

TAIWAN

HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, on March 22nd, the people of Taiwan elected a new President with an impressive voter turnout of 76 percent. Outgoing President Chen Shui-bian and his administration pledged to transfer power peacefully to the new administration. This free and democratic transition could never have happened on the other side of the Taiwan Strait, which is why we must stand with Taiwan and guarantee its survival against threats from communist China.

Today Taiwan is a prosperous democracy that serves as a model for countries throughout the region and the developing world. Unfortunately, Taiwan faces a constant threat from the Chinese mainland. Right now there are over a thousand Chinese missiles aimed at Taiwan. The Chinese government has threatened to use force against Taiwan by passing the provocative Anti-Secession Law in 2005. The Chinese military buildup along the Taiwan Strait and the Anti-Secession Law threaten peace and democracy in the region. Madame Speaker, I hope you will join me in commending the Taiwanese people for their strength and refusal to allow mainland China to determine their future by force.

The Taiwan Relations Act forms the bedrock of our Taiwan policy and affirms that the future of Taiwan should be determined by peaceful means. The United States should continue to preserve and enhance the human rights of the people of Taiwan. As we bid farewell to President Chen and his administration this month, I know my colleagues will join me in reaffirming our commitment to preserve the peace, prosperity and liberty of the free people of Taiwan.

HONORING THE CITY OF GREENSBORO'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Greensboro's Bicentennial Celebration.

Since 1808, the citizens of Greensboro have been pioneers in manufacturing, education, and civil rights for North Carolina and our Nation. Greensboro has been and remains a leader in economic and cultural development within North Carolina.

Greensboro became the "Gate City" at the turn of the last century, as North Carolina's rail trade and manufacturing center. Greensboro soon became a leader in North Carolina's textile industry. Henry Humphreys opened the state's first steam-powered cotton mill, and by the 1940s, Greensboro businesses were flourishing. Rayon weaving from Burlington Industries, denim from Cone Mills, and overalls from Blue Bell became some of the biggest manufacturers in the world for their products. In the late 1980s, the Piedmont Triad International Airport reestablished Greensboro's place as a

travel and transportation hub for North Carolina.

Greensboro has always been at the forefront of education in North Carolina. Greensboro College, the first state-chartered college for women, opened its doors in 1833. In 1837, Quakers founded the first co-educational school in the state: Greensboro's "New Garden Boarding School," known today as Guilford College. Greensboro Technical Community College has provided training and education since 1958. What began as Women's College and is now The University of North Carolina at Greensboro, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a historically black land grant institution, are state leaders in university research, development, and art. With such a strong concentration of academia, Greensboro has naturally developed a thriving cultural scene, particularly renowned for theater, music, and film. The last few decades have seen an expanded public library system, a children's museum, the Greensboro Coliseum Complex, and work in historic preservation.

Greensboro has played a pivotal role in the struggle for racial equality. Greensboro was a stop for the Underground Railroad, as citizens both black and white helped slaves escape to the North. In 1873, Greensboro founded the Bennett College for Women to provide education to newly emancipated slaves. On February 1, 1960, four North Carolina A & T students sat down at the Woolworth's white-only lunch counter. Ezell Blair, Jr., now Jibreel Khazan, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and David Richmond remained seated until the store closed, and returned the next day. The "Greensboro Four" inspired similar civil rights protests all over the South. The sit-in protest in Greensboro was the moment the civil rights struggle became a movement. Later, Greensboro's peaceful public school integration was a model for other communities all over the Nation. Today, Greensboro celebrates a diverse population, with citizens from Southeast Asian, Eastern European, Latin American, and African communities. Honoring the tradition begun with the Underground Railroad, Greensboro welcomes refugees from conflicts around the world in Sudan, Myanmar, Liberia, and on and on.

I am proud to honor the Bicentennial Celebrations of the City of Greensboro. And honored to represent its people in the United States Congress.

FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May. Friedreich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder that is usually diagnosed in childhood. It causes muscle weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood.

There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedreich's ataxia.

Although there is no effective treatment or cure available, Friedreich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. In fact, that hope has been translated into increasing confidence that treatment and a cure for Friedreich's ataxia will be achieved. An extraordinary explosion of research insights has followed the identification of the Friedreich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedreich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments. In fact, they have recently declared that, "in Friedreich's ataxia, we have entered the treatment era." That treatment era is being characterized by the two clinical trials already underway and four additional trials to be initiated over the next 12 months. These investigators and our patient families believe very strongly that these clinical trials will result in the first approved treatments for Friedreich's ataxia.

At the National Institutes of Health across the country and around the world, clinical trials for Friedreich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. Growing cooperation among organizations supporting the research and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals provide powerful evidence of the increasing hope and determination to conquer Friedreich's ataxia. There is also a growing conviction that treatments can and will be developed for this disease and that the resulting insights will be broadly applicable across a wide range of neurological disorders such as Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country to increase public awareness of Friedreich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance, FARA, for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 17, 2008, as Friedreich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO STUDY METHODS OF ERADICATING ASIAN CARP FROM THE GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM, H.R. 6031

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand here today to introduce legislation which provides for the exploration of methods to eradicate the dangerous Asian carp from the Great Lakes.

Each year, invasive species in the Great Lakes cause more than \$5 billion in economic

damage and irreparable harm to an ecosystem that provides more than forty million people with jobs, water, food, and recreation. A new invader, the Asian carp, threatens to further destroy the region's ecosystem and economy, and it is imperative that we act to prevent this catastrophe.

A single barrier in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal, built as a temporary demonstration project five years ago, is the only thing preventing these invaders from entering Lake Michigan and drastically altering the entire region's ecosystem. While Congress recently provided full authorization and funding for this critical barrier, it may not be enough to prevent the Asian carp from infiltrating the Great Lakes and the devastating consequences that would follow.

It is therefore critical that we also explore alternatives and supplements to the carp barrier. My legislation would direct the Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the National Atmospheric and Oceanic Administration and Great Lakes States to conduct a study on the feasibility of a variety of approaches to eradicating Asian carp from the Great Lakes. The legislation specifically directs the agencies to study the feasibility of temporarily harvesting Asian carp as a means to eradicate the invasive species in an environmentally responsible manner.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to explore all possibilities to effectively eliminate the threat this dangerous species poses to our Nation's most precious natural resource.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOLE VETERANS MEDICAL CENTER IN WICHITA, KANSAS

HON. NANCY E. BOYDA

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mrs. BOYDA of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the staff and administrators of the Robert J. Dole Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, past, present and future.

For 75 years, the Dole Veterans Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas has improved the health and overall well-being of all veterans who visited. The capable and trusted staff has provided care, comfort and answers to multitudes of difficult questions. When our brave service men and women return home to the State of Kansas, they know, and they have known for three quarters of a century, that their wounds, whether physical or psychological, will not go untreated. They have encountered care, compassion and wisdom from the staff here at Dole Veterans Medical Center. With our support, that level of care will only increase.

In my first 2 years in office, this House has voted to add almost \$18 billion more in veterans funding. Many of those dollars are directed specifically to health care needs which had, in the past, been grossly underfunded.

I will continue to fight for increases in funding directed toward veterans' health care programs, in order to help preserve the legacy of quality health care and fuel improvements for the future.

The Dole Veterans Medical Center, with its 75 years of success and unparalleled performance, is an absolute godsend. The State of Kansas thanks everyone involved in making that true and I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking them for their service and the service of all our Nation's veterans.

CHINA'S EARTHQUAKE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, for the people in and around the city of Seattle, home to my Seventh Congressional District, the devastating earthquake in China is very personal and very painful.

For over a quarter century, Seattle and Chongqing, in the Sichuan province, hardest hit by the quake, have been sister cities. I'm proud that I was a member of the 1982 delegation which established the relationship with the people of Chongqing.

It is always difficult to see devastation on a scale like this, but it's especially hard when there are direct and personal ties, as there are with the people in Sichuan province, where the death toll keeps climbing.

The magnitude of this tragedy is hard to comprehend, and we want to help any way we can.

Seattle has a significant Chinese community and people are making every effort to obtain news about family members and friends.

And, as a community, we are involved in relief efforts.

Constituents in the Seventh Congressional District are donating money and supplies to international relief organizations.

Companies and organizations in and around Seattle are helping.

And, people across Washington are involved as well.

I applaud them all for their generosity and willingness to get involved.

I want the Chinese government and Chinese people to know that they are not alone in this time of tragedy.

Geography may separate us, but humanity unites us.

If you want to get involved, world renowned organizations like World Vision and Mercy Corps are leading relief efforts. All that we do will help.

SGT. LUKE SHIRLEY AND SPECIALIST JOSHUA SHIRLEY

HON. TIM MAHONEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two soldiers and brothers, Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley of LaBelle, Florida.

Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley bravely served their country in Iraq when Luke was severely injured by a land mine in December 2007. Upon returning home, Joshua received orders to return to Iraq. Joshua felt he could best serve his broth-

er and his country by helping his brother and fellow soldier, Luke, recover and petitioned to stay in the United States.

The Department of the Army reassigned Specialist Joshua Shirley to a post in the Washington, DC area to allow him to be close to his recovering brother. Sgt. Luke Shirley's courage in battle and Specialist Joshua Shirley's devotion to his brother and his country exemplify what it is to be true American heroes. These brave young men put their lives on the line to serve our country. America owes them a debt of gratitude.

On behalf of LaBelle, the 16th District, and the United States, I would like to express my immense gratitude to Sgt. Luke Shirley and Specialist Joshua Shirley. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring these remarkable young men.

Below is a poem written by Bert Caswell to honor the Shirley Brothers.

THE BOOK OF LUKE

The Book of Luke . . .

Written by a fine young Man, of Character,
Courage, Honor and Truth!
Who went off to war, as had all his fine family of patriots . . . so many times as before.

It's all about a family . . .

Who but for, God and Country . . . so much pain and heartache endured! All for Our Freedom to ensure, as what they have given . . . all in their living, they bore!

Luke, an Army Man . . .

Who as one fine warrior, of strength in honor . . . and character does stand!

As him and his brother Josh too, both were on their third tours . . . as together they would band!

When, in The Face of Death!

With, only but an arm and leg so left . . . he would stand . . . all in this his most heroic quest!

To rebuild, as his heart to all so instills . . . of what is good, is great . . . of what is best!

For in him, there are no regrets!

Not looking back, for in life it's only about what you do in your short time . . . in those pages you have left!

As he has our Nation so blessed, as his soul to our's does so caress!

As this book he so writes . . .

To all hearts so invites, for us to look into our own live's . . . between what's wrong, and is right!

To so find in this world, what it is which burns bright . . . and what really counts, on this very night!

Chapter and Verse!

What have the words, of our lives so versed? What have we so written, which so comes first?

For it's only the few, who have so who . . . have written and so shined so too . . . that for Heaven does search!

For we write the words, that our Lord and his Angels have read and so heard . . . which burn bright!

Found in all of our lives of courage, faith and sacrifice . . . are inspiration, touching all souls here tonight.

When, all is said and done . . . in what's really to be won when we leave this light!

Could we but write?

With our hearts and our souls, such a courageous fight . . . to march off into the dark, to leave the light!

To go off to war, for your country . . . such heartache and burdens bore . . . and rebuild, with no hope in sight!