

workplace by building upon the current successes of vocational and technical education. Our challenge is to ensure that all vocational and technical education students have access to programs that are sufficiently rigorous in both their academic and technical content, as well as provide clear connections with the education and training beyond high school that most Americans need for continued workplace success. I believe this bill fulfills those high standards, and I am pleased to be offering it today.

H. CON. RES. 413

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution honoring the contributions of the more than 6 million American women, symbolized by "Rosie the Riveter", who served our country on the homefront during World War II and the changes to our society that came about because of them. These women stepped forward when our country needed them to work as engineers and welders and riveters to produce the ships and planes and tanks necessary for us to win the war.

I recently visited a factory in Athens, New York, that makes electric boats. They told me that even in this town of less than 4000 people, this boat factory was filled with women workers during World War II. The women factory workers made hundreds of thousands of life rafts to support the troops serving at sea. The whole country turned into a big factory to support the war effort, and the women workers were the force behind that factory.

The legacy of Rosie the Riveter is a broadening of opportunities to all Americans. For the first time in America, during World War II, women and minorities gained access to high-paying jobs in industry. Employee-sponsored health care and services such as child care for children of workers originated at this time. I join my colleagues today in applauding the improvements in the workplace and our society during the Rosie the Riveter Era and in honoring these women for stepping forward when their country needed them.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the City of San Diego Community and Economic Development. The City of San Diego Community and Economic Development is the winner of the Economic Development Administration's Excellence in Economic Development Award for 2004 in the category of Excellence in Urban or Suburban Economic Development. San Diego Community and Economic Development was given this honor for the program of Business Fi-

nance Section by a panel of economic development experts. The city of San Diego and the state of California should be extremely proud of this achievement.

Helping businesses in San Diego grow and flourish is a major focus of the City of San Diego. The Community and Economic Development Department is dedicated to helping foster the region's economic base to improve the quality of life for its citizens and business community. Through many continuing programs and projects, the City creates opportunities for businesses to succeed. The Department is a key component in attracting, retaining and expanding businesses, creating jobs and increasing investment in San Diego.

San Diego Community and Economic Development's Business Finance Team works to facilitate the flow of capital and other resources to the underserved areas of the city. Activities of the Business Development Team include issuance of industrial development bonds and direct loans. The Team also works closely with the banking community and encourages banks to develop and commit to San Diego-specific programs that provide expanded credit and banking services access for low-income communities and small and minority-owned businesses.

In 2002, 83 percent of the operating expenses of the Business Finance Team came from portfolio earnings and outside grants. Beginning in 1993, the Economic Development Administration has awarded three revolving loan fund investments for economic development in the city of San Diego. These investments were, in large part, possible due to the excellent stewardship exhibited by the Community and Economic Development's Business Finance Team.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the outstanding achievement of the City of San Diego's Community and Economic Development and applaud their success in creating jobs and business growth in the San Diego region.

THE BENEFITS OF BIOTECH FOODS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the May 20, 2004, Omaha World-Herald. The editorial highlights the findings in a recent report issued by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. As the U.N. report noted, biotech foods have been found to be safe and hold the potential to alleviate world hunger and disease. Biotech crops have already provided improved crop yields and reduced the demand for chemicals. While reasonable safeguards must remain in place, the continued research and use of biotech foods should be expanded. Those suffering from hunger in developing countries should not be deprived of the benefits of biotech foods simply due to irrational and unscientific fears.

[From the Omaha World-Herald]

BIOTECH'S BENEFITS

A United Nations food agency's new report offering a positive outlook on biotech foods should spur more thoughtful research and regulations on the world stage.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization's report found that genetically modified crops have been a help to the world's small farmers without posing any food safety threats. In fact, the group said, the major problem is that the technology hasn't spread fast enough or focused enough on the most beneficial crops.

Basic food crops of the poor such as cassava, potato, rice and wheat receive little attention from scientists, the agency said. Biotechnology holds promise for other important applications, too, such as animal vaccines and breeding.

The recent U.N. report notes that scientists are almost universally agreed that GM crops currently on the market are safe to eat. Even the European Union, where activists have poisoned consumers with fears of GM foods' hazards, has bowed to science and recently ended a moratorium on approving new biotech crops. (Approval of new crops will likely continue to be slow, however, and consumer acceptance limited.)

The U.N. agency offers no blank check for genetic engineering, however, nor should it. Careful environmental scrutiny is needed for each new crop, as the possibility of genes' reaching wild populations exists. Keeping medicinal crops, like those which erroneously reached an Aurora, Neb., co-op elevator a few years ago, in proper channels also must be considered.

But GM foods have brought real help already to the world's poor farmers—more money from improved crop yields, fewer dangers through the reduced use of pesticides. On the horizon is the promise of more nutritious foods and crops that grow in water-parched areas.

World efforts and research dollars should be funneled into those areas.

At the very least, we hope the U.N. report chokes off the fears that have left donated foods rotting in ports while African populations starve.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. MAC THORNBERRY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. THORNBERRY. Mr. Speaker, on this Memorial Day, let us remember Air Force Captain Eric Das. He was a young man from my district who loved our country, and who lost his life fighting for its ideals in Iraq.

Captain Eric Das, 30, of Amarillo, Texas, was an Air Force pilot for the 333rd Fighter Squadron of the 4th Fighter Wing at North Carolina's Seymour Air Force Base. He was pronounced killed in action on April 18, 2003. Eric was on a bombing mission, flying an F-15E Strike Eagle jet over Iraq, when his plane was shot down on April 6, 2003. Eric has been awarded the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Award, and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has also been installed in the Amarillo High School Hall of Fame. He will be remembered for his strong, sure faith in God.

Eric leaves behind his wife, 1st Lieutenant Nikki Das; parents, Bruce and Rosie Das of Amarillo; two sisters, Melody Neumann and Elisa Das, both of Amarillo; and his grandmother, Jessie Renne of Minnesota. Eric was not only a soldier, but a friend to many, a committed husband, and he will be remembered for the lasting impact he had on those who knew him.

Those who wish for the liberty of all people will forever owe a debt to Captain Das. This young man from the Texas Panhandle became a hero when he refused to be governed by fear and sacrificed his life for us and our safety.

Captain Eric Das has joined an unbroken line of patriots who dared to die so that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings.

May God continue to bless our Nation with such heroes.

RECOGNIZING GREG GROUNDS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Greg Grounds, Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri from 1990 through April 2004 and former Alderman of Ward 1. Greg's community involvement has always been extensive whether it be in public office or in volunteer work. In the past, he has served in such capacities as the Mid-America Regional Council Board of Directors, Chairman of the Jackson County Suburban Mayors Association, and worked with the National League of Cities' Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committee. Greg is also a past Co-Chair and Member of the Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council and a past President of the West Gate Division of the Missouri Municipal League.

Greg's efforts as Mayor and Alderman contributed heavily to the development and successful growth of Blue Springs over the past fifteen years. Greg has helped lead many important projects such as the development of the Adams Dairy Corridor that included the construction of the Adams Pointe Golf Club and the Adams Pointe Conference Center, construction of several new parks and recreation facilities for the community including Wilbur Young Park, the Hidden Valley Park Sports Complex, and Vesper Hall, and residential and commercial development valued in excess of \$310 and \$140 million respectively. In addition, his leadership resulted in the addition of 980,000 square feet of new retail space and the annexation of 2,000 acres in south Blue Springs for which Greg helped to develop a South Annexation Plan in preparation for its future growth.

Greg is a fine asset to the city of Blue Springs and the entire Sixth District of Missouri. Through his rich career in community, volunteer and public service, he is the epitome of an ideal citizen. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career, as well as the future of Greg Grounds, who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri.

CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN ON DEMOCRACY PROTESTORS IN TIANANMEN SQUARE, BEIJING, IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT TRAGIC MASSACRE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 2, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on 4 June 1989, communist Chinese tanks rumbled into Tiananmen Square. Since that bleak day 15 years ago, when the communist hardliners quashed liberty under the treads of a tank, China has undergone many changes. Despite the liberalization that appears to have taken place, China remains dedicated to absolute control by the communist government. No where is this commitment more evident than in a 421 square mile economic and political haven called Hong Kong.

In 1997, the United Kingdom returned Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China. As part of the agreement transferring sovereignty, China pledged to keep Hong Kong's democratic and capitalist system in place for 50 years. Hong Kong's Basic Law, which is based on an agreement between Great Britain and the PRC, guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. Private property rights and protection from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention or imprisonment are also guaranteed. Residents of the Hong Kong have the right to vote and the right to stand for election.

The freedoms and liberties enshrined in the Basic Law sound remarkably like the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy in the United States by virtue of the Constitution. The only difference is that no one in the United States is actively working to destroy the Constitution. Over the last few years, the honeymoon between Beijing and Hong Kong has ended. Beijing has tightened its grip on the region, and has begun to undermine the fundamental freedoms promised under the Basic Law. Perhaps not coincidentally, Hong Kong's economy has flourished in the last few years.

When the British left Hong Kong, the Communist government reassured the world that nothing would be done to undermine Hong Kong. After all, it was argued, in their eagerness to show the world a new face, why would China destroy one of the premier trading and financial centers in the Orient. Why, indeed?

After 7 years, we see that the Communist government has every intention of destroying Hong Kong. Last year Beijing proposed a law that would have restricted freedom of the press and the ability of residents to criticize the government. In response over 500,000 of Hong Kong's 6.8 million people demonstrated against the PRO's attempts to stifle democracy. The Mainland government backed off—but only temporarily. Hong Kong's Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa has promised to revisit the issue.

In April, Beijing ruled out universal suffrage for Hong Kong's chief executive in 2007 and the legislature in 2008. One mainland official said direct elections might not be possible until 2050.

In early May, Beijing warned legislators in Hong Kong that they have no right to criticize the government's decision to rule out full democracy. Beijing also sent eight Chinese warships—two submarines, four frigates and two destroyers—through Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor. Is this display of force a prelude to a Tiananmen-style crackdown? This provocative display of force certainly sends an ominous warning to Hong Kong's democrats and the rest of the world that the People's Republic of China will dictate policy in Hong Kong, and that dissension will be dealt with in a resolute manner.

All of the PRO's actions lay bare Beijing's contempt for the rule of law. It is apparent that the PRC wants to rule Hong Kong like the rest of China—corruptly, inefficiently, heavily-handedly. Hong Kong will not remain the vibrant capitalist center without freedom. Politics and economics are inextricably tied to one another.

China's mishandling of Hong Kong sends an unmistakable message to other observers around the region. If China ever hopes to entice Taiwan into the Chinese fold, their policies, vis-à-vis Hong Kong do not offer very reassuring prospects. I believe it is up to the people of Taiwan to decide whether or not they will be united with the Mainland; but Beijing's current attempts to choke democracy and capitalism in Hong Kong certainly do not make unification an attractive option for Taiwan.

Beijing's current attitudes toward Hong Kong show us the real meaning of One China, Two Systems. As the Beijing's true definition of this policy becomes apparent, it is imperative that we support Taiwan's efforts to resist Beijing's hostile advances. It is also imperative that we support democracy in Hong Kong before it is too late.

RECOGNIZING DR. GLENDA VITTIMBERGA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Glenda Vittimberga, a leader in the field of psychology who recently passed away.

Dr. Vittimberga was a young and vibrant scholar who dedicated her life to teaching and enriching the minds of college students at California State University, Los Angeles. Born in Warwick, Rhode Island on June 29, 1967, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rhode Island in 1988, earning Summa Cum Laude honors. Shortly after, she received both a Masters degree in 1991 and a Doctorate degree in 1994 in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University.

In 1988, Dr. Vittimberga obtained a tenure-track position at Cal State L.A., where she proudly shared her expertise and taught clinical psychology at the university's psychology department. Her position included teaching courses in behavior theory, individual assessment, counseling skills, intervention of severe behavior problems, and supervising graduate interns.

A licensed psychologist and active community leader, she provided direct client services