

This new equipment is more than simply state-of-the-art. It is state-of-the-future. The new melt shop will be tightly closed, and enable the plant to capture 100 percent of all air emissions. Advanced technologies will minimize the release of carbon monoxide and eliminate dust. All water-cooled furnace parts will have temperature sensors and flow meters to detect leaks.

In other words, Mr. Speaker, this is not an expansion for its own sake. It is an expansion for the sake of safety, the environment and the team of dedicated employees who work at Nucor-Jewett. I also want to point out that a centerpiece of this modernization is a new 90-ton electric arc furnace, or EAF. This too, stands as testimony of Nucor's commitment to performing in the most responsible possible manner.

The EAF process is one of the most efficient, effective technologies in manufacturing today. It is less expensive and capital intensive than traditional steel making, which has helped Nucor become one of the lowest-cost producers in the world. But just as important, it requires fewer raw materials and less energy.

The facts are staggering. For every ton of steel produced, the EAF process saves 2,500 pounds of iron ore, 1,400 pounds of coal, and 120 pounds of limestone. Annually, it saves enough energy to electrically power the city of Los Angeles for eight years. On top of that, it also reduces air and water emissions, and greenhouse gases that are associated with conventional steelmaking.

This kind of environmental responsibility is nothing new to Nucor. The company, which operates 30 facilities in 14 states—including four in Texas—is the largest producer of recycled steel in the world. It takes scrap metal that would otherwise be clogging landfills or tossed in fields or along roadsides and turns it into something of value that can be used in automobiles, farm machinery, metal buildings, furniture and recreational equipment.

But this modernization takes that commitment to a whole new level. As I said at the outset of my remarks, it demonstrates that economic growth and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, profit and prosperity can and should co-exist with efforts to preserve our natural resources.

In Texas, we have the good sense to understand this. Nucor's ability to undertake such a significant modernization program was in part due to voter approval of a constitutional amendment in 1993 that provides tax exemptions on property used for pollution control. The amendment enabled companies to invest in environmental technologies without fear of seeing their property taxes increase. So we were able to protect the environment, strengthen our business climate and hold the line on taxes.

The success of Nucor-Jewett shows quite clearly that the wisdom Texans exhibited in 1993 continues to pay off today. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Nucor Steel Bar Mill Group, its employees and management for helping to make Texas a land of greater environmental and economic opportunity.

## TAIWANESE REFERENDUM

### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker Taiwan and the United States have a long and fruitful relationship. Taiwan's democracy is modeled after ours and its economic prosperity depends much on the mutual trade between Taiwan and the United States. Taiwan's leaders were mostly educated in the United States and Taiwan has nearly 30,000 students studying in America colleges and their tourists' number one overseas destination is the United States.

So despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, Taiwan is a close ally of our government. It has supported our global war against terrorism and has pledged humanitarian assistance to postwar Iraq.

On the other hand, we have the Taiwan Relations Act, a law of the land which is designed to provide Taiwan with adequate weapons to protect itself against invasion from China. The U.S. policy on Taiwan-China relations is to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

Taiwan's planned March 20 referendum, contrary to what Chinese leaders have said about it, is designed to maintain the status quo in the Taiwan Strait. It is not to provoke Chinese leaders. It merely asks Taiwan voters whether their government should buy more anti-missile weapons if China refuses to withdraw its 496 missiles targeted at Taiwan and whether their government should open up talks with China about other issues.

I feel the 23 million people of Taiwan have a right to hold such a referendum. We mustn't allow China to intimidate Taiwan with talks of overtaking Taiwan by force and other verbal threats.

## RECOGNIZING MR. ROBERT E. WEST UPON RETIREMENT FROM YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE NEPTUNE TOWNSHIP HOUSING AUTHORITY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Robert E. West, who has recently retired from the position of Executive Director to the Neptune Township Authority.

Robert E. West was born in New York, and moved to Neptune, NJ at an early age. After graduating as valedictorian of his high school class, and finishing his education at Monmouth Junior College, he began work as an insurance agent in New York, eventually moving to the prestigious North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company. In addition to selling insurance, Mr. West worked with Haso Maintenance Inc., working to dispatch taxis to the city's Bronx borough.

After 15 years working in the private sector, Mr. West's heart wished to stay in the place that he had resided since childhood, and began what would be a storied career in the

Neptune Township Housing Authority. From humble beginnings as a rent collector, Robert West rose through the ranks of the Authority to the prestigious position of Executive Director.

Mr. West's distinguished period of public service included affiliations to the Neptune Lions Club, Jersey Shore Medical Center and stints as the President of the Neptune Board of Education, who's most notable contribution was to save the school marching band through personal endeavors and vigorous fundraising efforts.

Under Mr. West's tenure as Executive Director, the Neptune Housing Authority has experienced growth unlike anything that has ever seen. Director West implemented programs to improve the quality of life for tenants, improve the quality of the residences in which they resided, and helped to make the administrative offices of the NTHA handicap accessible. For his work, the United States Housing and Urban Development Association awarded Mr. West several outstanding achievement awards.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my dearest gratitude to Mr. West for his indelible service to the community in which he lived. A career such as his truly merits praise, and I too ask, that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Robert E. West for a storied career that has touched the lives of all those whom he had served.

## HONORING MURIEL JOHNSON

### HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 3, 2004*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor a woman with a long and impressive list of contributions to the County of Sacramento. To say that Muriel Johnson is an important and treasured member of our community would only begin to skim the surface of the extraordinary service that she has given our communities over her 41 years as a Sacramento resident. Muriel, who is currently in the last year of a successful 12-year stint as a Sacramento County Supervisor, has deservedly been acknowledged by the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the 2003 Sacramentan of the Year Award. As her friends, family, and colleagues gather to celebrate Muriel's illustrious career, I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting one of the Capital Region's most accomplished and widely respected leaders.

Muriel Johnson grew up in Nebraska and earned a bachelor of music degree from the University of Nebraska. Before beginning her formal career in public service, Muriel contributed to the betterment of her community by serving as a high school English and music teacher. In addition, Muriel also taught "Management by Objectives" during her teaching career.

Even before she was elected to the Sacramento Board of Supervisors, Muriel was an active and instrumental member of the local volunteer community. Muriel played a vital role in raising more than \$10 million dollars for a number of community service projects, the arts, and local charity. Muriel served as President of the Crocker Art Museum Board, the