

relationship based on mutually shared democratic values, common strategic interests, and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

Whereas the American people have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner: Now, therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the United States—

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the 50th anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel;

(2) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East in the face of terrorism, hostility and belligerence by many of her neighbors;

(3) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past half-century and which have been significant for both countries; and

(4) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful and prosperous and successful future.

AKIN BIRDAL—VOICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TURKEY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, many in the human rights community were horrified to learn of the shooting of Akin Birdal, President of Turkey's Human Rights Foundation, by unidentified armed gunmen at his offices in Ankara. Mr. Birdal, a widely recognized and respected human rights advocate, appeared before the Helsinki Commission in the early 1990s and most recently met with members of a Commission delegation that visited Turkey in January. Today's attack occurred against the backdrop of an ongoing campaign of harassment against human rights NGOs in Turkey. The Human Rights Foundation, Turkey's largest human rights monitoring group, has had numerous offices closed down by the Turkish authorities. The Foundation's leadership, including Mr. Birdal, has been repeatedly targeted for prosecution.

The attack against Akin Birdal in a very real sense is an assault on Turkey's fledgling civil society. The development of a genuine civil society is essential if Turkey hopes to develop into a true democracy. Mr. Speaker, instead of viewing human rights advocates like Mr. Birdal as adversaries, Turkey's leaders should embrace these courageous individuals as allies and form a partnership with those dedicated to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Our prayers go out to Mr. Birdal and his family in the aftermath of this senseless act.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. MAN J. CHA, DR. WALTER FUNG, DR. TOYOKO MAE TAKAHASHI, MR. SUTEE VATANATHAM, AND MS. IA V. XIONG

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Man J. Cha, Walter Fung, M.D., Toyoko Mae Takahashi, Pharm. D., Sutee Vatanatham, and Ia V. Xiong, for being selected the 1998 Portraits of Success Program Honorees by KSEE 24 and Companies that Care. In recognition of Asian American Heritage Month, these five leaders were honored for their unique contribution to the betterment of the community.

Dr. Man J. Cha has served as Professor of political science and public administration at California State University, Fresno since 1969. He earned his masters and doctoral degrees from the School of Public Administration at the University of Southern California. He also earned his baccalaureate degree in International Relations and Economics from this acclaimed University. Since 1965, Dr. Cha has made significant contributions as an instructor in higher education. He has taught public management, organizational theory and behavior, and many other courses related to American government and public policy issues. He has also conducted extensive research related to environmental issues, economic development and the political and social culture of South Korea. In 1988, he was awarded a Rotary Foundation International Ambassadorial Scholarship to give lectures in Korea and the United States. In 1992 he was awarded a major grant from the Korea Research Foundation to study Korean bureaucracy and public policy. More recently, Dr. Cha was on sabbatical leave conducting policy research in China and Korea. Dr. Cha has published numerous scholarly works on a broad range of social and environmental issues related to Korea, Asian-American politics and America's economic foreign policy. On the local front, Dr. Cha served as a member of Fresno City Review Committee which recommended Fresno's strong mayor form of government in 1992. He also conducts training workshops to introduce city, county, and state employees to an advanced systems approach to public management methodology and processes.

Dr. Walter Fung was born and raised in Fresno, California. He graduated from Edison High School in 1950 and later from California State University, Fresno. He received his degree in medicine from the University of California at Irvine specializing in gastroenterology. From 1971 until 1974, Dr. Fung served as the Medical Director for the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission, providing clinical care, immunization, and health screenings to low-income individuals and children. In 1974 Dr. Fung was confronted with a life-changing experience, which he says brought him a renewed focus on life. He was diagnosed with cancer and given two years to live. He credits this frightening experience with adding a deeper dimension to his physician-patient relationships. His own illness prompted him to serve others as much as possible. His

caring and sensitivity has earned him public recognition for providing "extraordinary patient care." More recently, Dr. Fung coordinated the building of the new First Chinese Baptist church in Fresno. The facility has become the hub of activities for the Chinese community. Dr. Fung personally was responsible for raising \$700,000 of the \$1.5 million needed to complete this project. His past community involvement also includes working with the Boy Scouts, the March of Dimes, and the Boys and Girls Club of Fresno. Today Dr. Fung says he will continue promoting "filial piety" among the Asian community. His future plans include helping to build a skilled nursing and retirement home for Asian seniors to best meet their dietary and cultural needs. Dr. Fung and his wife Barbara have been blessed with three children and two grandchildren.

Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi is described by her friends and professional colleagues as a "perennial volunteer" who has been active for many years helping to improve the Fresno and Clovis communities. Dr. Takahashi completed her undergraduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She attained a doctoral degree from the School of Pharmacy at the University of California, San Francisco. In 1959, she completed a three-year pharmacy internship at Valley Medical Center in Fresno. In 1960, Dr. Takahashi established Valley Medical Pharmacy, Inc. (Manor drugs) acting as its corporate President. From 1969 until 1987, she served as a consultant for Hope Manor and Clovis Community Hospital. She later became a Partner at Hope Manor Convalescent Hospital, and more recently founded the Professional Pharmacy Alliance, Inc. and currently serves as the corporate President. In addition to her exemplary professional career, Dr. Takahashi is recognized for her extensive community service. She has been active for many years with Central California Asian Pacific Woman, an organization that helps to raise scholarships for deserving Asian Students. As well, she is active in the Soroptomist International of Fresno's Youth Forum. The Youth Forum is organized for students in Fresno and Clovis to provide young people with unique opportunities to discuss ways in which they can help to build a better society. Dr. Takahashi also served for five years as a member of the Board of Directors of the Fresno Private Industry Council, which provides employment and training programs to local residents. She has also been very active with the Central California District Council, Japanese American Citizens League, the Central California Nikkei Foundation, and the Woodward Park Shin Zen Gardens. Additionally, she has served on numerous committees designed to promote small business development, higher education and civil rights protection of Japanese-Americans. In 1990, Dr. Toyoko Mae Takahashi was Appointed by President George Bush to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Citizen Advisory Committee in Equal Opportunity. That same year she was recognized by the U.S. Department of Justice for her support and dedication to the Japanese American Redress Program.

Mr. Sutee Vatanatham was born in Thailand in 1951. He and his family immigrated to Los Angeles, California, in the early 1970's where he attended public schools. In the mid 1970's, Mr. Vatanatham moved to Visalia, California, where he received a two-year degree in Engineering from College of the Sequoias. In