

norm," Lt. Gen. Richard P. Zahner, Army deputy chief of staff for intelligence, told the 2,000 attendees. "Are we spending our resources effectively? . . . If we have not gotten our houses in order, someone will do it for us."

On a day that also featured free back rubs, shoeshines, ice cream and fruit smoothies, another speaker, Kevin P. Meiners, a deputy undersecretary for intelligence, gave the audience what he called "the secret sauce," the key to thriving even when the Defense Department budget eventually stabilizes and stops rising so rapidly.

"Overhead," Meiners told them—that's what's going to get cut first. Overhead used to mean paper clips and toner. Now it's information technology, IT, the very products and services sold by the businesspeople in the audience.

"You should describe what you do as a weapons system, not overhead," Meiners instructed. "Overhead to them—I'm giving you the secret sauce here—is IT and people. . . . You have to foot-stomp hard that this is a war-fighting system that's helping save people's lives every day."

After he finished, many of the government officials listening headed to the exhibit hall, where company salespeople waited in display booths. Peter Coddington, chief executive of IntTENSITY, a small firm whose software teaches computers to "read" documents, was ready for them.

"You have to differentiate yourself," he said as they fanned out into the aisles. Coddington had glass beer mugs and pens twirling atop paperweight pyramids to help persuade officials of the nation's largest military intelligence agency that he had something they needed.

But first he needed them to stop walking so fast, to slow down long enough for him to start his pitch. His twirling pens seemed to do the job. "It's like moths to fire," Coddington whispered.

A DIA official with a tote bag approached. She spotted the pens, and her pace slowed. "Want a pen?" Coddington called.

She hesitated. "Ah . . . I have three children," she said.

"Want three pens?"

She stopped. In Top Secret America, every moment is an opportunity.

"We're a text extraction company . . .," Coddington began, handing her the pens.

Staff researcher Julie Tate contributed to this report.

A TRIBUTE TO DALTON B. DOOM

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dalton B. Doom of Urbandale, IA for achieving the rank of an Eagle Scout. Dalton is currently a freshman in high school and serves as the Senior Patrol Leader of his troop.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement whose high standards have been maintained over the years. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Dalton's project consisted of raising funds

to purchase and install Automated External Defibrillator devices at a local church.

After obtaining the highest scouting rank possible, Dalton plans to remain active in scouting to earn additional Eagle Palms and merit badges. Dalton has been involved in scouting since he became a Tiger Cub more than 10 years ago. His future plans are to attend the United States Air Force Academy and become an F-22 pilot.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Dalton Doom and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on earning an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the efforts of the students of Springfield High School, in Springfield, Pennsylvania, who raised a record sum of nearly \$153,000 through their annual Dance-a-Thon to benefit pediatric cancer research. With over half of Springfield High's student body taking part in this extraordinary charitable drive, the Dance-a-Thon represents community service at its finest—citizens voluntarily giving of themselves to make a difference in the lives of their neighbors. Most of us have known the pain of losing a loved one to cancer, but the students at Springfield took action, joining together to help children who are fighting this disease. I am proud of these young men and women, and grateful for the example they have set for their peers and the students who will follow after them.

CONGRATULATING TAIWAN'S PRESIDENT MA YING-JEUO

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to express congratulations to Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou who is celebrating his third year as their leader on May 20th, 2011.

During President Ma's tenure, Taiwan has not only been a close friend of the United States, but it has reached out to countries all over the world. This was evident during Japan's recent tragedy in March resulting from the earthquakes and tsunami.

Due to the radiation emitting from the damaged nuclear plants, staff from the United States embassy in Japan needed to evacuate immediately. Taiwan was gracious enough to take them in. U.S. Embassy officials plus private United States citizens were flown in chartered planes from Japan to Taiwan.

Taiwan also donated supplies and money to Japan to help with their desperate situation. About 10 tons of supplies, including food and

clothing, plus approximately \$15 million dollars were generously donated by the Taiwanese people.

Once again, I congratulate President Ma for the start of his third year in office and thank the Taiwanese people for their charity towards the people of Japan.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF REV- EREND PAUL R. VASSAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNI- VERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION OF THE PRIESTHOOD

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Reverend Paul R. Vassar's ordination to the priesthood. For four decades, Father Vassar has served the people of his parishes with good words and good works, and on June 11, 2011, St. Leander Parish is celebrating this wonderful milestone in their Pastor's life.

A native of Oakland, Father Vassar graduated from Bishop O'Dowd High School, studied philosophy at St. John's College in Camarillo, and graduated from St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park, California. He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Floyd Begin in 1971.

Since that time, Father Vassar has served as an Associate Pastor at the Oakland parish of St. Leo, and as Pastor of St. Benedict's in 1977. After studying at Howard University, he was appointed Pastor of St. Columba Parish in Oakland, where he ministered for 13 years. After a decade as Diocesan Vicar General, Father Vassar became Pastor of St. Leander Parish in 2004.

At St. Leander, Father Vassar's energy and enthusiasm constantly shine through. He visits students in their classrooms regularly at the Parish school, delighting in their growth and activity. Dedicated to learning and listening, Father Vassar learned Spanish to better communicate with his diverse parish. Under his guidance and exceptional leadership, one of the oldest parishes of the Diocese of Oakland has flourished.

Father Vassar has served on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, and he and several of his priest friends formed a support group to share the challenges and joys of their callings.

It is a special personal privilege for me to honor Father Paul on the 40th Anniversary of his ordination. We have been friends since his days at St. Patrick's Seminary and he has been part of my family since then, from the births of my children, to officiating at the wedding of my daughter, to celebrating the Funeral Masses for my parents when each entered into eternity. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Father Vassar's four decades of faithful service to the Bay Area Catholic community. When he joined St. Leander, he commented on how excited he was to return to parish work. "I get to walk with people where God is working with them," he said. For 40 phenomenal years, Father Vassar has done just that. I'm proud to know him, to be his friend, and to pay tribute to this good, holy and happy man who has strengthened our community, deepened our faith, and made our country a better place.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S
ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 13, 2011

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I rise today to commend the Republic of Korea's pledge of an additional \$500 million over 5 years in aid to Afghanistan. It is unfortunate that this tremendous contribution was not heralded by the international media because Seoul's commitment to aiding in the development and reconstruction in the war-torn nation is remarkable in several ways and deserves our recognition and gratitude.

This latest \$500 million is in addition to the \$180 million Seoul has already contributed to Afghanistan. And, currently, there are about 90 South Korean aid workers and police serving in Afghanistan secured by more than 200 Korean troops. This increased level of assistance will go a long way in supporting existing programs run by Korea's Provincial Reconstruction Team in the northern province of Parwan. Korea's Provincial Reconstruction Team will be able to enhance their work in the areas of education, health and medical service, rural development, improved governance and police training.

Korea has been and continues to be one of the most reliable partners we have in Afghanistan. For example, from 2002 to 2007, Korea deployed military medics and engineers in Afghanistan; provided medical service to 260,000 people; and helped build the U.S. Bagram Air Field.

What impresses me the most about Korea's fortitude and role in the international community is its tremendous progress over the last half century. Not so long ago South Korea was a recipient, rather than a donor, of Official Development Assistance, ODA. According to the Congressional Research Service, U.S. economic assistance to South Korea totaled \$3.8 billion from 1945 to 1971. However, by the mid-1970s U.S. assistance began to shrink to zero. In 2009, South Korea became the first major recipient of Official Development Assistance to become a major donor of ODA. In just two years, 2008 and 2009, South Korea contributed economic aid of \$1.7 billion to other countries, including Afghanistan.

Through sound economic policies, a strong commitment to free enterprise, and a turn from autocratic to democratic governance, South Korea has become one of the world's fastest-growing, most resilient economies with an equally resilient and stable civil society.

In 1980, the Republic of Korea's gross domestic product, GDP, per capita was \$2,300, about one-third of nearby economies such as Singapore, Hong Kong, and Japan. Since then, South Korea has advanced into a devel-

oped economy that had a GDP per capita of \$30,000 in 2010, almost thirteen times the figure thirty years earlier. The country's overall GDP increased from \$88 billion to \$1,460 billion in the same period.

Today, South Korea's economy ranks fifteenth in the world by nominal GDP and twelfth by purchasing power parity. It is one of the G-20 major economies and it is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. As of 2010, South Korea was the sixth largest exporter and tenth largest importer in the world. Korea is the United States' seventh-largest trading partner, with a pending free trade agreement that will bring multiple benefits to both of our countries in terms of increased trade and investment. We must pass the pending U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement KORUS FTA as soon as possible.

The conflict in Afghanistan is as controversial in Korea as it is in the United States, which makes the Republic of Korea's pledge of an additional \$500 million (over 5 years) in aid to Afghanistan all the more significant. It sends a signal to the world that Korea is a dedicated partner in peace and an ally that the U.S. can count on.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me today in saluting the Republic of Korea and people of Korea for their continued partnership in helping to rebuild the economy and society of Afghanistan.