

The citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan share these values and hope for a bright future where the evils and terror of Communism are vanished.

Our relationship with the island of Taiwan has been a solid one, of true understanding and of support for democratic values.

President Bush has publicly stated that the United States will do "whatever it takes" to help Taiwan's defense—an unprecedented statement which no prior U.S. President has made.

As the people of Taiwan prepare to cast their ballots on numerous issues dealing with their future and their democratically elected government, I stand tall, shoulder to shoulder, with the men and women who understand the democratic process and truly believe in it.

This prosperous island, only a few miles from the coast of an oppressive regime, continues to show the world that the ignorance of communism drowns the bliss of the imagination.

Having visited Taiwan myself, I send my heartfelt congratulations to the people who exercise and demonstrate democracy at its best—the opportunity for an individual to cast their opinion in the form of a vote.

HONORING MR. J. E. HANCOCK

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and acknowledge Mr. J.E. Hancock, who passed away on March 5, 2004 at age 98. Through the course of my career, working in the business world and as a public official, rarely have I been so privileged to associate with such an extraordinary person who gives unselfishly and wholeheartedly to the interests and welfare of other people.

Born August 4, 1905, in Sherman, Texas, Mr. Hancock married Eileen Carruth on June 24, 1928. The couple moved to Lubbock in 1930 where Mr. Hancock finished his degree from Texas Tech University. After short teaching stints in New Home, Pettit, and O'Donnell, Texas, the couple moved back to Lubbock to farm.

Mr. Hancock was not only a renowned Lubbock inventor, but also one of Lubbock Christian University's (LCU) greatest benefactors. A man of great optimism and vision, it would not be in excess to say that Lubbock Christian University owes a significant part of its present status to Mr. Hancock's efforts and contributions. In fact, he is the single largest donor in the university's history and had given the school more than \$10 million over the years.

In addition to being a large financial contributor, he was elected to the board of trustees in February 1967 and served as chairman from 1978 to 1998. Mr. Hancock's achievement during this period is highlighted by the fact that during this period, LCU came into its own as a four-year college in 1972. On this vein, Mr. Hancock was largely responsible for helping LCU achieve university status in 1987. Moreover, his infectious enthusiasm and dynamism proved to be a stimulant that triggered several positive changes within the university. As a tribute to their services, LCU's College of Liberal Arts is named after Gene and Eileen Hancock.

As an inventor too, Mr. Hancock was not one to be left behind. Looking for a better way to terrace land, Hancock invented the Elevating-Terracer. This tool has proven to be a boon to its users and has been applied to all sizes and types of earth-moving scraper equipment. The Elevating-Terracer was such a success that it led to the establishment of Hancock Manufacturing Co. in Lubbock in 1947. The company went on to produce many new and improved scrapers. Now, Mr. Hancock holds 18 patents on his machinery designs and more than 15,000 Hancock scrapers were sold on a global level. Highly acclaimed, his designs have been used even in Israel, where the scrapers were used to dig the irrigation canal from the Sea of Galilee to the south desert. Following a successful business career, Hancock Manufacturing was acquired by Clark Equipment Co. in 1966.

Mr. Hancock is fondly remembered by his community as the multi-faceted pioneer and philanthropist who helped to make a difference to the people and society around him. To dream of helping is not difficult, but it is only those with real initiative, passion and creativity who actually succeed in becoming an instrument of change. Mr. Hancock was among those who succeeded. Anyone would do well to emulate his example if they truly desire a life that makes a difference and leaves a legacy.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my sincere thanks to Gene Hancock. I am truly honored to recognize his accomplishments. He will certainly be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO LINDA WILSON,
29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments of our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Linda Wilson. Ms. Wilson's passion for community service, especially on behalf of libraries, has made our community a better place in which to live.

Linda Wilson was born in Rochester, Minnesota, and raised on a farm near Hayfield, Minnesota. An outstanding student, she was the valedictorian of Hayfield High School, then obtained her BA majoring in Math and Spanish and her MA in Library Science at the University of Minnesota. She first moved to California in 1968 and has called California home with the exception of a 5-year return to Minnesota and a 2-year residence in Florida. Currently, she lives in Monterey Park, California.

Her experience includes working as a research librarian at UC Riverside, the Adult/YA Extension librarian at the Kern County Library, supervising librarian at the San Diego County Library, and the county librarian at the Merced County Library. In 1995, she began her tenure as the city librarian for the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library of the City of Monterey Park.

Linda has been instrumental in several efforts to help libraries. In Minnesota, she worked on a tax measure to build a new library. She has written numerous applications and received grants for library service and buildings over the years, totaling more than \$10 million. In Monterey Park, Linda participated on the team that received Los Angeles County Proposition 14 funds to renovate and expand the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library. In addition, she also worked on the successful Measure C campaign that helped fund the expansion and provide service on Sundays at the Bruggemeyer Memorial Library in Monterey Park.

Linda's volunteer service is extensive. She is a graduate of Leadership Merced, past president of Merced Business and Professional Women, formerly active in Rebuilding America, and headed up the United Way campaign for Monterey Park city employees. Currently, she is the president of East Los Angeles-Montebello Business and Professional Women, a past president and active member of Monterey Park Rotary Club, a member of the Monterey Park Chamber of Commerce, and active in her church, St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Ms. Wilson also serves on the American Library Association and the California Library Association. She has received numerous honors, including the Librarian of the Year Award in 1990 from the California Association of Library Trustees and Commissioners and the Merced Business and Professional Women's Woman of the Year Award.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Linda Wilson. The entire community joins me in thanking Linda Wilson for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

RECOGNIZING THE ASSYRIAN NEW
YEAR 6754

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my warm wishes to the Assyrian community; Kha B'Nissan. The Bet-Nahrain, an Assyrian organization in Ceres, California, will be honoring this day on March 21 through their numerous broadcasts which are viewed worldwide through satellite and internet.

The celebration of the Assyrian New Year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Assyria about 4,000 years ago. In the years surrounding 2000 B.C., the Assyrian New Year began with the first New Moon after the Vernal Equinox, which is the first day of spring, March 21. According to Assyrian belief, the beginning of spring is the logical time to start the New Year because it is the season of rebirth, planting of new crops, and blossoming of trees and flowers. The Assyrian New Year typically lasts for 12 days, with each day having a particular theme for celebration.

The Assyrian population has made countless contributions to our community, and the Bet-Nahrain is an organization that attests and attributes to that fact. Bet-Nahrain is an Assyrian educational and cultural organization dedicated to the national aspirations and well-

being of the Assyrian people. In December of 1975, it was incorporated under the State laws of California as a nonprofit education and public benefit organization. Bet-Nahrain established and inaugurated the world's first ever Assyrian radio station, KBES 89.5 FM in 1979, and KBSV TV 23, the world's first Assyrian television broadcasting station, in Ceres in 1996. Their intent is to use their technology to reach millions of people, Assyrian and non-Assyrian, with their message and information.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the Assyrian New Year 6754 and extend my best to the Bet-Nahrain and the Assyrian community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Assyrian community many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO BERTHA WOODARD JOHNSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the unsung American heroes. Every day in this great Nation, there are people who work hard, raise their families and contribute to the fabric of the community. They are largely unrecognized in these ivy-covered halls and their names are unknown. Today, I would like to raise my voice to honor one of the unsung heroes of Brooklyn, NY.

Mrs. Bertha A. Woodard Johnson is the daughter of the late Sadie Woodard and Richard Wallace. She was born in Chester, SC, and reared by her mother and grandmother.

Bertha spent a life providing services for the needy, with a particular vocation of serving children and the elderly. She has worked tirelessly to improve their quality of life through active participation and personal generous donations of her time and talent. This passion to help people led her to become a caregiver and nurse for over 45 years. Before retiring in 1990, she received numerous awards and accolades for her dedicated service, including "Nurse of the Year."

Bertha has served the community through her leadership activities in her church and mentoring activities with young people. In addition to her active involvement in the community, Bertha, the wife of Charlie C. Johnson, mother of five children, seven grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, has been a strong pillar of her family.

Mr. Speaker, Bertha Woodard Johnson has demonstrated great dedication in her life to her family, devotion to her patients and commitment to the people of Brooklyn. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

A TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMES CARRUTHERS

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to COL James Carruthers, na-

tive of Avoca, in my district, who will be honored with the W. Francis Swingle Award for service at the annual dinner of the Greater Pittston Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Lackawanna County, on March 17, 2004.

Colonel Carruthers is the president of the Millersburg Military Institute in Kentucky.

Colonel Carruthers became the 14th president of the Millersburg Military Institute, known as the Military School of Kentucky, in July. Colonel Carruthers began his career as a Marine in 1968 and saw action in Vietnam with the 1st Battalion 3rd Marines.

Colonel Carruthers served as a field artillery officer, officer-in-charge of the U.S. Marine Guard Force in London, commanding officer of the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in Long Island, NY, manpower plans and policy officer at Marine Corps headquarters in Washington, DC, and operations officer, Marine Corps Base, Quantico, VA.

After his extensive career in the Marines, Colonel Carruthers retired from the military and served as the human resources director for the Benton Foundry in Benton. Colonel Carruthers has also held various leadership positions with Citation Corp, which is headquartered in Alabama.

Prior to his current position, the retired colonel was vice president for enrollment at Marion Military Institute in Alabama.

Colonel Carruthers is married to the former Lanette Jenkins of Worden, IL. The couple has two children, Heather Ann Hall of Burke, VA, and Tyler, a student at Florida State University, and one grandchild, Aidan Patrick Hall.

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is a charitable and fraternal organization established on March 17, 1913. The Friendly Sons honors the historic ties between the United States and Ireland. Membership dues, contributions and fundraisers support the organization's scholarship program.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join the Friendly Sons today in congratulating Colonel Carruthers.

A TRIBUTE TO AIDA YEGHIAZARIAN, 29TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2004

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. During the month of March, we pay special tribute to the accomplishments of our Nation's most distinguished women. It is my great privilege to recognize outstanding women who are making a difference in my district.

I stand today to recognize an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Ms. Aida Yeghiazarian. Ms. Yeghiazarian's passion for community service, especially in the area of education, has made our community a better place in which to live.

Aida Yeghiazarian was born in Tehran, Iran, in 1955. After attending Reza Shah High School, she took accounting courses at a local college for 1 year. Although her studies in Iran were interrupted when she and her family immigrated to the United States in 1977, Aida took many courses in the United States over

the next few years, including management of commercial properties, business and real estate law, and English.

In 1979, Aida married her husband, Vahe, and they moved to Glendale. In 1980, Aida obtained her real estate license and, with her husband, bought a franchise of the Re/Max Real Estate Agency. They have two daughters, Sevan and Anie.

While maintaining a full-time career, Aida volunteered at all of her daughters' schools, including the Verdugo Gymnastics School, Flintridge Preparatory School, the Champion Gymnastics School and Van Nuys Gymnastics Olympica. Formerly active in the PTAs of Tufenkian Pre-school and Chamlian Armenian School, she still assists Chamlian School in its fund-raising efforts.

Aida Yeghiazarian has been on the Glendale Board of Realtors for over 24 years, serving on their commercial real estate advisory committee. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors and a member of the California Association of Realtors. Because of her real estate experience, Aida feels fortunate to be able to help financially struggling families with their financial planning, often by working without commission.

Ms. Yeghiazarian spearheaded the successful fund-raising campaign for the Glendale Police Memorial Fund, raising over \$35,000. She is a former president and 12-year board member of the Armenian Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists Armenian students with scholarships, teacher training, and school restoration. Aida serves on the Armenian National Committee of America Western Region, is a member of Homenetmen, and the Armenian American Chamber of Commerce.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an extraordinary woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Aida Yeghiazarian. The entire community joins me in thanking Aida Yeghiazarian for her continued efforts to make the 29th Congressional District a better place in which to live.

HONORING ANN MARIE SUDDUTH

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Marie Sudduth for 37 years of dedicated service to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Ann will retire from the Fresno HUD Office on April 2 and will be honored at an event held in California.

Ann was recruited by HUD for clerical work at the D.C. office from her high school in the coal mining mountains of West Virginia. From 1967 to 1978, she served as a Secretary/Stenographer in the Single Family Division of HUD. Ann then became the Personal Assistant to the Director for Property Disposition and supervised all clerical staff. In 1980, she was promoted to Mortgage Service Specialist, where she served until 1986. In just 6 years she was appointed Chief of the Insured Servicing Branch and was responsible for national oversight of the policy procedures governing the service of approximately 6 million FHA-insured mortgages. In 1994, Ms. Sudduth was