

also represented the island of Guam in national and international conferences. In 1985, he was the Guam representative to the United Nations Conference in Bangkok for the 3rd Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Welfare and Social Development. In 1986, he represented Guam in the American Society on Aging's 36th Anniversary Meeting in San Francisco and the Pacific Gerontological Society's Conference on Aging in Hawaii.

After years of distinguished and dedicated service, Mayor Cruz has chosen to step down and retire. His achievements and service to the community have resulted in great benefit to the island of Guam, more particularly, the people of Merizo. He is a role model, a leader and a great representative of his island home. I join his wife, Maria, their children, and their grandchildren in celebrating his accomplishments throughout his long and successful career. On behalf of the people of Guam, I commend his achievements and congratulate him on his well-earned retirement. Si Yu'os Ma'ase, Mayor Cruz.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ON ITS NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our colleagues in the United States Congress and our great Nation, I want to take this opportunity today to extend President Chen Shui-bian, Vice President Annette Lu, and the good people of Taiwan our deepest congratulations on their National Day of celebration.

Mr. Speaker, President Chen and Vice President Lu are to be commended for their capable and skilled leadership of Taiwan, which is reflected by Taiwan's continuing stability, robustly democratic government, and prosperous economy—all of which are the envy of the Asia-Pacific nations at the dawn of the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, President Chen and Vice President Lu are to be further commended for their efforts seeking greater international recognition of and substantive relations with the Taiwanese Government, including an increasing role and participation with the World Trade Organization and the United Nations. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is too important an economic force and democratic ally to be relegated to the political backwaters of global isolation.

I am further encouraged, Mr. Speaker, with President Chen's statesmanship and vision, as exemplified by his critical work in pursuing positive relations with the People's Republic of China. In recognition of that vital goal, President Chen has sought to engage on all levels the leaders of the People's Republic of China. Support of the Cross-Strait Dialogue with the PRC is crucial for resolving misunderstandings between Beijing and Taipei and Washington, which, Mr. Speaker, is the foundation for peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and, indeed, for all of Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the United States and the good people of Taiwan share

a deep, close and enduring friendship that has extended for over five decades. At this auspicious time of celebration for Taiwan's National Day, I join my colleagues in the United States Congress to salute and honor the 23 million citizens of Taiwan who have created and sustained one of the most vibrant, thriving and prosperous democracies in the Asia-Pacific region. Mr. Speaker, I join with all Americans who take pride in the tremendous accomplishments of our very close and dear friends in Taiwan.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the enormous strides that Taiwan has made in becoming a full democracy. Mr. Chen Shui-bian was recently elected president through free and fair elections. With Mr. Chen's election, Taiwan continues to refine its democracy by improving safeguards for human rights and contributing to the international community.

Unfortunately, Taiwan's efforts to participate in international organizations have often been thwarted for political reasons beyond Taiwan's control. It is unreasonable for the people of Taiwan to be excluded from full participation in international institutions due to threats from mainland China. Denying Taiwan membership in the United Nations and other international organizations, such as the World Health Organization, obstructs access to important international resources.

The people of Taiwan have proven that freedom and democracy are not just American ideals; they are universal principles that apply to every individual, to every community and every nation.

TAIWAN CELEBRATES THE 89TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 89th anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China on October 10, 1911, under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. This is the day which the people of Taiwan celebrate as their national holiday. Mr. Speaker, I extend my sincerest congratulations and best wishes to the people of Taiwan on this special occasion.

Mr. Speaker, this is a unique celebration of this anniversary, and one that reflects the great progress which the people of Taiwan have made in institutionalizing democratic principles and democratic practices. I want to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian, the recently elected President of Taiwan. Today is especially significant because it marks the first national day under a President elected from the Democratic Progressive Party. Taiwan has done something that very few nations have been able to do successfully—complete the

peaceful transition of power based on a free and democratic election.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this transition did not come at an economic cost—quite the contrary, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse. In just the first six months of this year, Taiwan's exports exceeded \$74 billion, an increase of 21 percent. I hope other countries facing political issues will look at Taiwan's success in both business and politics as a sign that democracy does work, that democracy does not have to come at an unacceptable economic price.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the new Representative from the Republic of China on Taiwan, Ambassador C.J. Chen. While Ambassador Chen is no stranger to Washington, this is the first time he has come here as the head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations Committee, I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with Ambassador Chen in building an ever-stronger relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special holiday for the people of Taiwan, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in extending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the 22 million inhabitants of this remarkable island.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KENNETH L. AKINS, M.D. FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the State of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on August 31, 2000, Dr. Kenneth L. Akins retired as Coroner of Ottawa County, Ohio, after nearly two decades of distinguished service.

Early in life, First Lieutenant Ken Akins wore his country's uniform during the Korean conflict. Since that time, he has dedicated his life to serving the people in his community as a family physician. Dr. Akins has combined his sound medical skills with his compassionate, personal approach to the practice of medicine for thirty-four years. His medical career alone distinguishes him as a most valued citizen, but Dr. Akins has contributed so much more.

In addition to his service as Ottawa County Coroner, Dr. Akins has been active on the medical staff at H.B. Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton throughout his medical career. He has served as Magruder's Chief of Medical Staff and on the Infection Control Committee. He acted as a consulting physician in the early days of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station operation in the Port Clinton area. He has provided many dedicated hours as a member of the Ottawa County Board of Health.

Dr. Akins' philanthropic activity includes participation with Volunteers in Missions, an organization that provides free medical care to persons in third world countries. He is active in his church, serving on the administrative board of the Faith United Methodist Church. Out of