

HAPPY DOUBLE TEN DAY
(TAIWAN)

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, October 10, or Double Ten Day, is the national day of Taiwan. Given the warm ties between the United States and Taiwan, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the people of Taiwan a very Happy Double Ten Day.

The United States and Taiwan, despite our lack of an official diplomatic relationship, are important economic and security partners. From a security standpoint, as pledged in the Taiwan Relations Act, we continue to support democracy in Taiwan through our arms sales. I would also like to call to attention the recent Taiwan related provisions, enacted into law in August of this year, in conjunction with the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2019. This newly enacted law reiterates that the TRA and the Six Assurances are the cornerstones of our relations with Taiwan. In addition, it calls for the strengthening of defense cooperation with Taiwan to ensure Taiwan can maintain sufficient self-defense capability; for supporting Taiwan's acquisition of defensive weapons; and for more predictability with respect to U.S. arms sales to Taiwan.

Where trade and economic prosperity are concerned, our two countries have made great strides. In 2017, Taiwan was ranked as the 11th largest trading partner of the United States, the 11th largest U.S. export market overall and the 7th largest market for U.S. agricultural products. Taiwan imported \$3.57 billion of food and agricultural products from the U.S., representing more than 28 percent of total imports of those products. Taiwan regularly sponsors trade missions to the United States in pursuit of agricultural products. Last year those missions culminated in the signing of letters of intent to purchase approximately \$2.8 billion in U.S.-produced grains between 2018 and 2019. Just in late September, another trade mission from Taiwan visited the United States in pursuit of \$300 million of soybeans purchases. Our two countries should and will continue to seek avenues where we can work together, and I hope my colleagues will join me in promoting this cooperation wherever possible.

I ask my House colleagues to join me in wishing the people of Taiwan all the best as they celebrate Double Ten Day.

TRIBUTE TO FRANCES AND
ROBERT NELSON

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Frances and Robert Nelson of Atlantic, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married on August 23, 1953 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Atlantic.

Frances and Robert's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anni-

versary, I hope it is filled with happy memories. May their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD L. BARR

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to rise and pay tribute to fellow Hoosier and American patriot Richard L. Barr. For ten years, Rick has tirelessly worked to engage, educate, and empower fellow citizens to take part in the American political process. He is the definition of an American Citizen-Statesman.

A lifelong Hoosier and Hendricks County resident, Rick is a man of deep civic conviction rooted in his love for American history and family. He is a dedicated husband, a loving father of 3, and a devoted grandfather of 4. It is Rick's love and concern for his children's and grandchildren's futures that drives him to volunteer so much of his time for the American cause.

As a founding member and current leader of the Indy Defenders of Liberty—West, Rick has utilized his leadership role to educate the public so that his fellow citizens are informed citizens. He spends hours researching issues and the historical context of those issues to invite knowledgeable speakers to the organization's monthly meetings. In addition, under Rick's direction, IDOL—West has also served the community by hosting several non-partisan candidate forums and many public meetings focused on local, state, or federal issues. I can personally attest that the relationships Rick cultivated, locally and statewide, have been successful in activating citizens. Oftentimes, my office has received calls or visits from constituents at Rick's suggestion.

Rick Barr is a good man and a good citizen. He is faithful in his belief that America is worth his time promoting limited government based on the United States Constitution.

Today, I am honored to acknowledge Rick Barr for his leadership, generosity, and dedication to our community, state, and country. I am proud to call him my friend.

IN ITS 50TH YEAR, ANNUAL MAINE
BALD EAGLE TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
COMEBACK OF AMERICAN ICON

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th running of an important annual event in my state that highlights the comeback of an American icon.

In 1969, Dick Anderson led his first trip for Maine Audubon to try to spot bald eagles in

Maine's Merrymeeting Bay. At the time, it was the last accessible place in the entire state to see a nesting pair—a result of the terrible toll the pesticide DDT had taken on the nation's bald eagle population, which had dwindled to just over 400 pairs in the continental U.S. in the 1960s.

Anderson continued to bring people to Merrymeeting Bay annually. In the early years, they were lucky to see one or two eagles. But as a national ban on DDT, the Endangered Species Act, and other environmental laws did their work, these trips yielded more birds every year. As Maine Audubon continues the annual tradition—holding its 50th cruise this month—participants can now expect to see at least 50 bald eagles.

What a sight it is to see these great birds soar high in the air, dive to snatch a fish from the water, or perch upon their massive nests. It's astonishing to think how close we came to losing this living symbol of our nation. This species' recovery from the brink of extinction is an amazing success story for federal environmental protections.

But this story is not yet over. I'm afraid a new chapter is now being written as efforts are underway, both in Congress and under the current Administration, to weaken the Endangered Species Act and other protections. Now is not the time to undo the progress we have made. In fact, with climate change and other environmental threats before us, we need these laws more than ever—not just for bald eagles, but also for the hundreds of wildlife species that remain on the threatened and endangered lists.

Again, I congratulate Maine Audubon on its 50th eagle trip and commend Dick Anderson and other conservation leaders for protecting the incredible natural resources in my state. I hope these trips continue to see more and more bald eagles every year—because that would mean we are still doing our job in Washington to responsibly steward the lands, waters, and wildlife that are in our trust.

SHERIFF RICK DUNLAP TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sheriff Rick Dunlap for his service to his community and nation.

Originally from Tennessee, Rick grew up in an impoverished family. A large part of his childhood was spent working in his family's tobacco fields, using those earnings to help support his family. It wasn't long before he realized there was so much to see and experience in the world, so he joined the United States Army at 17 to serve his country. Upon completing basic and advanced training, Sheriff Dunlap was sent to Vietnam. While overseas, he was attached to the 101st Airborne Division as a member of a helicopter platoon and later served in the Asha Valley for Operation Lam Son 719.

As the result of his heroic service during Operation Lam Son, Rick and his fellow crew members were awarded the Bronze Star and the Medal of Valor. Throughout his military career, Rick served in many roles including field artilleryman, helicopter door gunner, aviation