student aid application.

While we must address the problem of spiraling tuition this year, however we must not take the wrong-headed approach of Republican proposals that would impose price controls and punish innocent students for tuition raises they have no role in determining. Instead we must address the fiscal policies that result in states' cutting aid to colleges and thus forcing students to pay higher tuitions.

The future of our economy hinges on the ability of young people to afford college. Nearly 2 out of the 3 new jobs that will be created over the next 7 years will require some post-high school training. If we can lower the current 32 percent gap between college participation by low and high income young adults, we could add \$250 billion in gross domestic product and \$85 billion in tax revenue that will help to strengthen the economy.

The Republican tax cuts and budget cuts have devastated states and along with the weak economy pushed higher prices onto college students and their families and now the Republicans propose slashing funding to colleges in retribution for tuition increases. That means even more tuition increases for students, and a weakening of our higher education system. We have to work with the states, who are forcing tuition increases because of education cutbacks, to craft a solution that brings tuition costs down.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this tradition by supporting the College Opportunity for a Better America Act. It is an important step towards making college more affordable and accessible for all Americans.