

Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act. More than 150 local police and sheriff's departments have requested this legislation and I am pleased that the committee is considering it.

A few years ago, Congress enacted legislation to tighten Federal law and close some loopholes that allowed the barbaric practices of animal fighting to thrive nationwide, in spite of bans in virtually every State.

But Congress didn't finish the job. We left in place weak penalties that have proven ineffective. Misdemeanor penalties simply don't provide a meaningful deterrent. Those involved in animal fighting ventures—where thousands of dollars typically change hands in the associated gambling activity—consider misdemeanor penalties a “slap on the wrist” or merely a “cost of doing business.” Moreover, we've heard from U.S. Attorneys that they are reluctant to pursue animal fighting cases with just a misdemeanor penalty.

In recent years, we have seen a marked rise in the frequency of animal fighting arrests in communities across the country. Local police and sheriffs are increasingly concerned about animal fighting, not only because of the animal cruelty involved, but also because of the other crimes that often go hand-in-hand, including illegal gambling, drug traffic, and acts of human violence.

In addition, there are concerns cockfighters spread diseases that jeopardize poultry flocks and even public health. We in California experienced this first-hand, when cockfighters spread exotic Newcastle disease, which was so devastating to many of our poultry producers in 2002 and 2003. That outbreak cost U.S. taxpayers “nearly \$200 million to eradicate, and cost the U.S. poultry industry many millions more in lost export markets,” according to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman.

It is time Congress finishes the job and helps State and local law enforcement officials who have requested stronger Federal laws to rid animal fighting from communities that do not want it.

TRIBUTE TO THE PAISANO 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Paisano, the student newspaper at the University of Texas at San Antonio, UTSA. The Paisano is the oldest independent student newspaper in the State of Texas. In January 1981, the first issues of the Paisano were distributed to the UTSA community. A quarter of a century later, the Paisano often publishes 7,000 to 10,000 issues a week for the downtown and 1604 campuses.

Because UTSA is a young school, student enterprises like the Paisano were important in creating a sense of community. Other schools have longer histories but few have more school pride. Students know that the Paisano is their forum to celebrate their college years and examine their community and world.

Put simply, students run the paper. They write the stories, sell the advertising, and create budgets for the paper. But they receive neither college credit nor compensation from

the university for their efforts. Yet, the invaluable experience of running a business has compensated them far more than a paycheck ever could.

Through the Paisano Educational Trust, dedicated students, faculty, and staff publish the Paisano. All overhead for the paper's publication, including rent, equipment, utilities, and printing costs are funded through advertising revenues. Countless hours of student work have kept this paper operating.

Many of the former student staff now serve San Antonio and south Texas in numerous capacities. They are school teachers, writers, journalists, editors, accountants, lawyers, website creators, hotel managers, and environmental researchers. Over these last 25 years, they have helped transform San Antonio into the vibrant city poised for greater things on the verge of the 21st century.

The Founders knew that a free press was essential to democracy as a medium for free expression. The Paisano allows students to voice their concerns and to articulate their disparate experiences. This newspaper has provided a forum for students to participate in the give-and-take exchange of ideas vital to an academic institution and our society.

As UTSA continues its transformation into a flagship university, I expect that the Paisano will continue to reflect the richness and diversity of the student body and South Texas. Today, I celebrate their first 25 years and wish them many more.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JIM BEATTY

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and life-time achievements of Mr. Jim Beatty. He is an outstanding member of his community who has shown dedication through his endless service and volunteer efforts.

After graduating from Adams State College in Alamosa, CO, he served in the Air Force as an intelligence officer during the Korean war. Following his service in the military, Mr. Beatty used the G.I. bill to attend law school at the University of Colorado.

Soon after receiving his law degree, Mr. Beatty became senior partner at the Fisher & Beatty law office. Mr. Beatty also became very involved in the Fort Collins community. He was a member of the Fort Collins Junior Chamber of Commerce and, at age 35, was youngest president of the Rotary Club. He was also actively involved in the Fort Collins PTA and coached Little League. Mr. Beatty frequently volunteered his legal services to local service clubs and organizations.

Mr. Beatty has been actively involved in State and local politics. In the 1960's and 1970's, he served as a precinct committee person and successfully motivated every Republican in his precinct to vote.

In 1980, Mr. Beatty was elected to the Colorado State Senate, where he served until 1988. During his time in the State Senate, Mr. Beatty proved himself to be an intelligent and very effective legislator. He served as chair or vice-chair of eight legislative committees, including the Judiciary, Finance, Legal Affairs, Appropriations, and Joint Budget committees.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Mr. Beatty in Congress and I am very grateful for his unselfish and prolific service to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many contributions and achievements of Mr. Jim Beatty.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MAEDGEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to bring an important anniversary to my colleagues' attention. My elementary school, Maedgen Elementary School, in Lubbock, TX, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Maedgen first opened in the spring of 1955 and has been educating Lubbock's youngest citizens ever since. The school was named in honor of Charles Ernest Maedgen—1882–1964—an early resident of Lubbock who had a strong interest in the community and in education.

I am proud to be a Maedgen alumnus and am looking forward to attending the anniversary commemoration on February 24, 2006. I have many fond memories of my elementary school years. Mrs. Dunn, my first grade teacher, had a big influence on my life. I particularly remember a chart she placed in the front of the classroom to teach reading. Mrs. Dunn, using that chart, unlocked the world of reading for me. I also have memories of Mr. Ford, my principal. Some days I think I spent as much time in his office as he did.

Many things have changed in our world and in education over the past 50 years. Teaching methods have changed, and technology that we never could have imagined 50 years ago now plays a big role in students' education. For example, computers, instead of charts, are used to teach reading now. I am pleased that Maedgen Elementary School is still serving the Lubbock community by teaching our children and giving them the tools to build a successful life. Congratulations to all who have worked over the past 50 years teaching and serving Lubbock children at Maedgen, and best wishes for much success to all future students, teachers and administrators.

SALUTING JAMES P. HOFFA

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute James P. Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Mr. Hoffa has spent the past 47 years in diligent and loyal service to the Teamsters Union and workers across the country.

Sworn in at the age of 18 by his father, James has been a member of the Teamsters Union since 1959. He learned early in his life the importance of workers' rights as he joined his father on picket lines as a young boy.

Since taking office in March of 1999, Mr. Hoffa has been rebuilding the International

Brotherhood of Teamsters. During his tenure as President, union membership has increased and the budget has been balanced for the first time in nearly a decade.

The Teamsters have also increased their global outreach, creating a new office of global strategies to focus resources on building alliances with workers from around the world, and by holding meetings of the International Transportation Workers Federation, ITF, with union leaders representing 624 transport unions that consist of 4.5 million workers from 142 countries.

Most recently, Mr. Hoffa faced intense challenges while the union family chose to take different directions for its future. It is my hope that these changes will be positive for the Teamsters and provide Mr. Hoffa with a continued opportunity to lead.

It is for these reasons that I stand to recognize the work and dedication of Mr. James Hoffa, and his commitment to workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

**PRESIDENT CHEN'S LUNAR NEW
YEAR'S DAY REMARKS**

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in his Lunar New Year's Day remarks to the nation, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian expressed his concern over Taiwan's lack of representation in major international organizations and the Taiwanese people's need to revisit the issue of national unification with China.

Taiwan has tried to rejoin the United Nations and the World Health Organization but its efforts have been blocked by China and its diplomatic allies year after year. To break out of China's diplomatic suppression of Taiwan, President Chen was wondering if Taiwan should apply for membership in the United Nations under a new name, "Taiwan."

Apart from Taiwan's lack of international presence, Taiwanese people have developed a strong feeling that the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait has shifted to China's favor. Last spring, China passed its antiseccession law codifying the use of force against Taiwan. In recent years, China's military build-up along the coast of Taiwan has engendered suspicion and deep distrust of China's intentions toward Taiwan.

The Taiwanese people fear a military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait. It is therefore not surprising that their president would voice their apprehensions in his Lunar New Year's Day remarks. President Chen was wondering aloud if Taiwan should consider abolishing the National Unification Commission and the Guidelines for National Unification in view of China's repeated hostile actions taken against Taiwan. At the moment, this issue is being studied by Taiwan's National Security Council. President Chen must seek to explore venues, other than the National Unification Commission and the Guidelines for National Unification, to safeguard Taiwan's future.

To help ease Taiwanese apprehension, we, as friends of Taiwan, must ask President Bush to assure the people of Taiwan that America will adhere to its commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act and that

America would defend Taiwan if China were to invade Taiwan. Also, I think it is worthwhile for President Bush to further express America's strong concern over China's passage of the antiseccession legislation. The enactment of the law has in effect changed the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, thereby threatening the stability of the region.

Once again, President Bush should openly inform Chinese leaders that the future of Taiwan must be solved through peaceful means and with the consent of the people of Taiwan. Last but not least, President Bush should encourage Chinese leaders to resume a meaningful dialogue with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian over cross-strait issues under the principles of sovereignty, democracy, peace and parity.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has not reneged on his inaugural pledges to his people. In the last 6 years he has not declared independence for Taiwan. He would like Chinese leaders to openly pledge to the world that China would not use force against Taiwan either now or in the future—a statement that we here in the Congress would welcome as well.

TRIBUTE TO COACH GENE BESS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Three Rivers Community College basketball coach Gene Bess. Coach Bess is a fixture of the southern Missouri community of Poplar Bluff and a legend of college basketball coaching. This season, he will accomplish a tremendous feat for a coach in any sport at any level: Coach Bess will win his 1,000th game.

Three Rivers Community College is lucky to have a great coach—a model of perseverance and service. In Coach Bess, the Three Rivers Raiders have a mentor, a leader, and a friend to coach them both on and off the court. For southern Missouri, Coach Bess is more than an expert on basketball and leadership—he is a student of the game of life. He is also a reminder that accomplishing our goals requires planning, hard work and plenty of sacrifice. After notching 1,000 wins, Coach Bess has also become an expert on sportsmanship. His players are instructed in the art of fair play right along with the other fundamentals of the game.

Most remarkable about Coach Bess to me and to many is that the basketball team is not the first priority in his life. He is proud of the fact that his faith and his family always come before his work. This is just one secret of his success.

But today I join with Coach Bess's family, his friends, his colleagues at Three Rivers, the hundreds of young men who have played on his teams, and the proud fans of the Eighth Congressional District to congratulate Coach Bess on achieving a rare milestone. In his long tenure as coach of the Three Rivers Raiders, Coach Bess has never had a losing season. His 1,000th victory marks a record that is unsurpassed at any level.

We are proud of this tradition, proud of this record, and most proud of Coach Bess.

IN HONOR OF BETTY FRIEDAN

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution introduced by Congresswoman SOLIS to honor the late Betty Friedan, an influential and inspirational feminist pioneer, author, and leader who passed away on February 4. Throughout her life, Ms. Friedan fought for gender equality and social justice.

Ms. Friedan was born on February 4, 1921, in Peoria, IL. She graduated summa cum laude from Smith College in 1942 and did graduate work in psychology at the University of California at Berkeley. Ms. Friedan is best known for her 1963 book *The Feminine Mystique*, a groundbreaking work, which exposed for the first time the contradiction between expectations for women and the reality they were living. This best-seller challenged the prevalent assumption that women's interests were limited to housework and child rearing and called for greater opportunities for women in the workplace. *The Feminine Mystique* is viewed as one of the primary triggers of the second wave of feminism.

Betty Friedan played a significant role in the women's movement of the late 1960s and 1970s. In 1966, she co-founded the National Organization for Women, NOW, which remains one of our country's largest feminist organizations, and served as NOW's first president from 1966 to 1970. Ms. Friedan tirelessly advocated for equal treatment for women. She was a powerful voice for a multitude of reforms ranging from laws against sex discrimination to equal pay for equal work. Under her leadership, in 1968, NOW became the first organization to announce support for legalization of a woman's right to choose.

Women and men have benefited from the bravery and leadership of Betty Friedan. *The Feminine Mystique* continues to be read in college classrooms around the country, inspiring young people to continue Ms. Friedan's pursuit of equality.

It is with great sadness that I send my deepest condolences to the Friedan family. Ms. Friedan's lasting contributions to women's rights and social justice will always be remembered. Let us honor Ms. Friedan's memory by committing ourselves to promoting equality for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to the life of Ms. Betty Friedan.

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE
PROGRAM ENHANCED BOR-
ROWING AUTHORITY ACT OF 2006**

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Congress should act to increase the borrowing authority for the National Flood Insurance Program to honor the debt incurred by the United States.

If we do not act, people who have paid their flood insurance premiums will not receive their