

would like to commend them for doing so.

Once again, to the Florida Marlins, we appreciate you, we commend you. We like our New York fans, we like our Cubs fans, we like our Giants fans, but we love our Marlins fans. And the people of Miami had three celebrations, Mr. Speaker, for the Marlins yesterday, one down Flagler Street where they had an outstanding ceremony at the end of that, one in Little Havana, and another one in Ft. Lauderdale with a boat parade.

Marlins, you deserved what you received. I want to thank Mr. Beckett for being the MVP of the World Series. I wish him many, many more seasons.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to a very frustrated Cubs fan, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON).

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the resolution. I also want to commend the Florida Marlins. They are a terrific team. Their outfield speed, their pitching, their fans, their coach, is really outstanding. I think it is a pretty good deal.

I saw in the paper the other day that they are only a 15 to 1 team to repeat next year. I think that is a pretty good deal, by the way, particularly now that they signed, resigned Jack McKeon.

I just have one question, though, for the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN). And I was a good loser. I helped participate with the Chicago folks in providing Chicago pizza and a few other things for the delegation. I want to ask if there is anything in this resolution, and I admit that I have not read it yet, that either praises that right fielder for the Giants that dropped that ball at the critical point in the play-offs, or Steve Bartman?

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, would the gentleman yield?

I am sure that we will be glad to consider any further resolutions in the future, but right now we are just so very proud of the Fish. And I am sure that you would agree that there is always next year.

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, there is always next year. We have been saying that for a lot of years, though.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I do not have any additional requests for time, but just simply the words of the Cubs: Wait until next year. And we congratulate the Marlins for an exciting year. We will see what happens in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I want to congratulate again the Marlins manager Mr. McKeon, the Florida Marlins team, all the administrators, and everyone involved, including the fans, for the remarkable World Series championship.

I also want to congratulate my colleagues from Florida once again, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) for giving their

support to this resolution being considered by the House today. I urge its adoption. Go Fish.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 2003 World Series Champions, the Florida Marlins. Earning the reputation of a team that does not quit or tire, the Marlins defeated the famed New York Yankees in a thrilling 6-game series. Having never lost a post season series, the Marlins defeated the San Francisco Giants in four games and the Chicago Cubs in an exciting seven game series.

The National League Championship Series garnered the excitement and thrill baseball fans have not witnessed in some time. Playing in famed Wrigley Field, the Marlins took Game 1 and headed home to the friendly confines of Pro Player Stadium with a split in the series. Games 3 and 4 went the way of the Cubs resulting in a 3 to 1 deficit that looked monumental to overcome. However, under the leadership of Manager Jack McKeon and behind the arm of pitcher Josh Beckett, the Marlins and Beckett gave baseball fans across the country an exciting two-hit, complete game shutout sending the series back to Chicago. Down 3 games to 2, the Marlins players were never swayed from their sheer competitive spirit and gamesmanship. With the undaunting task of facing Cubs' ace Mark Prior, the Marlins battled the Cubs the entire game. However, with one out in the top of the eighth inning, a World Series berth seemed out of reach. In a span of 10 minutes, the Marlins had turned Game 6 from being down 3-0, to leading 8-3 due to the solid hitting of men like Juan Pierre, Pudge Rodriguez, Miguel Cabrera, Jeff Conine, Derek Lee, and utility fielder Mike Mordecai. The thrilling series was now deadlocked 3 games apiece.

Game 7 is every fan's postseason dream. Two teams tied and playing with everything on the line with the chance of being crowned National League Champions and a trip to the fall classic. As we all know, the Marlins came out swinging against Cubs star pitcher Kerry Wood. Despite losing a lead, the Marlins continued their case of consistent and timely hitting. In the end, the Marlins once again shocked the baseball world. In just 10 short years, the Marlins were headed back to their second World Series—participating in Major League Baseball's 100th World Series.

Behind the outstanding leadership of Jack McKeon, the Marlins stole the show in Yankee stadium by defeating the Yankees in Game 1. Heading back to South Florida, Marlins fans packed Pro Player Stadium cheering this exciting young team on the home field. Battling past the hype of Roger Clemens' final start, the Marlins battled the Yankees winning Game 4 and in a thrilling 12 innings thanks to the game ending heroics of shortstop Alex Gonzalez. Last Thursday, the Marlins, behind stellar pitching by Carl Pavano, sent the Series back to Yankee Stadium leading 3 games to 2. With the stage set for Game 6, Jack McKeon decided on the arm of Josh Beckett to deliver the championship to South Florida. Beckett pitched a gem. A nine-inning complete game, shut out by holding Yankee hitters to five hits in a 2-0 win. What a performance!

Mr. Speaker, this Marlins fan congratulates Chairman and CEO Jeffrey Loria, Skipper Jack McKeon, the Marlins coaching staff, MVP Josh Beckett, each player and the entire Marlins organization and fans on an exciting 2003 World Series.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to rise today and join my colleagues from the Florida Delegation in commending the World Champion Florida Marlins. It was your classic Cinderella story in which the Marlins knocked out the heavily favored Yankees in a comeback season not soon to be forgotten. Led by skipper Jack McKeon, the Marlins, dealing with the adversity of a coaching change, rebounded from a 16-22 record to finish 91-71, making them only the ninth team in Major League history to rally from at least 10 games under .500 to reach the playoffs. In Game 6 in front of a hostile crowd, McKeon's Marlins, aided by the stout pitching of Josh Beckett, took the World Series title, four games to two. With their second title in the franchise's 11 years, I believe the Marlins are in good hands. Jack McKeon who turns 73 next month, is the oldest coach in any major U.S. professional sport to lead his team to a championship, and I surely hope that he will agree to return for a run at it again in 2004.

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Florida Marlins on winning the 2003 World Series. The team is a great source of pride for my home state and proved, against the odds, exactly what it was capable of.

The Marlins certainly had to work hard for their second championship. Their opponent, the New York Yankees, had won four of the last eight World Series. This Florida team surprised many with its victory, but they deserve every bit of praise. Even changing the team's management, mid-season, did not keep them from obtaining baseball's top award.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 2003 World Series Champions, and I congratulate the Florida Marlins on a fantastic season. Your Congress is proud of what you have accomplished.

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Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 415.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WELCOMING PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN TO UNITED STATES

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 302) expressing the sense of Congress welcoming President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States on October 31, 2003.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 302

Whereas for more than 50 years an iron-clad relationship has existed between the United States and Taiwan which has been of enormous economic, cultural, and strategic benefit to both nations;

Whereas the United States and Taiwan share common ideals and a clear vision for

the 21st century, where freedom and democracy are the foundations for peace, prosperity, and progress;

Whereas Taiwan has demonstrated its unequivocal support for human rights and a commitment to the democratic ideals of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, rule of law, and free and fair elections routinely held in a multiparty system;

Whereas the upcoming October 31, 2003, visit to the United States of Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian is another significant step in broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan;

Whereas on October 31, 2003, Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian will be presented an award by the International League for Human Rights for his efforts in promoting tolerance, democracy, and human rights; and

Whereas Taiwan's President Chen Shui-bian will bring a strong message from the Taiwanese people that Taiwan will cooperate and support the United States campaign against international terrorism and efforts to rebuild and bring democracy and stability to Afghanistan and Iraq: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) offers its warmest welcome to President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan upon his visit to the United States on October 31, 2003;

(2) asks President Chen Shui-bian to communicate to the people of Taiwan the support of Congress and of the American people;

(3) recognizes that the visit of President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States is a significant step toward broadening and deepening the friendship and cooperation between the United States and Taiwan;

(4) congratulates President Chen Shui-bian on his receiving the Human Rights Award from the International League for Human Rights; and

(5) thanks President Chen Shui-bian and the government and people of Taiwan for their humanitarian and medical assistance in Afghanistan and post-war Iraq as well as for their willingness to contribute to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Middle East.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 302.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I first of all want to thank the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his leadership on this issue. And I might add that I had the opportunity just to get back last night from a trip to Baghdad and Turkey and Jordan as well, and traveling with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) is like travel basically in a seminar and lis-

tening to him talk about the situation. One learns a great deal, not only in committee but traveling with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS); and I want to thank him for his leadership and for educating many of us who were with him.

I also wanted to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), who is also a fellow co-chair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, for offering this resolution, as well as my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), who are also founding co-chairs of the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my enthusiastic support for H. Con. Res. 302, a resolution warmly welcoming the visit to the United States of Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. I call upon all Members to join in supporting a resolution which affirms the American values of democracy and human rights, for there is no place in the world providing a clearer example of respect for these values than that of Taiwan.

President Chen was inaugurated after fair and free elections where the people of Taiwan, despite high-handed pressure from the outside, exercised their free choice in selecting their leadership. Taiwan stands out as a shining example, a beacon of these democratic values which reaches across the strait to the people of mainland China.

It is also fitting and proper that the Congress should welcome the visit of the leader of this flourishing democracy, a testament to the fact that Chinese culture is not inherently inconsistent with democratic values. The International League of Human Rights, which will present President Chen a human rights awards for its efforts in promoting tolerance, democracy and human rights, fully recognizes the fact that Taiwan and its democratically elected leader are sterling examples for not only Asia but for the entire world.

I note that despite his busy New York schedule, President Chen will take time to visit a memorial to mourn the passing of the former first lady of China and Taiwan, Madam Chiang Kai-shek, who died in Manhattan last week at the venerable age of 105 years old.

Madam Chiang's passing reminds us again of the long and enduring ties between the freedom-loving people of the United States and the freedom-loving people of Taiwan. Madam Chiang was the first Asian woman to address a joint session of this Congress during the World War II era when we were united in the ultimately successful struggle against international fascism during that war. She returned to the Congress in 1995 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of that historic conflict. We in the Congress join President Chen and the people of Taiwan in mourning Madam Chiang's passing.

Finally, I do not want to miss the opportunity provided by President Chen's

visit to thank him and the people of Taiwan for their steadfast support for the campaign against international terrorism, the prevention of the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and the reconstruction of both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The recent interdiction by Taiwan port authorities of chemical cargo bound for North Korea is but one example of their continued support in the war against international terrorism.

With the passage of this resolution, the House warmly welcomes President Chen Shui-bian and congratulates him on receiving the Human Rights Award.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. At the outset, let me thank my good friend, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), for his undeserved and very generous comments for which I am very deeply grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend my friend and distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), for introducing this significant resolution.

When I first visited Taiwan decades ago, it was a destitute dictatorship. It is now a thriving and prosperous free and democratic society. The political landscape in Taiwan has fundamentally changed over the past 2 decades. Authoritarian rule has been tossed aside, and Taiwan's leaders are now chosen by free and fair elections. Taiwan has become a vibrant democracy, serving as a beacon to those across the entire Asia Pacific region who yearn for freedom, showing that democracy can and does thrive in a Chinese context.

The resolution before us, Mr. Speaker, welcomes the elected President of Taiwan, Chen Shui-bian to the United States during a so-called transit visit.

Mr. Speaker, we are, of course, pleased that President Chen is transiting the United States and he will have the opportunity to meet with Members of Congress and other American leaders over the next few days. But if Taiwan were any other nation, Mr. Speaker, President Chen would be welcomed with a Rose Garden ceremony, a state dinner, and the opportunity to address a joint session of Congress. These honors, Mr. Speaker, would be commensurate with the increasingly close and mutually beneficial relationship between our two countries. Not only is Taiwan a bulwark of democracy in the Asia Pacific region, it is our eighth largest trading partner. We have an extremely close security relationship, and Taiwan has stepped up to provide humanitarian and medical assistance in both postconflict Afghanistan and postconflict Iraq.

In short, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is one of our closest allies in the Asia Pacific region. Yet, due to the sensitivities of

the People's Republic of China, the executive branch refuses to give Taiwan the status and recognition it deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I support a strong and vibrant relationship between the PRC and the United States. Provocative steps which upset the peace across the Taiwan straits should be avoided; but we must find new ways to show the people of Taiwan that the United States recognize Taiwan's profound economic and Democratic transformation and that our Nation will work energetically to promote a greater role for Taiwan in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to meeting with President Chen this weekend and discussing with him ways in which we can strengthen the political, economic, and security ties between our two nations. I will tell President Chen that this Congress will not stop fighting until Taiwan can participate in the World Health Organization and many other international organizations in which Taiwan can and will make a significant contribution. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, in the world today, few men live their lives as a model of courage and freedom with as much vigor as Chen Shui-bian.

As President of Taiwan, Chen has been a stalwart champion of human rights and an ally of the United States in the war on terror. And during his visit to New York this week, President Chen will be recognized by the International League of Human Rights promoting and defending the inalienable rights of all men to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

With this resolution, the American people will welcome President Chen to our Nation and send a message with him back across the Pacific that the United States stands in solidarity with the people of Taiwan. And during his time in office, President Chen has revealed himself to be a true friend of the American people, and a vital ally in pursuit of our common interests around the world.

I was honored to host President Chen myself in Houston in 2001, his first such visit to the United States, during which we took in an Astros game and had the chance to introduce him to Texas cuisine. And I know it did not compare with shark fin soup, but I think he liked it nonetheless.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is an indisputable success as an ally and as a nation. America's solidarity with Taiwan and her people, the solidarity of freedom, will not be served by convenience nor threatened by bullying.

Our brave friend President Chen leads an island of hope, Mr. Speaker, a light shining out from dark shadows of an oppressive tyranny. With this reso-

lution we will tell the citizens of that shining island that we see their light on the horizon and know the sun of freedom is rising over the Pacific.

I urge my colleagues to send that message of hope and solidarity to the people of Taiwan and vote for this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), the distinguished author of this resolution.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Taiwan Caucus, I join my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHR-ABACHER), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), in strongly supporting this resolution welcoming the President of Taiwan, President Chen, to the United States.

Since assuming office in May 2000, President Chen has demonstrated his steadfast commitment to the ironclad relationship between the United States and Taiwan and the shared principles upon which our partnership has been formed, that of democracy, freedom, and the defense of human rights. In fact, during his visit to America, President Chen will be presented an award by the International League for Human Rights in recognition of his efforts to promote tolerance and freedom amongst the people of Taiwan. And I would like to express my most sincere congratulations to President Chen for receiving this highly esteemed award.

Mr. Speaker, in the past decades, Taiwan has blossomed into a strong and dynamic democracy. It has experienced unprecedented economic, political and social growth, culminating with its entry into the World Trade Organization in 2002.

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Taiwan has demonstrated its unequivocal support for freedom of speech, freedom of the press and the rule of law and a commitment to democracy and its multifaceted alliance with the United States. In fact, under President Chen's leadership, Taiwan has joined the war against terror and contributed humanitarian and medical assistance to American-led peace-keeping efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

On behalf of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, I wish to express our appreciation to President Chen and the Taiwanese people for this invaluable assistance and pledge America's continued commitment to the security and prosperity of Taiwan.

President Chen's visit to America serves as a reminder that Taiwan is one of America's most important allies in East Asia and a model of democracy and progress in the region. I applaud President Chen for his bold leadership, resolve, and vision and urge my colleagues to join me, to join us in wel-

coming him to the United States and thanking him for the deepening and historic, mutually beneficial relationship between America and Taiwan.

Finally, I would like to reiterate the comments by the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) suggesting in the most critical of terms that Taiwan be given the opportunity to enter the World Health Organization. The experience with respect to SARS this past year points out how important it is that Taiwan be given that opportunity, and the people of Taiwan should always know that the people of America will stand with them in their fight and defense of freedom.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I also want to take this opportunity to express our warm welcome to President Chen and his delegation from Taiwan to New York City and obviously to support this legislation.

Taiwan and the United States have enjoyed a very close relationship with each other for more than 50 years. It is political, it is economic, it is cultural. It has been a rich association for both of us. In fact, Mr. Speaker, despite its size, it is our 8th largest trading partner, and we are Taiwan's largest trading partner.

For this and for many other reasons, the United States must unabashedly, unabashedly stand behind the Taiwan Relations Act which will communicate our resolve, our intention, our commitment for a peaceful resolution in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been that Taiwan has been a reliable ally to the United States. They stood with us, shoulder to shoulder, right after 9/11, and Taiwan has given us its support of our war with Iraq and, as a Nation, has promised humanitarian assistance into postwar Iraq. So I look forward to meeting with him in New York and hearing his vision and commitment to the continued democratization of Taiwan.

Just as a footnote, I might point out he is coming up for reelection. Just like all of us come up every 2 years, he comes up for reelection in March of 2004. He is going to be involved with a free, open election process, and with the free election process in Taiwan, they have a very active campaign structure, and so I look forward to that just as he does.

I might also point out that he is the first opposition candidate to ever be elected in Taiwan. So, again, I think today we can look at that country and say democracy is not only working, it is working uniquely, and we want to commend him and stand behind that wonderful country of Taiwan.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), a distinguished member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his work and his managing of this bill and his incredible support for human rights around the world, for his entire service in Congress.

I also want to thank the sponsors of this resolution and the cochairs and founders of the Taiwan Caucus, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT), my friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER), and I join all of them in urging my colleagues to join me in welcoming President Chen Shui-bian as he visits the United States this weekend.

The United States and Taiwan are true democracies that share common ideals and share a clear vision for the future. Taiwan is a country where freedom and democracy have become the foundation for peace, for prosperity, for progress.

Taiwan shares common goals with the United States in supporting human rights and a commitment to the democratic ideals of freedom of speech, freedom of the press and free and fair elections that are the strength of any democracy, but with Taiwan, it has not always been that way.

My first trip to Taiwan was many years ago when Taiwan was still under marshall law. It was not anything close to a democracy. It was a country with one-party rule. Some used the word "fascist." Others used other words to describe Taiwan, but one of the real miracles of the world in the last 2½ decades is what has happened to that country, a country that went from one-party totalitarian rule to a country that is democratic, that is prosperous, that shares the ideals of our country.

That miracle, that road to progress, that road to democracy was in large part because of the courage and the fervor for human rights exerted by people like Chen Shui-bian who sacrificed a great deal of his life, his family's life and much of his time on this earth to sacrifice that to bring Taiwan forward.

The move towards democracy, the miracle of Taiwan is partly because of Chen Shui-bian, partly because of his political party of the DPP and largely because of the commitment of Taiwanese in Taiwan and Taiwanese overseas in this country who have been a major part of that.

The effort for Taiwan to get into the World Health Organization, as the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) mentioned, as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) mentioned has not yet reached fruition. That is so very very important.

On a personal level, I have met President Chen Shui-bian when he was mayor and when he was a candidate for the presidency of his country. He has

done a terrific job in dealing with issues like SARS. He has done a terrific job in beginning to rebuild the economy in his country. He and his political party, the DPP, have done a miraculous job in helping to create the miracle that we know as Taiwan. It is a country that we should look to as a model for much of the rest of the world, for a developing country, that did not enjoy the fruits of democracy and has moved towards that and puts them in the community of nations. We owe it to that nation, that country to embrace them in the community of nations.

I think President Chen Shui-bian's visit to the United States will help do that this weekend.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART), who has been a tireless leader for speaking out on behalf of the people of Cuba.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Ohio for yielding me the time.

For me, I consider it a privilege and an honor to be able to speak on behalf of the resolution welcoming to the United States the elected President of the Republic of China of Taiwan. I have always had admiration for the Republic of China of Taiwan.

I believe that first they demonstrated an extraordinary, an extraordinary and commendable and admirable will and devotion to work and to sacrifice that permitted them to achieve economic prosperity which is the envy of the world, and then they have made, as our distinguished colleagues have mentioned today, also extraordinary and admirable progress in democratization and have, in fact, established a representative democracy that is to be admired by all of the world.

So I join my colleagues in welcoming President Chen Shui-bian to the United States. The entire Congress and the American people welcome him and say to him that we consider it a great privilege to be able to be an ally and a friend of Taiwan, that that will always be reality, and here in Congress I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that we reiterate our support for Taiwan, for the Taiwan Relations Act and that we never falter, never falter in support and in reminding the world that the safety and security of Taiwan is a matter of extreme importance to this Congress, to the American Government and to the American people.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We are all looking forward to the distinguished President's visit. It will further strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations, and on behalf of all of us in Congress, we are honored to have him come again to the United States.

Mr. BALLANCE. Mr. Speaker, as many Chinese-Americans and American friends of Taiwan prepare to welcome Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian to New York on October 31,

I wish to pay tribute to this impressive Taiwan leader.

At the age of 49, Mr. Chen Shui-bian was elected the tenth president of the Republic of China on Taiwan in March 2000. Mr. Speaker, I have learned that his political success came only after a series of personal tragedies. As active political opponents of the government in the 1970's and 1980's, Mr. Chen and his wife were often targets of attack by the government. In November 1985, Mr. Chen's wife was hit by a tractor-truck speeding out of a narrow lane. Although Mrs. Chen's life was spared, the lower half of her body was paralyzed. Mr. Speaker, In 1986, Mr. Chen was sentenced to eight months in prison for criticizing the government. At the end of 1986, campaigning in her wheelchair Mrs. Chen was elected to the Legislative Yuan (Parliament). After Mr. Chen was released from prison in 1987, he served as Mrs. Chen's assistant and joined the Democratic Progressive Party, the opposition party.

Subsequently, Mr. Chen became a member of the Legislative Yuan, chairman of the Formosa Foundation and Mayor of Taipei, prior to his election as president in 2000. President Chen undoubtedly is a fighter for his people and his country. He has instilled confidence in his people, making them feel that they are important, that they matter in the world, and that they must choose their own future, without interference from outside sources. Mr. Speaker, there are many who believe that President Chen speaks for his people; the world should listen carefully to what he has to say; and only he and his people can help maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Mr. Speaker, President Chen needs our help to make the right decisions that are good for Taiwan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting President Chen's efforts.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in welcoming our distinguished guest, President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan, to the United States.

Mr. Chen Shui-bian was elected president of the Republic of China on Taiwan on March 20, 2000. Since his election, he has shown true leadership in improving Taiwan's economy, instituting further democratic reform, and strengthening Taiwan's role in the international community.

I am confident that President Chen will further strengthen Taiwan's strong ties with the United States. Taiwan has been a key ally in our efforts against global terrorism, and has pledged assistance to the rebuilding of Afghanistan and Iraq.

I also trust that President Chen will soon begin a dialogue with the leaders of the People's Republic of China with the interests of the 23 million people of Taiwan in mind. Taiwan is a sovereign nation and must make its own decisions about its future without coercion from the People's Republic.

I applaud President Chen's insistence on his people "walking their own road, their own Taiwan road." President Chen is a dynamic leader with a vision for Taiwan's future, and I join my colleagues in wholeheartedly welcoming him from one democracy to another.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Taiwan's President, Chen Shui-bian as he travels through the United States later this month. President Chen recently celebrated his third anniversary in office; a term of service which has been marked by Taiwan's

strong support and friendship with the United States.

During his time in office, President Chen has shown that he is a thoughtful, responsible leader, which has been evident in his handling of cross-strait relations with the People's Republic of China. President Chen has consistently stated that both sides of Taiwan Strait have an obligation to uphold the principles of "goodwill reconciliation, active cooperation and permanent peace." Regrettably, despite his many calls for dialogue and cooperation, the Chinese government has insisted on the dated "one country, two systems" formula as the solution to the Taiwan issue.

President Chen's has asserted that "Taiwan is not a province of one country" but a sovereign nation. I strongly agree with his assertion and believe that President Chen is right to guide his country and his people toward a brighter, more prosperous future.

As a strong supporter of Taiwan and its people, I believe the widespread praise President Chen has received is well earned. He has proven to be an effective leader for all of his people, with an unswerving dedication to continued democratization, economic reform and basic recognition of human rights.

I believe President Chen's U.S. visit will further enhance U.S.-Taiwan relations and friendship. The United States and Taiwan have been allies, partners and friends and this unique relationship will continue to grow stronger in the future.

Mr. Speaker, America welcomes President Chen and salutes him upon the many successes and achievements of his administration.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan to the United States, and to wish him a pleasant visit to New York City at the end of this month. I am pleased that he will have an opportunity to visit with many Members of this Congress, and I am confident that his visit will be productive for our two countries.

During this time of uncertainty and regional instability in many areas around the world Americans appreciate President Chen's continued efforts and dedication to winning the war on terror, his pledge to provide humanitarian assistance in Afghanistan and Iraq, and his support for the United States as President Bush and regional leaders work to diffuse tension on the Korean peninsula.

Taiwan has been a reliable friend of the United States for many decades, and I hope that his visit will provide an occasion for our two nations to further strengthen our positive and mutually beneficial relationship.

I also want to assure President Chen and the people of Taiwan that they have many friends in the United States, and to reiterate America's support and commitment to the security of Taiwan embodied by the Taiwan Relations Act, and President Bush's statement last spring that, "Our nation will help Taiwan defend itself," should that need ever arise. I also want to again state my unequivocal support for Taiwan's participation in international organizations like the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Chen's insistence on pursuing a higher standard of human rights for people in Taiwan and across the globe, his commitment to individual liberty and democracy, and would like to again thank him for the stabilizing influence that his demo-

cratically elected government brings to the entire region.

I welcome President Chen to America, and I hope that many of my colleagues have the chance—as I have—to meet and visit with him when he arrives later this month.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of our time.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 302.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2443, COAST GUARD AND MARITIME TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 416 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 416

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2443) to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal year 2004, to amend various laws administered by the Coast Guard, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the

conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my good friend, the distinguished gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purposes of debate only.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1600

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 416 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2443, the Coast Guard Maritime and Transportation Act of 2003. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate, evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. The rule also provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation before us authorizes over \$7 billion for the Coast Guard and \$18.74 million for the Federal Maritime Commission in fiscal year 2004. The legislation is essential in the effort to strengthen the Coast Guard in its ever-increasing role to defend the homeland.

In this bill we face a turning point in the effectiveness of the Coast Guard. The Department of Homeland Security has called on it to be the defender of American coasts while, at the same time, sending needed resources, soldiers, and vessels to the battle against terrorism in the Middle East.

I am pleased to highlight the Integrated Deepwater System acquisition program. The Deepwater System provides the needed capital to institute effective acquisition of the cutters, computer equipment, and other resources that the Coast Guard so desperately needs. The Deepwater System has not received the funding that was outlined in 1998, but this bill makes up for the years of acquisition lost. H.R. 2443 authorizes \$702 million for fiscal year 2004 to ensure that this acquisition remains on pace, allowing the Coast Guard to remain effective both at home and abroad.

The Coast Guard is particularly important to my district and constituents in south Florida, Mr. Speaker. The Coast Guard Integrated Support Command in Miami is essential to the safety and security of the area. The Coast