

Fund, and the National Women's Council facilitated through the AAUW National office.

Throughout the years, the Flint branch has been a strong supporter of Title IX and would keep area schools and athletic associations apprised of issues at the national level. The branch also actively supports non-profit organizations in Genesee County such as Carriage Town Mission, Whaley Children's Center and UM-Flint's MPowering My Success program. In the 1960s and 1970s the Flint branch of the AAUW organized large book sales at the Genesee Valley Mall to promote literacy and generate funds for its philanthropic endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the work done by the AAUW Flint Branch and thank them for the service they have provided to the City of Flint and the surrounding communities.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT  
MA YING-JEOU ON PEACE AND  
DIPLOMACY

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support to the people of the Republic of China Taiwan. The United States and Taiwan are two like-minded countries. The Taiwanese people share our same cultural values of respect for individual liberties, freedom of speech, adherence to the rule of law, and support for human rights.

I would also like to take this opportunity to share a speech entitled "True Friendship Lasts Forever" delivered by Taiwan President Ma Ying-jeou on June 2, 2015, at a video conference at Stanford University. In his speech, President Ma delineated the importance of future cooperation opportunities between our two countries. Below is the summary of President Ma's speech. For the full transcript, please visit the website of the office of the President of the Republic of China: <http://www.president.gov.tw>

"I am very happy to be here for today's videoconference. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, as well as the Republic of China's (ROC) victory in the War of Resistance Against Japan. In July 1937, two years before World War II broke out, ROC forces began fighting against Japanese aggression alone, and for four long years, they continued with virtually no outside help. It wasn't until the Pearl Harbor attack in December 1941 that the ROC joined forces with the Allies to declare war against Japan, Germany, and Italy.

Although the ROC and U.S. severed diplomatic ties in 1979, barely three months later, the U.S. Congress passed the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA). Under that Act, Taiwan is treated as a foreign government for purposes of U.S. law and in U.S. courts. The Act also requires the U.S. to provide Taiwan with defensive weapons.

Since I came into office in 2008, mutual ROC-U.S. trust has been restored at the highest levels of government. And over the past two years, there have been frequent, reciprocal visits by high-level officials. In April 2014, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy visited Taiwan, and Charles Rivkin, Assistant Secretary of State

for Economic and Business Affairs is visiting Taiwan now. At the same time, heads of various ROC government agencies have visited the U.S., so there is a solid foundation of mutual trust there.

In addition to strong security ties, Taiwan-U.S. trade relations have also made significant progress over the last few years. In March 2013, after a five-year hiatus, we reopened negotiations with the U.S. under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA), a platform set up in 1994 to facilitate talks in trade and investment matters. We have continued bilateral consultations in a series of 12 work conferences, and have made significant progress. At the end of March 2015, the ROC is America's 10th largest trading partner, surpassing Brazil and Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. is Taiwan's third largest, after mainland China and Japan.

Let me turn to cross-strait relations. Over the past seven years, Taiwan and mainland China have signed 21 agreements. During that same period, visitors from mainland China have made over 14 million trips to Taiwan, almost four million of them in the past year alone. So the cross-strait situation is more stable and peaceful than it has ever been in the past 66 years.

In addition to seeking stable development in cross-strait and ROC-U.S. relations, Taiwan has also taken concrete actions over the past few years to be a regional peacemaker in both the East China Sea, and the South China Sea. Back in August 2012, I proposed the East China Sea Peace Initiative. That Initiative asks stakeholders to forgo conflict in favor of peaceful negotiations, and emphasizes cooperation in sharing resources. Eight months later in April 2013, Taiwan and Japan signed a fisheries agreement that embodies the spirit of that Initiative, and solved a fisheries dispute between Taiwan and Japan that has troubled both countries for 40 years. That agreement elicited widespread praise and support from the global community. Secretary of State John Kerry has publicly stated that the ROC-Japan fisheries agreement is a model for promoting regional stability, and that the principles at the heart of the East China Sea Peace Initiative apply to all of the waters in Asia.

In the East China Sea, the East China Sea Peace Initiative encourages stakeholders to shelve their disputes, and cooperate to create win-win situations. Its success makes it a model for peaceful development in the South China Sea. On May 26, 2015, I formally announced the South China Sea Peace Initiative, hoping that the relevant parties will: "shelve sovereignty dispute, pursue peace and reciprocity, and promote joint exploration and development." By upholding those principles, we hope that all the parties involved will work together to maintain regional peace and promote regional development. A U.S. State Department official stated that the U.S. appreciates the proposals in the South China Sea Peace Initiative. I sincerely hope that all of the outstanding scholars and experts gathered here will support the pursuit of peace."

Mr. Speaker, this tribute recognizes the importance of the relationship between the United States and the Republic of China Taiwan as strategic partners under the Taiwan Relations Act.

RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF SENIOR JUDGE WIL-  
LIAM STAFFORD

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2015*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Judge William Stafford for his 40 years as a federal judge on the bench of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Since receiving his appointment by President Gerald Ford on May 30, 1975, Judge Stafford has worked tirelessly to uphold our Constitution, and his service is a true testament to his patriotism and commitment to justice.

Judge Stafford's service to our Nation began many years prior to his appointment as a federal judge, when, as a recent law school graduate, he joined the United States Navy, serving with honor and distinction until 1960. After nearly a decade in private practice, Judge Stafford served as a United States Attorney for the Northern District of Florida from 1969 until he received his appointment to serve as a federal judge.

During his time on the bench, Judge Stafford has served in numerous important positions, including more than 10 years as Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida and nearly 20 years as Senior Judge. In addition, he also served for 7 years as a judge on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which helps ensure that our Nation remains safe from those who seek to do us harm.

As a result of his excellence on the bench, Judge Stafford has received numerous professional appointments and awards. He served nearly a decade on the Committees of Judicial Conference of the United States, a position appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, in addition to myriad committee assignments with the Florida Bar, and a term as President of the District Judges Association of the Eleventh Circuit. Judge Stafford has also received recognitions including the Temple Law Alumni Achievement Award and the American Bar Association's Law Day USA National Speech Award, and his commitment to the legal profession saw him help found the American Inns of Court's Tallahassee Inn, which was renamed the William H. Stafford American Inn of Court in his honor.

Judge Stafford's commitment to service and dedication to his community extend far beyond his judicial service, and he has served both St. John's Episcopal Church in Tallahassee and Christ Church in Pensacola, in addition to service in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and the Dioceses of Florida and of the Central Gulf Coast. As a leader in civic society, Judge Stafford is a longtime Rotary Club member, having served as President of the Tallahassee Rotary Club and received awards such as the Frederick Clifton Moor Award; served as President of the Tallahassee YMCA; and served on numerous Boards, including the Friends of Leon County Library Board, Sacred Heart Hospital of Pensacola's Board of Directors, as well as the Board of Directors of the Pensacola Symphony. He is also a longtime member of fraternal organizations and has received both the Grand Cross of Honour from the Scottish Rite and was named Grand Orator.