

After earning his Associate of Arts degree from Sacramento City College, Sam continued his education at California State University, Sacramento. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in only three years of college study, despite working full time for the United States Postal Service throughout his undergraduate career. After concluding his undergraduate education, he proceeded to law school at McGeorge School of Law, where he graduated in 1977.

As a first-year lawyer that same year, Sam was hired as a Sacramento Deputy District Attorney. After two years of working in this capacity, he decided that civil litigation suited him better. Sam obtained a lateral appointment to the position of Deputy City Attorney in 1979, and was promoted to the top of the deputy attorney hierarchy in the minimum amount of time allotted for such advancements.

In 1994, after fifteen years of distinguished service in the City Attorney's office, Sam was appointed by the Sacramento City Council as the 36th City Attorney in Sacramento's history. He has held that post for over 11 years, but last year Sam notified the City Council that he would be retiring no later than December 30, 2005.

Along with his impressive career achievements, Sam has also made substantial contributions to Sacramento through community involvement. The highlight of his community service occurred in 1981, when he undertook the management of a little league baseball team that had never enjoyed a winning season. As to be expected, Sam led the youngsters to a dominating 18-4 record by emphasizing teamwork and respect for others.

Mr. Speaker, as Sam's friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate his admirable career, I am honored to pay tribute to one of Sacramento's most selfless and dedicated citizens. Although his legal career may be over, Sam's involvement in his community is, fortunately for us, far from complete. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Samuel L. Jackson continued success in all his future endeavors.

COAST GUARD YARD, BALTIMORE,
MD

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to call special attention to the United States Coast Guard and in particular the Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore.

I have always said that I considered the U.S. Coast Guard to be America's secret weapon. After their heroic efforts played before us in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I believe the secret is out. For over two hundred years, our nation's Coast Guard has patrolled and protected our coast lines, which today totals over 95,000 miles. Fulfilling incredible missions including maritime security, search and rescue, drug interdiction, search and rescue, and recreational boater safety, all Americans are indebted to our Coasties for their dedication and service each and every day.

And for over a century, Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore has served as the backbone of the Coast Guard providing its primary shipbuilding and major repair facility.

I am proud to represent the Yard and the admirable people who work there. Their commitment to the quality of work, excellence, vision and ingenuity makes this Yard an invaluable asset to the Coast Guard. Ship building and repairs require special individuals with highly specialized skills. This is a vanishing art form, particularly for a working Yard and workers that continually live up to the motto of "Service to the Fleet."

For budgetary reasons, the Coast Guard and Yard are planning to cut 50 full time employee positions from the Yard. While I understand our difficult economic times, I am concerned that such a decision would be made when we are fighting a war on terrorism both here at home and abroad. There should be no doubt about the abilities and capabilities of the Coast Guard, and the personnel at the Yard are a vital link in that chain.

This week we will consider H.R. 889, the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2005. I offered an amendment to this legislation that would have restored \$9 million in funding to the Coast Guard Yard FY06 Budget to safeguard those highly specialized jobs. I am concerned that the loss of these skills in the Yard will not only harm my district and the local economy, but it will have a negative impact on the Coast Guard's ability to fulfill its missions in the future. Shipbuilders are not a dime a dozen and you cannot simply call your local temp agency for a new one. These are skills that require apprenticeships and work over years to master. When these jobs leave the area, I worry if we will be able to get them back should we need them at a future date.

Now is not the time to cut corners and jobs in this specialized workforce. Now is the time when we should fully fund the needs of the Coast Guard including the Yard to help them do their jobs and protect Americans.

The Coast Guard Yard in Baltimore has played an enormous role in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Reservists have provided port security in the Persian Gulf, allowing our troops and humanitarian aid to move in safely. They've been involved in telecommunications, boarding operations and search and rescue. The Yard also answered an urgent request from the U.S. Army and Marine Corps to quickly repair over a dozen old style bridge erection boats. These boats were refurbished and shipped to Iraq, allowing bridges to be built over the inland rivers permitting the transportation of personnel and supplies.

I am so proud of the work that has been accomplished at the Yard and the contributions that have been made. It is vitally important that we give them the tools and the money that they need to operate effectively and efficiently. I regret that the House Committee on Rules failed to make my amendment in order to restore this critical funding and I would hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will join me in this fight in the future to correct this mistake.

IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT CHEN
SHUI-BIAN'S VISIT TO THE
UNITED STATES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 15, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian will be staying for two nights in Miami en route to Central America; on his way back to Taiwan he will be staying overnight in San Francisco. During the last five years as president of Taiwan, Chen has gone on several state visits including trips to some of Taiwan's diplomatic allies. Last April President Chen visited the Vatican City to pay final respects to the late Pope John Paul II. I hope President Chen's stopovers in America this September will be both restful and useful to the exchange of ideas between himself and some of his American friends and supporters.

As a friend of the Taiwanese people, I believe that Taiwan has been unjustifiably denied its proper recognition in the international community. Taiwan is a sovereign state; it is a constructive global citizen and a dynamic democracy. Yet it is not a member of the United Nations. As the United Nations celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, it is time for the UN General Assembly to re-examine the issue of Taiwan's membership. I therefore urge my colleagues, friends and supporters of Taiwan to speak up on the issue of Taiwan's bid to join the UN. The world must not allow China, an authoritarian state, to continue to deny Taiwan UN membership.

As for Taiwan's relations with the United States, Taiwan enjoys the support of both the Bush Administration and Congress. U.S. presidents have all committed the United States to the Taiwan Relations Act and pledged support for Taiwan if it were to be attacked by China. Congress has also passed legislation voicing its support of Taiwan. In the mean time, the United States has continued to sell military articles to Taiwan in accordance with Taiwan's defense needs. In addition, we appreciate our strong trade relations with Taiwan. This September a Taiwan agricultural goodwill mission is touring the United States, pledging to buy up to more than \$3.1 billion of U.S. wheat, soybeans, corn and hide in 2006 and 2007. A letter of intent signing ceremony between members of the Taiwan mission and U.S. grain exporters was held on September 14 on the Hill.

Trade relations aside, the Taiwanese people have been standing firmly behind the United States after 9/11. Their government has made every effort to protect U.S. interests in Taiwan and cooperated with our intelligence agencies. It made monetary contributions to the Twin Towers Fund, the Pentagon Memorial Fund and most recently gave \$2 million to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Other signs of friendship include Taiwanese people sending their brightest students to study at our colleges and universities and a great majority of their tourists choosing to spend their dollars in American destinations.

As President Chen passes through America this September, we'd like him and his people to know that we greatly appreciate his country and have great fondness for his people and their friendship for us.