

On this important day, we reaffirm the strength of U.S.-Taiwan relations, and America's steadfast commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act which has underpinned the relationship for thirty-six years. We are committed to provide for Taiwan's self-defense, and I am dedicated to ensuring that we abide by our promise to provide the defense items to Taiwan that it needs.

Today, I am honored to rise in support of our great friend, Taiwan. We join the people of Taiwan in the celebration of their National Day, recognize the shared strengths of the relationship, and salute the strong friendship between the U.S. and Taiwan.

RECOGNIZING THE SOUTH CHINA SEA PEACE INITIATIVE AND 104TH ANNIVERSARY OF DOUBLE TEN DAY FOR THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss issues important to Taiwan, our close partner and ally in the Asia-Pacific region. In particular, I am concerned about current maritime disputes in the South China Sea, also known as the East Sea. I am concerned about China's growing presence in disputed waters in the South China Sea through land reclamation, neglect of international law, and disregard of the needs and territorial claims of its neighbors. A number of U.S. partners and allies in the region have taken different steps to address these illegal actions. Each plays an important role in signaling international disapproval of Beijing's actions. However, I want to highlight the efforts of Taiwan, under President Ma Ying-jeou, who has proposed a South China Sea Peace Initiative, which I believe should be seriously considered.

Taiwan understands that the tensions between claimants in the East China Sea and South China Sea threaten the peace and stability of the entire region. These disputes also threaten the political, economic, and security interests of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region. Through the South China Sea Peace Initiative, Taiwan calls on all relevant parties to exercise restraint, respect international law, shelve sovereignty disputes, and adhere to a code of conduct.

This course of action is similar to the one proposed by President Ma in his East China Sea Initiative of 2012. The spirit of that proposal helped to alleviate tensions among China, Taiwan, and Japan, and led to a fisheries agreement between Taiwan and Japan in 2013—ending a 40-year fisheries dispute. It is my hope that the South China Sea Peace Initiative will have a similar effect on the parties of the South China Sea dispute. Moreover, the South China Sea Peace Initiative is similar to the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, which was agreed to by ASEAN, including China, in 2002. The declaration committed all parties of the territorial disputes to “reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the freedom of navigation in and over flight above the South China Sea as provided for by the universally recognized principles of international law” and to

“resolve their territorial and jurisdictional disputes by peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force.”

I encourage my colleagues to commit to a greater focus on developments in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly with regards to China's illegal actions in the South China Sea, and to this latest initiative from Taipei. During the 113th Congress, the House passed House Resolution 714, which was introduced by the good friend and former Congressman Eni Faleomavaega of American Samoa, and sent a clear message that the U.S. will not stand for these illegal and dangerous actions by China in the South China Sea. I hope that we will pass a similar resolution again this Congress, and I commit to working with my colleagues to send a clear message to China that their actions are intolerable.

Moreover, I hope that my colleagues will join me in sending another important signal about Congress' commitment to our allies and partners in the Asia-Pacific region by acknowledging the upcoming celebrations of the 104th anniversary of “Double Ten Day.” Double Ten Day is a celebration of the birth of democracy in Taiwan. It traces its roots to the Wuchang Uprising that occurred on October 10, 1911. The Wuchang Uprising signaled the end of the Qing Dynasty and the start of a democratic movement that continues to be celebrated and recognized.

The strength of the relationship between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States is strong. I look forward to continue working to expand business opportunities between our countries and deepen our mutual appreciation for each other's unique cultures. Exchange of our cultures is clearly evidenced on Guam, which is home to many people of Chinese ancestry. Guam continues to benefit from their cultural contributions to our community and the promotion of trade and economic opportunities.

On this 104th Anniversary of Double Ten Day, it is important to recognize that Taiwan has proven time and again to be a friend working to ensure continued peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. I extend my appreciation to Taiwan for their continuing friendship and contributions to regional peace.

RECOGNIZING JIM JOHNSTON FOR HIS LEADERSHIP ON ISSUES RELATED TO SMALL BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jim Johnston of Grain Valley, MO. This October, Jim will be completing his eighth term and fourth decade as the President of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), an organization that formed to give owner-operators and drivers a voice where they previously had none. Jim is widely considered a national leader on all issues affecting small business trucking professionals and professional truck drivers.

It is hard to believe that OOIDA began in an office trailer chained to a light pole at a truck stop in Grain Valley. Under Jim's leadership, it is now the largest organization of small busi-

ness trucking professionals and professional truck drivers in the country, with more than 155,000 members nationwide. OOIDA has members in every state and every Congressional district.

There is no single person or organization that is more capable of representing the interests of truck drivers. In fact, Jim leads a twenty-two member Board of Directors that collectively has more than eight-hundred years of truck driving experience, and a staff of three-hundred twenty OOIDA employees, many of whom were truck drivers themselves. Needless to say, Jim is an invaluable resource on trucking and transportation issues to those fortunate enough to work with him.

To say that Jim is a tireless advocate representing the interests of truck drivers is an understatement; it has been his life's work and there is nobody more dedicated to the cause. Throughout his career, he has worked with legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, law enforcement agencies, other trucking and transportation organizations, and he has served on numerous commissions and advisory boards. His mission is simple: fight for the rights of all professional truck drivers. While some of his colleagues might say that he is a fierce adversary—perhaps another understatement—I think most people would agree that he conducts himself with integrity and the utmost professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to work with Jim and his team at OOIDA. I would ask all of my colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Jim Johnston for his lifelong dedication to the members of OOIDA and the trucking industry and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING LEON EWING ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM FIRSTMARK CREDIT UNION

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Leon Ewing, President and CEO of Firstmark Credit Union in San Antonio, on his over four decades of hard work and contributions to South Texas.

On December 31, 2015, Mr. Ewing will retire from Firstmark Credit Union after 34 years, concluding a distinguished career in the credit union industry. Under Mr. Ewing's leadership, Firstmark Credit Union became the fourth largest credit union in San Antonio.

In the local community, Mr. Ewing contributed his time and energy to San Antonio by serving on the boards of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and the Children's Hospital of San Antonio. He has earned the trust and respect of his colleagues, employees, and customers and we wish him all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, October 1, 2015 I was not present to cast