

program and their son, Danny, joining the Army reserve after high school has prompted the Bashaw family to continue supporting the program in such an outstanding fashion.

The Bashaw family has a distinguished record of service to their country and community. Their dedication to their country is most evident by the fact that Greg served in the Vietnam War and subsequently became an active member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3848. Their son, Danny, is currently keeping America safe by serving in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Patty, Danny and Greg "Greaser" Bashaw for their efforts on behalf of the Basic High School Marine Junior ROTC program and their dedication to country and community. The Bashaws are truly great Americans who epitomize civic pride in their country and a willingness to give themselves to furthering the ideas of our founding fathers by volunteering to help others.

#### RECOGNIZING 58TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate the fifty-eight years since the founding of the State of Israel. This momentous occasion is not only a joyous day for the people of Israel but for all who cherish freedom and democracy.

The people of the United States and the people of Israel have an ever-lasting bond made even stronger by the events of September 11th. Jewish Americans have made innumerable contributions to our nation throughout its history. Many Jewish Americans also became instrumental in the founding of Israel. These bonds have been strengthened since the events of September 11th. Together with Israel and all freedom loving nations, we will put an end to the fanaticism of terrorism and the threat it poses to the survival of not only the United States and Israel, but to other nations as well.

The need for a safe haven for Jewish people across the world is obvious. Persecution of Jews was practiced for generations throughout Europe and elsewhere. The visionaries who founded Israel established this safe haven to preserve the lives and culture of one of the great peoples and cultures on this Earth. Almost sixty years later, they are still fighting to preserve their great traditions and culture. But Israel has grown and prospered despite the relentless and mindless attacks perpetuated by the enemies of freedom. It has done so with the steadfast support of its friends in the United States and I am proud to count myself as one of these.

I want to take this opportunity to recognize the leadership of Israel's Consul General in New York, Arye Mekel, and the hard work of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. Arye Mekel has worked tirelessly to advocate on the behalf of the State of Israel and the Council has provided invaluable assistance to New York City as a whole and the New York Jewish Community.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the State of Israel on its fifty-eighth

birthday and vow to work hard to ensure that the alliance between our two countries continues to grow.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below:

Rollcall 101, H.R. 4709, the Telephone Records and Privacy protection Act (4-27-06), I would have voted "yea."

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. WILLIAM K. EMERY

#### HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Dr. William K. Emery. Dr. Emery today will receive the Friend of Public Health Award from the Berrien County Health Department for his many decades of dedicated service.

A caring and compassionate third-generation physician, Dr. Emery served as a family practitioner and as medical director for Whirlpool Corporation for more than 30 years. Dr. Emery, his father and grandfather have provided more than a century of care to the residents of Southwest Michigan. After retiring from his practice, Dr. Emery continued to serve his community as a member of the Berrien County Board of Health.

Dr. Emery is a man of vision and leadership, and brought those skills to bear as a member of the Berrien County Board of Health. He believes that the key to good health is knowledge and prevention. Dr. Emery was the driving force behind the Health Department's mission of preventing disease, prolonging life, protecting the health of the community, and promoting a better quality of life for everyone.

A 1942 graduate of St. Joseph High School, Dr. Emery received his medical degree from the University of Michigan in 1949 and joined the family practice in 1951.

While his colleagues are recognizing him today for his years of service, Dr. Emery's exemplary service continues. He has been named the first Health Board Member emeritus by the Berrien County Board of Commissioners, and he is volunteering at a local health care facility library.

Southwest Michigan is a healthier and better place because of Dr. William K. Emery.

#### CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. BERNADINE MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate the medical

staff and administration of the St. Bernadine Medical Center for providing 75 years of top quality medical care to the residents of San Bernardino County, California.

When local doctors and community leaders laid plans for a new hospital in 1929, they intended it to be modeled after St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, Minnesota, home of the Mayo Clinic. Led by Dr. Philip Savage and Father Patrick Dunn of St. Bernadine Catholic Church, they approached the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word in Houston, and the Sisters agreed to support a new hospital, providing a \$550,000 investment to get it started. A local fund drive brought another \$100,000, and St. Bernadine Hospital was created.

During the early years of operation in the midst of the Depression, the Sisters often would take payment for medical services in the form of fruits, nuts and chickens. The original 125 beds, five surgical rooms, operating theatre and other support facilities served the community until the 1950s, when a series of expansions began.

In the past 50 years, the medical center has grown to a 463-bed acute-care facility providing the nearly 2 million residents of San Bernardino County with some of the most advanced technologies and practices in the nation. The 1,400 employees serve thousands of patients a year, including 43,000 in the Emergency Department alone. The Five-Star maternal-child health center handles 2,600 births a year.

Most recently, the medical center has established the Inland Empire Heart Institute, which is ranked as one of the top two hospitals in Southern California for heart surgery volume. Blue Shield has designated it a Center of Excellence. The Medical Center is also rated as the best in the region for orthopedic care.

Although it is still sponsored by the Sisters of Charity, the medical center is now part of Catholic Healthcare West. From Mother Sebastian, the hospital's first administrator in 1931, to current president Steven Barron and board chairman Wilfrid Lemann, the leadership of St. Bernadine Medical Center has showed devotion to providing the very best health care for our community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues join in congratulating St. Bernadine Medical Center on their 75-year legacy of top-quality medical care, and wish the medical staff and administration further success in the years to come.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. NED DOFFONEY, PRESIDENT OF FRESNO CITY COLLEGE FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize Dr. Ned Doffoney, President of Fresno City College for his dedicated service and invaluable commitment to his students and his community.

Dr. Doffoney has had an extensive career as leader of numerous community colleges. He hails from Louisiana where he was the founding President and Chancellor of the South Louisiana Community College. Following his time in Louisiana, he moved to

Southern California where he held notable positions in various colleges. For over 4 years, Mr. Doffoney served as the President of Saddleback College of South Orange Community College District; he was the Dean of Academic Affairs at Los Angeles Southwest College as well as the Dean of Admissions; and he served as the Assistant Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. In addition to his administrative positions, he was also a teacher at California State University, Dominguez Hills. On July 1, 2002, Fresno City College welcomed Dr. Doffoney as its new President.

With a wide variety of leadership experience, Dr. Doffoney has received numerous recognitions and has earned the respect of many education institutions. In 2003, he was invited to participate in the National Community College Working Group organized by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Vocational and Adult Education. Dr. Doffoney was the only community college representative from California who was invited to join a distinguished group of 15 community college Presidents and Chancellors that were given the task of discussing issues and opportunities that affect the community college mission. He was a strong advocate for students with disabilities and was able to provide the group with insight into historic measures made to service those with disabilities in California.

Aside from being a strong advocate for students with disabilities, Dr. Doffoney has also worked tirelessly to promote the role of community colleges as a portal to higher education for California's ethnic majority. His efforts earned him the 2004 New California Media "Exceptional Communicator Award," highlighting the shared values of ethnic media and representing the interest of people from all of the various ethnic communities in the Valley. Dr. Doffoney is a proud recipient of this award and continues to bring new opportunities for education to the millions of underserved people in California.

Dr. Doffoney acknowledges the role of college education in his life and has worked to help those who are also in need of support; through his encouragement of the crucial role of education in shaping the lives of individuals. This work has earned him the 2005 TRIO Achievers Award where he was honored for his leadership and dedication in establishing and promoting effective and powerful learning environments. He continuously exemplifies the benefits of education to the Fresno City College community.

In addition to his dedicated service to Fresno City College, Dr. Doffoney has also made it a priority to establish a presence in community organizations. "As we continue to grow, my top priority is to find new ways to serve the needs of our community. It is our mission to help communities learn and find innovative ways to engage learning at all levels," he says. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Fresno and a board member for the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and Commission on Athletics. He has also recently served as a board member for the Public Safety Commission, Fresno Fire Chiefs' Foundation and Break the Barriers.

Dr. Ned Doffoney continues his quest for excellence and has established a core philosophy of student service at Fresno City College. He has stated, "This is a time to dare to be great. Although higher education faces

many challenges, we must be undaunted in our task to provide the best educational experience to our students." Dr. Doffoney's dedication in the promotion of education and his invaluable service to Fresno City College and its surrounding communities are accomplishments worthy of honor and recognition.

#### IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE CUYAHOGA VALLEY SCENIC RAILROAD

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad for its stewardship of the historic rail line through the Cuyahoga River Valley.

For thousands of years Indians used the Cuyahoga River and Valley in northern Ohio as a north-south transportation corridor. Later the Ohio and Erie Canal provided the early settlers a slow but easy way to move bulk goods and people. In 1880, the first steam engine chugged its way down the new Valley Railway, signaling an era of progress and prosperity for the Cuyahoga Valley residents. Primarily built to transport coal from south of Canton to Cleveland's growing industries, the Valley Railway also served the farmers, merchants and factories along its route. Depots piled high with farm produce dotted the valley section of the railroad line.

Financial difficulties in 1894 led to the Valley Railway's acquisition by the Cleveland Terminal & Valley Railroad (CT&V). The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad bought the CT&V in 1915 and continued to provide freight and passenger service between Akron and Cleveland. However, the popularity of the automobile caused a decline in passenger traffic on the line. Passenger service ended in 1963. The last freight train operated by the Chessie System ran in 1985.

Today, the historic rails are owned by the National Park Service as part of its goal to preserve the significant cultural resources in the Cuyahoga Valley. The CVSR operates the excursion train through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park in cooperation with the National Park Service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the CVSR, which is holding its annual fundraising event this weekend, the "All Aboard Ball." Recognition is due not only for this railroad's history, but also for its current enhancement of the Cuyahoga American Heritage River and its role in perpetuating passenger rail and excursion rail in Ohio's 10th Congressional District and nationwide.

#### RESTRICTIONS TO TAIWANESE PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S TRAVEL IN THE U.S.

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 3, 2006*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, this morning, the democratically elected president of Taiwan, Mr. Chen Shui-bian fi-

nally received permission to stop in Anchorage—but not spend the night—on his way to South America. This is quite a change in plans for President Chen, who had hoped to meet with Members of Congress in New York on his way to Paraguay and Costa Rica, but whose trip was delayed for a day because the administration at first refused even this brief stopover. If you have been following this case, you would probably agree with me that this is no way to treat the democratically elected president of one of our staunchest allies in the Pacific.

There are no laws or regulations that prevent leaders from Taiwan visiting the United States, but simply a policy of the administration that forbids President Chen and other Taiwanese officials from officially visiting the United States. What is the source of this restriction? Concern that the Chinese government will be displeased by any welcome of a Taiwanese official on our soil. However, this most recent self-imposed restriction goes even further than the previous policy I have spoken against.

Last week, the Chinese urged us NOT to allow President Chen to land in the United States at all. I suppose that we can therefore view this Alaskan stop as a victory for U.S. sovereignty and relations with Taiwan. However, in the past President Chen has been allowed stops in Los Angeles, Houston, and New York. The final agreement allowed him to touch down and refuel in Alaska, but not even get off the plane—what an insult to a friend and partner of the U.S.A.

I understand that President Chen will be allowed to pass through Honolulu, HI, next week on his way home from South America. I mean no disrespect to the fine States of Hawaii and Alaska, but the symbolism of keeping President Chen as far away from Washington, DC, as possible is unmistakable.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that this is no way to treat the elected president of one of our fellow democracies which happens to be one of our best friends in the region.

Last month we invited the unelected leader of China to the White House. We presented with a 21 gun salute, and laid out the red carpet for him. But the democratically elected President of Taiwan we do not even let set foot on U.S. soil.

What is wrong with this picture?

I believe that we should work towards lifting all restrictions on high level visits from Taiwan including the President. This would have several benefits for both the United States and our friend Taiwan. First, we would for once and for all eradicate the necessity of complex, lengthy and, truly, humiliating-for-Taiwan negotiations about where and when President Chen would be able to refuel or travel in the United States. Secondly, being able to hear first-hand from Taiwanese officials would promote a balanced understanding of both sides of the Taiwan Strait issue for Congress, the Administration and the American public. Thirdly, we would reduce the ability of Beijing to politicize our valid relations with Taiwan. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, we would extend to the President of Taiwan—and thus to the people of Taiwan—the respect and dignity they deserve.

Next week, when President Chen travels home to Taiwan, I hope the administration will change its plans and allow President Chen to make a stopover in New York as he initially planned.