

CONGRATULATIONS TO CORY ZEBIAN FOR BEING SELECTED AS CHIEF PETTY OFFICER OF THE UNITED STATES NAVAL SEA CADET CORPS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Cadet Cory Zebian, a Colleyville, Texas, resident, for his appointment to Chief Petty Officer of the United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps. This honor follows years of work and dedication to this youth program, including the completion of regulation U.S. Navy courses, from Basic Military Regulations through Chief Petty Officer. CPO Zebian has shown superior qualities of leadership, patriotism, and expertise that have allowed him to achieve this accomplishment, which is awarded to less than 1/2 of 1% of the approximately 10,000 Naval Sea Cadets. I congratulate CPO Zebian on his significant feat.

CHINA'S ANTISECESSION LAW

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is expected that the People's Republic of China will enact its "anti-secession" law this March. Aimed at eventual reunification with Taiwan, this law will give China a legal basis to invade Taiwan. Clearly, this is a highly provocative law and will change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

With the enactment of this law China claims jurisdiction over Taiwan and threatens to use force against Taiwan if Taiwan is found not actively working toward eventual unification with China. China will be Taiwan's sole arbitrator of any dispute between the two.

Mr. Speaker, by enacting this law, China is also challenging the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act, which says that "any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means" is "of grave concern to the United States." Indeed, any unilateral effort by the PRC to determine the future of Taiwan challenges America's will to defend the Taiwan Relations Act. We must let the Chinese know that our commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act is total and unwavering. We will not allow China to change the status quo in the Taiwan Strait.

By imposing its form of government on the 23 million people of Taiwan, China tramples on the Taiwanese people's human rights and democratic ideals. Once again, we must not allow this to happen. In the Taiwan Relations Act we read, the "preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan are . . . reaffirmed as objectives of the United States." We must let China know that we take human rights and democratic ideals seriously.

It is vitally important that the Bush administration, the U.S. Congress and the international community voice opposition to China's proposed "anti-secession" law. It is a vi-

cious law that will adversely affect Taiwan and the Pacific region. It will upset peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait and bring economic ruin to the whole area.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in voicing my strong opposition to China's proposed "anti-secession" law.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER RICARDO MOLINA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of United Independent School District Board Member Ricardo Molina in Laredo, TX, in my Congressional District.

Ricardo Molina is a Laredo native and Parliamentarian of the United I.S.D. Board of Trustees. He believes serving on the Board involves keeping in mind the interests of the people in the community. "You have to look out for the taxpayers, students, and the people you serve." Molina's district is composed of the communities of Rio Bravo and El Cenizo.

Molina identifies with students of modest means who struggle for success. In his younger days, Molina was a member of his high school's chapter of the Distributive Education Club of America. "I know what hard work is. To succeed you have to make the best of your situation." Throughout his life Molina has worked in a variety of jobs. He has labored in oil fields, machine shops, and as a field hand picking cotton. Molina is the Director of the Rio Bravo and El Cenizo Community Centers.

As a Trustee, Molina helped initiate the district's dropout recovery program. The program allows students who have left school to pursue a General Equivalency Diploma. Molina also knows the importance of providing educational opportunities for adults. He worked for the establishment of GED and adult education programs in his community.

Molina says he joined the Board because he wanted to do something for the community. "We on the Board are like a family. We look out for the best opportunities for kids." Molina says United ISD has seen numerous changes in the last few years. "We've seen better curriculum, an improvement in our bilingual education program, and lower dropout and teen pregnancy rates." Molina says the schools in his area are good facilities that are well built. "We've been able to add new wings and cafeterias to our many schools." He adds, "UISD is doing a great job of educating our children." He is particularly proud of the many accomplishments made by the schools in the south, especially all the great things happening at United South Magnet School. Molina says, "I will continue to work for the children and taxpayers of United ISD. Nothing is too good for the kids. I wish I could do more."

Molina, working with other board members, has been able to implement many positive changes for the benefit of children, parents, and taxpayers. These changes include increased security at elementary campuses and fighting the increase of gang involvement at schools. Gang Intervention Facilitators have

been placed in high schools and their respective feeder campuses. Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors have been hired to fight drug use by students. Zero tolerance policies and the establishment of k-9 patrols help keep schools drug free.

In addition, one-third of the UISD school bus fleet has been replaced with new school busses. Two-thirds of the school bus fleet has been retrofitted with air conditioning. The second phase of construction has been started at L.B. Johnson High School. There will be additions to Alexander and United South High Schools. A replacement building for United High School will be built and a new middle school will be constructed to relieve overcrowding at Los Obispos Middle School.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize United Independent School District Board Member Ricardo Molina.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ADVANCE DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2005

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 3, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, earlier today, my good friend and co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, FRANK WOLF, introduced the Advance Democratic Values, Address Nondemocratic Countries, and Enhance (ADVANCE) Democracy Act of 2005. I am delighted to be the principal Democratic cosponsor of this bill. This landmark legislation, which we have been working on for more than a year, was developed in response to ideas that have emerged from outside the government, especially the thoughts and writings of Mark Palmer, who was the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 1986 to 1989 during that country's amazingly swift transition from totalitarianism to freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Hungary, where I was born, faced the twin scourges of fascism and communism in the 20th century. Somehow I survived both of these soul-killing political systems and came to the United States, which was then a beacon of hope for those of us living in the darkness of Stalinist-controlled Central Europe.

As a Member of Congress in the intervening years, and as founding co-chair of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, I have dedicated myself to the cause of human rights, working to eliminate the threats posed by the vestiges of fascism and the encroachment of totalitarianism in this world. It has been my privilege to help promote democracy around the globe—a tradition started by President Wilson at the beginning of the last century and enshrined as a central tenet of U.S. foreign policy since the Carter administration.

In the last few years, we have seen all too clearly how the lack of democracy can create safe havens for nihilistic forces that do not value human life, and this lack of democracy can help extremism flourish.

But recently we also have been given fresh reason for optimism. Who would have predicted in the summer of 2004 that the rule of law would prevail in Ukraine and an "Orange Revolution" would force the creeping influence of authoritarianism to retreat to the East? And just last month, who would have predicted that