

104TH COMMEMORATION OF
TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan approaches the 104th commemoration of the National Day of the Republic of China next October 10th, it is important that we remember a few key points. First, the Republic of China, Taiwan is an extraordinary friend and ally of the United States. This year we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the allied victory in World War II. We must not forget the critical contribution of the Republic of China to freedom's victory over the forces of fascist tyranny. Second, Mr. Speaker, Taiwan deserves to be commended for having consolidated its representative democracy in an extremely challenging regional environment. Finally, people of Taiwan are hard-working and admirable.

The current framework of U.S.-Taiwan relations has developed successfully in large part to the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979. The United States has sold defensive arms to Taiwan, allowing it to remain a respected force in the region. It is extremely important that the transfer of sophisticated defensive weapons such as Perry Class Naval vessels and other weaponry supported in the National Defense Authorization Act, take place soon.

The government of Taiwan has set forth a noteworthy peace-seeking agenda in recent years, and it has accomplished a remarkable reduction in cross-strait tensions. History will certainly note President Ma Ying-jeou's East China Sea Peace Initiative and South China Sea Peace Initiative with deep admiration for these wise and responsible proposed solutions to critically important regional challenges.

PROVISO EAST CLASS OF 1975—
40TH YEAR REUNION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend and congratulate the Proviso East Class of 1975 on their 40th year reunion. As all of us know, we can take great engagement to make use of the lessons learned and skills developed while students at Proviso East.

The Class of 1975 can be proud of the heritage, accomplishments and proud of what being a Pirate has meant. The Class of 1975 can have pride in the accomplishments of the Proviso East graduates who left a great school well prepared to confront the challenges of everyday life. The families have been and continue to be role models of excellence and community engagement.

Best wishes and good luck to the Proviso East Class of 1975.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF THE
FRESNO EOC

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of the Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission as they celebrate 50 years of dedicated service to Fresno County. Fresno EOC has spent five decades investing in people and assisting them in becoming self-sufficient. Further this agency administers numerous human services and economic development programs. These programs include pre-school education, vocational training, juvenile and drug abuse counseling, treatment for serious juvenile offenders, youth recreation, and senior citizen hot meal services to name a few.

As one of the largest and most effective poverty fighting organizations in the country, Fresno EOC has touched the lives of more than 145,000 residents of Fresno County. Through programs that make real measurable differences, Fresno EOC continues to give families the immediate help they need and the long-term support that allows them to build better lives.

When Congress passed the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the goal was to obtain equality of opportunity in education, employment, health and living conditions for every American in our Country and Fresno EOC has done an exemplary job of accomplishing these goals. Over the past 5 decades, Fresno EOC has made countless contributions to our city and the entire San Joaquin Valley. From programs ranging from Head Start, to the Local Conservation Corps, and Fresno CDFI, Fresno EOC has done so much to make our community a better place.

The results of these programs have allowed local organizations like Fresno EOC to leverage nearly \$2.20 in private capital from every dollar that the federal government invests in Community Service Block Grant (CSBG). 90 percent of CSBG funds go directly to local communities to provide critical services such as child care, job training, housing, and financial education that improve self-sufficiency.

Fresno EOC employs over 1,300 full and part time staff members committed to transforming lives. With over 30 programs to serve the community, they bridge the gaps with almost every aspect of the underserved population. There are more than 1,100 Community Action Agencies across the nation offering services every year in 99 percent of U.S. counties. These agencies serve 16 million low-income individuals, primarily members of working families and seniors, and in Fresno we are lucky to have one of the largest Community Action Agencies in the nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me as we celebrate Fresno EOC's 50th year of improving economic opportunities and empowering individuals in the San Joaquin Valley. This agency is making a

difference and creating better opportunities for our future generations.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S 104TH
NATIONAL DAY

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2015

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, Taiwan's 104th National Day will be celebrated, marking the anniversary of the Republic of China's founding. For many years, Taiwan has been a strong ally of the United States, one which shares our interests and values, including an enduring commitment to democracy and the freedom of expression. Approximately one hundred miles from communist China, Taiwan is a beacon of freedom in the Pacific, serving as an inspiration for the world's oppressed and as a model for future democratic transitions.

As we celebrate Taiwan's 104th National Day, we must also think about how we can strengthen the U.S.-Taiwan alliance. Taiwan is increasingly under pressure from an aggressive China that is attempting to assert its dominance in the Pacific and it is crucial that the United States provides the kind of assistance—politically, militarily, and economically—that will allow Taiwan to resist any type of Chinese coercion. China's military buildup, construction of artificial islands, and territorial claims, has greatly escalated tensions in the Asia-Pacific and the risk of conflict with Taiwan. Taiwan's recent successful efforts to reduce tensions in the Asia-Pacific can be used as a model to find further peaceful solutions in maritime Asia.

In order to assist Taiwan, the United States should ensure its meaningful participation in international organizations and entities that it has expressed an interest in participating, including at the United Nations. The United States should also help Taiwan upgrade its air force and its navy, including assisting in the procurement of diesel-electric submarines, so that Taiwan has the capacity to deter Chinese aggression and act as a force for peace and stability in the region. The United States should also be economically assisting Taiwan, our 10th largest trading partner, in order to help it resist China's economic pressure. By strengthening U.S.-Taiwan trade ties, we can give Taiwan the economic and political flexibility it needs to diversify, reduce its reliance on China, and resist Chinese intimidation.

Taiwan is a vibrant democratic partner and ally that the United States cannot afford to neglect. We must remember that not only is the Taiwan Relations Act the law of the land in the United States but, together with President Reagan's Six Assurances, forms the cornerstone of U.S.-Taiwan relations. As Taiwanese all around the world celebrate Taiwan's National Day, we here in the United States stand with our ally, ready to ensure we are supporting her and its people to the best of our ability. Happy Double Tenth Day.