Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the event helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship under the Chinese Nationalists to a thriving and pluralistic democracy.

In some ways, the 2–28 massacre was Taiwan's ''Boston Massacre'' for both events functioned as the cradle of a move by both peoples to full democracy and helped galvanize the strive to independence.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it before: ''Freedom is not negotiable.'' May the lessons learned from the 2–28 Massacre continue to inspire the people of Taiwan in their struggle for freedom, full independence, international participation, and for the continued enhancement of the mutual relationship between Taiwan and the United States.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating this sad but important historical event.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 97, I was not able to vote because I was called away for the funeral of a close friend.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes.''

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Women's History Month, I rise today to recognize women leaders and their many contributions to our community.

Recently, we celebrated the significant advancement in girls' participation in sports as we commemorated the 25th annual National Girls and Women in Sports Day and the 40th anniversary of Title IX. Today, I want to recognize the incredible accomplishments of the University of Texas at El Paso's (UTEP) women's basketball team for winning the 2012 Conference USA Championship, and the 2012 Conference USA Regular Season Title for the second time in the past five years. These talented young women serve as positive role models for the El Paso community.

I want to congratulate Keitha Adams for being named Conference USA Coach of the Year. This is the second time Coach Adams has been honored with this title, and her leadership helped the UTEP program win two Conference USA regular season titles in the last five years. I also want to congratulate Gloria Brown for winning Conference USA Sixth Player of the Year for a second-consecutive season, and El Paso's own Kayla Thornton, an Irvin High School graduate, was recognized as an All-Conference USA performer.

These remarkable women not only strengthen themselves, their families and the El Paso community, but they serve as an inspiration to encourage schools and the El Paso community to increase opportunities for girls and women in sports.

El Paso, Texas, has a rich history and is home to strong and passionate women who have played critical roles in making higher education a reality, promoting our small businesses, serving El Paso as public servants, safeguarding our community, and ensuring access to health care for children, families and seniors.

Leaders like Dr. Diana Natalicio of the University of Texas at El Paso; Cindy Ramos-Davidson of the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Belen Robles, the first female president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Dr. Blanca Enriquez, life-long educator and Associate Executive Director for Head Start; Rosa Guerrero, a pioneer educator, artist, renowned dancer, and humanitarian; and Suzie Azar, El Paso's first and only woman Mayor. These remarkable women, and many others, have made history in the border region, and we are blessed that they call El Paso home.

Mr. Speaker, while women have achieved great success, we recognize women still face many challenges and there is still much work to be done. This month, I reaffirm my commitment to policies and initiatives that support more and better opportunities for women and girls.

HONORING GIRL SCOUTS IN AMERICA

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Girl Scout Ambassador Mara Scherer. Ms. Scherer has been a Girl Scout for 12 years, and recently unveiled her exhibit at the New London Public Museum celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts in America. This exhibit represents her Gold Award project, the highest award a Girl Scout can attain.

Mr. Speaker, I also ask you to join me in celebrating the life of Juliette Gordon Low, the visionary founder of Girl Scouts in America. She established the first troop on March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia. For the last century, Girl Scouts in America has had a positive impact on young girls throughout the country by teaching them values, life-skills and giving them opportunities to improve their communities.

I commend Ms. Scherer for this project, and I congratulate the Girl Scouts in America on their 100th anniversary for keeping their promise to serve God and country, to help their neighbors and to keep the Girl Scout Law.

A TRIBUTE TO RIC JURGENS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Hy-Vee Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Ric Jurgens, and to express my appreciation for his years of service to his company and to the people of Iowa.

For Ric, successfully assuming the head responsibilities of one of the Midwest's largest grocery companies was no accident. He has been a dedicated employee of Hy-Vee for 42 years. His career with Hy-Vee began as a part-time employee, stocking shelves in Ames, while pursuing his degree at Iowa State University. Upon graduation, Mr. Jurgens was offered his first full-time position in the company and has been climbing the ranks ever since. Most notably, in 2001, Mr. Jurgens became Hy-Vee's third president in company history; two years later Ric would be elected as Hy-Vee's CEO and by 2006 he had been elected as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Jurgens' successful tenure is one that will never be forgotten by the Hy-Vee family. Under Ric, Hy-Vee enjoyed record sales to the tune of a staggering 7.3 billion dollars for 2011 from 235 stores across eight states. Ric has overseen Hy-Vee's transformation from a respectable grocery store chain to an industry-leading powerhouse that still prides itself on staying true to its foundation—the employees. Above all, the employee owned Hy-Vee will always be about rewarding hard work, even providing the unique opportunity for a part-time employee to someday hold the company's highest office.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his entire professional career, Ric has never wavered in his commitment to providing excellent service and quality products to the people of Iowa and the Midwest. While Hy-Vee will surely miss Mr. Jurgen's expertise, he leaves his company, which is stronger than ever, in good hands. I ask the House to join me in congratulating Mr. Jurgens on a job well done, and I wish Ric and his wife Carol a long, happy and healthy retirement.