

Khan, as he is the heart and soul of the world music community with billions of fans all over the globe.

SECOND INAUGURATION OF TAIWAN PRESIDENT MA YING-JEUO

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou will be inaugurated for the second and final time on Sunday, May 20th. In addition to its continued democratic development, Taiwan has undergone numerous unprecedented economic, travel and tourism changes—between itself and mainland China—since President Ma first took office four years ago.

In July 2008, just over two months after taking office, President Ma launched the first regularized direct flights across the Taiwan Strait since the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949. Such flights now number 558 per week, having greatly eased the burdens of Taiwanese living and working in mainland China. It's also made life much easier for American tourists and businesspeople crossing the Strait instead of having to change planes in Hong Kong, or another third party port, as they once did.

And in 2010, Taiwan enacted its Economic and Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) with mainland China that zeroed out tariffs on a number of Taiwan exports to the mainland. Further ECFA liberalizations will follow. ECFA's allowed Taiwan companies to tap mainland consumer markets while allowing them to stay in Taiwan and trade from their own home base. ECFA's further offered Taiwanese greater consumer choice at more affordable prices, while additionally uncovering opportunities for U.S. companies that have operations on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. It's thus no wonder the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei has, after years of calling for such changes, wholeheartedly applauded President Ma's economic openings. Slowly but surely, Taiwan's steadily reinserting itself into the global economic supply chain, strongly making its case for a resumption of Trade and Investment Framework Agreement talks with the United States.

The influx of mainland Chinese tourists to Taiwan, allowed since 2008, has boosted the island's economy while also exposing mainlanders to Taiwan's free society and vibrant democracy. This fact was most notable during Taiwan's January 14th presidential and legislative elections won by President Ma and his Kuomintang (KMT) Chinese party. Visiting mainlanders were mesmerized by Taiwan's televised debates and dueling public events, and their some of their cohorts back home even took to blogging about it. Last year, 1.8 million mainland Chinese tourists visited Taiwan. That's 30% of all 6.08 million tourists who visited Taiwan in 2011.

On this, his second inauguration, I ask my colleagues to not only congratulate President Ma on his inauguration, but also on his openings to mainland China that have not just benefited Taiwan companies and consumers, but also U.S. economic interests and enterprises in the region.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, my car battery died and I was detained from voting on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. If present, I would have voted yea on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 250; rollcall No. 251; and rollcall No. 252.

JEANNINE LESANTE MAZURKIWECZ

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LOU BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Jeannine Lesante Mazurkiwecz, who will be recognized with the 2012 Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce Athena Award. Each year, the Athena Award is presented to a Greater Hazleton businesswoman for outstanding professional achievement. Jeannine's selfless dedication to her career and community makes her an ideal recipient of this award.

Jeannine graduated from King's College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications. Upon completion of an unpaid internship at WBRE, a regional television station, she declined a full-time job to invest her time and talents in her local, family-owned television news station, Greater Hazleton's First Local News 13/Sam-Son Productions. Since News 13's founding in 1994, Jeannine has worked in a variety of positions. Recently, Jeannine was promoted into administration. Through her various responsibilities, Jeannine has led her team at News 13 to the top of news and information coverage.

Jeannine is also active within the community, from teaching classes at King's College to assisting all types of organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Hazleton Blind Association. Additionally, she is the co-founder of the Making a Difference Foundation and currently holds the position of Assistant Director of Corporate Relations with Professionals Organized & Working to Enrich the Region (POWER) of Hazleton. Furthermore, Jeannine finds time to mentor students at the McCann School of Business and Technology and has been a volunteer to local brownie troops.

Mr. Speaker, Jeannine is truly a pillar of her community in the Greater Hazleton Area. I commend Jeannine for her many years of committed service to the community and our country.

HONORING MAY AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor May as Older Americans Month. Since 1963 our Nation has come together to

celebrate the seniors in our communities. This month the theme is "Never Too Old to Play", which emphasizes how important it is for older Americans to stay active and engaged in their communities.

Communities are encouraged to organize social events like trivia night, painting a mural or a team photo scavenger hunt to encourage seniors to get involved. Just this past week I hosted a senior luncheon in my district.

This annual event is not only an opportunity to listen to my constituents concerns over a great meal, but it is a time for seniors to get together and enjoy themselves. We had performances from local entertainment groups, speeches and karaoke. It was a wonderful time for all involved.

I have also introduced H.R. 3794, the Expanding Opportunities for Older Americans Act of 2011. This bill would amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include government funding to hire seniors who still wish to be working and active. Although seniors have already given so much, I truly believe they have much more to offer.

Older Americans Month is also a great time to bridge the generation gap. Children to young adults can learn so much from the older generation, but they rarely interact in everyday life. There is so much valuable knowledge the young people from this country can receive from the older generation, and this is an opportunity for people of all ages to get out there and interact together.

This month also gives me a chance to address an issue of key importance; caring for seniors with chronic illness and preventing unnecessary hospitalizations. In-home care can make a huge difference in recovery from illness and inpatient hospital treatments. Being around family and in the comfort of one's own home makes these traumatic experiences that much less painful.

Mr. Speaker, the majority of the skilled home healthcare providers in my district deliver high-quality, clinically effective and highly efficient care. In-home care is so important for the seniors who would otherwise be forced into hospitals without it.

As an elected official I want to make sure that Medicare funds in my district are going to those who qualify and deserve it, so we can continue to provide the best care for our seniors. With such a tough economic outlook throughout the nation it is of vital importance that we are not handing money over to criminals who are trying to play the system.

Mr. Speaker, after decades of paying taxes and working hard so that they will have security in retirement, the seniors of America deserve our full support. I hope every community takes this month to plan at least one event supporting the older generation, and bringing people of all ages together.

This month I honor the seniors of the 37th district of California, as well as all seniors across the country. Thank you for all you do, and do not forget, "It is never too old to play".

RECOGNIZING THE RIVERHEAD BLUE WAVES

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Riverhead Blue Waves

Girls Basketball Team on their history-making 2011–2012 season.

The Blue Waves of Riverhead, New York went all the way to the state Class AA Final Four tournament in Troy, New York, a first in the team's history and a truly remarkable achievement. Along the way they won the 2012 Long Island Championship in a 56–50 victory over the Baldwin Bruins amidst waves of cheering fans known as the "Blue Krew." They also won the Suffolk County Class AA championship, and the Suffolk County Section XI championship, finishing the season with a 23–2 record.

Their coach, Dave Spinelli, was named Suffolk County Coach of the Year, and senior guard Jaylyn Brown was named a first-team All-Long Island player. The team was named a New York State Scholar Athlete team for the seventh consecutive year with a team grade-point average this year of 93.1.

Hailed as hometown heroes, the athletes were honored with a parade down East Main Street sponsored by the Riverhead Central School District and the Town of Riverhead on April 29th, and the entire day was designated a day of celebration. Riverhead School Board vice president Greg Meyer said the team acted as a catalyst for the entire community. "The girls played their hearts out for their team and for this community, and the residents of Riverhead and the rest of the school district came together to support the team in a major way."

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such a talented and dedicated group of young athletes in my congressional district. They demonstrated commitment, teamwork, leadership and serve as role models for their community, proving that with hard work and a good defense, dreams do come true.

HONORING MADISON WEAVER

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Madison Weaver is a senior at Clements High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Government is defined as the political direction and control exercised over the actions of the members, citizens, or inhabitants of communities, societies, and states. In other words, the government is the ultimate source of authority in our country. However, I believe that this power should be used with restraint. I also believe that gov-

ernment should focus on protecting the people, instead of controlling the people.

Helping secure jobs and keeping companies in business is something the U.S. government has been promoting heavily in the past few years. With the passing of the 'bail-out' bill, numerous corporations, that would have otherwise failed, were saved by the government's decision to give them enough money in order to stay afloat. Consequently, millions of people were able to keep their jobs. But what does that say about our government? Is it humanitarian that our government reacts in order to save those companies and jobs? No, in fact this shows that our government is pushing forth its own agenda of what will be produced in America.

The fine line between government protecting and controlling is the difference in outcome. Protecting, will ultimately promote a healthier economy; while controlling, will produce quicker results, yet negative, long-term effects. For instance, by giving money to banks that made numerous bad loans, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make bad business decisions. Also, by giving money to the auto industry, was essentially saying that it was 'ok' to make products that people didn't want. Yes, the government was able to save many businesses, and countless jobs; but do we want failed businesses to operate in America? The answer is, "no"!

Instead of looking at every business failure as a sign of weakness of the government, we need to see to the failures and embrace them too. Without the fear of failure, there is no drive for success. Therefore, we need to have failures, recessions, and yes, even job losses in order to drive people to succeed and make our country better. I believe that the government has done us more harm than good in attempting to control the recession. By stepping back and letting the business cycle run its course, only then can government truly guide our country to a more productive America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 250, due to other representational obligations in Hannibal, Missouri, I had to miss this vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF HOUSE REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF PREVENTING IRAN FROM ACQUIRING A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CAPABILITY

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for H. Res. 568. It is imperative that the United States takes necessary steps to ensure that Iran is unable to acquire the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States and all our allies must respond to this threat immediately. The stability of the entire Middle East region hangs in the balance as Iran seeks this technology. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has openly threatened both the United States and Israel in the recent past and as a result, swift and harsh sanctions must be put in place against the Iranian regime.

The United States' security and interests are clearly in danger. Satellite intelligence provides us with enough information to confidently assess that Tehran is concealing their true actions. International inspectors have been denied entry into the facilities, a troublesome act if there is nothing to hide. The containment and appeasement of Iran must not be considered. Instituting aggressive sanctions against this radical regime is a prudent and necessary course of action.

H.R. 5746, A BILL TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO MODIFY CERTAIN RULES APPLICABLE TO REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS; TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague from Massachusetts, Representative Neal, and Representatives SAM JOHNSON, CHARLES RANGEL, DEVIN NUNES, PETE STARK, DAVE REICHERT, JOHN LEWIS, PETER ROSKAM, EARL BLUMENAUER, JIM GERLACH, RON KIND, AARON SCHOCK, JOSEPH CROWLEY, LYNN JENKINS and ERIK PAULSEN, I rise today to introduce the Update and Streamline REIT Act (U.S. REIT Act). Congress created real estate investment trusts (REITs) in 1960, with the goal of providing Americans from all walks of life a transparent and liquid way to access the income and diversification benefits of investments in commercial real estate.

Periodically over the past fifty years, Congress has enhanced and improved the REIT rules as the real estate industry and marketplace has evolved, typically with non-controversial legislation that attracts significant bipartisan support. In that vein, the last REIT update was introduced in 2007.

A number of publicly traded REITs are headquartered in my home state of Ohio, and listed REITs as a whole have invested over \$8 billion dollars to date in Ohio malls, office buildings, health care, hotel, self-storage and other properties. This investment by REITs creates jobs, improves local economies; and helps to support and beautify our communities.

The U.S. REIT Act has been developed over a lengthy period. It has considerable bipartisan support and is largely revenue neutral. If enacted, it would increase flexibility and remove certain redundant and unnecessary restrictions on REIT activities, in order to enable REITs to continue to achieve the goals on behalf of their shareholders set for them by Congress over fifty years ago.