

HONORING ABIGAIL POWERS
FILLMORE

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, today, March 30, 2004, marks the 151st anniversary of the death of First Lady Abigail Powers Fillmore, founder of the very first White House Library.

Abigail Powers was born on March 13, 1798, in Stillwater, NY, and received a good education and love for learning and libraries through the personal library of her father, Reverend Lemuel Powers (d. 1800). She became a school teacher at age sixteen and helped establish a small circulating library in Kelloggsville, New York about 1817 that greatly influenced the intellectual development of her future husband and President of the United States, Millard Fillmore.

Abigail Powers Fillmore found the White House destitute of books when she became First Lady in 1850 and encouraged and supported her husband's request for appropriations from Congress to establish a library in the Executive Mansion. She used the \$2,250 appropriated by the 31st Congress to select library books for the Executive Mansion and transform the Yellow Oval Room into the first official White House Library. Subsequently, the White House Library was the center of many cultural, social, and political activities during the Fillmore Presidency and has been a legacy enjoyed by subsequent presidential administrations for over 150 years.

We honor the life and work of Abigail Powers Fillmore. She serves as a reminder to us of the importance of continuing to advocate for libraries and for educational programs. In these times of economic difficulty and challenge, we continually are reminded of the key role libraries play in providing Americans with the opportunities they need to promote lifelong learning.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JULIUS
DIGREGORIO

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Julius DiGregorio, a lifelong resident of Trinidad, Colorado who passed away recently at the age of 89. Julius lived a full life as a patriot, devoted family man, and beloved member of his community. As his family mourns his loss, I believe it is appropriate to remember Julius and the many contributions he made to his community, State and country.

Julius embodied the spirit of America, and his story is a prime example of what makes America such a great country. He grew up in Trinidad, Colorado, where he played on the State Champion Trinidad High School Miners football team. Undeterred by the Great Depression in the 1930s, Julius attended Notre Dame College, earning a degree in mechanical engineering which he put to use as an engineer in South America. He served his coun-

try proudly in World War II, earning a bronze star while serving under General Patton during the liberation of Italy.

Once Julius returned to Trinidad, he staked his claim by building and managing an apartment building, as well as owning and operating the Columbian Hotel. In 1949, he married Frances Amato with whom he had three loving children. A man devoted to education and his community, Julius became the Director of the Head Start programs for Las Animas and Huerfano Counties in the 1970s, and a member of the Western Regional Head Start Director's Board.

Mr. Speaker, we are all terribly saddened by the loss of Julius DiGregorio, and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this Nation. My heart goes out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

RECOGNIZING MISS LAURIE LYNN
BARTON

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize an important member of my staff here in Washington, D.C.: Miss Laurie Lynn Barton. Laurie has received the distinction of being selected by the Georgia State Society as Georgia's 2004 Cherry Blossom Princess. I am proud to congratulate her on this prestigious honor.

Laurie is the daughter of Ed and Jan Barton of Statesboro, Georgia. She graduated in 2002 from the University of Georgia, and later that same year, she became a member of my staff in Washington, D.C. Her tenure with my office is marked by tirelessly serving my constituents with a hard work ethic and commitment to excellence. I often receive thank you letters from my constituents emphasizing Laurie's outstanding service, and for that I am grateful.

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. is a rite of Spring in our Nation's Capital. It is marked by the blooming of the picturesque Cherry Blossom trees that adorn the Tidal Basin of the Jefferson Memorial and surrounding areas on the Mall. The Festival is a wonderful family event that brings people of all ages, from around the world, to Washington, D.C.

I am proud that Miss Laurie Lynn Barton will be representing the great State of Georgia in this international event.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE TAIWAN RELATIONS
ACT

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

On April 10, 2004, the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA), which has provided the framework for a strong and mutually beneficial relationship

between the United States and the Republic of Taiwan (ROC), will commemorate 25 years since its enactment by Congress. The TRA has helped provide peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait making possible the extraordinary economic expansion and democratization that has taken place there.

In 1979, during the process of normalizing relations with Beijing, there was great apprehension in the Congress that American security and economic interests in Taiwan would not be protected. What evolved is the only law which oversees almost every facet of U.S. relations with a foreign entity in the absence of diplomatic relations.

The new law provided for the security of Taiwan, formed a legal framework to protect the close relationship between the United States and Taiwan, and established Congressional oversight of that relationship including requirements that the President inform and consult with Congress when confronted by anticipated danger to Taiwan.

Today the TRA has withstood the test of time. Taiwan has built one of the world's top economies with nearly \$52 billion in trade with the United States, making it our eighth largest trading partner.

The Taiwanese constitution guarantees its 23 million citizens freedom of assembly, expression and association, freedom of religion, and freedom of the press. In addition, Taiwan has established strong support for human rights, committing itself to the major international human rights conventions.

Taiwan has become an openly democratic society with free and fair elections held at all levels of government. Over 80 percent of voters participated in Taiwan's recent elections, demonstrating the vitality of Taiwan's democracy. President Chen Shui-bian who has already been certified as the winner by the central election commission has agreed to a recount and hopefully one will take place in the very near future.

But whatever the final result, the fact remains that Taiwan has provided a moving example of democracy in action and one can only hope that it will serve as an inspiration for the more than one billion Chinese living in the People's Republic of China who will one day have an opportunity to elect their own government in a comparably democratic fashion.

It also should serve as a powerful and poignant reminder of the extent to which Taiwan and the United States share a common commitment to the principle that governments should be elected by the people they serve as well as underscore the vitality of the TRA and the need for continued American support for this vibrant democracy.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE MASCOUTAH PUBLIC
LIBRARY AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF THE MASCOUTAH WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 30, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the Mascoutah Public Library and the contributions of the Mascoutah Women's Club at helping establish the library.