

Those who wish for the liberty of all people will forever owe a debt to Captain Das. This young man from the Texas Panhandle became a hero when he refused to be governed by fear and sacrificed his life for us and our safety.

Captain Eric Das has joined an unbroken line of patriots who dared to die so that freedom might live and grow and increase its blessings.

May God continue to bless our Nation with such heroes.

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RECOGNIZING GREG GROUNDS

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 3, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Greg Grounds, Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri from 1990 through April 2004 and former Alderman of Ward 1. Greg's community involvement has always been extensive whether it be in public office or in volunteer work. In the past, he has served in such capacities as the Mid-America Regional Council Board of Directors, Chairman of the Jackson County Suburban Mayors Association, and worked with the National League of Cities' Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Policy Committee. Greg is also a past Co-Chair and Member of the Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council and a past President of the West Gate Division of the Missouri Municipal League.

Greg's efforts as Mayor and Alderman contributed heavily to the development and successful growth of Blue Springs over the past fifteen years. Greg has helped lead many important projects such as the development of the Adams Dairy Corridor that included the construction of the Adams Pointe Golf Club and the Adams Pointe Conference Center, construction of several new parks and recreation facilities for the community including Wilbur Young Park, the Hidden Valley Park Sports Complex, and Vesper Hall, and residential and commercial development valued in excess of \$310 and \$140 million respectively. In addition, his leadership resulted in the addition of 980,000 square feet of new retail space and the annexation of 2,000 acres in south Blue Springs for which Greg helped to develop a South Annexation Plan in preparation for its future growth.

Greg is a fine asset to the city of Blue Springs and the entire Sixth District of Missouri. Through his rich career in community, volunteer and public service, he is the epitome of an ideal citizen. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career, as well as the future of Greg Grounds, who exemplifies stellar qualities of dedication and service to Northwest Missouri.

CONDEMNING THE CRACKDOWN ON DEMOCRACY PROTESTORS IN TIANANMEN SQUARE, BEIJING, IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON THE 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THAT TRAGIC MASSACRE

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, on 4 June 1989, communist Chinese tanks rumbled into Tiananmen Square. Since that bleak day 15 years ago, when the communist hardliners quashed liberty under the treads of a tank, China has undergone many changes. Despite the liberalization that appears to have taken place, China remains dedicated to absolute control by the communist government. No where is this commitment more evident than in a 421 square mile economic and political haven called Hong Kong.

In 1997, the United Kingdom returned Hong Kong to the People's Republic of China. As part of the agreement transferring sovereignty, China pledged to keep Hong Kong's democratic and capitalist system in place for 50 years. Hong Kong's Basic Law, which is based on an agreement between Great Britain and the PRC, guarantees freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of association, freedom of assembly, and freedom of religion. Private property rights and protection from arbitrary or unlawful arrest, detention or imprisonment are also guaranteed. Residents of the Hong Kong have the right to vote and the right to stand for election.

The freedoms and liberties enshrined in the Basic Law sound remarkably like the freedoms and liberties that we enjoy in the United States by virtue of the Constitution. The only difference is that no one in the United States is actively working to destroy the Constitution. Over the last few years, the honeymoon between Beijing and Hong Kong has ended. Beijing has tightened its grip on the region, and has begun to undermine the fundamental freedoms promised under the Basic Law. Perhaps not coincidentally, Hong Kong's economy has flourished in the last few years.

When the British left Hong Kong, the Communist government reassured the world that nothing would be done to undermine Hong Kong. After all, it was argued, in their eagerness to show the world a new face, why would China destroy one of the premier trading and financial centers in the Orient. Why, indeed?

After 7 years, we see that the Communist government has every intention of destroying Hong Kong. Last year Beijing proposed a law that would have restricted freedom of the press and the ability of residents to criticize the government. In response over 500,000 of Hong Kong's 6.8 million people demonstrated against the PRO's attempts to stifle democracy. The Mainland government backed off—but only temporarily. Hong Kong's Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa has promised to revisit the issue.

In April, Beijing ruled out universal suffrage for Hong Kong's chief executive in 2007 and the legislature in 2008. One mainland official said direct elections might not be possible until 2050.

In early May, Beijing warned legislators in Hong Kong that they have no right to criticize the government's decision to rule out full democracy. Beijing also sent eight Chinese warships—two submarines, four frigates and two destroyers—through Hong Kong's Victoria Harbor. Is this display of force a prelude to a Tiananmen-style crackdown? This provocative display of force certainly sends an ominous warning to Hong Kong's democrats and the rest of the world that the People's Republic of China will dictate policy in Hong Kong, and that dissension will be dealt with in a resolute manner.

All of the PRO's actions lay bare Beijing's contempt for the rule of law. It is apparent that the PRC wants to rule Hong Kong like the rest of China—corruptly, inefficiently, heavily-handedly. Hong Kong will not remain the vibrant capitalist center without freedom. Politics and economics are inextricably tied to one another.

China's mishandling of Hong Kong sends an unmistakable message to other observers around the region. If China ever hopes to entice Taiwan into the Chinese fold, their policies, vis-à-vis Hong Kong do not offer very reassuring prospects. I believe it is up to the people of Taiwan to decide whether or not they will be united with the Mainland; but Beijing's current attempts to choke democracy and capitalism in Hong Kong certainly do not make unification an attractive option for Taiwan.

Beijing's current attitudes toward Hong Kong show us the real meaning of One China, Two Systems. As the Beijing's true definition of this policy becomes apparent, it is imperative that we support Taiwan's efforts to resist Beijing's hostile advances. It is also imperative that we support democracy in Hong Kong before it is too late.

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RECOGNIZING DR. GLENDA VITTIMBERGA

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 3, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Dr. Glenda Vittimberga, a leader in the field of psychology who recently passed away.

Dr. Vittimberga was a young and vibrant scholar who dedicated her life to teaching and enriching the minds of college students at California State University, Los Angeles. Born in Warwick, Rhode Island on June 29, 1967, she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology from the University of Rhode Island in 1988, earning Summa Cum Laude honors. Shortly after, she received both a Masters degree in 1991 and a Doctorate degree in 1994 in Clinical Psychology from West Virginia University.

In 1988, Dr. Vittimberga obtained a tenure-track position at Cal State L.A., where she proudly shared her expertise and taught clinical psychology at the university's psychology department. Her position included teaching courses in behavior theory, individual assessment, counseling skills, intervention of severe behavior problems, and supervising graduate interns.

A licensed psychologist and active community leader, she provided direct client services