

Taiwan considers its relations with the United States a matter of utmost importance. We are delighted that Taiwan is ably represented by Ambassador C.J. Chen in Washington. Ambassador Chen was Republic of China's former Foreign Minister and served in Taiwan's Washington office as Deputy Representative in the 80's. He knows Washington well and we are very pleased that he has briefed us from time to time and we are impressed with his energy and enthusiasm as he strengthens the ever growing bonds between Taiwan and the United States.

Even though Taiwan is isolated diplomatically, Taiwan has a strong foreign policy team, headed by President Chen Shui-bian whose policies are ably executed by his foreign minister, Dr. Hung-mao Tien, and his Washington representative, Cambridge-educated C.J. Chen.

It is our hope that the new administration and Congress will always remember our traditional friendship with Taiwan and its people. Let's not sacrifice Taiwan's interests as we seek better relations with the People's Republic of China in the months ahead. Taiwan and the United States have always stood together shoulder to shoulder and will always remain strong partners in maintaining peace and stability.

VIGILANCE IS NEEDED TO PROTECT AGAINST MAD COW DISEASE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the January 23, 2001, Lincoln Journal Star. The editorial emphasizes the need to maintain strict standards and take aggressive actions in the United States so that our country does not have to confront the serious effects associated with mad cow disease.

[From the Lincoln Journal Star, Jan. 23, 2001]

GET TOUGHER ON MAD COW DISEASE RULES

Much has been done in the United States to protect against bovine spongiform encephalopathy, or mad cow disease.

But not enough.

More needs to be done. One major need is for a strict prohibition against production of animal feed made from the parts of dead animals.

More than 80 people in Britain have already died from mad cow disease. The degenerative brain disease has been detected in one European country after another. France, Germany and Spain have all reported mad cow disease. Earlier this month Italy was added to the list.

Needless to say, the effects have been drastic. More than 2 million British cattle were killed in order to stop the spread of the disease. In Germany beef sales have dropped by more than 40 percent. The European Commission estimates that beef consumption among its members dropped by 27 percent between October and December, before the revelation the disease had been detected in Italy.

The costs of coping with the new disease are immense. The European Union has set aside almost \$1 billion to help its member nations establish new measures to prevent the disease from spreading.

Experts believe that bovine spongiform encephalopathy is caused by a twisted protein. The disease destroys brain cells, eventually leaving the brain riddled with spongy holes.

The disease is spread when cattle consume feed that includes protein rendered from slaughtered cattle. Since 1997 it has been illegal under Food and Drug Administration regulations to feed mammal proteins to cattle.

It is still legal, however, to feed mammal proteins to pigs and poultry. The FDA announced earlier this month that some feed producers frequently fail to use proper warning labels and that some producers have no system to avoid commingling protein from rendered cattle with other products. In other words, the system is flawed.

A total ban against using rendered cattle for animal feed admittedly would hurt the rendering industry and perhaps contribute to a rise in the price of feed.

But those negative effects should be measured against the need to protect consumers from the human variant to mad cow disease and the economic devastation that would quickly follow discovery of the disease in the United States.

In Nebraska, the cattle industry contributes more than \$4 billion a year to the state's economy.

With mad cow disease continuing to spread in Europe, aggressive measures should be used to keep the disease outside U.S. borders. Legislative has been introduced in North Dakota to prohibit production and use of feed containing animal parts. Nebraska should consider the same approach. Even better would be a ban that is nationwide.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. PAUL FARMER FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an individual who has served his country during a time of war and within the Department of Veterans Affairs during a time of peace. After entering the military at the age of 17, Mr. Paul G. Farmer of Spray, North Carolina served the majority of his military career in Europe before serving in Viet Nam in 1967 and 1968. He retired after 21 years of service to be with his wife shortly after she was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Yet, Mr. Farmer did not let his retirement from the military end his service to his country.

Paul Farmer began a long and successful career with the Department of Veterans' Affairs on December 5, 1989, but it was not until 1995 that Paul arrived in my district of El Paso, Texas with a new and inventive assignment. Paul was to implement a joint initiative between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans' Affairs that was designed to evaluate medical disabilities for active duty personnel prior to their discharge or retirement from service, a program that became very successful. Anyone who had the pleasure to work with Paul knew that he maintained an open door policy in his office to all area veterans. Paul initiated several community outreach programs and worked to achieve compensation and medical benefits for numer-

ous veterans in the El Paso and Southern New Mexico area.

Mr. Speaker, Paul Farmer has dedicated his career to the safety and security of his country and has further dedicated his professional life to ensure that United States Armed Service veterans are given the utmost respect and service a grateful nation should, by honor, bestow upon them. I ask that we recognize this individual, thank him for his years of dedicated service, and wish him Godspeed in his retirement.

IN TRIBUTE TO UNDERSECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE, CAROL DiBATTISTE

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of this body the fact, in January, a distinguished leader of the Air Force left office to begin a new chapter in her life. Carol DiBattiste, Under Secretary of the Air Force, has recently resigned from her position, and I want to join her many friends and colleagues in commending her for a job well done.

During her tenure, Under Secretary DiBattiste served with honor and distinction, providing exceptional leadership to reinforce a promising future for the Department of Defense, the Air Force, and for American aerospace power. Coupled with her unprecedented energy, commitment, and enthusiasm, Under Secretary DiBattiste's initiatives became catalysts for success, and helped lead the Air Force through a critical period of modernization and consolidation. She was the Air Force's key leader in the fight to solve and reverse Air Force retention shortages and recruiting shortfalls. Her successes in these endeavors are both impressive and lasting.

Most notably, Under Secretary DiBattiste did a remarkable job on behalf of Air Force members and their families. Her leadership of a special Department of Defense task force to formulate anti-harassment policy resulted in outstanding guidance on this emotionally charged subject. This emphasis on equal opportunity and her tireless pursuit of higher standards for Air Force quality of life are examples of the many ways she found to invigorate morale and retention during a period of critical shortfalls, personnel reductions, and increased operations tempo. Her visionary and aggressive campaign against recruiting shortfalls, including creation of the Air Force Recruiting and Retention Task Force, the Air Force Marketing and Advertising Office, and the Strategic Communications Outreach Program, made all the difference for the Air Force in their ability to make recruiting goals and erase shortfalls. Under Secretary DiBattiste led by example, delivering almost 100 speeches in a 12 month period, and traveling to over 85 bases and locations throughout the world during her tenure.

I join my colleagues on behalf of a grateful nation in thanking Carol DiBattiste. The increased opportunities and improvements she affected across the Department of Defense and the Air Force have poised both for a brilliant future.