

both sides of the aisle to work with me on these matters in a reasonable way.

CONGRATULATING CELADON
GROUP, INC.

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an important member of Indiana's business community.

Mr. Stephen Russell founded Celadon Group, Inc., in 1985, and under his leadership, Celadon has grown to become one of the Nation's largest trucking and transportation management companies. Celadon currently operates approximately 3,100 tractors and 9,000 trailers and serves over 2,000 customers. Celadon employs nearly 4,000 people and is the largest transportation company based in Indiana. Mr. Russell serves on several industry, education, and community boards; including on the American Trucking Associations, Inc. Board, Cornell University Johnson Graduate School of Management Board, and as Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

Mr. Russell was one of four laureates inducted into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame on February 17, 2011. Established by the Junior Achievement Board of Directors in 1989, the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame honors men and women who epitomize success in the business world and use their success to improve the quality of life of their fellow citizens and surrounding communities.

I congratulate him on all his hard work and success which has been honored with the induction into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame. I would like to thank his family for selflessly supporting Mr. Russell in his long and accomplished career as a business and community leader in Central Indiana. I am proud to honor Mr. Russell in recognition of his leadership and service to his family, employees, and community.

100-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF R.L.
TURNER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of R.L. Turner High School. As a graduate of R.L. Turner, I am honored to recognize this school as a significant part of the City of Carrollton's history.

In the fall of 1911, Carrollton High School had its first class of three students. In 1915, a two-story, red brick building was constructed for the high school. When the high school changed locations, the building became DeWitt Perry Junior High. The junior high school was named after DeWitt Clinton Perry, who donated the land to the city for the original high school.

The first Homecoming Day celebration was held on Friday, November 17, 1933. Former students from as far back as the original class

reunited at the football game where the Carrollton Yellow Jackets defeated the Hutchins Tigers by a score of 13–6.

In 1937, Carrollton High School changed their mascot from the Yellow Jackets to the Lions. In 1962, to accommodate the growth in the area, Carrollton High School moved from the two-story, red brick building on Beltline Road to its current location on Josey Lane. In the same year, Carrollton High School changed its name to R.L. Turner in honor of Superintendent Robert Leon Turner.

R.L. Turner High School has received a number of distinguished awards over its rich history. In the 1990–1991 school year, the high school was honored with the Blue Ribbon National School of Excellence. In the 2000–2001 and 2009–2010 school years, the high school achieved a Recognized Rating for its academics from the Texas Education Agency. And in 2010, R.L. Turner was ranked as the top school in the district on Newsweek's list of America's Best High Schools.

Since the first class graduated in 1912, approximately 50,000 students have passed through this exceptional institution. I am very proud of R.L. Turner and its century-long commitment to educational excellence. On behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating R.L. Turner on its 100-year anniversary.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH DEFENSE
SECRETARY PANETTA ON THE
AFGHANISTAN/PAKISTAN STUDY
GROUP

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit my correspondence with the administration on my call for an Afghanistan/Pakistan Study Group. My letters to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta of August 31, 2011, and September 15, 2011, follow:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 31, 2011.

Hon. LEON PANETTA,
Secretary of Defense, The Pentagon,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PANETTA: I know you care deeply about the men and women in uniform fighting in Afghanistan. That's why I am disappointed that no one from your staff has contacted former Ambassador Peter Tomsen, an expert on Afghanistan, to meet with him, as I requested in my letter to you of August 1 (enclosed).

Ambassador Tomsen's new book, *The Wars of Afghanistan*, is receiving positive reviews, including the enclosed review in the recent edition of *Foreign Affairs*. The review praises the book as providing an in depth description of the social structure of Afghanistan and the mistakes repeated by numerous foreign countries that have tried to help establish military and political cohesion in the country. The review states, "Whether one agrees with Tomsen, however, there is no denying that his descriptions of Afghanistan's society and politics are a valuable foundation for any discussion of how the country should be governed. * * * Given Tomsen's track record, Americans should give a respectful hearing to his call for a thorough policy re-formulation—something beyond tweaks to

troop numbers and counterinsurgency tactics."

I believe this book should be required reading for you and your team at the Pentagon. Ambassador Tomsen is ready and willing to lend his expertise to this important effort and I again ask that you or your staff meet with him.

Leon, I renew my call that you use your discretion as secretary and create the Af/Pak Study Group. We owe it to the men and women serving and the families and spouses at home to ensure we have the correct strategy. After 10 years of fighting, it is time to have a fresh set of eyes examine U.S. strategy. Far from a sign of weakness, creating an independent Af/Pak study group would show the nation that we are doing everything possible to achieve our goals in this region.

I would welcome the chance to speak with you on this matter.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 15, 2011.

The Hon. LEON PANETTA,
Secretary of Defense, U.S. Department of Defense, The Pentagon, Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY PANETTA: It was good to be with you at the Pentagon on Sunday to honor the lives lost there 10 years ago in the 9/11 attacks. I want to congratulate you on a moving ceremony that showed reverence to the Pentagon employees and the passengers of American Flight 77 that perished on that awful morning. I appreciated your comments and those of Admiral Mullen. Several of my constituents died at the Pentagon and the first U.S. service member killed in Afghanistan was my constituent. I thank you and all those who have served in public office and in uniform in the 10 years we have waged war against global terrorism.

As I waited for the program to begin on Sunday, I saw you and former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and was struck by a vivid memory from 2005 of the events surrounding the Iraq war. We were three years into the war, the security situation in Iraq was deteriorating, and our soldiers were dying every day. As a member of Congress who voted to send our troops to fight, I believed I had the added responsibility to make sure the administration was receiving the best advice possible on our Iraq strategy.

So I proposed creating the Iraq Study Group (ISG) made up of experts outside government to bring what I called "fresh eyes" on the target. Secretary Rumsfeld, General Pace, Secretary Rice, and NSC Chairman Hadley all came to see the value in the ISG. By your participation, I think it is fair to say you also saw its benefit, and I greatly appreciated your outstanding service on the bipartisan panel. You and the other Democratic members who gave your time during a Republican administration exemplified the true meaning of service to your country.

We are now into the 10th year of fighting in Afghanistan and the challenges we face there continue. In 2001, I was the first member of Congress, along with Rep. Joe Pitts, to visit Afghanistan after the U.S. invasion, against the wishes of the Defense Department. We saw firsthand the devastation that the Taliban had visited on Kabul as well as the remnants of the U.S. Embassy that was abandoned in 1979. I have also traveled to Pakistan and seen the difficulties that country faces combating the Afghan Taliban and other terror groups. Despite the current conditions, all my experience in this region tells me that success is possible if we formulate

the right strategy to deal with both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

As with the ISG, I believe fresh eyes are needed now to examine U.S. policy in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The security situation continues to erode as evidenced by coordinated insurgent attacks on heavily fortified U.S. and NATO compounds just this week. The Taliban still finds safe haven in the tribal wilderness of Pakistan and the ISI actively funds terrorist groups.

Given these and other concerns on the ground in Afghanistan, I continue to be puzzled why you, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Secretary Clinton are not supporting the Af/Pak Study Group idea in the same manner that Secretary Rumsfeld and other Bush administration officials supported the ISG. Having the experience of serving on the ISG and now serving as Secretary of Defense with a Democratic president (who I acknowledge inherited the war in Afghanistan), you are in a unique position to make this group a reality. The authorization and funding for the Af/Pak Study Group in the House-passed Defense Appropriations bill gives you the authority to create this group today.

I have to tell you that I continue to be disappointed that your staff has yet to contact former Ambassador Peter Tomsen to discuss his book, *The Wars of Afghanistan*. His book provides insightful information on the tribal structure of both Afghanistan and Pakistan and the political allegiances that underlie all actions in the region. I believe his knowledge and experience in this region would be invaluable in formatting future policy in South Asia. I respectfully ask again, please take advantage of his work and meet with him as soon as possible.

Leon, I don't have the answers on Afghanistan. Perhaps current U.S. strategy is the best way forward. But we owe it to the men and women in uniform who have served and continue to serve there—some paying the ultimate sacrifice—to know definitively. I continue to believe that fresh eyes from outside government focused on assessing the situation is the prudent action to take. I ask that you take the advice of those who support an Af/Pak Study Group, including Jim Dobbins, General Charles Krulak, Ryan Crocker, who I spoke with prior to his appointment as ambassador to Afghanistan, and other prominent Americans with experience in this region.

I believe it would be a sign of strength to appoint a study group and let the American people know that the administration is willing to examine all possible policies to achieve a successful outcome in this troubled region.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN)

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the United States is familiar with its own stories of brave men and women who fought to break the bonds of tyranny and form a new democracy. The walls of this chamber and the surrounding Capitol complex remind us daily of our proud history. But I want to share with you today the story of another like minded group

of individuals on the other side of the world who also dared to demand freedom for their people. I rise today, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the centennial anniversary of Republic of China in Taiwan.

One hundred years ago, on October 10th, 1911, under the inspiration of Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, the Republic of China began by throwing off the bonds of the Wuchang dynasty in order to create the first Republic in Asia. This year the Republic of China (Taiwan) celebrates the centennial of its National Independence Day, also known as "Double Ten Day".

The United States and Taiwan not only share a similar story of self-determination but we continue to maintain a strong and vital friendship. The people of Taiwan have made clear through the years, their appreciation and gratitude for the support the United States has provided Taiwan through the decades. This friendship has been evidenced through investment and economic development, through cultural and social exchanges, and even through the military support shared between our two peoples. Taiwan has stood with the United States to combat global terrorism; and the people of Taiwan have always given generously in our greatest times of need. Throughout the past ten decades we have become not just allies, but great friends.

As the Republic of China (Taiwan) enters into her second century of democracy, it is just as important that the United States stand with her 23 million citizens to face the challenges of the next hundred years. Surely there will be struggles, political and economic, at home and abroad. As we continue to engage other nations around the globe, we must remember that in our Taiwanese friends we have a nation ready to stand with us in the effort to promote freedom, tolerance, and democracy.

On this very special day, the United States joins with the Taiwanese people to recognize the sacrifice of those who made Double Ten Day possible so many years ago, and we reaffirm that our friendship remains steadfast. I ask my colleagues to please join me in extending to President Ma Ying-jeou the good wishes of the United States House of Representatives on this centennial anniversary.

IN HONOR OF THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MICHAEL CHURCH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 160th anniversary of St. Michael Catholic Church in Independence, Ohio.

St. Michael Catholic Church was founded in 1851 when Bishop Amadeus Rappe commissioned Father Nicholas Roupp to begin celebrating Mass in Independence, Ohio. There had recently been an influx in the area of Catholic Swiss and German immigrants. After operating for several decades as a mission church, in 1888, the Cleveland Catholic Diocese raised the community to parochial status and Father Peter Scerer became St. Michael's first pastor. After two pastors in just a couple of years, St. Michael Parish reverted back to a mission and was served by the Jesuit Fathers of St. Mary Parish.

Throughout the 20th Century, St. Michael Parish experienced many renovations and ex-

pansions. In 1900, the congregation welcomed its third pastor, Father Albert Aust. Under the leadership of Father Aust, St. Michael Parish thrived and added a new rectory, school, and in 1908, teachers from the Notre Dame Sisters. The parish later added a sister's residence in 1934, built a new school in 1950, erected a new church in 1955 and new rectory in 1968. In 1990, a new social hall and gymnasium were constructed and named Rappe Hall, in honor of Bishop Amadeus Rappe. Most recently, in 2001, St. Michael completed an interior renovation of the current church on Chestnut Road.

The St. Michael congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary in conjunction with the annual Feast of St. Michael. This year's celebration will include an Oktoberfest dinner, arcade games, and donations will be collected for both the St. Michael School Student Council's "Jeans for January" drive and St. Vincent DePaul Society's Food Pantry.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the 160 years of service that St. Michael Catholic Church has provided to the parishioners of Independence, Ohio.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, due to a previous commitment, I unavoidably missed two votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on passage of rollcall 725, and "nay" on passage of rollcall 726.

REED COLLEGE CENTENNIAL

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 23, 2011

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this year one of the nation's top liberal arts colleges in the heart of my Congressional District in Portland, Oregon is celebrating its centennial. Reed College began its first classes in 1911 with 50 students—26 men and 24 women—and five faculty members and has grown to 1,400 students and 135 faculty. Committed to intellectual rigours and academic freedom, Reed has served as a groundbreaking model for liberal arts colleges over the past 100 years.

Reed's commitment to academic excellence is reflected in the student body and faculty. All students are expected to complete an original work in a major subject area—a senior thesis. A higher percentage of Reed graduates go on to earn Ph.Ds across fields than do graduates of all but three other U.S. colleges and universities. Students regularly win Fulbright, Watson, National Science Foundation, and other fellowships, and the faculty has received national recognition for its commitment to teaching.

While "Reedies"—as students call themselves—are widely known for studying—sleeping—and studying some more, they engage in a broad range of campus and civic activities. One such tradition dates back to 1913 and is