

TRIBUTE TO THE FLORIDA  
ADDICTIONS INSTITUTE

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Florida Addictions Institute's second graduating class. These dedicated individuals will go on to become certified drug addiction counselors throughout southwest Florida and the rest of the State.

There's no question that being a drug and alcohol counselor is not an easy job and garners little public recognition. But it's a personally rewarding job, and one that can have a profound impact on shaping addicts' lives to make them productive, giving members of society.

Sadly, 1 in 10 persons is addicted to drugs and/or alcohol at some time in their lives—making substance abuse one of our Nation's top health problems. It is estimated that 5,000 new addictions professionals are needed each year to replace those leaving the field.

That's why the work of the Florida Addictions Institute is so vital. The institute trains the next wave of caring, certified substance abuse counselors to help people from all walks of life overcome substance abuse.

Madam Speaker, it is a true honor and a privilege to represent the staff and graduates of the Florida Addictions Institute in Congress, and I wish this year's graduating class all the best as they set out to make a difference in the lives of others. The people of southwest Florida join me in thanking them for their selfless and dedicated service.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF JAMES CHEN-YU CHIN

**HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO**

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. James Chen-Yu Chin, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam for his service and contributions to our island community. Mr. Chin has served as the Director General since 2003 and he has been a valuable member of our island community and an effective advocate for his constituents who reside on Guam.

Director General Chin has promoted cultural and economic exchanges between Taiwan and Guam, particularly through efforts to en-

gage and inform both communities about the growth and opportunities available within each respective economic market.

During his tenure, Director General Chin hosted three successful visits for the President and Vice President of Taiwan, allowing the opportunity to showcase the many attributes of Guam's thriving business and tourism industries. His hospitality extended to other visiting groups over the span of 5 years, which included tourism promoters, performing groups, sports teams, and investors, all of which helped to build Guam's public visibility within the Taiwan community.

Director General Chin also assisted our community by expanding opportunities for co-operation. He assisted the Guam Police Department by sharing Taiwan's expertise and best practices in public security and forensic science. He also facilitated educational and academic exchanges between the University of Guam and the Micronesia Area Research Center with their academic counterparts from Taiwan's national universities. These opportunities included exchanges of experts in the fields of agriculture and marine science to the mutual benefit of both academic institutions.

Director General Chin's extensive background in foreign affairs contributed to enhancing the relationship between the people of Guam and Taiwan. His many contributions to our island community have been appreciated by the nonprofit organizations and the service organizations in which he has been an active participant. Whether it has been responding to regional disasters or assisting in local relief efforts, James and his wife, Grace, have been outstanding members of our island community and they have shown how much they love our island by their involvement.

Director General James Chen-Yu Chin has made a lasting impression on Guam and his leadership and community contributions have improved our island significantly. It is through his many accomplishments that we enjoy a warmer friendship with the people of Taiwan. May God bless James and Grace and their family as we bid them farewell with a heartfelt thank you and Si Yu'os Ma'ase.

RECOGNIZING A.P. MERRITT AS  
SBA'S 2007 SMALL BUSINESS  
PERSON OF THE YEAR

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor A.P. Merritt of Merritt Tool Company in Kilgore, TX, as the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA)

regional Small Business Person of the Year 2007 Award Recipient.

Each year, the U.S. Small Business Administration recognizes individuals on a State, district, and national level for their performance, commitment, and support of small businesses in the Nation. Merritt, the president of Merritt Tool, was presented the Small Business Person of the Year Award at a special awards ceremony in April of this year for his diversification efforts, success in earning government contracts, business growth and community service. Merritt Tool Company (MTC) is a modern machine shop manufacturing facility, specializing in complex milling, turning, grinding and assembly, serving customers in the aerospace, energy and commercial industries. The company was founded in 1928 and today employs about 100 workers in its machine shop and metal operation in Kilgore.

In conjunction with the honor of receiving this prestigious award, Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt proclaimed that the 16th day of May be known as A.P. Merritt Day in Gregg County, Texas, for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I am extremely proud of A.P. Merritt's accomplishments, his consistency in business and his continued leadership in the Kilgore community. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring a man who represents the best in entrepreneurial spirit, Mr. A.P. Merritt.

AMERICAN ENERGY DEBATE

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 8, 2008*

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, It's been 5 long weeks since the Democrat majority adjourned for a summer recess without passing legislation to bring down the cost of gas.

But House Republicans have been on the floor of the House discussing solutions to our Nation's energy crisis anyway.

We've been engaging average Americans on this vital issue and we won't stop the debate until Congress takes up real, comprehensive energy legislation.

Republicans have offered a plan—the American Energy Act—to increase the production of American-made energy in an environmentally safe way.

Is it too much to ask for a simple up or down vote on this bill? Isn't this supposed to be the people's Congress?

Today I call on the Speaker to bring this bill up for a vote so we can bring the price down at the pump.