

**SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S FULL  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.N.**

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Taiwan's full membership in the United Nations.

Taiwan is an independent, peace loving, and democratic nation that enjoys formal diplomatic relations with more than twenty other nations. In addition, the island nation maintains informal bilateral relations with more than one hundred other countries, precisely because those other countries know that the government in Beijing does not—as it often asserts—speak for democratic Taiwan.

Beijing often argues that Taiwan's 23 million people are represented by the unelected government of the People's Republic of China in international bodies like the United Nations as well. But the Beijing authorities routinely threaten to attack Taiwan, and have deployed more than 1,000 missiles on its southeastern coast aimed directly at the island. So while it might be politically expedient for China to argue that it represents Taiwan, no fair-minded person or government could honestly be expected to believe such a preposterous claim. And of course, most countries realize this.

As I mentioned earlier, while Taiwan's government enjoys formal diplomatic ties with some two dozen nations, Taipei maintains more than 100 quasi-embassies or "trade offices" in nearly every country in the world. And most of these countries—including the United States—maintain a reciprocal mission in Taiwan's capital, Taipei. Why? The reason is obvious: because we all realize that the totalitarian government of China doesn't really speak for the people of democratic Taiwan.

The United Nations is no different.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan's new government has attempted to strike a more conciliatory tone this year, asking only for Taiwan's participation in U.N. affiliated agencies rather than for full membership. This modest proposal is a good start, and I hope the Bush Administration will direct our U.N. representative to support it.

Should Taiwan be successful in its quest for meaningful participation in the United Nations this year, I sincerely hope that they will build on that success by applying for full U.N. membership next year. After all, Taiwan maintains its own military, elects its own leaders, conducts its own foreign affairs, controls its own territory, has a larger population than Australia, and boasts one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

Simply put, Taiwan is more than qualified for membership, and eager to make a meaningful contribution.

As a democratic friend and ally of Taiwan, the United States should be among those speaking up for Taiwan. We should make it clear to the other member states that we believe it is unfair to exclude Taiwan and its 23 million citizens from the world community—and that Taiwan's membership poses no threat to China, or the achievement of a peaceful and equitable solution to Cross-Strait differences.

**A TRIBUTE TO JOHN AMIOTT'S  
"YESTERDAY A VETERAN DIED"**

**HON. KEITH ELLISON**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

**YESTERDAY A VETERAN DIED**

John Amriott, USAF 1967–1970

Yesterday a veteran died but the world hardly noticed. Age or race or gender, it made no difference; soldier or sailor, airman or marine, it made no difference.

Yesterday a veteran died. He was one of the millions, who, over the centuries, interrupted his life to serve when his country called.

Yesterday a veteran died. He wore his uniform with pride and sense of purpose. He went where he was asked to go and performed the duties for which he had been trained. He committed to fight their fights and to safeguard their secrets with a solemn oath that remained unbroken.

Yesterday a veteran died. He was changed forever by his experiences but his society also changed. The lines of social consciousness were redrawn, the old morality was altered and by the time of his return he found different standards applied.

Yesterday a veteran died. Like the hundreds of generations before him and the endless roster of those who will follow, he tried to make sense of the chaos and confusion created by the metamorphosis of a citizen turned warrior and then returned to the life of a civilian.

Yesterday a veteran died. And, as with far too many of his peers, the real conflict began when the tour of duty ended. His personal battle would become a private hell; a hell born from the memories of the reality of life in a shadow world. A place where a chosen few practiced their craft; a world few outsiders knew existed and even fewer understood. His was that shadow world, the one he could never completely leave; the one from which there was no escape.

Yesterday a veteran died. Now his soul would find the elusive peace of mind and spirit for which he had been searching. No longer will he awake, sweating and screaming in the night, plagued by the nightmares of his past. No longer will the ghosts of war haunt him, no longer will the cries of conflict echo in his ears.

Yesterday a veteran died. When he is laid to rest an honor guard will fire a rifle volley to mark his passing. And for him the mournful wail of a bugle will sound one final time.

Yesterday a veteran died. He will face his God knowing he served his country and did his best. The family and friends he loved will weep and mourn their loss. And the world will hardly notice that we have all been diminished.

Yesterday a veteran died. But with the grace of God and the wisdom of nations, perhaps we are closer to the time when we will no longer need to say, "Yesterday a veteran died."

And then, perhaps, finally, the world will notice.

**HONOR TERESA MCCABE, CARLA  
HUNTER, AND BETH PETERS  
CURTIN**

**HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Teresa McCabe, Carla Hunter and Beth Peters Curtin, who are being recognized as 2008 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council in West Virginia.

These three ladies were chosen for their leadership and contribution to the community, their profession, and how they serve as role models for young women. The Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council honor three women annually from the Eastern Panhandle that exemplify these qualities.

The first honoree, Teresa McCabe, was nominated by The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle for the significant impact she has had in her community. McCabe is the vice president of marketing and development for West Virginia University Hospitals—East. She was involved with both the United Way and the City Hospital before their mergers and is also involved with the Rotary, American Cancer Society and both Jefferson and Berkeley Counties Chambers of Commerce. Born and raised in Charles Town, WV, McCabe has been able to give back to the community in which she was raised.

Carla Hunter, the department chair and school counselor at Washington High School, works tirelessly to make her school the best school in the area. She was nominated for Women of Distinction by Asbury United Methodist Church in Shepherdstown. Education is a passion of hers, and she gives much of her free time to ensure young children have a bright future. As a former Girl Scout, Carla knows how much of an impact Girl Scouts can have on a young woman's life.

The final recipient of the 2008 Women of Distinction award is Beth Peters Curtin. In addition to being the executive director of the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, Beth is also a member of the Economic Development Authority, founding member of the Museum of Berkeley Springs and director of Apple Butter Festival. She spends what little spare time she has serving her community. Beth has learned from her mother's generation what great role models women can be and wants to pass that on to the next generation as well.

It is an honor to represent these three outstanding women who serve as strong leaders and excellent role models for young women in their communities. Congratulations to Teresa McCabe, Carla Hunter and Beth Peters Curtin as the 2008 Women of Distinction.

**RECOGNIZING MR. STEVEN SHA-  
PIRO FOR HIS NATIONAL LEAD-  
ERSHIP IN BUILDING SAFETY  
AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steven Shapiro, a resident of

Hampton, Virginia, and someone I am especially proud to have as a constituent. In addition to his full-time public service as the Building Official for Hampton, this year Steve has also served as President of the Board of the International Code Council. It is the on-going work of the Code Council that provides the nation with an extensive body of model building and fire safety regulations. His role as the President of the Code Council is the culmination of 30 years of experience, leadership and tireless work in ensuring that we are well protected in the buildings where we live and work.

I would also like to recognize the Code Council's work on Capitol Hill this year in advocating for legislation to build a program to bolster local governmental capacity to ensure compliance with its building and fire codes. A high point of their effort occurred in May when the Code Council's leadership assembled here in Washington, D.C. during Building Safety Week 2008. With focused attention, Mr. Shapiro's delegation worked with over 120 Congressional offices like mine on enactment of the Community Building Code Administration Grant Act. I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 4461, the House version of the Act, and to have worked with my Colleague DENNIS MOORE, the sponsor, and the Code Council and its broad coalition in achieving House passage this July.

Leading a membership association of over nearly 50,000 building safety and fire prevention professionals is, of course, a substantial preoccupation, and the City of Hampton, its Mayor Ross Kearney and City Manager Jesse Wallace are also to be thanked for supporting Steve's volunteer work in leadership of the Code Council. I am proud that local leadership from my District is at work in leading the development and maintenance of the building and fire codes that protect us all across the country. These safety codes, independently modified for adoption by the Commonwealth of Virginia and all across the country, govern construction and maintenance of our residential and commercial buildings, including the homes and the business, schools, and places of worship we use and visit regularly.

So I applaud Steve's three decades as a relentless advocate for building safety; a mission that he is sure to carry on for quite some time. In working on that mission he serves not only Hampton and the Commonwealth, but, in his role as President of the Board of the Code Council, has served the rest of the nation as well. In his non-volunteer job as Director of Codes Compliance for the City of Hampton, he continues to ensure the safety of construction our very historic city of nearly 150,000 residents; a town proud of the title as the first continuous English-speaking settlement in America. Steve is an honored and distinguished citizen of my District, and as a leader of the ICC has shared with the nation his values as an outstanding public safety professional and a truly dedicated public servant.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the rest of the ICC delegation who visited Capitol Hill during Building Safety Week 2008, and thank them for their efforts to promote and defend a safe and sound built-environment. Those individuals include: Board Vice President Adolf Zubia, Board Secretary/Treasurer Ron Lynn, Immediate Past President of the Board Wally Bailey; Board members Gregori Anderson, James Brothers, John

Darnall, Gerald George, Greg Johnson, Stephen Jones, Barbara Koffron, John LaTorra, Ronald Lynn, Doug Murdock, Ronald Piester, James Ryan and Jeff Whitney; International Accreditation Services Board Chair Majed Dabdoub, Vice Chair Ravi Shah and Board Members John Barrios, Guy Tomberlin, Michael Bouse, and Isam Hasenin and IAS President Chuck Ramani; ICC Government Relations Advisory Committee Chair Rebecca Baker, and Committee Members Jim Martin, Lynn Underwood and George Wiggins; ICC Chapter Leaders Tina Rakes, Robert Boyer, Gary Schenk and John Glover; Matthew Wheeler of the California Building Officials; and members of ICC's professional staff including its CEO Richard Weiland, COO Dominic Sims, David deCourcy, Sara Yerkes, Jim Tidwell, Mark Dinneen, Richard Kuchnicki, Laura Scott, Matthew Lightfoot, Gretchen Hesbacher, and Jennifer Gibson.

#### HONORING ANDREW O'NEIL

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Andrew O'Neil of Kansas City, Missouri. Andrew is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1374, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Andrew has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Andrew has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Andrew O'Neil for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at events in my district and state discussing legislation that will help move our country toward energy independence, I unfortunately missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, September 15, 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 589, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1200, "yes" on rollcall vote No. 590, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 390, and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 591, Motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 6889.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL RAY HELTON, UNITED STATES ARMY

#### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Colonel Ray Helton, United States Army, who is retiring after 33 years of dedicated service to this Nation. Colonel Helton currently serves as the Director of Legislative Affairs for the United States Special Operations Command, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, with duty in Washington, DC. He is the principal advisor to the commander and senior USSOCOM officials on congressional affairs. In this capacity, I have had the pleasure and honor to come to know Ray well as we have travelled together on various congressional delegations.

Colonel Helton enlisted in the Army in February 1975, completed Special Forces training, and served with the 10th Special Forces Group. After his enlistment ended, he attended the University of Illinois where he graduated as a distinguished military graduate. He returned to active duty in January 1981 as an infantry officer. His Infantry assignments included leading two platoons in the 3d Infantry Division and commanding two companies in the 101st Airborne Division. He served as a company commander, battalion executive officer and battalion commander in the 3d Special Forces Group. He has conducted training and operations with soldiers on five continents. Colonel Helton also served as the chief of assignments of the Combat Arms Division in United States Personnel Command, as a strategic planner and writer on the Joint Staff and as the Garrison Commander of Fort Drum, New York.

Colonel Helton's military education includes the infantry officer basic course, airborne school, combat divers course, air assault school, ranger school, Special Forces qualification school, and the joint psychological operations course, just to name a few. He also received a master of arts degree in national strategy and policy from the Naval War College and a master of science degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Madam Speaker, few can match the dedication and professionalism of Ray Helton. He is a man of honor and a man of principle. On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to thank Ray for his years of dedicated service. Vicki and I wish him, his wife Jane, and their children and grandchildren the best wishes for continued success.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately on September 16, 2008, I was unable to cast my votes on the Motion to Adjourn. Had I been present for rollcall No. 592, on the Motion to Adjourn, I would have voted "nay."