

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S FULL  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE U.N.

### HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of Taiwan's full membership in the United Nations.

Taiwan is an independent, peace loving, and democratic nation that enjoys formal diplomatic relations with more than twenty other nations. In addition, the island nation maintains informal bilateral relations with more than one hundred other countries, precisely because those other countries know that the government in Beijing does not—as it often asserts—speak for democratic Taiwan.

Beijing often argues that Taiwan's 23 million people are represented by the unelected government of the People's Republic of China in international bodies like the United Nations as well. But the Beijing authorities routinely threaten to attack Taiwan, and have deployed more than 1,000 missiles on its southeastern coast aimed directly at the island. So while it might be politically expedient for China to argue that it represents Taiwan, no fair-minded person or government could honestly be expected to believe such a preposterous claim. And of course, most countries realize this.

As I mentioned earlier, while Taiwan's government enjoys formal diplomatic ties with some two dozen nations, Taipei maintains more than 100 quasi-embassies or "trade offices" in nearly every country in the world. And most of these countries—including the United States—maintain a reciprocal mission in Taiwan's capital, Taipei. Why? The reason is obvious: because we all realize that the totalitarian government of China doesn't really speak for the people of democratic Taiwan.

The United Nations is no different.

Madam Speaker, Taiwan's new government has attempted to strike a more conciliatory tone this year, asking only for Taiwan's participation in U.N. affiliated agencies rather than for full membership. This modest proposal is a good start, and I hope the Bush Administration will direct our U.N. representative to support it.

Should Taiwan be successful in its quest for meaningful participation in the United Nations this year, I sincerely hope that they will build on that success by applying for full U.N. membership next year. After all, Taiwan maintains its own military, elects its own leaders, conducts its own foreign affairs, controls its own territory, has a larger population than Australia, and boasts one of the most dynamic economies in the world.

Simply put, Taiwan is more than qualified for membership, and eager to make a meaningful contribution.

As a democratic friend and ally of Taiwan, the United States should be among those speaking up for Taiwan. We should make it clear to the other member states that we believe it is unfair to exclude Taiwan and its 23 million citizens from the world community—and that Taiwan's membership poses no threat to China, or the achievement of a peaceful and equitable solution to Cross-Strait differences.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN AMIOTT'S  
"YESTERDAY A VETERAN DIED"

### HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

#### YESTERDAY A VETERAN DIED

John Amriott, USAF 1967-1970

Yesterday a veteran died but the world hardly noticed. Age or race or gender, it made no difference; soldier or sailor, airman or marine, it made no difference.

Yesterday a veteran died. He was one of the millions, who, over the centuries, interrupted his life to serve when his country called.

Yesterday a veteran died. He wore his uniform with pride and sense of purpose. He went where he was asked to go and performed the duties for which he had been trained. He committed to fight their fights and to safeguard their secrets with a solemn oath that remained unbroken.

Yesterday a veteran died. He was changed forever by his experiences but his society also changed. The lines of social consciousness were redrawn, the old morality was altered and by the time of his return he found different standards applied.

Yesterday a veteran died. Like the hundreds of generations before him and the endless roster of those who will follow, he tried to make sense of the chaos and confusion created by the metamorphous of a citizen turned warrior and then returned to the life of a civilian.

Yesterday a veteran died. And, as with far too many of his peers, the real conflict began when the tour of duty ended. His personal battle would become a private hell; a hell born from the memories of the reality of life in a shadow world. A place where a chosen few practiced their craft; a world few outsiders knew existed and even fewer understood. His was that shadow world, the one he could never completely leave; the one from which there was no escape.

Yesterday a veteran died. Now his soul would find the elusive peace of mind and spirit for which he had been searching. No longer will he awake, sweating and screaming in the night, plagued by the nightmares of his past. No longer will the ghosts of war haunt him, no longer will the cries of conflict echo in his ears.

Yesterday a veteran died. When he is laid to rest an honor guard will fire a rifle volley to mark his passing. And for him the mournful wail of a bugle will sound one final time.

Yesterday a veteran died. He will face his God knowing he served his country and did his best. The family and friends he loved will weep and mourn their loss. And the world will hardly notice that we have all been diminished.

Yesterday a veteran died. But with the grace of God and the wisdom of nations, perhaps we are closer to the time when we will no longer need to say, "Yesterday a veteran died."

And then, perhaps, finally, the world will notice.

HONOR TERESA MCCABE, CARLA  
HUNTER, AND BETH PETERS  
CURTIN

### HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Teresa McCabe, Carla Hunter and Beth Peters Curtin, who are being recognized as 2008 Women of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council in West Virginia.

These three ladies were chosen for their leadership and contribution to the community, their profession, and how they serve as role models for young women. The Girl Scouts of Shawnee Council honor three women annually from the Eastern Panhandle that exemplify these qualities.

The first honoree, Teresa McCabe, was nominated by The United Way of the Eastern Panhandle for the significant impact she has had in her community. McCabe is the vice president of marketing and development for West Virginia University Hospitals—East. She was involved with both the United Way and the City Hospital before their mergers and is also involved with the Rotary, American Cancer Society and both Jefferson and Berkeley Counties Chambers of Commerce. Born and raised in Charles Town, WV, McCabe has been able to give back to the community in which she was raised.

Carla Hunter, the department chair and school counselor at Washington High School, works tirelessly to make her school the best school in the area. She was nominated for Women of Distinction by Asbury United Methodist Church in Shepherdstown. Education is a passion of hers, and she gives much of her free time to ensure young children have a bright future. As a former Girl Scout, Carla knows how much of an impact Girl Scouts can have on a young woman's life.

The final recipient of the 2008 Women of Distinction award is Beth Peters Curtin. In addition to being the executive director of the Berkeley Springs-Morgan County Chamber of Commerce, Beth is also a member of the Economic Development Authority, founding member of the Museum of Berkeley Springs and director of Apple Butter Festival. She spends what little spare time she has serving her community. Beth has learned from her mother's generation what great role models women can be and wants to pass that on to the next generation as well.

It is an honor to represent these three outstanding women who serve as strong leaders and excellent role models for young women in their communities. Congratulations to Teresa McCabe, Carla Hunter and Beth Peters Curtin as the 2008 Women of Distinction.

RECOGNIZING MR. STEVEN SHAPIRO FOR HIS NATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN BUILDING SAFETY AND FIRE PROTECTION

### HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2008*

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Steven Shapiro, a resident of