

Taiwan. A great diplomat and close friend of our Nation, C.J. has served with distinction in Taiwan's Foreign Service for thirty seven years. He has spent most of that time working to improve and strengthen the close and friendly ties that exist between Taiwan and the United States.

After he arrived in Washington, DC in 1971, C.J. became the Third Secretary assigned to the Republic of China Embassy in the United States. He was present when formal diplomatic relations between our two countries were terminated in 1979. By then he had been promoted to First Secretary and from that position he was to play a pivotal role in the establishment of a new framework for relations between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States.

During the 1980s and the 1990s, as C.J. earned a series of promotions to posts of greater and greater responsibility—both in Taipei and in Washington—he continued to serve as an effective catalyst for bringing Taiwan and the United States even closer together. As Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister and later Foreign Minister, he insured his nation's foreign policy reflected the tremendous economic progress and democratic development taking place in Taiwan. And, by emphasizing the common values and joint interests that the United States and Taiwan share, C.J. helped to foster mutual trust and cooperation between successive administrations—from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush in the United States and from Chiang Ching-kuo to Chen Shui-bian in Taiwan.

Over the past four years, C.J. Chen has, in his capacity as Taiwan's chief representative in the United States, endeavored to further enhance the military, political, cultural and economic aspects of our bilateral relationship. Along with his personal friendships with a number of high-ranking administration officials, he has built quite a following in Congress. He strongly encouraged and supported the establishment of the House Taiwan Caucus and the Senate Taiwan Caucus and working closely with members of Congress he has earned our highest respect and affection.

Mr. Speaker. As C.J. concludes his very successful tour of duty in Washington and returns to Taipei, I bid him a fond farewell and wish him all the best in the future. He has been a true friend to so many American people; he is a man of principle and integrity and we will surely miss him on Capitol Hill.

BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while we face unfinished work to create stability and peace both in Iraq, and throughout the Middle East, the challenges we face there and the lessons we have learned there make it all the more compelling that we set upon the task of planting firmly the seeds of peace.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war but the positive affirmation of peace. We must see that peace rep-

resents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody that is far superior to the discords of war. Somehow, we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle . . . to a positive contest to harness humanity's creative genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all the nations of the world."

It is with this in mind that I am proud to introduce the exhibit "Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World" which is being presented in cooperation with the Congressional Children's Caucus and will be on display in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building on Thursday-Friday, June 3-4, 2004.

This exhibit brings together the creative ideas and examples of hundreds of people, organizations and movements and focuses on the potential of the individual to build peace and security in today's world. It seeks to promote a sense among viewers of empowerment as well as an awareness of the United Nations declaration of the years 2001-2010 as the Decade of Building a culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

I also want to recognize the role of Soka Gakkai International which has created this remarkable exhibit, and the work of its president, Daisaku Ikeda, a widely recognized educator and peace activist, in persisting as a voice for peace during these challenging times.

I urge each of my colleagues to not only view this exhibit; but to be mindful of the example we set today for the generations of tomorrow. More important for our children than model of the brave warrior, is the example of the courageous and creative peace builder. For as the noted writer James Baldwin observed: "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. . . ."

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, as we consider H.R. 4060, the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention the tragic disappearance of a Peace Corps Volunteer from my Congressional District, Walter Poirier of Lowell, Massachusetts.

Walter Poirier served as a tourism advocate in the Zongo Valley of Bolivia from August of 2000 until May of 2001 when he was officially declared missing by the U.S. Embassy. He has never been seen since. Following Walter's disappearance, I requested a GAO investigation of this case, which concluded that the Peace Corps failed to adequately supervise Walter and eventually lost track of him. The GAO also found that the Peace Corps provided "uneven" implementation of its own safety and security procedures that could pose a risk for its volunteers. I am now writing a letter to Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez urging him to appoint an official to focus solely on the investigation of Walter's disappearance.

Unfortunately, the case of Walter Poirier is not unique. The GAO reports that the incident

rate for major physical assaults nearly doubled from an average of 9 per 1,000 volunteer years from 1991-93 to an average of 17 per 1,000 volunteer years in 1998-2000. Despite concerns from Congress and the public that the Peace Corps has not provided the necessary safety and security for its participants, the organization continues to send volunteers alone to remote and isolated areas and fails to provide adequate housing, supervision, or jobs to keep volunteers busy. I remain very concerned about the ability of the Peace Corps to implement its own safety and security policies in the face of rising violence.

I applaud the House International Relations Committee for holding hearings on the safety and security of Peace Corps volunteers and swiftly reporting out the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act. I also thank the committee for inviting Walter Poirier's father to testify and share his personal story about the tragic loss of his son. I have urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to follow suit.

This legislation takes a number of critical steps to enhance safety and security procedures within the Peace Corps, including creating an ombudsman to receive complaints, questions and concerns from current or former volunteers regarding safety and security. The bill also establishes an Office of Safety and Security of the Peace Corps responsible for all safety and security activities at the agency and requires the Peace Corps to report to Congress on the effects of limits imposed on the duration of Peace Corps assignments and a study on medical screening procedures used by the agency.

For decades, Peace Corps volunteers have played a critical role in promoting stability and prosperity in developing countries. Today they are asked to play an even more important role in correcting the misperceptions that many have of America. It's a troubling fact that anti-Americanism is on the rise in many parts of the world. That makes the mission of the Peace Corps more important than ever. But it also makes the task of protecting volunteers more urgent than ever.

While the passage of this legislation is by no means a solution to all of the Peace Corps' security problems, it is certainly a positive step forward. If the Peace Corps wants to fulfill its goal of doubling the size of its agency over the next five years—a goal we all share—it must provide its volunteers the safety and security they need.

I therefore strongly support the passage of this bill.

HONORING FRANKENMUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the residents of Frankenmuth, Michigan, to recognize their fire department for 100 years of skilled and dedicated service. On Friday, June 4, 2004, the Frankenmuth community will gather to celebrate this milestone during a special open house and ceremony to be held at the Frankenmuth fire station.

The Frankenmuth Fire Department was organized in 1904. Martin Eischer was named the fire chief, and he held the post until his retirement in 1937. The department at the time of establishment had an appointed staff of 19 men, a \$750 steam powered and horse drawn fire engine, and a \$535 hose and hose cart. Although the department was fully equipped and staffed, it did not acquire a home until 1905 when the Village Hall was constructed. The hall would serve as the home of the fire chief and fire engine. To ensure a reasonable water supply, the village council provided fire cisterns throughout the village. In 1918, they purchased a Waterous Motor Propelled fire engine, which would be considered as the forerunner of the modern fire engine. The department retained the original horse-drawn engine, and relocated it to a garage across the river. The department assigned a crew of men to the garage to provide fire protection during floods, when normal access across the river was blocked.

In 1937, the department appointed a new chief, Herman "Whitey" Eischer; son of retired Chief Martin Eischer. He held the post until resigning in 1947, and Waldemar Veitengruber was appointed. During Chief Herman Eischer's tenure, which was during the onset of World War II, 22 volunteers were added to the roster, the department purchased a 1942 Ford engine, and a Civil Defense team was organized. In the late 1940s, the department received its first gas mask, and in 1979 the Frankenmuth Women's Club donated money to purchase the "Jaws of Life." In 1976 George Reinert was appointed fire chief, after the sudden death of Chief Veitengruber. He served 10 years and was succeeded by Gene Rittmueller. Chief Rittmueller resigned in 1997 and was replaced by the current chief, David Wright.

Aside from work and training, the department is also a community group. They have sponsored several community and station events, including the annual community picnic, fireman's ball, Christmas party, and in the last few years they have sponsored the fire muster. This year over 200 participants are expected. Currently, the department roster for 2004 lists 30 volunteers, including the chief, two assistants and three captains. The department with its skilled crew has handled each emergency over the years with great attention to detail and duty. In the wake of September 11th, the American public has come to better understand and acknowledge the heroic commitment and responsibility that is charged to our nation's fire departments. We are all indebted to you for protecting our community each day.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me paying tribute to the Frankenmuth Fire Department for 100 years of service to the community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, June 2, I was unavoidably detained and

unable to vote on rollcall votes 213, 214, and 215. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 213, "aye" on rollcall 214, and "aye" on rollcall 215.

FALLEN HEROES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women who sacrifice their lives every day in support of our nation as members of the armed services, both in times of peace and war. In the two and a half years since our nation was attacked, the service of America's armed services has been priceless—both in helping defend America at home and serving abroad. We should be thankful and grateful to all service members.

This Memorial Day marks the dedication of the World War II memorial in Washington, DC, the 60th anniversary of the D-Day Invasion at Normandy, and the 60th anniversary of the passage of the GI Bill of Rights. We recall with love and gratitude the 16.1 million that served in World War II and remember the 292,000 service members killed in action. Today our government provides care and services to the hundreds of thousands of disabled veterans of World War II.

While today we reflect on our veterans that have fought and our troops that serve, we must also commit ourselves to ensuring better lives for these people and their families. I will continue to fight to protect and honor our troops and their families. We must guarantee health care, adequate burial and bereavement services, support services for military families, and financial security to those who serve this nation.

As we take time this Memorial Day to remember our service men and women, I am sad to add the names of six fallen heroes from my community to those whose lives we celebrate and deaths we mourn. Marine Corporal Jorge A. Gonzalez, Army Sergeant Atanasio Haro Marin, Army Private First Class Jose Casanova, Marine Private First Class Francisco A. Martinez Flores, Army Specialist Leroy Harris-Kelly III, and Marine Corporal Rudy Salas are among the more than 700 service members that have died fighting in Iraq. Their service to this community and to this nation will not be forgotten.

CONGRATULATING KRISTOPHER TANTILLO ON HIS SELECTION TO REPRESENT FLORIDA AT THE NATIONAL PANASONIC ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kristopher Tantillo, a high school student who attends Lincoln Park Academy in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Kristopher

was recently selected as one of six students in Florida to represent the State at the National Panasonic Academic Challenge to be held this June.

The 17th annual Panasonic Academic Challenge is a "quiz-bowl"-type tournament in which teams of our nation's top students test their knowledge with difficult questions in mathematics, science, English, social studies, fine arts, foreign language, and computer science. This Academic Challenge, started years ago as a small local effort, has now blossomed into one of the premier high school academic tournaments in the United States, involving thousands of students from every state and U.S. territory.

Kristopher Tantillo exemplifies exceptional academic skills and scholarship, and I hope that he will continue to dedicate himself to further study and academic opportunities. Once again, I offer my congratulations to Kristopher on this noble achievement and wish the best of luck to him in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JAMES A. SWANSON

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 3, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my friend James A. Swanson, Supervising Biologist for the Central Coast region of Department of Fish and Game, who is being honored on the occasion of his retirement after over 30 years.

A native of California, Jim Swanson grew up in Pasadena and received his Bachelors Degree in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. He began his outstanding career in the Department of Fish and Game as a Fish and Wildlife seasonal aide in California in 1969.

In 1975, Jim became a Junior Wildlife Manager-Biologist in the Central Coast Region. From 1977-78 he was the Project Manager coordinating the San Francisco Bay Study. He then returned to work as an Assistant Wildlife Manager-Biologist and went on to work as an Associate Wildlife Biologist. In 2001, he assumed the duties of Supervising Biologist for the Central Coast Region.

As Supervising Biologist for the Central Coast Region he served many counties including: Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Sonoma, and part of Solano. He helped to acquire over 14,000 acres for the Napa-Sonoma Marshes State Wildlife Area and was instrumental in the restoration of that habitat.

Mr. Swanson and his wife, Kathey, have two daughters, Renee and Jamie as well as three grandchildren. Jim is an avid fisherman and bird watcher.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize James A. Swanson for his contributions to the preservation of the natural resources of our nation. He will be missed and we extend our best wishes to him in his retirement.