

TAIWAN'S AGRICULTURAL TRADE
GOODWILL MISSION

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that the Republic of China, Taiwan, has sent an Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill and there will be a signing ceremony between the Mission and its American grain suppliers on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, at 9 a.m. in the Mansfield Room of the Capitol Building.

It is also my understanding that Taiwan's Goodwill Mission will sign letters of intent to purchase 14.5 million metric tons, equivalent to 559 million bushels, of U.S. wheat, soybeans and corn in 2006 and 2007. The mission's tannery group will also sign a statement with American suppliers to buy up to 6 million pieces of "wet salted hide" and "wet blue hide" for years 2006 and 2007. The total value of all the purchases will amount to \$3.1 billion.

I welcome Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to Capitol Hill. Two years ago, the same Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission came to the Hill and signed letters of intent agreeing to purchase \$2.87 billion for the years 2004 and 2005. The last mission planned to buy 15.1 metric tons, approximately 581 bushels, of wheat, soybeans and corns and 4 million pieces of hide. As of June 2005, Taiwan had already purchased 10.5 metric tons, equivalent to 404 million bushels, of U.S. grain. And in 2004, Taiwan purchased an additional 3 million pieces of U.S. hide in 2004. Given Taiwan's long history as an excellent customer for U.S. agricultural products, it is reasonable to expect Taiwan to fulfill all its agreed-upon commitments and more.

Taiwan has had a very strong trade relations with our Nation. Year after year, Taiwan has imported U.S. cattle hides, U.S. hog skins, soybean, corn and wheat and other agricultural products, amounting to billions of dollars for American producers. We hope this trend will continue in the future as our agricultural exports to Taiwan greatly benefit our grain exporters and farmers.

I join my colleagues in welcoming members of Taiwan's Agricultural Trade Goodwill to Capitol Hill and I wish Dr. Chen Hsi-Huang, Mr. Kuo Hsin-Hong and Mr. Wang Tsong-ming, heads of The Soybean and Corn Delegation, The Wheat Delegation and The Hide Delegation, and members of the delegation a pleasant journey as they travel to Iowa, Ohio, Missouri, Montana, Idaho, North Dakota, Kansas, and Texas to meet with state and local officials and suppliers.

We also hope they will return to Capitol Hill again next year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2005, I was unavoidably detained

and missed rollcall votes numbered 456 and 457. Rollcall vote 456 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3650, a bill to allow United States Courts to conduct business during emergency conditions, and for other purposes. Rollcall vote 457 was on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3169, a bill to provide the Secretary of Education with waiver authority for students who are eligible for Pell Grants who are adversely affected by a natural disaster.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 456 and 457.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-
CANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3645, which will provide an initial installment of desperately needed supplemental funding for disaster relief efforts in the Gulf Coast region. Hurricane Katrina has left untold devastation and loss in its wake, and it is critical that we do everything we can to get assistance to those who need it without delay.

I have received dozens of calls this week from Rhode Islanders who are angry and frustrated by the horrific images they are seeing from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. They are right to be outraged by the utter failure of our government to ensure the prompt evacuation and rescue of stranded residents or to deliver needed medical supplies, food and clean drinking water to the tens of thousands of people whose very survival depends on it.

The Federal reaction to this crisis has been slow and ill-coordinated, which is particularly troubling in light of the advance notice and warning systems we are able to rely upon in hurricane and other natural disaster situations. I am deeply concerned not only about the response to this disaster, but about how much worse it could have been had we been given no warning, as in the case of a terrorist attack.

Four years after September 11th and tens of billions of dollars later, we should have been better prepared for this disaster. We have received countless assurances from the Administration that this Nation is ready and equipped to keep our citizens safe, but our citizens have just come face to face with the truth, and it tells a shockingly different story.

In the weeks and months to come, there will be many, many tough questions to be answered on the part of Federal officials and others. As a member of the Homeland Security Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to get to the bottom of this national failure as we carefully examine what went wrong, how the region and Federal Government could have been better prepared, and what must be done to ensure this kind of situation is never repeated. We must look at the

organization of FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, funding for disaster response, coordination between domestic agencies and the military, interoperable communications, public health preparedness, critical infrastructure protection and much more.

However, as the crisis continues, it is important that we focus on the critical days ahead and concentrate our efforts on ensuring that we are doing everything in our power from this point forward. Hundreds of thousands of displaced residents, many of whom have lost everything, are looking to us for help, and we can not let them down. Today's supplemental appropriation will provide an infusion of funding to allow immediate needs to be met, and my colleagues and I will be ready to provide whatever additional assistance may become necessary as the response progresses.

Today, my thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have lost loved ones, had their homes and livelihoods destroyed, and who continue to suffer in terrible conditions, not knowing what the future may hold. I also want to express my deepest appreciation to those who are working to offer whatever assistance they can. Thousands of National Guard troops, local first responders, relief workers and others are putting their lives on hold to help, and we should all do whatever we can to aid in those efforts as well.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3645.

RETIREMENT OF CHIEF JOHN
WALSH

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements and service of Willimantic Fire Department Chief John Walsh, who has served the Connecticut community of Willimantic for more than two decades. He has served as a firefighter for more than 50 years.

Chief Walsh began his career as a volunteer firefighter in 1954. In January 1960 he joined the Hartford Fire Department where he demonstrated a high degree of professionalism and ability. In 1968 he was promoted to Lieutenant and in 1980 he achieved the rank of Captain. In December 1983 he became Chief of the Willimantic Fire Department.

His work on behalf of his fellow firefighters extended beyond the community. In 1988 and 1989 he was President of the Connecticut Fire Chiefs and he is a member of the New England Fire Chiefs and the National Fire Protection Association.

Firefighters are on call seven days a week, 12 months a year. There are no holidays for firefighters. Tragedy never takes a holiday and when it strikes a community, firefighters are among the first to respond.

Individuals are not recognized for what they have taken but for what they have given. Chief John Walsh's family, colleagues and friends honor him for what he has given to his community. I am proud to add my voice to theirs. Through his commitment and character he has made Willimantic a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you, Chief Walsh, for your service.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITAS HOSPITAL'S
COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contribution of Trinitas Hospital to my home State of New Jersey. Their commitment to the health and health care of all New Jerseyans is laudable, and most worthy of our recognition in this chamber here today.

On Tuesday, September 13, 2005, they will dedicate their brand new, \$28 million, five-story Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, which will house the Hospital's state-of-the-art Medical and Radiation Oncology programs, including technology that will be the first of its kind in the State, giving their staff the resources they need to ensure that cancer care in New Jersey is the best in the Nation.

Trinitas Hospital is a full service healthcare facility and a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth. They care for and serve many of my friends and neighbors in my district.

The hospital already serves our community by offering the greatest of cancer care, providing services from diagnostics to chemotherapy treatment to patient and family counseling, as well as everything in between. In addition, the Hospital conducts a large number of outreach programs for the community to screen for breast, prostate, cervical, and colon cancers, and to educate community members about cancer detection and prevention. In a State like ours, where New Jersey residents have a 16 percent higher incidence of cancer than the national average, education and prevention are the keys to overcoming the battle against this insidious disease, and Trinitas Hospital is, and continues to be, a leader in this all-important fight.

I would also like to commend them for their efforts to raise awareness about minority health disparities in New Jersey, and to offer services to fill the gap in health care quality for our minority citizens. Their concern about the higher incidence of cancer among minorities led to the establishment of the Breast Health Outreach program, which provides crucial information on cancer prevention to thousands of minority women each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me as I recognize Trinitas Hospital and the men and women there who are dedicated to making our community a better place; and I encourage my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulatory best wishes as they dedicate their new Comprehensive Cancer Center facility.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JORDAN
ELLIOT, RECIPIENT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL FREEDOM SCHOLARSHIP

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the superior academic performance of Jordan Elliot, a recipient of this year's Presidential Freedom Scholarship. Thirteen stu-

dents in the 26th Congressional District are receiving this special recognition.

This award recognizes outstanding service and citizenship initiatives by the students, who were nominated, and provides an opportunity to acknowledge their leadership. Administered by Learn and Serve America, the scholarship provides \$500 in Federal funds, matched with \$500 from a community organization or business obtained for the student by their high school or Boys and Girls Club. Winners must have completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a nonprofit or faith-based organization.

Jordan is a recent graduate at Lewisville High School and the organization matching her \$500 in Federal funds is the Tau Rho Omega Chapter.

Over 38,000 students to date have received this award and I extend my sincere congratulations to Jordan Elliot for being one of them. This student's contribution and services should serve as inspiration to those who wish to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, over the Labor Day weekend, I volunteered at the Houston Astrodome to assist in relieving the victims of Hurricane Katrina. On Tuesday, September 6, 2005, en route to Washington, DC, from Houston, a passenger on my aircraft attempted to commit suicide and the flight was temporarily rerouted to Nashville, TN. As a result, my flight was significantly delayed in landing at Dulles airport, causing me to miss votes for both H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific, and S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution calling upon the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

Had I been present in the House of Representatives, I would have voted in support of both resolutions, H. Res. 360 and S.J. Res. 19.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILL NASSER

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 8, 2005

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, the State of Indiana lost a giant of the medical community last week. On Friday, September 2, Dr. William Nasser passed away at St. Vincent Indianapolis Hospital, where he started a cardiology program 32 years earlier.

Bill Nasser's own battle with heart problems led him to launch a cardiology network in Indiana so that Hoosiers would no longer have to travel hundreds of miles just to receive basic care.

As Bill graduated from the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1961, a bacterial in-

fection made him an open-heart surgery patient at a time when the procedure was performed at great risk with low survival rates. His heart valve was replaced three times over the next 18 years.

Bill's condition undoubtedly connected him with the very patients he served at the Care Group, a partnership with St. Vincent Hospital that runs the Heart Center of Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the State of Indiana, I extend heartfelt sympathies to the family of Dr. Bill Nasser, specifically his wife Wanda; his sons Thomas and Tony Nasser; his daughter Teresa Carlock; his sisters Beverly Radez and Dolores Polifroni; and his five beloved grandchildren.

Bill Nasser embodied the allegiance to a community that every town in America wishes of its citizens. The State of Indiana was fortunate to call him one of its own. Indiana will miss Dr. William Nasser.

PELL GRANT HURRICANE AND
DISASTER RELIEF ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to assist college students who have been victimized by widespread devastation visited on the Gulf Coast by Hurricane Katrina last week. We, in North Carolina, know well the destruction hurricanes can cause as our State has been hit by at least five major hurricanes over the past decade. The Federal Government has a solemn responsibility to help those in need, and H.R. 3169 is one very small step in that effort.

Specifically, H.R. 3169 will relieve some burden for displaced college students who otherwise would be required to pay back their Pell grants. This bill would allow the U.S. Education Department to waive the repayment requirement for Pell grant recipients whose school attendance is interrupted because of the impact of a disaster, provided that the students were living, working or attending school in an area designated by the President to warrant major disaster assistance.

Congress must also pass legislation introduced by Congressman GEORGE MILLER and Congressman DALE KILDEE to provide more comprehensive relief for student victims of the storm. Nearly 100,000 college students have been displaced, while some 30 colleges in the Gulf Coast region have been severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina. Many students and families no longer have the necessary resources to pay for college—even after their current Federal student aid is taken into account. We need to ensure that we help all college students and student borrowers who have been adversely impacted by this disaster.

Congress has much, much more work to do to assist in the relief, recovery and reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. H.R. 3129 is a minimal early step in that effort, and I urge its adoption.