

should take the time to commemorate Taiwan, an important economic partner and vital ally in Asia.

This past year, the world witnessed Taiwan's third peaceful transition to power as the first woman was elected in Taiwan. The 23 million people on the island represent the only democracy in the Chinese speaking world. Taiwan has been a reliable partner in East Asia. According to the U.S. Dept. of Commerce, U.S. trade in goods with Taiwan reached US\$ 66 billion last year. For a population of only 23 million, Taiwan has become the United States' 9th largest trading partner in 2015. Also, Taiwan is the state of New York's 6th largest export market in Asia.

On Taiwan's National Day, we reaffirm the strength of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship and the United States commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act. It is an honor and privilege to support our friend and partner Taiwan and highlight the bonds that connect us.

RECOGNIZING TABLE TO TABLE'S EFFORTS DURING FOOD RESCUE AWARENESS WEEK

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. LOEBSACK. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the wonderful work of Table to Table during Food Rescue Awareness Week, which is being held September 24th through 30th. For the last twenty years, Table to Table has been committed to collecting nutritional, high-quality food from donors and distributing it through food establishments, food pantries, meal sites, and shelters to those who need it most in Johnson County.

I grew up in poverty, and I know firsthand what it is like to worry about where my next meal might come from. Growing up, my single mom relied on food stamps at times in order to be able to feed my brothers, sister and me. I strongly believe that no Iowa child or family should go to bed hungry or have to wonder how they will afford their next meal.

Hunger unfortunately continues to be a major problem in America and for many Iowa families. In Johnson County, one in seven residents relies on nutritional assistance in some way. That is why I am so grateful for Table to Table's efforts to fight food insecurity. Founded in 1996, Table to Table was the first food rescue charity in Iowa. Since then, Table to Table has provided the equivalent of 12.5 million meals consisting of food that would otherwise have been wasted and deposited in the landfill. This great organization has over 100 regular volunteers, collects from over 40 donation sites, and delivers to 36 agency sites.

On behalf of all of my constituents, I would like to thank Bob Andriak, Executive Director of Table to Table, for his years of service, and Table to Table for providing quality nutrition for those who need it. I know I join my colleagues, friends, and fellow Iowans in wishing Table to Table the best of success during this year's Food Rescue Awareness Week and urging folks who can to contribute food or volunteer.

HONORING METRO TRANSIT SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Metro Transit on being named Transit System of the Year. This year, Metro Transit served nearly 86 million riders while offering excellent and reliable service.

The American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award reflects accomplishments made between 2013 and 2015. During this time, Metro Transit increased ridership, expanded access, improved sustainability practices, and increased overall success in system safety. Metro Transit was singled out among all North America agencies that provide more than 20 million annual passenger trips.

Metro Transit plays a vital role in the Twin Cities by providing clean, safe, reliable, and affordable transportation service every day to thousands of commuters, residents, workers, and visitors. In 2015, Metro Transit had its highest ridership in 30 years, with total annual rides of over 85 million. Metro Transit's commitment to sustainability through its transition to lower emission vehicles benefits everyone in the region, whether they use transit or not. Metro Transit not only makes transportation more accessible to workers, it also employs over 3,100 people in the Twin Cities.

I am pleased to say that Metro Transit contributes to the quality of life and preserves the livability of the Twin Cities by mitigating traffic impacts, providing easier access to local businesses, reducing air pollution, and improving circulation throughout the cities.

On behalf of the residents of Minnesota's 5th Congressional District, I congratulate the entire Metro Transit System, its employees, and its Board of Directors, for their efforts and significant contributions to the Greater Minneapolis Area, and for their nationally recognized achievements in providing the highest quality transit service.

CHIPPEWA NATIONAL FOREST RISES TO THE FUTURE

HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated natural resource management professionals at the Chippewa National Forest for their excellent work on the replacement of the Knutson Dam at the outlet of Cass Lake to the Mississippi River.

Staff at the national forest and their community partners earned the "Rise to the Future" award, one of the U.S. Forest Service's most prestigious awards, for their utilization of a design called Rock Arch Rapids, which allows aquatic wildlife to travel freely between Cass Lake and the Upper Mississippi river. Before the construction of Rock Arch Rapids, the Knutson Dam, a logging dam built in the early 1900's, blocked the passage of fish between Cass Lake and the Mississippi river. Further-

more the dam was at the end of its usable life and required more and more costly repairs each year.

The complete replacement of the dilapidated logging dam was a collaboration between Chippewa National Forest, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership and Ottertail Power Company. The new Rock Arch Rapids not only improves access to Cass Lake for aquatic life but also access to the lake by outdoor enthusiasts, and minimizes erosion of Cass Lake's shoreline to preserve the beautiful campgrounds, trails and beaches of the Chippewa National Forest for years to come.

Please join me in congratulating the staff at Chippewa National Forest and their community partners for their prestigious achievement.

TRIBUTE TO HENDRICKS COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and salute Hendricks County, Indiana, as the Indiana Bicentennial Torch is scheduled to pass through the county on Friday, September 23, 2016.

The county sits on the southern part of Indiana's Fourth Congressional District. It was named for Indiana Governor William Hendricks, who was serving at the time the county was formed in 1824. The county seat is located in Danville, which happens to be the location of my primary district office. Hendricks County is recognized as a logistics and transportation hub in Indiana and for the many motorsports companies that are headquartered there.

In this year of the Hoosier Bicentennial, communities throughout the state are celebrating Indiana's past and present through Bicentennial Legacy Projects. These projects are generally, culturally inclusive, celebratory, engaging and inspiring to youth and young adults and create a legacy for the future. The organizations responsible for the twenty-five Legacy Projects throughout the county are: Avon-Washington Township Public Library, Cascade Middle School, The Porch, Brownsburg Educational Foundation, Rotary Club of Plainfield, Indiana, Plainfield Chamber of Commerce, Hendricks County Parks and Recreation, First Baptist Church of Amo, B&O Trail Association, Inc., Montrose Farms, Danville Rotary Club, Friends of Hendricks County Museum, the Town of Avon, the Town of Brownsburg, RAHC Committee, Avon Community Heritage Festival Board, Wa-Pe-Ke-Way Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Brownsburg Chamber of Commerce, Scrapbasket Quilt Guild of Brownsburg, K-Kids Club of Danville South Elementary School, Greater Danville Chamber of Commerce and Animalia, Inc. Hoosiers look forward to their enduring contribution to our state's legacy.

And on this day, Mr. Speaker, in the year in which we are celebrating Indiana's 200th birthday, I am proud to recognize Hendricks County for the contribution of its residents to the past, present and future of Indiana's history.

HONORING SERGEANT PATRICIA
ORISINI

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. ROSKAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini for her life of service to our country and her strong leadership of the Wounded Warrior Program. As the Program's first director, Sergeant Orisini took a new idea and transformed it into a life-changing opportunity for our nation's veterans.

Sergeant Orisini joined the United States Marine Corps in 1975. After 24 years of active duty and a combined three decades of service, she obtained the highest grade of an enlisted Marine—the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. She has represented our men and women in uniform through her work with the Department of Veterans Affairs and with the American Legion. Re-called to active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom, she built and managed a “medical hold” program designed to assist injured reservists.

Sergeant Orisini's experience culminated with her outstanding guidance of the Wounded Warrior Program. After joining the Program only eight years ago, she retires having helped 182 wounded and disabled veterans become Wounded Warrior Fellows, over 100 of who have either returned to college or become full time employees with a Congressional office and other government agencies.

Sergeant Orisini, who earned her bachelor's degree by studying in the evenings while on active duty, holds affiliations with the Foreign Joint Services NCO Association, Disabled American Veterans, Women Marines Association, Marine Corps League and the National Italian American Foundation. Through her hard work and visionary leadership, she is a model American and public servant.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing this special occasion as we celebrate the life and career of Sergeant Patricia A. Orisini and her faithful service to our country.

RECOGNIZING BLACK POETRY DAY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize Black Poetry Day which is celebrated on October 17th. Jupiter Hammon, a slave and poet who was born in my home state of New York on this day in 1711, was the first African American writer whose work was published in the United States.

First recognized in 1985, we celebrate Black Poetry Day to honor past and present poets such as Langston Hughes, Phillis Wheatley, Frank X. Walker and Maya Angelou. The works of these and many more authors provide our students insight into both poetry and United States history.

While not officially recognized as a holiday, SUNY Plattsburgh recognizes Black Poetry Day each year with a ceremony and a guest speaker. This event gives credence to the hard work and dedication of African Americans

who have overcome adversity to express themselves through poetry.

Thank you to SUNY Plattsburgh for your commitment to honoring this day by hosting events in celebration year after year. I want to wish you great success at this year's event.

TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, October 10 is Taiwan's national day—also known as Double Ten Day. The United States and Taiwan have a strong relationship. Taiwan is a good friend and ally. I congratulate Taiwan on its national day.

We also need to be standing by Taiwan and supporting its efforts to be a responsible member of the international community. The International Civil Aviation Organization or “ICAO” is a UN agency to ensure the safety of planes that fly around the world. But even though it is less than a week away, there has been no indication that Taiwan will be able to participate in ICAO's 39th Triennial Assembly on September 27. Three years ago, Taiwan was invited by the then-ICAO Council President to attend as a guest, but that invitation was no guarantee that Taiwan could keep attending. Congress passed a law three years ago encouraging ICAO to give Taiwan observer status. Giving Taiwan such status would contribute to the success of ICAO's mission to address aviation security threats through effective international cooperation.

As our 9th-largest trading partner in 2015, Taiwan's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership is a no-brainer. It would boost our trade relationship with Taiwan and would make the overall impact of TPP even better for Americans. To provide greater protection for investors in both countries, we should also work on completing a Bilateral Investment Agreement with Taiwan. In all, trade is an important part of our relationship with Taiwan and I hope my colleagues will join me in advocating for these steps.

Again, I wish the people of Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day. And that's just the way it is.

IN RECOGNITION OF TAIWAN ON
THEIR 105TH NATIONAL DAY

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. BARTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the people of Taiwan on their 105th National Day, which is October 10th, and take a moment to emphasize the significance of the U.S.-Taiwan relationship to both of our nations.

Taiwan is a faithful friend of the United States and an important strategic partner, promoting peace and stability in the region through our shared values of democracy and respect for human rights. Our economic ties continue to expand to our mutual benefit.

On this National Day, I also want to highlight the importance of the Taiwan Relations

Act of 1979, which serves as the basis for our relationship. I am proud to say that the United States continues to build relations with Taiwan.

I am honored to travel to Taiwan on this joyous occasion and congratulate our ally. I look forward to the continuation of friendship and cooperation between the governments and citizens of the United States and Taiwan.

HONORING ART IBLETO

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Art Ibleto's lifetime of achievements and generous service to our community upon his 90th birthday.

Mr. Ibleto was born in the town of Sesta Godano in Northern Italy on October 2, 1926. As a young man, he fought with resistance groups against Fascism and Nazi Germany.

After valiantly serving his home country, Mr. Ibleto immigrated to the United States and decided to settle in Sonoma County in 1949 calling it “one of the most beautiful places on earth.” He began working in Sonoma's fields as a vegetable picker, mechanic and truck driver, and soon fell in love with Vicki Ghiradelli whom he married in 1951. The couple soon began to live their own American Dream and bought their first home together in 1961. They developed their own farm soon thereafter to raise hogs, cattle, and potatoes. They later added a Christmas tree farm, a vineyard and real estate on their property.

Mr. Ibleto founded the Spaghetti Palace at the Sonoma County Fair as a United Lodges, Sons of Italy project in 1974. What began as a project soon became an institutional landmark. The success of his Spaghetti Palace inspired Mr. Ibleto to pursue a career of supplying locals with his own line of Italian cuisine and catering inspired by traditional Italian methods. Today, Art's booming business is well known throughout California and local residents affectionately refer to him as the “Pasta King.”

Art is a cook, grape grower, winemaker and a constant source of pride for our community in Sonoma County. In the last few years, Mr. Ibleto's charity pasta feeds have raised over \$500,000 to support a wide range of causes from local animal shelters to survivors of a terrible Highway 101 accident.

Mr. Speaker, Art Ibleto has not only led a successful career in agriculture, but he has become a culinary and community leader of legendary proportions. He is a true friend of our community and a good friend of mine. Mr. Ibleto's work and philanthropy have left an indelible mark on Sonoma County and California, and it is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EARL L. “BUDDY” CARTER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 22, 2016, I was absent