

THE SECOND INAUGURATION OF
PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to recognize the second inauguration of President Ma Ying-jeou, which will take place on May 20, 2012. I join with the people of Taiwan in celebrating this historic occasion.

Since the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan have focused on creating a harmonious bilateral relationship. While our two countries have continued to share strong relations, we have been able to further strengthen our ties under President Ma's leadership.

I am pleased to note several positive developments that taken place over the course of President Ma's first term, including being recognized by the World Health Organization as an observer to the World Health Assembly. This important recognition has given Taiwan an avenue in which to address the health issues affecting its country.

Furthermore, the United States has increased trade relations with Taiwan, and U.S. agricultural and food products now account for over 30 percent of Taiwan's agricultural imports. These gains could not have been achieved independently, and such positive outcomes would not be possible without the collaboration and cooperation of President Ma's government.

Mr. Speaker, again I want to congratulate President Ma on his second term in office. I look forward to continuing my work with the President and his government to ensure a peaceful and prosperous Taiwan.

IN COMMEMORATION OF ASIAN/PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE
MONTH

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in commemoration of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.

This month recognizes that our country's strength comes from the diverse talents, cultures, and ideas of its people. In Hawaii, it is this very diversity that helps drive our State forward and is the basis of our rich local culture.

We honor the indigenous people of Hawaii and the Pacific islands and the Asian immigrants who have come to America seeking opportunity and freedom. Key anniversaries in the history of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders occur in May, including the arrival to the U.S. of the first Japanese immigrants in 1843.

As an immigrant myself, I know firsthand the challenges—and the opportunities—that so many faced when they came to America.

My mother, brothers, and I arrived with little more than the clothes on our back and my mother's determination to build a better life for her children.

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have found success in all walks of life. In government alone, we recognize Senator INOUE, president pro tempore, who chairs the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations; Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color in Congress, whose Title IX legislation ensured education equity for women and girls; and Prince Jonah Kūhiō Kalaniana'ole, whose leadership led to the creation of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands with the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920.

These distinguished leaders aren't just a source of pride for the AAPI community, they also inspire a Nation. I am proud to celebrate the accomplishments of all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and look forward to seeing the trailblazers of the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on May 15, 2012. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall Nos. 250, 251, and 252.

SUPPORTING NOAA'S CLIMATE
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH, SUS-
TAINED OBSERVATIONS AND RE-
GIONAL INFORMATION PROGRAM

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of NOAA's Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program, which was unfortunately cut by \$26 million from the President's Fiscal Year 2013 budget request in the Commerce, Justice, Science FY13 Appropriations bill.

While I appreciate the funding included in this bill for NOAA's satellite programs, NASA, NIST, and NSF, and thank my colleagues who supported these programs, I urge them to work with me to restore the \$26 million cut in this important climate research program.

In March, I joined 28 of my House colleagues in writing to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Science and Justice in support of the full budget request for this program.

NOAA's competitive climate program contributes to local, regional, national, and global weather and water outlooks. These are relied upon by key decision makers in cities and States throughout the country in areas such as agriculture and power generation. The State of Colorado is not only the home to world-class research institutions whose researchers are supported by this funding, but it is also a user of this information for vital natural resource governance decisions.

The southwest has experienced persistent drought conditions over the last three decades. Temperatures in Colorado have increased two degrees during the same time, a trend that will likely persist. Colorado has also

experienced earlier snow melting, which desiccates our reservoirs, contributing to increased demand for water for personal and agricultural use, and increased flooding risk.

The agricultural community, water resource managers, and power suppliers across Colorado rely on the monitoring, observation, and analysis supported by this funding line to inform decisions that directly affect the health of the economy.

The importance of this need was recognized in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Governors Association and NOAA to provide climate information to western states to help them mitigate disaster situations stemming from flood, drought, and fires.

This Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program also supports critical ocean observing systems, as data has shown that the highly dynamic relationship between oceans and the atmosphere affects weather and climate shifts over land. It also supports satellite calibration and validation which inform the most accurate satellite observations.

Importantly, many American businesses rely on this funding to create and manufacture environmental observing equipment.

I recognize that we must make difficult choices in our current fiscal environment. Supporting this program will continue our investments in research, observations, and modeling to help States and businesses manage environmental risk and reduce future expenses from natural disasters.

I urge my colleagues to consider restoring funding to NOAA's Climate Competitive Research, Sustained Observations and Regional Information program before this spending bill is enacted into law.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA (TAIWAN) AND ITS PRESI-
DENT, MA YING-JEOU

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China (Taiwan) and its President, Ma Ying-jeou, on the impending inauguration of his second term on May 20, 2012. I had the distinct pleasure of meeting President Ma in October of 2011, and I wish him and the Taiwanese people well during his second term of office.

The friendship enjoyed by the United States and Taiwan rests upon a strong foundation of democracy, trade, and security. Through the elections held on January 14, 2012 and the inauguration on May 20, Taiwan is reaffirming that commitment to democracy and that is something that should be held up as an example for others in the region and the world at large.

President Ma's first term was marked by many successes, including securing observer status with the World Health Assembly and increasing trade and reducing tensions in the East Asia region. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives to ensure that the U.S.-Taiwan relationship grows and strengthens and that Taiwan remains a safe, strong, and stable ally in the region.

Please join me in congratulating President Ma and in wishing him a successful second term as he guides the Republic of China (Taiwan) for the next four years.

SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. AARON SCHOCK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Mr. SCHOCK. Mr. Speaker, the recent vote in support of the H.R. 5652—Sequester Replacement Reconciliation Act was a necessary vote to deliver on our promise to bring an end to the fiscal nightmare in Washington. We promised to restore a better future for of children and grandchildren and the action we recently took delivers on that promise.

Section 204 of H.R. 5652 reversed two Medicaid provisions affecting the U.S. territories—increases in both the federal match rate and the cap on federal Medicaid spending—created in Obamacare. While I fully support a repeal of Obamacare, I also understand the rationale for these provisions addressed a disparity in the treatment of U.S. territories under Medicaid going back decades. Prior to the changes, Puerto Rico paid 80 percent of its share of Medicaid, even though it has a population of almost 4 million and a poverty level percentage similar to the state of Mississippi. Unlike the 50 states, where no U.S. state pays more than 50 percent of its share, the territories operate under a different reimbursement formula. The adjustment in the Medicaid payments to territories helped to close this gap.

It is imperative for Members to recognize the importance of increased Medicaid funding to the territories, especially given the deep respect we share for our fellow U.S. citizens. I urge my colleagues to ensure equitable Medicaid funding to the territories as we move forward during this necessary budgetary negotiations.

STATEMENT ON H.R. 4970

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, although I support the Services, Training, Officers, Prosecutors (STOP) grant program, I regretfully had to vote no on final passage of the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization (VAWA). Even with the changes in the manager's amendment, the bill that came to the floor today remains a partisan, extremist bill that provides far fewer protections for domestic violence victims than the strong, bipartisan Senate-passed bill.

This bill would put victims of domestic violence in greater danger by rolling back key protections in current law and by excluding entire populations of women, particularly in the LGBT and Native American communities, from these valuable victim protections. Even though VAWA is a critical grant program, I could not support the House GOP version, as such I voted "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2012

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded vote for rollcall No. 235. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on this measure.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 17, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 21

2:30 p.m. Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine national security, focusing on foreign language capabilities in the Federal government. SD-342

MAY 22

9:30 a.m. Armed Services SeaPower Subcommittee Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

10 a.m. Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs To hold hearings to examine implementing derivatives reform, focusing on reducing systemic risk and improving market oversight. SD-538

Energy and Natural Resources To hold hearings to examine the report produced by the American Energy Innovation Council titled "Catalyzing American Ingenuity: The Role of Government in Energy Innovation" and related issues. SD-366

11 a.m. Armed Services Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee Business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SD-G50

2 p.m. Armed Services Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

2:30 p.m. Appropriations State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee Business meeting to markup proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2013 for Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. SD-138

Intelligence To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters. SH-219

3:30 p.m. Armed Services Airland Subcommittee Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

5 p.m. Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

MAY 23

9:30 a.m. Armed Services Strategic Forces Subcommittee Closed business meeting to markup those provisions which fall under the subcommittee's jurisdiction of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013. SR-232A

10 a.m. Judiciary Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine protecting our children, focusing on the importance of training child protection professionals. SD-226

Appropriations Department of Defense Subcommittee To hold hearings to examine the fiscal year 2013 Guard and Reserve budget overview. SD-192

Finance To hold hearings to examine progress in health care delivery, focusing on innovations from the field. SD-215

Foreign Relations To hold hearings to examine The Law of the Sea Convention (Treaty Doc. 103-