

Taiwan Straits would have been a helpful measure. But this resolution is different, and potentially seriously destabilizing. It can be read to imply a very significant change in policy, a change with extremely problematic consequences. It can be read to give the impression of a division between the President and the Congress. It is an irresponsible piece of legislation that should never have come up.

RECOGNIZING THE 240th BIRTHDAY
OF AARON BURR

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, February 6 marked the 240th birthday of Aaron Burr, who was born in 1756. Aaron Burr had no direct descendants, but many of us in the Burr family are collaterally related. And during this year marking Aaron Burr's 240th birthday, I would like to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues some of the positive contributions Aaron Burr made to our great Nation.

Aaron Burr was a colonel in the Revolutionary War and was the third Vice President of the United States. He was born in Newark, NJ, and graduated from Princeton with the highest academic record yet achieved. His father, Rev. Aaron Burr, Sr., and grandfather, Rev. Jonathan Edwards, were the second and third presidents of Princeton. Aaron Burr participated in the 600 mile winter march on the fort at Quebec as an aide to General Montgomery. During the assault, Montgomery was mortally wounded and Burr attempted to carry the man to safety. Burr also served on Gen. George Washington's staff and spent the winter of 1778 at Valley Forge. Assignment took him to the Hudson Valley and several skirmishes with the enemy. He distinguished himself in New Jersey at the Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778.

Following the Revolutionary War, Aaron Burr practiced law in New York City and pursued an interest in politics. After serving in the New York State Legislature and the U.S. Senate, he ran on the Republican ticket for the Presidency with Thomas Jefferson. While it was intended that Jefferson would be President and Burr Vice President, the Electoral College's initial vote resulted in a tie vote between the two men. The election was then thrown into the House of Representatives, which eventually elected Jefferson as President and Burr as his Vice President.

Aaron Burr's finest accomplishment during his tenure as Vice President occurred during the impeachment trial of Supreme Court Associate Justice Samuel Chase. In 1804, Jefferson was incensed at the Federalist-dominated judiciary. He feared that it would nullify an act of Congress by declaring the act unconstitutional and thereby subverting the will of the people. As Vice President, Aaron Burr presided over the impeachment trial that began on February 4, 1805, with the Jeffersonians hoping that Burr would lean their way. Aaron Burr, however, acted impartially and Chase was acquitted on all counts. The newspapers of both parties agreed that although the trial began as a political inquest, it ended as a memorable example of judicial procedure at its best. One of the papers reported that Burr

conducted the trial "with the dignity and impartiality of an angel, but with the rigor of the devil."

I would like to thank the Aaron Burr Association, which is dedicated to presenting a more balanced view of our third Vice President, for their assistance in providing research for this account of Aaron Burr's contributions to our young Nation.

SALUTE TO ALEXANDER
MELESHKA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute Alexander Meleshka, one of my constituents from Farmingdale, NY, and a proud veteran of our "Crusade in Europe." Serving with the U.S. Army's 3rd Infantry Division, Mr. Meleshka saw combat in France. His unit, the 3rd Battalion of the 15th Infantry Regiment, became involved in a particularly fierce battle in October 1944, while seizing a bridge over the Mortagne River.

In the fight to take the bridge before the enemy could demolish it, Mr. Meleshka distinguished himself under fire. The first man in his unit across the bridge, Mr. Meleshka was taken prisoner by the Germans and transported to Stalag 7.

At Stalag 7, Mr. Meleshka, who spoke Russian and several other languages, was moved by the plight of the camp's 150 or so Russian prisoners. Abandoned by their own nation's brutal Communist dictator and subject to inhumane treatment dictated by the racist policies of their Nazi captors, the Russian prisoners faced slow death.

Throughout his captivity, Mr. Meleshka regularly risked severe punishment and even death to assist the Russians. By smuggling small portions of food to our captive allies, Mr. Meleshka certainly saved lives. His behavior exemplified the American ideas of doing the right thing, standing up for the underdog, and coming to the aid of a friend in need. His actions demonstrated what the war was all about.

Some 50 years after the end of World War II, Mr. Meleshka was recognized for his bravery and humanity by Russian President Boris Yeltsin when he was awarded the Gold Commemorative Medal of the 50th Anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War. Mr. Speaker, I believe that our Nation should also recognize Mr. Meleshka for his deeds. He is truly an American hero.

TRIBUTE TO LILLIAN MAE
BRECKEL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a loyal Democrat and community volunteer, Lillian Mae Breckel of Tyler, TX, who died recently at the age of 92. She devoted a lifetime of service to the causes she embraced—particularly the Smith

County Democratic Party and her church—and she leaves behind a legacy of accomplishment and a loving family.

Mrs. Breckel was an active member of the Smith County Democrats. She served on the party's membership committee, was an alternate delegate to State conventions, and was a member of the Women's Democratic Organization. She believed so completely in the democratic process that she was willing to place her name on the ballot, running for State representative from District IV and as a candidate for the Tyler City Council and mayor. It is testimony to her devotion that officers of the Smith County Democratic Party served as honorary pallbearers at her funeral.

She also was devoted to her church. She helped organize Trinity Baptist Church, York Baptist Church, and Dill City First Baptist Church. She was church pianist for each of these churches, taught Sunday School, and also served as chairman of the finance committee of the Smith County Baptist Association.

Her community involvement extended to other worthwhile causes. She served on the volunteer council for Denton State School and served as past-president of the American Businesswomen's Association, past oracle of Royal Neighbors of America, and past noble grand of Tyler Rebekah Lodge 142.

Wherever she volunteered her talents, Mrs. Breckel's presence was felt—and will be missed. Most of all, her pride and happiness came from her family—some of whom visited with me and Mary Ellen in our Rockwall home. She is survived by her son, Henry Austin Breckel of Dallas; daughter and son-in-law, Kathlea and Richard Florey of Tyler; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of her family and many friends who loved her, I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying our last respects to this outstanding citizen—Lillian Mae Breckel.

TRIBUTE TO A GREAT TEXAS
WOMAN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 22, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in a tribute to a woman who has made a career out of championing women's issues. At age 76, Ms. Louise Raggio, who still practices law full-time at her firm, Raggio & Raggio in Dallas, is known as the Lone Star State's First Lady of women's legal rights.

In the 1950s, attorney Raggio fought to allow women to serve on juries. In the 1960s she led a group of legal experts in crafting the Texas Marital Property Act of 1967 that gave married women equal rights to control property and conduct business. With the success of that law, Mrs. Raggio helped pave the way for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and other national women's rights legislation. A decade later, she helped write the Texas Family Code of 1979, the world's first fully codified set of family laws.

Mrs. Raggio has also achieved many firsts in her 40-year career, including being the first woman prosecutor for Dallas County, first women director of the State Bar of Texas, first