

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAI- WAN)

HON. DENNIS A. ROSS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. ROSS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, October 10th is the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Despite its small geographical size, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and a free market economy that respects human rights and the rule of law.

The United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a strong security and economic partnership for over half of a century. Our common interest in peace and security has guided U.S.-Taiwan relations and our commitment to Taiwan's security, as stated in the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act, has enabled Taiwan to build a strong democratic government that, today, serves as a beacon for others in the region and beyond.

Similarly, Taiwan's economic partnership with us has benefited both countries. As a result, Taiwan is our ninth largest trading partner, with the United States importing nearly \$36 billion worth of Made in Taiwan goods and exporting \$26 billion in goods and services to Taiwan.

In recent years, the communications between Washington and Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou's administration has been smooth and effortless. However, there is still room for improvement. For instance, we still need to assist Taiwan's meaningful participation in world agencies, help Taiwan meet its military needs, negotiate a free trade agreement with Taiwan, and waive visa requirements for Taiwanese tourists coming to the U.S. With the support of the United States, I hope Taiwan's goals come true.

Congratulations to the people and leaders of Taiwan on their National Day.

IN HONOR OF THE 40TH ANNIVER- SARY OF MONTEREY-SALINAS TRANSIT (MST)

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor and privilege of representing California's 17th congressional district and, on behalf of all the residents of the Central Coast, I would like to commend to my colleagues' attention the 40th Anniversary of Monterey-Salinas Transit, (MST).

The Monterey Peninsula Public Transit System Joint Powers Agency was formed by the cities of Carmel, Del Rey Oaks, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Seaside and the county of Monterey on October 1, 1972. As the predecessor of Monterey-Salinas Transit, it served the

Monterey Peninsula area, and later expanded to provide service to the cities of Marina, Salinas, and Watsonville. With the formation of the Monterey-Salinas Transit District on July 1, 2010, MST today serves one-fifth of the coastline of California from San Jose in the north to Paso Robles in the south at 1,300 bus stops in 25 communities throughout Monterey, Santa Cruz, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo Counties.

Through the foresight of the MST board members and the ongoing support of the Federal government, transit service in the Monterey region is consistently at the forefront of technology and innovation, with ridership of four and a half million passengers each year, on traditional fixed-route buses as well as paratransit minibus service for disabled customers, the popular MST Trolley system for visitors, "MST OnCall" demand response services in south Monterey County, and the award-winning Carmel Valley Grapevine Express.

New for 2012 is the MST JAZZ Bus Rapid Transit system, funded in part by a \$2.78 million Federal Transit Administration Section 5309 Capital New Starts grant. MST JAZZ follows a 6.75 mile route on the Monterey Peninsula starting in Sand City, running along Fremont Boulevard in Seaside, through downtown Monterey and along the visitor-intensive Lighthouse Avenue corridor in New Monterey, ending at the world famous Monterey Bay Aquarium at the edge of the city of Pacific Grove. MST has partnered with the legendary Monterey Jazz Festival, currently celebrating its 55th year, to create a distinct brand and marketing identity for the new "JAZZ" line. The Festival has opened its archives for the project and has worked with MST to develop a year-round linear jazz museum featuring dramatic jazz-themed displays on the buses and at each of the 30 custom designed shelters along the route. Passenger amenities include benches, bike racks and real-time electronic bus arrival and departure signage linked via Global Positioning Systems to the location of each JAZZ vehicle along the route. While waiting for the JAZZ buses, passengers will be able to listen and view on their smart phones actual recordings from the Monterey Jazz Festival throughout its 55-year history and learn more about the artists who performed for Festival audiences over the decades.

Not only does MST play a significant role in the transportation system of the Monterey Bay region, but it helps meet the basic transportation needs of thousands of constituents. More than one out of every three MST passengers live in a household without an automobile. A majority of MST passengers are either low-income and/or elderly. To further enhance senior mobility, MST is utilizing Federal Transit Administration Section 5317 New Freedoms funds to provide free travel training and volunteer assistance through the innovative "MST Navigators" program to Monterey County residents 65 years and older, as well as subsidized trips in local taxicabs at a cost of only \$3.00 for paratransit-eligible clients. Sev-

eral Monterey Peninsula jurisdictions and the city of Salinas have also become funding partners with MST to extend this taxi discount voucher program to all seniors in their communities.

In addition, MST is at the forefront of forging partnerships with local stakeholders to expand public transit options throughout the community. MST's award-winning partnership with the United States Army's Defense Languages Institute at the Presidio of Monterey transports nearly 50,000 military and civilian personnel each month from all corners of the MST service area to work, relieving local traffic congestion and enabling the redevelopment of parking lots into language classrooms and training facilities vital to the global mission of our military. At Naval Postgraduate School, MST has again partnered with the military to provide two additional transit lines connecting student, faculty and staff housing areas with the college. And, MST's latest military partnership provides employees at Fort Hunter Liggett in rural southern Monterey County with two more transit lines connecting the base with communities in the Salinas Valley and San Luis Obispo County. MST's partnerships also extend to local colleges, with a University Pass program with California State University-Monterey Bay and a free fare zone at Hartnell Community College in Salinas. The Monterey Bay Aquarium is also a local funding partner for transit, helping to support the MST Trolley visitor-oriented service in downtown Monterey and Cannery Row and leading a new initiative designed to increase accessibility to the Aquarium for low income and minority residents of the Salinas Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to commend Monterey-Salinas Transit for providing 40 years of exemplary public service to the Central Coast of California and ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to wish them well on the next 40 years.

A TRIBUTE TO BRETT BUNNELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brett Bunnell of Norwalk, Iowa for being awarded the Girl Scout Gold Award.

The Gold Award is the highest award that a high school-aged Girl Scout can earn. This is a prestigious honor as fewer than 6 percent of eligible Girl Scouts attain the Gold Award in a given year.

To earn a Gold Award, a Girl Scout must complete a minimum of 80 hours towards a community project that is both memorable and lasting. For her project, Brett worked to update rooms in her church by installing blinds and redecorating. The work ethic Brett has shown to earn her Gold Award speaks volumes about her commitment to serving a cause greater than herself and assisting her community.

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