

of Engineers, Chicago District. Since his arrival as District Commander of the Chicago District in 2006, Colonel Drolet's faithful service to the First Congressional District of Indiana has touched the lives of many constituents. For his efforts, and on behalf of my constituents, I take this time to thank Colonel Drolet, who will be relinquishing his command to Colonel Vincent V. Quarles on July 1, 2008, at the Harold Washington Library Center in Chicago.

Colonel Drolet has devoted himself to improving the quality of life for everyone, not only in the United States, but throughout the world. Prior to joining the Chicago District, Colonel Drolet served in many capacities within the United States Army. After being commissioned into the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1983, Colonel Drolet would eventually command engineers in Germany while assigned to the 237th Engineer Battalion. He went on from there to serve as a Program Analyst and Budget Analyst for the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, followed by a deployment to Kosovo in 1999, where he served as the Theater Fund Manager for Infrastructure for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. From 2000 to 2002, Colonel Drolet commanded the Army's 169th Engineer Battalion at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. He has also served as the Executive Officer for the 1st Engineer Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, and as the Chief of Staff for the United States Army Engineer School. Prior to taking over command of the Chicago District, Colonel Drolet served as the Chief of the Economic Division for the Deputy Chief of Staff—Strategic Effects, as part of the Multi-National Force—Iraq in Baghdad while deployed as a student from the United States Army War College.

Colonel Drolet's educational background is equally impressive. As a member of the United States Army, Colonel Drolet has completed: Army War College, the Command and General Staff College, the Professional Military Comptroller School, and United States Army Engineer Basic and Advanced Courses. His civilian educational accomplishments include a Bachelor's Degree in Agricultural Business Management from Pennsylvania State University and a Master's Degree in Comptrollership from Syracuse University, and he has also obtained a Master of Strategic Studies Degree from the United States Army War College. Known as a man of integrity and dedication, Colonel Drolet is a recipient of several military awards, including: the Bronze Star, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Army's Meritorious Service Medal (with three oak leaf clusters), the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the NATO Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.

Madam Speaker, since joining the Army Corps of Engineers Chicago District, Colonel Drolet has been a driving force behind many projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the First Congressional District. Throughout his entire career, he has given his time and efforts selflessly to people throughout Northwest Indiana, the country, and the world. His life truly exemplifies selfless service to others, and on behalf of the Northwest Indiana community, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Colonel John D. Drolet for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District.

HONORING TAIWAN'S AMBASSADOR JAUSIEH "JOSEPH" WU

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan's Ambassador to the United States, Jausieh "Joseph" Wu.

Prior to entering politics, Ambassador Wu was an academic, completing his Ph.D. in political science in 1989 at Ohio State University. After serving as a teacher in the political science department at Ohio State, he became deputy director of the Institute of International Relations at Taiwan's National Chengchi University.

When the landmark election of President Chen Shui-Bian in 2000 officially put an end to one-party authoritarian rule in Taiwan, Ambassador Wu left academia to serve his country in government.

He was appointed Deputy Secretary General of the Presidential Office, and in 2004 he was tapped by President Chen to head the Mainland Affairs Council in Taiwan, the government body in charge of coordinating bilateral state-to-state relations with the People's Republic of China. Wu performed admirably in this position despite unprecedented threats and belligerence from China designed to undermine President Chen's efforts in Taiwan to expand and deepen its young democracy. Much to the dismay of the Chinese, however, the people of Taiwan resisted this pressure—successfully amending their National Constitution and holding the nation's first democratic referendum.

In 2007, Ambassador Wu was appointed to his current position as Taiwan's Ambassador in Washington, a position nearly as important as the post of Foreign Minister. His invaluable experience as Mainland Affairs Council chief gave him a keen understanding of the Chinese military threat to Taiwan and U.S. interests in the region and around the world—knowledge that made him an ideal choice for this important post. His appointment as Ambassador was also an historic event for Taiwan, as Ambassador Wu became the first non-Kuomintang Ambassador from Taiwan to the United States.

During his time as Ambassador to the United States, Wu served with the same professionalism and diligence as he did in his prior positions. Ambassador Wu and his staff have worked tirelessly to improve Taiwan's traditionally solid relationship with Congress and helped to strengthen the bilateral U.S.–Taiwan relationship—a relationship based on our shared values and our commitment to democracy.

Ambassador Wu has always gone to great lengths to improve mutual understanding and open lines of communication between the United States and Taiwan. During his tenure, the U.S. House of Representatives reciprocated that goodwill by moving to scrap antiquated and arbitrary, 1970's-era State Department restrictions on communications between high-ranking U.S. and Taiwanese officials.

I sincerely hope that the Senate will follow suit so that in the not-too-distant future, the President of the United States can meet with the democratically elected President of Taiwan the same way he meets with the unelected dictator of the People's Republic of China.

Madam Speaker, Ambassador Wu is an exceptional diplomat and a dedicated statesman. He is also my friend. I deeply appreciate his efforts to bring our two countries closer together, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING ROBERT C. DYNES ON HIS RETIREMENT AS THE 18TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Robert C. Dynes, who stepped down recently as the 18th President of the University of California, one of the world's premier research universities. President Dynes has devoted his talents and vision to the University's historic mission of academics, research, and public service to the state of California.

A renowned scientist with a steadfast commitment to the highest standards of intellectual life—a hallmark of the University of California since its inception—President Dynes has demonstrated himself to be a skilled, creative, and resourceful leader. During his time at the University of California, he has tackled the vital issues facing higher education in the 21st century with both tenacity and foresight.

His service as President of the University of California has been the capstone of a remarkable career in both private industry and higher education. Before he came to the University of California, Dr. Dynes served for 22 years at AT&T Bell Laboratories as department head of semiconductor and material physics research and director of chemical physics research.

I came to know President Dynes in his role as the Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego from 1996 to 2003. Under Chancellor Dynes' guidance, UCSD achieved national and international acclaim for its research and educational excellence.

During his tenure at the University of California, President Dynes has been a staunch and effective advocate for America's security and competitiveness through advances in science and technology. He has also demonstrated this commitment to encouraging innovation on the national level by serving in key positions in the National Academy of Sciences, the Association of American Universities, and the U.S. Council on Competitiveness.

President Dynes also spearheaded the effort by the University of California to overhaul the university's management of our nation's nuclear security national laboratories. To accomplish this goal, he paired the latest scientific evidence with innovative security strategies to update the management and oversight of the Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories.

President Dynes has also been a vigorous and visionary leader in the national movement to reform K-12 math and science education. Among his most notable achievements is his collaboration with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California State University system, and California's industry leaders in creating the Cal Teach Science and Math

Initiative. This endeavor has won high praise from both federal policymakers and U.S. corporate leaders.

With globalization playing a greater role in our society, President Dynes recognized that research universities must "facilitate the free flow of ideas between borders" to create the economy and quality of life of the future. To strengthen the research capacity and the intellectual development of American students, he initiated international cooperation with institutions of higher education, as well as with business and industry, in China, India, Canada, and Mexico.

President Dynes' foresight and leadership is evident in the launch of the first new research university of the 21st century—University of California, Merced. Likewise, his hard work was instrumental to the creation of the Governor Gray Davis Institutes for Science and Innovation. Both of these efforts will help keep California at the cutting edge of research into bioengineering, nanotechnology, next generation Internet and the many other elements of the "New Economy."

Therefore, I rise today in tribute to my friend Robert C. Dynes—for the invaluable service he has rendered to the country and to the state of California. I would like to thank him for his leadership in the continuing search for new knowledge and commend him for his steadfast commitment to the students of California.

**MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT
ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE
ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act in order to demonstrate my support for a more proactive approach to the problems of drug addiction and trafficking, weapons smuggling, and gang violence. Only through a re-envisioning of drug policy from the ground up can our Nation make new progress in combating illegal narcotics trafficking.

I am pleased to see that the Democratic leadership and Judiciary Committee have added revolutionary and evolutionary measures to fight these crimes. No longer will this Congress fight only the effects of the drug trade. Instead, we will work alongside our Central American and Mexican allies to fight its causes as well.

I strongly feel that with the passage of the Merida Initiative to Combat Illicit Narcotics and Reduce Organized Crime Authorization Act, we can begin to work alongside our southern allies to combat all levels of drug addiction and trafficking, from preventing youth involvement in these crimes to punishing those who foster them.

For example, with a new emphasis on evidence preservation, increased polygraph capabilities, and custody reform, our allies can streamline their policing efforts, allowing for a more focused campaign.

However, new enforcement capabilities are not enough. The bill's purpose is possible only

with its inclusion of after-school programs and programs for at-risk and criminally-involved youth. Gang reeducation and training for CONADIC and other agency staff in best practices and outreach are essential to reducing demand. These programs are the harbingers of our message and the most potent enforcers of our goals.

We must no longer approach our war against illegal narcotics from a reactive standpoint, but must instead work closely with Mexican and Central American authorities to combat the spawning points of these tribulations. Through a more nuanced set of policies, our allies can begin to employ the same successful strategies in their states that we have been using here at home.

**MERIDA INITIATIVE TO COMBAT
ILLICIT NARCOTICS AND REDUCE
ORGANIZED CRIME AUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 10, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of H.R. 6028 and the program it would authorize, Merida Initiative. I would like to thank Chairman BERMAN for his efforts to ensure that the Merida Initiative received proper Congressional input, as well as his efforts to include human rights protections. I was disheartened once again, last year, when President Bush developed the Initiative without Congressional input or any regard for the well-documented human rights abuses of the Mexican military and law enforcement. However, to address these problems successfully, it will be necessary to address the problem of drug production in Mexico and South America, to address the problem of drug consumption here in the United States, and to stem drug trafficking between the United States and our neighbors to the south. The Merida Initiative does none of these.

Time and again, research has demonstrated that illicit drug production in developing countries stems from pervasive rural poverty and lack of sustainable sources of income. H.R. 6028 falls woefully short of supporting programs that address these issues. The vast majority of authorized funds will go toward equipment and training for military and law enforcement operations; funding for prevention and development programs will come from a much smaller authorization that competes with certain law enforcement initiatives and judicial reforms.

Similarly, research teaches us that drug use in America stems from poverty, lack of access to basic needs, and other psychosocial stressors. Again, H.R. 6028 will accomplish nothing to reduce drug demand in the United States. H.R. 6028 authorizes no money for demand reduction. In fact, H.R. 6028 only requires the President to submit a report on the measures taken to intensify efforts to address our Nation's demand-related aspects of drug trafficking.

Moreover, interdiction efforts that address exclusively the trafficking aspect of the drug problem have little effect. Most often, the consequence of such intervention is an increase

in price and slightly diminished amount of drugs in circulation, which does almost nothing to reduce demand. Enterprising drug dealers will find a way to get their product into the hands of users, and users struggling with addiction will go to extreme ends to get their fix.

More money for guns and other tools of destruction will do nothing to ease the suffering of those struggling with addiction or alleviate the social problems that compel people to produce and/or traffic drugs. For those reasons, I cannot support this bill.

**TRIBUTE TO REVEREND WILLIAM
J. FOWLER**

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a Tennessean who has comforted and inspired thousands of people in East Tennessee.

Reverend William J. Fowler of Knoxville, Tennessee has spent the last 42 years as a Minister of the Gospel. During that time, he was a role model for his congregation and an inspiration to other ministers.

As the head of Church Street United Methodist Church since 1994, Rev. Fowler's compassion and devotion helped grow the congregation into the thousands, and his leadership has been invaluable to the United Methodist Church.

Rev. Fowler served as a member of the Board of Trustees of Emory & Henry College, where he chaired the Religious Life Committee. He also served as a member of the Holston Conference Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Holston Conference Ethics Committee, and he was a member of the Institutional Review Board of Bristol Regional Medical Center.

In his final sermon, Rev. Fowler urged his congregation to heed God's call: "God can send different persons to us, and point us the way that he wants us to go." He told his followers that his farewell does not mark the end of his service, but the continuation of God's Ministry.

I urge my colleagues to join me as I salute Rev. William J. Fowler and wish him and his wife the best as they enter a well-deserved retirement. His calling as a reverend, friend, and leader will continue to inspire many.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD the article from The Knoxville News Sentinel newspaper, which is reprinted below.

[From the Knoxville News Sentinel, June 7, 2008]

**FAMILIAR PAIR AT CHURCH STREET UMC TO
RETIRE**

(By John Shearer)

Just as the landmark Church Street United Methodist Church on Henley Street has changed little in appearance in recent years, so have its worship leaders.

However, the Rev. William Fowler, who has served as senior minister for the last 14 years, and Jim Rogers, who has been the organist and choirmaster since 1979, have announced plans to retire.

Fowler, whose tenure has been considered long for a denomination with itinerant clergy, will preach his last sermon on June 8, while Rogers is leaving in late July.