

In 1943, Bette risked her job to help her fellow workers achieve a better workplace by encouraging them to join the local UAW. She demanded equal rights and equal protection for the workers which led to their first union contract in 1944.

Bette Murphy carried the torch for female workers of her time. She became the first woman to make \$1 an hour, to be elected "Leadman in Shop," to be an assistant Foreman in the Shop, to oversee "War Boards," and to be the first female manufacturing engineer. Bette Murphy worked at Douglas Aircraft Company, which later became McDonnell-Douglas, until she retired in 1979 due to a disability.

Needless to say, Bette Murphy fought her disability and served on numerous boards and committees and traveled as a union delegate to many conventions and events. She also served on the bargaining committee where she was elected as an officer six times. She worked hard at helping aircraft workers get the best contracts.

In 1988 Bette Murphy became the President of the UAW Local 148 Retiree Chapter. And for the last 13 years she served the members of the Chapter with all the dedication and steady leadership that helped her accomplish so much for so many people during her long career as a union activist and community leader.

So best wishes to Bette Murphy, in appreciation of her bravery and contribution to the war effort, for her leadership on behalf of so many working people, and for her dedication as President of the UAW Local 148 Retiree Chapter. She truly made a difference in our community and for those who had the privilege to work alongside her.

LETTER TO PRESIDENT BUSH CONCERNING U.S.-TAIWAN RELATIONS

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit this letter for the RECORD.

MARCH 22, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President, the United States of America, the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: It is my understanding that you are meeting with Chinese Vice Premier Qian Qichen and other top Chinese officials at the White House today. I would respectfully suggest that during these meetings, it is imperative that you send a clear message to the government of China that the United States will continue to strengthen our nation's longstanding relationship and commitment to the safety and well-being of the people and government of Taiwan.

As you know, deeply strained relations between China and Taiwan greatly threaten stability and U.S. interests in East Asia. The United States should support the continuation of cross-strait dialogue with the government of China which I believe will help reduce tensions in the region. I was heartened by the bold decision of Taiwan Presi-

dent Chen Shui-bian to open shipping, transportation, and communication links between two offshore islands, Quemoy and Matsu and mainland China. The Chinese government has signaled that it will support this decision by Taiwan. This confidence building measure is important to a successful cross-strait dialogue, because it signals that the Chinese government, albeit reluctantly, is willing to compromise.

Unfortunately other recent statements released by the Chinese government are contrary to the message of peaceful dialogue and potential cooperation in the Taiwan Strait. For example, a white paper issued by China on October 16, 2000, titled "China's National Defense 2000," stated that "if Taiwan continues to

Taiwan should not be bullied into accepting China's "one country, two systems" formulation. As you are aware, the 1979 U.S. Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) reads: "It is the policy of the United States to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means of grave concern to the United States." As you discuss cross strait relations with Vice Premier Qian Qichen, I urge you to reject any formulation that presupposes the final results of any negotiations between Taipei and Beijing and is not in accordance with the will of the Taiwanese people.

As you know, the United States has a long history of providing Taiwan with weapons and equipment to enhance its defensive capabilities. In a 1997 trip to Taiwan, according to news reports, you expressed a commitment to the U.S. sale of defensive arms to Taiwan. I hope you keep that commitment and urge you to bolster Taiwan's self-defense capabilities which have not kept up quantitatively or qualitatively with the growing military might of China. Taiwan urgently needs defensive equipment to counterbalance the threat of hundred of missiles deployed along the coast of China across the Taiwan Strait.

The significant gap between China and Taiwan was acknowledged in a recent report to Congress by the U.S. Pacific Command, Department of Defense, which states "The United States takes its obligation to assist Taiwan in maintaining a self-defense capability very seriously . . . not only because it is mandated by U.S. law in the Taiwan Relations Act but also because it is in our own national interest. As long as Taiwan has a capable defense, the environment will be more conducive to peaceful dialogue, and thus the whole region will be more stable."

In the context of strengthening relations with Taiwan, I believe that the new Administration should advocate Taiwan's inclusion in international organizations, including the World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund. It is unconscionable that twenty-three million people living in Taiwan do not have access to the medical resources of the WHO. At a minimum, Taiwan should be allowed to participate in the activities of the WHO as an observer.

Mr. President, during your campaign you spoke positively about our nation's strong relationship and commitment to Taiwan. It would be a mistake for the United States to engage China at the expense of our relationship with Taiwan. I believe that this important bi-lateral relationship should be strengthened as it has been over the past several decades with a common commitment to the ideals of freedom and democracy that we as Americans hold sacrosanct.

I look forward to working with you to promote U.S. interests in Asia by further

strengthening our relationship with a free, democratic, and prosperous Taiwan.

ROBERT WEXLER.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, due to an event I was hosting with Leader GEPHARDT, yesterday I missed roll call vote #53. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA.

THE INAUGURAL TOUR OF THE SCHOONER SULTANA—1768 SCHOOLSHIP OF THE CHESAPEAKE

HON. WAYNE T. GILCHREST

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the people of Chestertown, Maryland, who will celebrate the launch of the Schooner Sultana on its inaugural tour on Saturday, March 24, 2001.

Built by the people of Chestertown, Maryland, with thousands of volunteer hours, the Schooner Sultana is a reproduction of an 18th Century sailing ship used by the British to enforce the tea taxes against American colonists. The new Sultana's mission is to celebrate and preserve the character and environment of the Chesapeake Bay through education, instilling an appreciation for our history and culture and the irreplaceable natural ecology of the Bay and its watershed.

With its home in the smallest county in the State, with the smallest population, Kent County continues to preserve the colonial legacy of Maryland—and the Schooner Sultana represents its proud heritage. Generations of students, as they sail on the decks of the Sultana, will learn to become good stewards of the Bay and treasure the resources with which we have all been blessed.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate all the people of Chestertown, Maryland, and those across our state who helped make the Sultana a reality and wish them Godspeed on this momentous occasion.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SURFACE CREEK REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2001

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor a group of women who, for 50 years have been supporting the conservative concept of government, while educating their members on the importance of being an informed voter.