been proactive in providing information and resources to us in combating global terrorism. In addition, Taiwan has been cooperative in reducing its trade surplus with us and promoting U.S. goods and services in its domestic market. In return, we must assure Taiwan that we will remain faithful to the letter and spirit of the Taiwan Relations Act.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan has come a long way from its authoritarian past and is today a beacon of democracy and freedom in the Far East. I wish to congratulate President-elect Ma and the Taiwanese people for their latest demonstration of democracy. A true democracy like Taiwan deserves friendship and support.

MORE COHERENT PLAN NEEDED FOR IRAQ WAR

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, as a committee member I had the opportunity last week to hear first-hand the testimony of General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker when they appeared before the Armed Services Committee to update us on the status of America's military and diplomatic involvement in Iraq.

There have been many comments on that testimony, but one of the best I have seen was a recent editorial in the Colorado Springs Gazette.

As the editorial noted, ''One of the more striking aspects of our unfortunate occupation of Iraq is an everchanging description of who 'the enemy' is. At first it was the Saddam Hussein regime, and once that toppled it was covert regime loyalists. After a long period of denying that an insurgency had developed, insurgents became the enemy. Then it became al-Qaida in Iraq, although foreign and al-Qaida forces never made up more than about 10 percent of those fighting the U.S. occupation. Now it is 'special teams,' presumably supported by Iran.''

In addition, the editorial commented on the speech to the Nation in which President Bush announced that although tours of duty would be reduced to 12 months, for the foreseeable future the number of troops deployed in Iraq would remain at the same level as before the ''surge'' and on the president's description of the desired outcome in Iraq.

The editorial's response was ''The president spoke in broad generalities of 'a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically, and take charge of its own political affairs.' Beyond holding on and hoping, however, there was no sense of how to get there from here.''

Madam Speaker, I think that sums it up very well. And, as one who opposed the Bush Administration's rush to war in Iraq, I also must concur with the editorial's statement that ''The length, cost and indecisiveness of this war should make Americans more skeptical the next time a political leader suggests war, against a country halfway around the world, without a clear objective.''

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the Gazette's editorial.

[From the Gazette, Apr. 13, 2008]

IRAQ: NO MORE HOLD AND PRAY

President Bush's speech Thursday, combined with the congressional appearances this week by Gen. David Petraeus and U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker, suggest strongly that the U.S. strategy in Iraq until the end of this year is ''hold on and pray.''

Even the welcome news that Army combat tours will be reduced from 15 months to 12 months, no doubt welcome news to the top military chiefs who have expressed concerns publicly and privately about the military being ''hollowed out'' by the endless combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, has a whiff of unseriousness about the mission to it. Granted, as outgoing Army Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody told the House Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, the Army is ''out of balance'' because of the war. But if the president had a coherent strategy for turning the corner in Iraq, he might well have been willing to tolerate that for a while.

The president spoke in broad generalities of ''a free Iraq that can protect its people, support itself economically, and take charge of its own political affairs.'' Beyond holding on and hoping, however, there was no sense of how to get there from here.

One of the more striking aspects of our unfortunate occupation of Iraq is an everchanging description of who ''the enemy'' is. At first it was the Saddam Hussein regime, and once that toppled it was covert regime loyalists. After a long period of denying that an insurgency had developed, insurgents became the enemy. Then it became al-Qaida in Iraq, although foreign and al-Qaida forces never made up more than about 10 percent of those fighting the U.S. occupation. Now it is ''special teams,'' presumably supported by Iran.

It's clear now: The longer we remain in Iraq the more enemies we make. Imagine if the Chinese army were occupying California. Opposition to that occupation would come from new quarters every week.

Perhaps the most encouraging development from this week's hearings is the growing number of Republican lawmakers beginning to question administration policy. ''The people of the United States have paid an awful price,'' said Rep. DANA ROHRABACHER, R-Calif., noting that the Iraqi government had budget surpluses. ''It's time for the Iraqis to pay that price for their own protection.''

Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, Reps. Tom Tancredo of Colorado, John McHugh of New York, Randy Forbes of Virginia, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Steve Chabot of Ohio and even Dan Burton of Indiana all expressed impatience with the pace at which the Iraqi government is assuming responsibility.

Republicans may simply be distancing themselves from an unpopular president as they face reelection bids in November. Whatever the reasons, it is encouraging to see them express the skepticism most Americans feel.

The length, cost and indecisiveness of this war should make Americans more skeptical the next time a political leader suggests war, against a country halfway around the world, without a clear objective.

IN RECOGNITION OF DANIEL WITKOWSKI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Daniel Witkowski, of Garfield Heights, Ohio, for 51 years of dedication and hard work for the Department of Public Utilities in Cleveland.

Mr. Witkowski began working at the age of nineteen in June of 1956 as a water serviceman aid. Mr. Witkowski diligently worked his way through the company rank. During his time at the Department of Public Utilities, he played an instrumental part in completing the Futuristic Trunk Main Study. This study measured flow rates and crating maps for the division trunk main system which is still in use today. In 2003, he was promoted to assistant superintendent of distribution in the engineering section. He was recently honored by Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson as one of 70 employees that has worked at least 25 years in the department.

Mr. Witkowski, now 70 years old, oversees seven crews and remains active by doing daily operations for the division. For over 40 years, his knowledge and expertise has been vital to the services of the Department of Public Utilities.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Daniel Witkowski for 51 years of public service to the city of Cleveland.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REXAM PRESCRIPTION MANUFACTURING FACILITY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Rexam Prescription celebrates the 40th anniversary with great joy; and

Whereas, Rexam Prescription has grown from a small manufacturing facility in 1968 through hard work and dedication; and

Whereas, the Rexam Prescription has become a world class facility as a testament to the committed Ohioians who work there; be it

Resolved, That along with their friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Rexam Prescription on its 40th Anniversary. With great appreciation and respect, we recognize the tremendous impact this facility has had in the community and in the lives of those people you have touched.

WELCOMING THE POPE'S VISIT AND HOPING IT WILL FURTHER THE PROGRESSIVE AGENDA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to warmly and reverently welcome Pope Joseph Alois Ratzinger to the United States—

making his stay at our esteemed capital, the District of Columbia, as well as my home State of New York. This country boasts a strong Catholic tradition, home to the third-largest Catholic population in the world at approximately 66 million followers, and has generated a fount of enthusiasm at this, his first visit to American soil as Pope. The 265th reigning Pope will hold mass at the Nationals and Yankee stadiums, meet with the President at the White House, address the United Nations, and pray at the Ground Zero site in lower Manhattan. May he enjoy a safe and spiritually fulfilling trip.

It is my wish that this Pope's commitment to progressive causes—prime among them the proliferation of peace and socioeconomic justice—ignites that noteworthy agenda in this country. He has called for peaceful resolutions to global conflicts, publicly expressing his conscientious opposition to the war in Iraq, and has bravely noted that all are entitled to at least the bare necessities of life: A roof overhead, food for nourishment, access to medicines. These are basic human rights and entitlements that ought to be made sacrosanct in our society.

MR. JIM STEMMLER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today, with my colleague Congressman JOE DONNELLY, to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Jim Stemmler. I have known Jim for many years, and he is one of the most involved citizens I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the IronWorkers Local 395. Jim has been a member of the IronWorkers Local 395 for an astounding 35 years, and his contributions to the organization are immeasurable. Although Jim has been a constant fixture within the organization, he will be retiring from the Local 395 at year's end. For his efforts and many contributions to the union, Jim will be honored at a retirement celebration on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at the Radisson Hotel in Merrillville, Indiana.

Jim Stemmler was born in Hegwisch, Illinois, on December 30, 1947. He lived there until he joined the Army, in which he served during the Vietnam conflict. Following his return from Vietnam in 1973, he began his apprenticeship and became a member of the IronWorkers Local 395. Jim's service as an elected member of the union began with the position of Trustee. His dedication to the union and its members continued as he was elected Recording Secretary, and later as he served as president of the IronWorkers Local 395. With Jim's commitment to serve, it is only fitting that Jim was elected the first-ever business manager of Local 395.

Aside from his elected service to the Local 395, Jim also served on several Local 395 boards, including the joint apprenticeship committee and the health and welfare board. The respect and trust of the union's members for Jim is apparent in his appointment as the chairman of the board of trustees for Mid-America Pension Plan and to the supplemental monthly annuity fund board. Jim is also currently the President of the LaPorte, Starke, and Pulaski Building and Construction Trades Council and holds several politically appointed positions throughout the State of Indiana.

When not engaged with the union, Jim spends his spare time with those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Jim's commitment to the union and its members is surpassed only by his dedication to his family. Jim and his wife, Sandy, have shared many wonderful years together.

Madam Speaker, Jim Stemmler has given his time and efforts selflessly to the members of the IronWorkers Local 395 for the past 35 years. As a friend to Congressman DONNELLY and myself, his fellow members, and the larger community, I commend his work throughout northern Indiana. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

HONORING MOTHER LUCY SLADE LEE ON HER 106TH BIRTHDAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mother Lucy Slade Lee, who celebrated her 106th birthday with family and friends last Saturday at New Gethsemane Baptist Church in Crown Heights where she has been an usher for many years.

Mother Lee, whose official birthday was on April 9, was born in 1902 in New Bern, North Carolina, to the late Elijah and Mahalia Slade, and is succeeded by generations of Slade children. She continued to work well into what many consider retirement age, as an usher and a caretaker to the elderly.

Mother Lee and her family moved into a home on Fleet Street in Brooklyn in 1922, and recalls fondly a time in Brooklyn when there was no electric lighting in home or on the streets; when subway fare was a mere nickel and the Daily News 2 cents; when New York City streets were lined with stables where horses were kept; and when you used your windowsill as a refrigerator. Although these times were not easy, Mother Lee's faith inspired her to devote much of her time to New Gethsemane Baptist Church, where she began serving as an usher in 1966.

For inspiration on how to become better people, we must look to those amongst us who have mastered life's difficult challenges. With Mother Lee's longevity, she has established herself as an outstanding role model for the rest of us.

HONORING REDMOND HIGH SCHOOL—WINNING THE PRESIDENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH AWARD

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, it's with great pleasure that I congratulate students from Redmond High School in my home state of Washington for winning a prestigious national honor, the President's Environmental Youth Award.

These outstanding students took it upon themselves to create and develop the ''Cool School'' campaign with the goal of reducing carbon emissions by 1,000 pounds per classroom. Their efforts went well beyond the initial goal and reduced their school's carbon footprint by 72 tons and saved the school $7,500 in its electric bill last year alone.

Led by science teacher Mike Towns, who is an inspiration to those committed to leading a zero-carbon lifestyle, these students exemplify the effort and ingenuity needed to launch a U.S. clean-energy revolution. I have no doubt that these bright minds will continue to be environmental leaders.

It's among the greatest honors as a member of the House of Representatives to meet and work with youth who are involved in their communities and deeply committed to making our world a better place. Our future depends on these young people who are making a real impact in the fight against climate change.

I commend the students and staff of Redmond High School for their efforts and look forward to working with them in the years ahead to beat global warming.

HONORING THE TEACHING CAREER OF MRS. ARLENE CORY OF PENN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 37 years of inspiring and motivational teaching of Mrs. Arlene Cory of Penn Christian Academy located in East Norriton Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Cory will be honored with a well-deserved retirement dinner on April 29, 2008, at Presidential Caterers in the township.

Ms. Cory began her career at Penn Christian Academy in 1971 and she is now teaching a second generation of students. Alumni who have learned of Mrs. Cory's coming departure have expressed regret that she will not be their children's teacher one day. She is loved, admired and respected by many. Her friends will tell you that this is due to her kind heart and her willingness to always lend a helping hand.

In 1985, along with her long-time co-worker Linda Kuntz, Ms. Cory was dubbed a ''teacher extraordinaire''. I'm sure the thousands of children whose lives she has touched over the years could not agree more.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking Mrs. Arlene Cory for her exemplary service to the children of Penn Christian Academy. May her teaching career be an inspiration to us all.