

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 BORROWING 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

claims for their flood damage. No one wants to live in a nation that does not honor its debts.

In addition, I am concerned that Congress is reacting to the unprecedented flooding damage of 2005 by blaming the victims and innocent parties.

Federally backed flood insurance is necessary because the private sector will not supply this product since the damages are too concentrated geographically and chronologically for the risk to be sufficiently spread by private firms.

We recently passed a Federal flood insurance reform bill in 2003 and many of those provisions have not come into force, so I think it is premature to require Congress to approve more "reforms" before honest, premium paying policy holders are allowed to receive their payments.

The Katrina disaster was a tragedy, because the mass New Orleans flooding was probably preventable; if the levees had been built and maintained as they should have been.

Now my constituents in Houston, who do not live below sea level and do not live on the ocean coastline, will have to pay the price.

There are over 120,000 families in the 100-year floodplain who are required to have flood insurance. In Harris County we have updated our maps using airborne infrared radar, so they are accurate. There are another 155,000 families in the 500-year floodplain.

These people did not develop irresponsibly, in fact many of them didn't move into the floodplain, but the floodplain moved to them. Subsidence and later development has expanded floodplains and put innocent homeowners in the floodplain.

We should not blame these people for geographic factors beyond their control. Reforms of the NFIP should focus instead new development in floodplains, eliminating flood insurance for beach houses, and ensuring that the program keeps its commitments to its policy holders.

If we greatly increase premiums or expand the number of people required to have flood insurance, we should take into account the shock this can have on low-income families, and consider my legislation, H.R. 103, to offer 50 percent discounts for the first 5 years to low-income homeowners who suddenly have to pay premiums after a floodplain is redrawn to include them.

GREAT LAKES INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced a bill to require all vessels, including those with no ballast water on board (NOBOBs), to undergo ballast water exchange before entering the Great Lakes.

Invasive species pose a dangerous threat to the Great Lakes. These creatures can cause irreparable ecological and economic damage to a variety of locations and industries. Al-

though no federal agency accumulates such statistics comprehensively, an estimate by the American Association for the Advancement of Science put damage to the U.S. economy at \$123 billion annually. We must do better to prevent the introduction of invasives into the Great Lakes environment.

One method by which these species enter the Great Lakes is through ballast water tanks. Current law requires ships carrying ballast water to undergo ballast water exchange to flush out invasive species before entering the Great Lakes from another port. However, 90 percent of all ships entering the Great Lakes have no ballast water on board. These NOBOBs are not subject to the same ballast water exchange laws, even though they still have ballast tanks. Invasive species often survive in the sediment at the bottom of these tanks. When these ships operate in the Great Lakes, they may add and then pump out new ballast water before leaving. This mixes with residual ballast water and sediments, and provides an unregulated pathway for the introduction of new invasive species when the ballast water is released.

In other words, the contamination begins.

We must not leave 90 percent of ships entering the Great Lakes untreated. This bipartisan legislation requires all ships with ballast tanks, including NOBOBs, to undergo ballast water exchange. In addition, the bill commissions a study of the effectiveness and environmental soundness of other ballast treatment options. The language fixes a current problem and works towards an even stronger solution for the future.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation, while small, has enormous consequences for the health and safety of one of our national treasures. I am proud to introduce this ballast water legislation to significantly reduce the infiltration of invasive species into the Great Lakes.

NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS WEEK

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as obesity and the associated health risks continue to increase in America's youth, it is important to encourage children to participate in physical activity.

To help spread this message, today I am introducing with Congressman ZACH WAMP of Tennessee, a resolution urging the declaration of a National Physical Education and Sports Week and National Physical Fitness and Sports Month.

This resolution notes the increase in childhood obesity along with the negative consequences of extremely overweight and obese people including a decrease in the average life span and rising health care costs stemming from obesity related illness. It also includes findings from the United States Surgeon documenting that regular physical activity is associated with improved health-related quality of life. It resolves the sense of the House of Representatives regarding "National Physical Edu-

cation and Sports Week" and "National Physical Fitness and Sports Month."

Research shows that sound physical education programs can help students learn healthy habits for life. Through regular exercise and information on proper nutrition, children can develop habits for maintaining a healthy weight into adulthood. We must encourage our children to adopt healthier lifestyles because America's children are experiencing obesity in growing numbers, and data continues to highlight the link between obesity and diabetes, heart disease and other life-threatening medical conditions.

"National Physical Education and Sports Week" and "National Physical Fitness and Sports Month" would remind citizens of the importance of maintaining a consistent exercise program and healthy lifestyle.

I urge the support of this resolution and look forward to its consideration.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE DUNKLIN, SR.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to one of my father's great friends, Mr. George Dunklin, Sr., who is a true leader in Arkansas' agriculture community. With more than 60 years of work in the cottonseed oil and fertilizer industries, George Dunklin, Sr. is one of the state's most gifted businessmen.

As the former President of the most successful cottonseed oil mill in the country, George Dunklin, Sr. knows how to run a successful business. From the day his father bought the Planters Cotton Oil mill in 1935, to his days as President of the cooperative, George Dunklin Sr. has worked hard to transform the cottonseed industry. He spent 66 years building a profitable enterprise, and left a lasting mark on MidSouth agriculture.

Years of hard work earned George Dunklin Sr. distinguished positions as the President of the National Cottonseed Association in 1975, a member of the Cotton Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Agriculture, President of the Mississippi Valley Oilseed Processors Association, and recipient of the 1990 Harvey W. McGeorge Award for Distinguished Service to Agriculture. But George Dunklin, Sr.'s talents did not stop there. He was even elected to the Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame in 1991 for his accomplishments in tennis.

George Dunklin has been married to the former Mary Elisabeth Black of DeWitt, Arkansas for 57 years and is the father of two children, Deborah Tipton of Memphis and George Dunklin, Jr. of DeWitt. He and his wife have five grandchildren, Megan Dunklin, Robert Tipton, Mary Tipton, Hillary Dunklin and Lauren Dunklin.

On February 21, 2006, our community will meet in Pine Bluff, Arkansas to honor George Dunklin, Sr. for his remarkable contributions to Arkansas agriculture. I ask my colleagues in Congress to join me in congratulating him on this occasion and thanking him for over half a century of dedicated service, as a great friend, and a great American.