

Scientists have recently made exciting new discoveries in the laboratory that have brought us closer to discovering a cure for this group of diseases that take the sight of so many Americans. Just recently, Dr. Matthew LaVail, along with scientists from the National Eye Institute and Regeneron Pharmaceutical Company, made significant strides in their research. With ribosome therapy, researchers have now established "proof of principle" for two forms of gene therapy. To scientists, proof of principle signifies that there is a good basis to move current studies to human clinical trials. In previous work, gene replacement therapy has slowed retinal degeneration in animals with recessive forms of the disease. With these exciting breakthroughs, we are at a critical juncture where we need to support these research efforts.

This month, the Heart Sight Committee, headed by Carlos and Betti Lidsky, will host "Party With a Purpose," in my Congressional district. The event will provide an opportunity to recognize those who have contributed to fighting Retinal Degenerative Diseases and to raise a portion of the much needed funds to continue research projects, such as those of Dr. LaVail and his fellow scientists. The Lidskys and the members of the Heart Sight Committee are dedicated to not letting lack of research funding be the obstacle to finding a cure. We need to support efforts such as these because with our help, there is a cure in sight.

TRIBUTE TO THE REPUBLIC OF
CHINA ON TAIWAN

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Republic of China on Taiwan, on the occasion of Taiwan's forthcoming National Day.

The Republic of China was founded 87 years ago. Throughout the twentieth century, the Republic of China has been an ally and partner of the United States. In recent years, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan has been unwavering in its support of United States policies in all areas.

It is appropriate on the occasion of Taiwan's National Day that freedom loving, democratic societies everywhere give their congratulations to the people of Taiwan, for their abiding respect and practice of the most respected traditions common to any true democracy. The people of Taiwan enjoy the right to vote in free and regularly scheduled elections. Their judicial system shows respect for the rights of the individual, and the Legislature is structured under truly representative rules. Furthermore, the people of Taiwan have been their own best natural resource, exhibiting to the world the value of hard work and a capitalistic spirit.

It is time for us to recognize Taiwan for what it is—a faithful ally and partner. Let's help Taiwan support itself by declaring our affections and everlasting friendship for Taiwan.

IN HONOR OF ARCHBISHOP ALOJZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Archbishop Alojz Tkac, Archbishop of Kosice and the metropolitan of Eastern Slovakia.

Archbishop Alojz Tkac, a native of Humenne, in the region of Zemplin Eastern Slovakia, was ordained a priest on June 25, 1961. After 14 years of service, Archbishop Tkac was denied permission to serve in priestly ministry by the communist party. After eight years of absence, Archbishop Alojz returned to his passion and was named the pastor of the parish in Cervenica.

On February 14, 1990, Pope John Paul II named him the Bishop of Kasice. In 1995, the Diocese of Kosice was elevated to a metropolitan see and Bishop Tkac became its first Archbishop since 1962. Pope John Paul II personally presented the Archbishop with a Pallium, which was worn by Metropolitans on July 2, 1995 during the Pope's visit to Kosice.

On his third visit to the United States, Archbishop Tkac will visit several churches in the Cleveland area and meet with many prominent members of the Slovak-American community. On October 4, 1998, the Archbishop will be attending mass at SS Cyril and Methodius Church in Lakewood, Ohio with Father Ondrejka. The SS Cyril and Methodius Church is honored that the Archbishop will be attending and is grateful for the Archbishop's efforts to preserve the Slovak tradition in Cleveland.

My fellow colleagues, join me in honoring Archbishop Alojz Takac, a man who has dedicated his life to God, freedom and the wellbeing of all people.

TRIBUTE TO EARL A. JOHNSON

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Earl A. Johnson for 50 years of community service. Mr. Johnson currently acts as Mayor Pro-Tempore of the Darlington City Council where he has served since 1986.

Mr. Johnson was born in Darlington, South Carolina, which I am proud to represent in the U.S. House, and he has lived there all of his life. He was educated in the public schools, and graduated from Mayo High School in 1942. He later continued his education at Clemson University. After years as a brick mason in the private sector, Mr. Johnson became a masonry instructor at the Darlington Career Center from which he retired after 18 years. He helped with the development and implementation of a masonry education program at the Darlington County Prison Farm through the Darlington Adult Education program. He also taught masonry in the evening classes at Florence-Darlington Technical College for many years.

Mr. Johnson is a member of the St. James United Methodist Church where he has served in many capacities. His community involvement stretches from his church to the commu-

nity's schools to the NAACP and other civic organizations. He has been a member of the Pee Dee United Elk Lodge #1679 for over 50 years, and he has been a member of American Legion Post #210 for 46 of those years. Mr. Johnson is also a dedicated member of the Friendship Masonry Lodge #17, a 32nd degree Mason member of the Pee Dee Consistory #197, and a noble of the Mystic Shrine Crescent Temple #148.

Throughout his career of community service, Mr. Johnson has received numerous awards. In 1993 he was named Man of the Year by his church, and he was recognized for working with the City-In-Schools Program as a mentor at Darlington Junior High. Mr. Johnson is also an accomplished musician who has played the drums with several area bands.

Mr. Johnson is married to the former Hilda Grayson from Beaufort, South Carolina, and they have two children and two grandsons.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me and my fellow South Carolinians from the Darlington area as we pay tribute to Earl A. Johnson for over 50 years of dedicated community service. He is an excellent role model and a devoted public servant.

A TRIBUTE TO SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
STUDENTS ABOARD PAN
AM FLIGHT 103

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, this December it will be ten years since the downing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland. Thirty-five Syracuse University students, returning from a study abroad semester, were killed in that bombing. This event had a profound effect on the Syracuse community and time is still healing the wounds left by this terrible tragedy.

Jonathan Matthew Taylor, the current Student Government Association Parliamentarian, has asked for the words of a predecessor, John M. Mandycyk, to be placed in the RECORD. The words of Mr. Mandycyk were delivered January 18, 1989 at a tribute to the thirty-five Syracuse University students killed in the Pan Am Flight #103 bombing.

Along with Mr. Matthews, I believe it is appropriate to pay tribute again. I submit Mr. Mandycyk's speech to be placed in the record and invite my colleagues to join with me in remembering those students who lost their lives in this terrorist attack.

A TRIBUTE—SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FLIGHT 103
MEMORIAL SERVICE CARRIER DOME, JANUARY 18, 1989

(By John M. Mandycyk)

We have come together today to pay tribute to our lost colleagues, friends, and loved ones. Meager words that I may think or say cannot eliminate pain or wipe away tears; they may unite us in one thought. May these words begin to ease the sorrow that has been felt from coast to coast, and ocean to ocean.

We may not have personally known one or more of the students called from this life, but we all share a common bond to our alma mater and loved each of the students in our own very special and personal way. I knew one student well. His name was Frederick Phillips—or "Sandy"—as friends called him. Sandy wrote to me from London several