

MARO Employment and Training Association provides a critically important service. The work the organization does is respected throughout the state and it has proven to be a great asset in Michigan for 30 years.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing MARO Employment and Training Association for the service and opportunities the organization has provided for Michigan citizens.

HONORING AMBASSADOR C.J.
CHEN

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, today I rise and join my colleagues in honoring a unique man and a graceful diplomat.

After 4 years of exemplary service as the head representative of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO), the quasi-embassy of the Republic of China (ROC), Ambassador C.J. Chen is returning to Taiwan. In fact, since joining his country's foreign service 37 years ago, Ambassador Chen has continuously been involved with U.S.-Taiwan relations in his many job assignments both in Taiwan and in the United States.

In 1979 when the United States severed diplomatic relations with Taipei and recognized Beijing, Ambassador Chen was then working in Taiwan's embassy in Washington. He spent days and nights negotiating and communicating with U.S. government officials and lawmakers in helping draft the Taiwan Relations Act (P.L. 96-8). Signed into law on April 10, 1979, this important legislation has enabled Taiwan to grow both economically and politically during the last quarter century.

In subsequent years, Ambassador Chen has played many key roles in Taiwan's foreign ministry. He has encouraged the U.S. to act as a balancer and facilitator in handling its relations with both Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (PROC). In addition, Ambassador Chen and other leaders in Taiwan have been successful in urging the U.S. to continue to provide Taiwan with military aid necessary for its self-defense.

During the last 4 years, Ambassador Chen has aimed to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations which are now at their highest point since 1979. While there have been no major changes in U.S. policy toward either side of the Taiwan strait recently, the U.S. stance toward Taiwan has improved significantly, largely due to Taiwan's democratic government.

In addition to the Bush Administration's goodwill towards Taiwan, support on Capitol Hill continues to grow. Since the start of the 108th Congress, both the House and Senate have introduced and/or passed various resolutions relating to Taiwan including support for: (1) Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization (WHO); (2) A U.S.-Taiwan free trade agreement and; (3) Taiwan's security. Ambassador Chen has played a critical role in building support for each and every one of these resolutions.

Mr. Speaker, while Ambassador Chen is indeed leaving Washington, I have no doubt that he will continue to contribute to the enhancement of U.S.-Taiwan relations in the future. I wish C.J. and his wife Yolanda all the best.

They will be greatly missed here in Washington.

COMMEMORATING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR AND THE KICK-OFF OF THE CELEBRATION

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2004

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War and the commemorative activities planned to revisit this important time in our Country's history.

As a former soldier, I believe that remembering and recognizing the bravery and courage of those who fought before us is essential to keeping history alive and fully appreciating the freedom we now enjoy. Today, our troops are faced with the conflict in Iraq. As we commemorate the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War, let us remember that it is through the bravery of the young men in Iraq that there will be a new country, new government, and new opportunities, much like the result of the French and Indian War 250 years ago.

Beginning in 1754, the French and Indian War changed everything. The political climate during and after the war directly resulted in the American Revolution and the creation of the United States as an independent nation. The war also gave America its first introduction to George Washington, the beginning of a friendship that would help to build this great Nation.

Laura Fisher, the Executive Director of the French and Indian War 250, Inc., along with former Pennsylvania First Lady Michele Ridge, National Co-Chair of the French and Indian War Advisory Committee, and Chuck Queenan, Chairman of the Board of the French and Indian War 250, Inc., have helped to build the national commemoration of the French and Indian War from a regional event to a multi-state initiative that spans a twenty-state area from Maine to South Carolina.

Official commemoration activities began in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, April 16-18, 2004, at the historic Point Park. The Point was the site of Fort Duquesne, later Fort Pitt, and one of the most sought after locations thanks to the accessibility of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers.

The next several years will commemorate the anniversary through large-scale re-enactments at historic sites, exhibitions of rare historical artifacts, educational symposia and a major public television series, and I encourage my colleagues and their constituents to participate in remembering some of the most important milestones and sacrifices made leading to America's founding.

The National Governor's Association meeting held recently in Washington, D.C., was a great victory for the French and Indian War 250th Anniversary as several of the nation's governors reaffirmed their support of the importance of the commemoration by signing their name to the French and Indian War Memorandum of Understanding. I applaud Governor Ed Rendell of my state of Pennsylvania, and all the Governors who have pledged their continued commitment to devel-

oping programs to attract and educate visitors about the rich heritage and contribution that each state made during this era of conflict.

Governors who signed the Memorandum of Understanding have pledged to continue working to create French and Indian War trails, new marketing strategies to inform the public of this exciting initiative and educational programs to aid teachers in the classroom.

In commemoration of the French and Indian War's 250th anniversary celebration and the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the importance of this celebration and the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made in battle, I respectfully request that the French and Indian War Memorandum of Understanding be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I thank the Speaker and I yield the floor.

Memorandum of understanding between the State of Connecticut, the State of Delaware, the State of Illinois, the State of Indiana, the State of Maine, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Michigan, the State of New Hampshire, the State of New Jersey, the State of New York, the State of North Carolina, the State of Ohio, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Rhode Island, the State of South Carolina, the State of Tennessee, the State of Vermont, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of West Virginia, and War for Empire, Inc d/b/a French and Indian War 250, Inc.

The following represents an understanding between the State of Connecticut, the State of Delaware, the State of Illinois, the State of Indiana, the State of Maine, the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the State of Michigan, the State of New Hampshire, the State of New Jersey, the State of New York, the State of North Carolina, the State of Ohio, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the State of Rhode Island, the State of South Carolina, the State of Tennessee, the State of Vermont, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of West Virginia (hereinafter "the States") and War for Empire, Inc., d/b/a French and Indian War 250, Inc. (hereinafter "French and Indian War 250").

Whereas, the States represent the geographical area in which the French and Indian War historical sites are located and French and Indian War 250 represents the official commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War.

Whereas, the 250th anniversary of the French and Indian War is fast approaching, spanning the years from 2004 to 2010, and the opportunity exists to connect the unparalleled collection of historic sites in these States.

Whereas, by developing a common storyline, educational materials and marketing strategies, these important, but mostly rural, sites in the States will be given new visibility.

Whereas, the occasion of this major anniversary will serve as a springboard in the States for tourism, education and economic development as we develop new programs and projects to attract visitors, educate the general public about the lasting importance of this conflict, and elevate this regional story to national prominence.

Whereas, commemorative plans revolve around four basic goals: to improve and connect the battle sites, both regionally and nationally; to create programming to attract visitors and educate the public; to stage commemorative events nationwide over the life of