Recognizing Taiwan’s National Day

Hon. Charles J. “Chuck” Fleischmann
Of Tennessee
In the House of Representatives

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish both the people of Taiwan and Americans celebrating Taiwan’s National Day this October 10th a Happy Double Ten Day.

In the decades preceding and following the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979, the United States and Taiwan have built a solid bond that cannot be broken—born out of our shared values and our cooperation with each other in times of crisis, and in times of advancement.

During the years, this key ally in the Asia-Pacific has transformed itself into a multiparty democracy which is a significant contributor to the global economy and humanitarian assistance. This is chiefly due to the hard work of the 23.5 million people on Taiwan, who value education, science, and progress. Americans share these values, which is why we have also contributed to Taiwan’s success not only through our support and friendship, but through the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances, cornerstones of our relations with Taiwan.

In 2016, Taiwan ranked as the United States’ 10th largest trading partner and 7th largest export market for U.S. agricultural products. Moreover, Tennessee’s exports to Taiwan reached $265.19 million in the same year. Taiwan is Tennessee’s 7th largest export market in Asia. Tennessee companies have substantial opportunities to expand their business and cooperation with Taiwan. I will, together with Taiwan, work to find areas where we can partner to our mutual benefit.

This is a day to celebrate, and to be optimistic. I ask my colleagues to join me in recommitting ourselves to the U.S.-Taiwan relationship, and in wishing Taiwan a Happy Double Ten Day.

Honoring Robert Reese

Hon. Jimmy Panetta
Of California
In the House of Representatives

Monday, October 2, 2017

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Reese, an outstanding constituent in my district on the Central Coast of California. Robert has served as the executive director for the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts for over 30 years. His dedication to preserving a vibrant artistic culture that pays homage to the traditions of the original artists’ colony of Carmel, CA has served to make the central coast a hub of innovative art and science.

Whether it be through sculptures, paintings, concerts, poetry readings, recitals, or multimedia performances, the Center for the Arts has consistently provided the invaluable service of allowing residents the opportunity to see themselves, and their community, through a different lens.

Throughout his tenure as executive director, Robert has remained true to the founding vision of Jeanne D’Orge, who founded the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts in the 1940’s. Famous for producing and hosting some of the world’s greatest artists, poets, and writers since the turn of the 20th century, Carmel-by-the-Sea continues to nurture original art and new forms of theater, a wonderful public service that Robert has contributed to tirelessly over the past three decades. His keen eye for fully exploring the “ethos” behind any given piece of artistic expression is a gift that served him well at bringing the community the best kind of art—that which challenges our preconceived notions, and changes the way we think.

In addition to being an expert curator of fine arts, Robert is also a former journalist and award-winning writer. His writing earned him an anthology in the publication Best Spiritual Writing, and the Monterey County Cultural Arts Benefactor Award. A man of great civic virtue, he also regularly volunteers as a chaplain for the Monterey County Jail, and at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Robert Reese for his many accomplishments and contributions to his community. In these polarized times, bringing people together in any way possible is of the utmost importance, and there is no better way to accomplish this than through appreciation of great art, whatever form that may take.