

programs and extending Veterans' Group Insurance to members of the ready reserve; allowing veterans' group-insureds to convert to a commercial policy at any time; and renaming the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance Program to Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance to make it more gender neutral.

Section 502 would limit the clothing allowance for veterans incarcerated for more than 60 days in a penal institution where they receive clothing at no cost to them.

Section 503 would authorize an additional \$150,000 to the Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission and extend their final report date to December 31, 1996.

Section 504 would establish a pilot program under which contract physicians would provide disability examinations to applicants for VA benefits. The pilot program is anticipated to speed up the examination-gathering process for the adjudication of claims.

Section 505 would expand the time period that currently defines the beginning of the Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to February 28, 1961. Benefits would be granted to those eligible veterans that served in theater only from February 1961 thru August 1964 and limit Agent Orange benefits to those who served from January 9, 1962.

Section 506 would allow a surviving spouse to retain compensation or pension payments for the full month instead of the end of the month before the veteran died.

Section 507 would increase the period of time for which accrued benefits are payable to a surviving spouse from 1 year to 2 years. These are spouses of veterans who die while their claim is being adjudicated. This provision is the result of the committee recognizing the length of time it takes VA to adjudicate claims.

Section 508 clarifies that a power of attorney applies to a veterans service organization as a whole unless the veteran designates one person specifically.

Section 509 would allow the Board of Veterans' Appeals to provide a copy of a decision to a veteran or veterans' representative by any means where delivery would be at least as fast as it would be if mailed via the U.S. Postal Service.

Section 602 would authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to accept private funds to help maintain those overseas war memorials that are transferred to their care.

I am very pleased with the program improvements we are able to offer today. During these fiscally conservative times, we must not forget our veterans and the sacrifices they made on our behalf. I thank the ranking member LANE EVANS, for his hard work on behalf

of this impressive benefits package and urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Lastly, I would like to take this final opportunity of the 104th Congress to publicly commend Chairman BOB STUMP and ranking Member SONNY MONTGOMERY for providing the sound bipartisan leadership that is always evident on the VA Committee. The reputation the two of you have within the veterans' community is stellar and one I hope to live up to.

A TRIBUTE TO PRESIDENT LEE
AND TAIWAN

HON. DAVID FUNDERBURK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Mr. FUNDERBURK. Mr. Speaker, President Lee Teng-hui of the Republic of China is a modern day giant. He is the first popularly elected President in the history of the Republic of China and has introduced and implemented a number of political reforms in Taiwan.

In the area of his country's foreign relations, President Lee has developed official ties whenever possible, upgraded existing nonofficial relations, and sought to participate in major organizations. In the early 1990's, President Lee deputized his former Foreign Minister Fredrick Chien to devise a strategy known as pragmatic diplomacy, the exercise of which was so successful that it culminated in President Lee's visit to Cornell University in June 1995.

The People's Republic of China was so alarmed by President Lee's visit that it staged a series of missile tests around the island, the most serious being conducted right before Taiwan's Presidential elections in March 1996.

Pragmatic diplomacy paid off for President Lee Teng-hui. In a paper presented at the 14th International Conference on Asian Studies at St. John's University, NY, Professor Nathan Mao gave a detailed analysis of President Lee Teng-hui's visit to the United States and his Presidential diplomacy. I hereby submit the conclusion of Professor Mao's article in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for the future reference of students of Chinese history and politics.

In the ever changing post Cold War period, Taipei has been changing with the world. It has banished its old rigid inflexibility. Mainland China too must learn to bend, to change its old mindset about Taiwan being a province. Taiwan has never been under People's Republic of China's jurisdiction.

Lee Teng-hui's presidential diplomacy has proven successful beyond anyone's imagina-

tion. It has earned him a strong mandate from his people and firmed up his image as a strong leader, undaunted by China's threats. He enjoys firm United States support and even grudging respect from a few mainland Chinese leaders. His pragmatic diplomacy has brought Taiwan many visible and concrete rewards. But events are also rapidly changing in China. No one can give an accurate assessment about the power struggle in the Mainland. China shows evidence of instability. It has numerous corruption problems and there is a power struggle among the leadership. There are conflicts between the central and provincial governments and conflicts between rich and poor provinces. China has its own daunting problems.

Since pragmatic diplomacy has worked for Taiwan so far, there is no real reason to abandon or radically modify it. Using Foreign Minister John H. Chang's counsel, President Lee has gained sufficient wisdom to deal with Taiwan's untractable adversary: Jiang Zemin and company in Beijing.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
STEVEN GUNDERSON ON HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 1, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize one of my good friends, the Honorable STEVE GUNDERSON. His office is just down the hall from mine and we have often passed each other in the hallways on our way to the House floor for votes.

His time spent on the Agriculture Committee and as chairman for the Dairy and Poultry Subcommittee has not gone unnoticed. He is widely respected in the House for his stand on agriculture issues. He worked hard to see that the 1995 farm bill that passed this year would be beneficial to all, and over the years, I have come to depend on the advice of Representative GUNDERSON in these matters.

He has spent his 14 years in Washington trying to find a balance between cutting expenses and ensuring the future of our children. As a member of the Economic and Educational Opportunities Committee, he has been successful in seeing that our children receive an education that will help them throughout their life.

So, good luck in all your future endeavors. Washington and the House of Representatives will miss you.