

union fees would make the annual reports more broadly representative of the broader consumer marketplace. It would also document differences in costs between banks, thrifts and credit unions that will enhance competition and benefit consumers.

My legislation also expands the focus of the annual fee studies to include various fees and charges associated with credit cards. Past fee reports have included data only on basic checking and savings account services and only those additional fees specifically requested by statute, such as fees associated with ATM transactions. Institutions that offer credit cards now impose a large and growing array of charges and penalties, such as late payment fees, annual fees, over-the-limit fees, cash advance fees, convenience check fees, foreign currency conversion fees, and many more. I have received more complaints from my constituents about credit card fees than all other banking fees combined. Credit cards, in general, are one of the foremost concerns among consumers in my district and, I believe, among consumers in all parts of the country. The fees and penalties charged in connection with credit cards clearly should be incorporated in any future study of retail banking costs.

Mr. Speaker, the financial marketplace has changed dramatically over the past half decade and will continue to change in response to the landmark financial modernization legislation we enacted last year. It is imperative that Congress have all the information necessary to assess whether these changes will enhance the services available to consumers or only benefits financial institutions at the expense of consumers. My legislation merely extends Congress' prior request for annual reporting on banking fees and costs. This is reasonable and responsible legislation that Congress should enact before adjournment this year.

HONG KONG TRANSITION TASK FORCE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, following his visit to Hong Kong in April 1997, Speaker Gingrich tasked this Member with the responsibility of creating the Speaker's Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition and of observing and reporting on Hong Kong's status following its return to the People's Republic of China. The Task Force is bipartisan in nature and all members of it have been drawn from the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, of which this Member is the Chairman.

On behalf of the Task Force, this Member would like to inform his colleagues that the eighth report of the Speaker's Task Force on the Hong Kong Transition has been filed. In summary, the Task Force continues to believe that the transition has progressed satisfactorily, although concerns remain in areas such as press self-censorship and controls, export controls and most notably, rule of law. The recent controversial remarks by Chinese officials warning against press coverage of issues regarding Taiwan and of business support for Taiwan independence have been a concern, as has the issue of judicial independence and

the rule of law as a result of the "right of abode" case. These issues will need to be watched closely.

Hong Kong's political system continues to evolve, although progress towards further democratization has not been as rapid as many would like. The Hong Kong press remains free and continues to comment critically on the People's Republic of China (PRC), although threatening remarks by PRC officials in reference to press coverage related to Taiwan is worrisome. Public demonstrations continue to be held. Indeed, there is a vigorous public debate on the issues of democracy and law. The legislature and free press have used their roles to increase government accountability and transparency.

Mr. Speaker, a copy of the Task Force's eighth report is available on the internet website of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific: www.house.gov/international_relations/ap/ap.htm. It is also available in hard-copy from the Subcommittee office.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, as President Chen Shui-bian, Vice President Annette Lu and the people of the Republic of China prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10, 2000, I wish to extend to them my congratulations.

The Republic of China on Taiwan has a lot to be proud of. Taiwan's economy is very strong. For instance, export orders reached US \$74 billion from January to June, up 21 percent from the same period last year. In June of this year, exports and imports enjoyed almost 25 percent growth from the year-earlier period. It is the government's policy to continue to develop Taiwan's new economy based on information and high technologies. Furthermore, Taiwan's citizens enjoy one of the highest living standards in the world. Politically, Taiwan is a true democracy with free island-wide elections, press independence and political pluralism.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is a model of success for many countries in the world, and we need to give Taiwan our approbation and support.

ADDRESSING ALCOHOL AND THE COLLEGE CAMPUS

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a serious problem facing our society today—the misuse of beverage alcohol on our nation's college and university campuses. This problem negatively impacts students, universities and industry as well as our communities. Therefore, it is essential that these entities work together to solve this national problem. Mr. Speaker I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to the cre-

ative solutions being pursued by community-based partnerships across America.

On October 23rd to 25th in Washington, D.C., a number of colleges and universities, along with the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, will convene a national conference to discuss best practices, create new partnerships and share information on solutions to this complex problem. During this weekend, students, retailers, community leaders, manufacturers, university administrators, law enforcement officials and parents will come together in partnership to discuss solutions to this challenge.

I commend these institutions of higher education and the distilled spirits industry for their leadership on this issue. As is the case with many societal problems, solutions are most effective when everyone works together.

Mr. Speaker, I know I speak for many of my colleagues in saying we eagerly await the action-oriented plans this conference will produce. I wish all the participants, supporters and planning partners the best as they work together toward a common goal.

92ND DIVISION REUNION

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 28, 2000

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to a reunion that will take place in my congressional district on October 6th through 8th. The U.S. Army's 92nd Infantry Division, the "Buffalo Division," will be holding a reunion at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Pittsburgh.

The 92nd Infantry Division was an Army division composed of African American soldiers which saw action in both World War I and World War II. The 92nd Infantry Division served in the Meuse-Argonne region and Lorraine in World War I, and it participated in the hard fighting up the Italian peninsula during World War II. The Division saw action in World War II in the North Apennines and the Po Valley. It participated in the crossing of the Arno River, the occupation of Lucca, and the penetration of the Gothic Line, as well as an advance north along the Ligurian coast. The 92nd Division's actions demonstrated the bravery and dedication of African Americans to their country.

Until this year, the 92nd Infantry Division's annual reunions had always been held in Washington, D.C., but thanks to the initiative of the Reverend James Tillman, a veteran of the 92nd Infantry Division, the unit's 58th reunion will be held in Pittsburgh. Reverend Tillman and retired Army Lieutenant Colonel Patricia Tucker are co-chairing this reunion. The decision to hold this reunion in Pittsburgh reflects the fact that Alleghany County is home to roughly 100 of these "Buffalo Soldiers," but it also provides an excellent opportunity for raising the awareness of the region's residents about the combat service of patriotic African Americans in the U.S. Army at a time when it was operating under the shadow of racism, segregation, and discrimination. Mr. Speaker, I am proud that the veterans of the 92nd Infantry Division have chosen Pittsburgh for their annual reunion. I want to thank them for their heroic service to their country, and I want to