

victory will be sure—and not too costly, you may come to the moment when you will have to fight—with all the odds against you—and only a precarious chance of survival. There may be even a worst case. You may have to fight—when there is no hope of victory, because it is better to perish than to live as slaves.”

CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN: INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIEN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 9, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the peaceful and democratic transition of executive power in the Republic of China on Taiwan. On May 20, 2000, the presidential inauguration of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) leader Chen Shui-Bien marked the culmination of decades of political, social, and economic reform. Chen's ascent to power—the first President not a member of the long dominant Kuomintang (KMT) party—is only the latest illustration of the democratic culture that characterizes Taiwan in the twenty-first century.

Today, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan reflects the principles envisioned by Dr. Sun Yat-sen when he led the successful movement to overthrow the Chinese emperor and the undemocratic imperial system nearly ninety years ago. While the times after Dr. Sun's victory initially were tumultuous—civil wars, World War II, the establishment of the People's Republic of China, and the establishment of the Republic of China on Taiwan—they strengthened the Taiwanese people and forced them to overcome obstacles that stood in the way of their freedom and prosperity. By the 1970's, Taiwan had become a thriving marketplace of industry, ideas, and culture. It exported products to all corners of the globe and won the respect of the largest and most vibrant free market economies.

In recent years, economic justice has been mirrored by the flourishing of social justice, human rights, and democracy. During the 1980's Taiwan's leaders lifted restrictions on freedom of expression and freedom of the press. As these constraints were eased, the openness of political debate grew exponentially. Competitive local and regional elections were first held in 1980, followed by the development of opposition parties and Taiwan's first competitive presidential election in 1996. The victor of that campaign, President Lee Teng-hui, received a mandate to continue his principled efforts to liberalize Taiwanese society.

Mr. Speaker, these progressive reforms seem likely to thrive under the leadership of President Chen Shui-Bien. The son of a farm laborer, he excelled in his studies and became a prominent defense attorney. During the early 1980's, Chen began providing legal assistance to opposition leaders, and this eventually led him to enter politics in a more active capacity. This was not a simple calling during the pre-reform years. Chen, the editor of a dissident magazine, Formosa, served time in jail on a trumped up libel charge brought by a government politician. He persisted, however, and he eventually served as a DPP member in the

Legislative Yuan and later as the mayor of the capital city of Taipei. His success in the latter role prompted Time Magazine to name him as one of the 100 most promising young leaders of the 21st century.

President Chen's inaugural address offered more evidence of his commitment to freedom and political openness. He proclaimed his devotion to human rights with a passion that demands respect: “We are also willing to promise a more active contribution in safeguarding international human rights. The Republic of China cannot and will not remain outside global human rights trends. We will abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Convention for Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. We will bring the Republic of China back into the international human rights system. . . . We hope to set up an independent national human rights commission in Taiwan, thereby realizing an action long advocated by the United Nations. We will also invite two outstanding non-governmental organizations, the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, to assist us in our measures to protect human rights and make the Republic of China into a new indicator for human rights in the 21st Century.”

Mr. Speaker, as the founder and co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I applaud President Chen's determination to stand up for justice and civil liberties.

I am also confident, Mr. Speaker, that Taiwan under the leadership of President Chen Shui-Bien will continue to work for peace with the Mainland in the years to come. Chen has pledged to continue negotiations with China and increase economic and social cooperation across the Taiwan Straits. He realizes that understanding—not violence and conflict—offers the promise of ending the tension between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China. As Chen explained to an Asian Wall Street Journal reporter last April, “Pursuing lasting peace in the region is not only our highest goal, it is also the moral responsibility of the leadership.”

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in offering wholehearted congratulations to President Chen and Vice President Annette Lu on their inaugurations, and in commending the people of Taiwan for their commitment to peace, democracy, and human rights.

FAREWELL TO PAGES

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 9, 2000*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to all of the pages who have served so diligently in the House of Representatives during the 106th Congress.

We all recognize the important role that congressional pages play in helping the House of Representatives operate. This group of young people, who come from all across our Nation, represent what is good about our country. To become a page, these young people have proven themselves to be academically qualified. They have ventured away from the security of their homes and families to spend time in an unfamiliar city. Through this experience,

they have witnessed a new culture, made new friends, and learned the details of how our Government operates.

As we all know, the job of a congressional page is not an easy one. Along with being away from home, the pages must possess the maturity to balance competing demands for their time and energy. In addition, they must have the dedication to work long hours and the ability to interact with people at a personal level. At the same time, they face challenging academic schedule of classes in the House Page School. I am sure they will consider their time spent in Washington, D.C. to be one of the most valuable and exciting experiences of their lives, and that with this experience they will all move ahead to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, as the Democratic Member on the House Page Board, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this group of distinguished young Americans. They certainly will be missed:

2000 SPRING SEMESTER PAGES ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL ADDRESS

Max Abbott, 464 Heritage Drive, Lewisville, NC 27023, (336) 945-4645.

Dominic Adams, 3905 Maryland, Gary, IN 46408, (219) 884-2095.

Sarah Baca, 103 Colonial Avenue, Evans-ton, WY 82930, (307) 789-7256, sarahbee@hotmail.

Tom Bazan, 241 Elemeda, Holland, MI 49424, (616) 397-7061, zeut@macatawa.org.

Christopher Bower, 44 Bcardslee Hill Drive, Ogdensburg, NJ 07439, (973) 827-9125, bower55@hotmail.com.

Brown, Geoff, 419 Grove Street, Elmira, NY 14905, (607) 732-9037, octavician@yahoo.com.

Lorena Brunder, 2024 Coast Guard Drive, Stafford, VA 22554, (540) 720-5705.

Michael Buck, 120 Charles I. Boyle Rd., Queen Anne, MD 21657, (410) 758-3426, miked81482@aol.com.

Eric Cercone, 59 Penwood Drive, Cheektowaga, NY 14227, (716) 656-0465, ericcercone@hotmail.com.

Adam Cheatham, 9304 Hallston Court, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, (703) 690-9753, AQC1983@aol.com.

Christopher Clark, R.R. #1, Box 137, Kirkwood, IL 61447, (309) 627-2108, clarky2001@aol.com.

David Cook, 31390 Sunnyside Road, California, MO 65018, (573) 796-4555, biadave70@yahoo.com.

Andrew D'Anna, 1800 Woodspoint Cove, Jonesboro, AR 72401, (870) 935-4449, apd82@hotmail.com.

Ashley Daugherty, P.O. Box 806, Coloma, MI 49038, (616) 468-9618, sunflower436@hotmail.com.

Katherine B. Fortune, 4649 North Wilson Avenue, Fresno, CA 93704, (559) 227-4924.

Ashley Foster, 303 Iroquois, Waxachie, TX 75165, (976) 938-8154, ASHG101@aol.com.

Kara Frank, 53 Seneca Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522, (914) 693-6332.

Amy Gaddis, 1895 Montana Way, Green River, WY 82935, (307) 875-6046.

Adam Gellman, 1810 Nobel Drive, Golden Valley, MN 55422, (612) 522-7827, Adam782@aol.com.

Dana Hall, 11442 Vale Spring Drive, Oakton, VA 22104, (703) 620-4085, danamarie24@hotmail.com.

Kristopher Hart, 1210 Malinda Road, Oreland, PA 19075, (215) 886-6832, KDhart2020@aol.com.

Laura Heaton, 1162 SE Main Street, Roseburg, OR 97470, (541) 673-3720, ladybuglaurah@hotmail.com.

Androni Henry, 148 Boltwood Drive NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505, (616) 365-1855, major\_henry@hotmail.com.