

In the nearly fifty years that Mr. Blackburn has had a significant hand in the hospital's operations, Bedford Memorial has become a driving force of health care in Bedford County.

Mr. Blackburn has served this nation honorably, touching the lives of every American citizen through his service in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II. Having taken the reigns as a strong leader since his youth, he has been a pillar of strength within his community, and his ceaseless dedication to the health care system is unparalleled. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration, and the impact he has had is immeasurable.

For his incomparable generosity, service to the Bedford Memorial Hospital, and unabated commitment to excellence, John Blackburn, Jr. deserves the highest recognition. He has demonstrated enthusiasm and care for the county which he has served, and his spirit and dedication have infiltrated his every action. The legacy he has created is one that every American should emulate, and his contributions will not go unnoticed by the business for which he worked nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Mr. Blackburn on his many accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID N. MESCHES

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Dr. David N. Mesches. Since 1961, Dr. Mesches has provided outstanding medical care to the residents of Ulster County and he has worked tirelessly to improve the delivery of health care services not only in Ulster County, but also throughout the Hudson Valley. I am pleased to join the health care community, his family and his friends in honoring Dr. Mesches for his outstanding career.

During his four decades of practice in Ulster County, Dr. Mesches has served as Captain in the United States Air Force at Stewart Air Force Base, providing care to servicemen and their families; operated a private practice while serving as Director of the Student Health Center at SUNY New Paltz; served as Director of the Mid-Hudson Rural Family Practice Residency Training Program; and currently, is the Chief Executive Officer of the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute.

Dr. Mesches' membership in a number of medical and scientific societies and committees is a testament to his dedication and desire to provide citizens with the best possible healthcare available. In fact, in his current role as the President and CEO of the Mid-Hudson Family Health Institute, Dr. Mesches has increased access to healthcare for the under-insured and uninsured residents of the Hudson Valley by forging strong alliances. Through his efforts, regional health care agencies have begun to work collaboratively to build a seamless, integrated healthcare delivery system that will effectively be able to identify and address the needs of the most at risk member of our community.

In addition to his professional achievements, Dr. Mesches has participated in numerous community activities including, serving as the Chairman of the Ulster County and New Paltz Planning Boards and Ulster County Planned Parenthood, and serving on the Board of Directors of Patterns for Progress, Mid-Hudson Savings Bank, First Union Bank, and Atlantic States Mortgage Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dr. David Mesches. His commitment to improving the lives of people around him has yielded a distinguished record of service and has made Ulster County and much of the Hudson Valley a better, healthier place to live.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity of visiting Taiwan, the Republic of China and I was very impressed with what I saw. Taiwan has clearly grown to be a modern democracy and its people are well educated and prosperous. The people whom I talked to were all friendly toward us and supportive of our global war against terrorism.

In fact, I was most impressed with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. This young statesman was reelected president of the Republic of China last March and was inaugurated on May 20. In my conversation with him, he said again and again that he is seeking a genuine dialogue with the leaders of the People's Republic of China. He said Taiwan does not seek confrontation but a friendly dialogue with mainland China leading to talks on all issues. President Chen would like to see more cooperation and less confrontation in dealing with mainland China leaders. In addition to its "relationship" with mainland China, President Chen considers Taiwan's relations with the U.S. a matter of utmost importance and he would like to see further strengthening of this relationship. I personally believe that Taiwanese people are truly lucky to have President Chen as their leader for the next four years.

I am delighted that Taiwan is now ably represented in Washington by its young and energetic ambassador, Dr. David Lee. Ambassador Lee knows Washington well and he will most certainly strengthen the ever-growing bonds between Taipei and Washington. Taiwan and the United States, I wish to assure both President Chen and Ambassador Lee, have always stood together shoulder to shoulder and will always remain strong partners in maintaining peace and stability.

I had a good visit to Taiwan and I hope my colleagues and my fellow countrymen will follow my steps in visiting this beautiful island of freedom and prosperity soon and often.

IN HONOR OF JULIE PACKARD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Julie E. Packard, the Executive Director and Vice Chairman of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation's Board of Trustees and the recipient of the Ted Danson Ocean Hero Award. The award is given annually, in recognition of the recipient's strong commitment toward protection and restoration of the marine environment. Ms. Packard is a woman of principle and conviction. She has worked tirelessly to protect and preserve our delicate ocean ecology.

On October 20, 1984, Ms. Packard was instrumental in opening the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Today, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation is a \$124 million institution and has consistently drawn 2 million people to its exhibits each year. It and its sister institution, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, are some of the finest marine life and ocean science research institutions in the United States. She has been its Executive Director since it opened.

Ms. Packard was born in Los Altos, California. She is one of four children, along with a brother, David, and sisters, Susan and Nancy. She went on to earn a masters degree in biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. Julie is married to Robert Stephens. Together they are raising wonderful twin daughters.

Through her involvements, Julie has inspired and educated many about the wonders of our oceans and the environment of Monterey Bay and the central coast. She has been instrumental in making the schools of Monterey Bay some of the finest on the central coast, making it possible for future generations of students to nourish a passion for the ocean as strong as hers.

Ms. Packard has been a board member of numerous organizations and committees, including the California Nature Conservancy, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. She was also a member of the Pew Oceans Commission in 2003, which issued recommendations for a comprehensive overhaul of national ocean policy. Ms. Packard has also received numerous awards. Perhaps one of the milestones of Julie's life and work with the oceans is when she received the Audubon Medal for Conservation in 1998, one of the premier recognitions given to those in this field.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to honor the many accomplishments of my friend Julie E. Packard and express sincere gratitude for her accomplishments and contributions to our community.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICK
HANSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rick Hanson, a strong-willed individual

who has persevered through near insurmountable physical challenges and provides inspiration to his fellow citizens. I am proud to stand here with my colleagues before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize his triumph of will, and strength of conviction.

During Rick's early teens, it was discovered he had a brain tumor. Rick's condition continued to worsen, and doctors and family members feared he would not pull through. Eventually, Rick was diagnosed with a rare condition of adrenal insufficiency, and his hormone and hydrocortisone treatments have helped him finally turn the corner. After twenty-five years of illness, at age forty-three, Rick on the road to recovery, is taking therapeutic horseback riding lessons, a pastime that he enjoyed as a child growing up in Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, Rick Hanson's unrelenting will and sheer determination has helped him to stave off illness in the face of the gravest of circumstances. His story of improvement is an inspiration to us all, and I am honored by the opportunity to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN M. (MIKE)
HENRY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John M. (Mike) Henry who is retiring after a long and distinguished career of public service. A dedicated and selfless individual, Mike has served as County Coordinator for Berrien County for the past sixteen years. During his tenure, Mike assisted the citizens of Southwest Michigan in a number of capacities, all with great distinction.

Since 1988, Mike's contributions to our community have been tremendous. He has consistently received accolades and recognition for his inspired work. During his time as County Coordinator, Mike crafted, managed and executed budgets exceeding \$2 billion, had the unique ability to manage large sums of public funds—always meeting the highest level of auditing standards, and exhibited great competence and success in working with the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government.

In addition to his remarkable service to Berrien County, Mike also served his country with great distinction. He served in the U.S. Army for 20 years, including two tours in Vietnam, flying attack helicopters. During his extraordinary years of service, Mike was awarded with, among others, the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Our community is in debt to Mike for his continued public service since 1988. I wish him and his family all the best in retirement. His service will be truly missed by the folks in Southwest Michigan.

A TRIBUTE TO IRIS S. CHANG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Iris Chang, a courageous historian, author and champion of Asian and Asian American history, human rights and historical redress. During her brief yet remarkable professional career, Iris touched the lives of countless people, shedding light on past injustices and atrocities that had been forgotten or ignored. In her personal life, she was a loving wife and mother, a close friend and an inspiration to many. Iris is survived by her husband, Dr. Brett Douglas, her son, Christopher Douglas, her parents, Shau-Jin and Ying-Ying Chang, and her brother, Michael Chang.

Iris Shun-Ru Chang was born on March 28, 1968 in Princeton, New Jersey. She studied journalism at the University of Illinois, and received her Master's in Science Writing from Johns Hopkins University. While at Johns Hopkins, Iris was commissioned to research the life of Tsien Hsue-Shen, a Chinese American scientist who was deported to China during the Communist scare of the 1960s and subsequently founded China's ballistics program. Her research led to her critically acclaimed debut, *The Thread of the Silkworm*, which addressed the paranoia and racism of the McCarthy era.

As a historian and an activist, Iris fought passionately for historical justice and reconciliation. Her book, *The Rape of Nanking*, chronicled the horrific capture of Nanking during Japan's invasion of China in 1937, and was instrumental in educating the international community about Japanese military atrocities during World War II—human rights violations that had gone unwritten and unacknowledged for decades. Her efforts to seek redress for the crimes at Nanking brought her in conflict with the Japanese government and communities worldwide, but Iris was unwavering in her commitment to justice and truth.

In addition to her books, which decried social and historical injustices against the Asian and Asian American communities in the United States and internationally, Iris was also a member of the Committee of 100, a national nonpartisan organization of Chinese-American leaders who work to address issues important to the Chinese-American community. For her work, she earned the Peace and International Cooperation Award from John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and was named "Woman of the Year" by the Organization of Chinese-American Women.

Iris will be remembered for her work and service to the community. Certainly, the millions of people whom she touched through her writings and her activism will not forget the moral vision she brought on past injustices to the international community and the public impact of her work in promoting peace between peoples of differing races and backgrounds. Her fierce pride of her Chinese-American heritage empowered others with the certainty that they were truly Americans despite their ancestry. Our community has lost a role model and close friend; the world has lost one of its finest and most passionate advocates of social and historical justice.

ASSISTING THE PEACEKEEPING
EFFORT IN DARFUR

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 17, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing crisis in Darfur, Sudan continues to be an issue of high concern to the American people. According to United Nations and U.S. officials, the situation in Darfur is the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world.

Out of a population of 7 million people, 1.2 million are internally displaced, 200,000 have been forced into exile, and an estimated 70,000 civilians have been killed. The crisis necessitates not only financial assistance, but also that of a military and logistical nature. A November 17, 2004 editorial in the *Washington Post* spoke to the current state of the Darfuri peacekeeping effort.

Despite widespread condemnation by the international community regarding the Darfur genocide, few in the West have been willing to offer troops or logistics to the peacekeeping effort. The African Union has attempted to fill the void through its seven hundred man observer force. However, the AU force is severely undermanned and underfunded.

The AU asserts it will need \$80 million just to sustain a force of 3,000 for one year. Many experts believe that an additional 30,000 to 60,000 troops will be needed to adequately secure the Darfur region. This is in addition to the need for logistical support and increased provision of military vehicles and aircraft.

The AU will no doubt need assistance in such an endeavor. America, as the greatest military power in the world, should not allow this deficiency to continue. Indeed, the U.S. currently has a contingent of 2,500 troops in nearby Djibouti, from which it can initially draw. The U.S. military airlifted several hundred African soldiers from Nigeria and Rwanda into Darfur last month, but this represents the only major U.S. logistical operation to date.

More can and must be done by the U.S. in providing military and logistic resources for the Darfur peacekeeping effort. The Administration has long cited the liberty and freedom of the Iraqi people as a rationale for its military commitment in that country. I know we all agree that the people of Darfur deserve the same, so I am hopeful that progress can be made on this important issue.

[From the *Washington Post*, Nov. 17, 2004]

DIPLOMACY AND DARFUR

A full arsenal of diplomatic tricks has been tried on behalf of Darfur, the western province of Sudan where the government is orchestrating genocide. A number of A-list statesmen—Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, U.N. Secretary, General Kofi Annan—have journeyed to Sudan to demand an end to the killing; still the genocide continues. Ceasefires, undertakings and protocols have been negotiated and signed; still the genocide continues. Two U.N. Security Council resolutions have condemned the government's behavior; still the genocide continues. Tomorrow and Friday, in a triumph of hope over experience, the Security Council will convene an extraordinary session in Kenya, hoping to shine the spotlight on Sudan's suffering. But unless the council members