

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In early May, he will be making stops in the United States en route to Central and South America.

I commend President Chen for his leadership and wisdom in having maintained peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during the past six years. Despite the People's Republic of China's military buildup along the Taiwanese coast, despite China's passage of the anti-secession legislation last spring and despite China's continuous harsh rhetoric threatening Taiwan's future, President Chen continues to hope for a dialogue with his Chinese counterparts. President Chen wants permanent peace in the Taiwan Strait.

President Chen firmly believes in his people's right to maintain a free and democratic way of life. Any solution of the Taiwan question must have the consent and approval of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

We must help the 23 million people of Taiwan to determine their own future. First, we must reaffirm our commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, which stipulates a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue. In the meantime, let's give our support to Taiwan in its application to be an observer at the World Health Assembly meetings this May.

It is my hope that President Chen will be warmly welcomed in the United States. Too often he has been misunderstood. I salute him as a leader who's always put his country and his people first. He is our "peacekeeper" in the Taiwan Strait.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS
OF AMADOR VALLEY HIGH
SCHOOL'S "WE THE PEOPLE"
TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both congratulate and wish the students of Amador Valley High School's "We the People" team the best of luck for their national competition in the District of Columbia this weekend. I also congratulate their parents and teachers for this remarkable achievement.

The U.S. Department of Education's Center for Civic Education sponsors "We the People" as an opportunity for students to compete in their knowledge of American civics. Students are quizzed on everything from the U.S. Constitution, the founding of our country, and the revolution of American government. This makes for a great experience for the students, because the testing occurs during simulated congressional hearings. These are creative students who excel in critical thinking and their mastery of history and government.

I am proud to say that on February 3, 2006, the "We the People" team from Amador Valley High School finished first in the State of

California. They are the seventh in the school's history in a line of successful teams to qualify for the national competition in Washington, DC.

These students have been victorious at the congressional, regional, and State levels this year. The team consists of 30 seniors who prepared in 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation. During this time, this diverse group of students have come together as one team; supporting each other in the most difficult and rigorous academic experience of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate the Amador Valley High School team and I want to add the names of these bright students in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Angela Aronoff, Kiel Barry, Sean Basalyga, Nihat Bayramoglu, Sanam Bhatia, Audra Bloom, David Crisostomo, Jennifer Doxey, Jasmine Guo, Scott Hanford, Jennifer Hank, Glenalyn Hunt, Lauren Johnson, Jack LaFrancesca, Jessica Ma, Amy Qin, Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh, Paula Reeve, David Rowse, Lakshmi Santhosh, Eugene Shenkar, Tiffany Shih, Suzanna Sund, Will Tagg, Sonia Talati, Susan Tang, Brookanne Thompson, Ronald Tran, Elise Viebeck, and Jenny Zhan.

H.R. 3277—FEDERAL AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SUNSET ACT

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to speak in favor of H.R. 3277, the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act." The Federal Government is fraught with chronic program overlap and duplication. As Congress has created multiple agencies and programs to meet the needs of our Nation over the years, it has become increasingly clear that many of these programs are now outdated because they serve similar purposes.

Did you know that: 19 federal programs throughout the government focus on substance abuse prevention; 90 early childhood programs exist in 11 federal agencies within 20 different offices; 86 teacher training programs exist in 9 different agencies; and 27 different programs and services to prevent teen pregnancy exist in HHS alone.

The costs of the hurricane recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana have reached record proportions and will place an increasing amount of strain on our Nation's resources. The President has stated that federal spending cuts are inevitable in the near future if the government is to achieve a balanced budget. Congress must take accountability by making sure the most effective spending cuts do not hinder the necessary operations of the Federal Government.

The members of Congress have a unique opportunity in front of them. Together, we can help eliminate program overlap and duplication and at the same time help offset the costs of the hurricane recovery efforts with the passage of the Sunset Act. Under the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act," or the Sunset Act the need and efficiency of each Federal Agency will be investigated by a Sunset Commission.

Once a Federal Agency has been reviewed by the Commission, Congress will have 2 years to positively reaffirm the need for that agency. No reauthorization by Congress in that 2-year span would result in the termination of the agency or program. The Sunset Commissions will empower the President to make the most effective spending cuts by trimming Federal programs whose functions exist elsewhere in the government.

Last year, Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before the Senate Budget Committee with regard to reforming the budget process. What was missing in government, he stated, was a systematic review of all Federal programs. He said, "[Congress] might want to require that existing programs be assessed regularly to verify that they continue to meet their stated purposes and cost projections." The Sunset Act is expressly consistent with this analysis, and would bring light of review and accountability to Federal programs, and result in considerable cost savings to the taxpayer.

A similar important piece of legislation that I introduced is H.R. 3276, the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act". Under the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act," bipartisan commissions would be created to study specific areas where there might be overlap and duplication in federal operations. The commissions would issue recommendations to the President on how to reorganize, at which time the President would decide whether to submit the proposal to Congress. This legislation would require both the creation of a Results Commission and any reorganization proposal endorsed by it to come before Congress under expedited procedures to ensure that the proposal receives a clean, up-or-down vote in both houses.

It is clear that the world works at much faster speeds than it did 40, 30, and even 20 years ago. It is clear that it should not require an act of Congress to reorganize the Executive Branch so that real solutions for crises can be found in the most efficient manner. H.R. 3276 will allow a "fast-track" reorganization authority to exist that will increase the overall operability and efficiency of the government and allow it to keep pace with the speed of the world today.

Something has to be done to eliminate the government waste caused by chronic program overlap and duplication throughout the Federal Government and get the biggest bang for the taxpayers' dollars. The two commissions proposed in H.R. 3276 and H.R. 3277 are critical to achieving a sensible and responsible analysis of government programs and operations and ultimately in eliminating unneeded programs and reorganizing government operations.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I strongly support this bipartisan legislation—the Iran Freedom Support Act—which is a measured, appropriate and necessary response by this body to the continued belligerence and threatening actions of the Iranian regime.

Let none of us be mistaken: Iran, today, poses a grave and growing danger to international security and stability. And, this danger must not be ignored.

Just yesterday, Iran's supreme religious leader, in a meeting with the president of Sudan, reportedly said that Iran was ready to share its nuclear technology with other countries.

This was the latest in a series of outrageous and dangerous comments and actions undertaken by the government in Tehran.

For example, the Iranian president recently has stated his hope for "a world without America" and his desire to "wipe Israel off the map."

Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism. It supports Hezbollah, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. It harbors al-Qaida operatives. And, it has maintained a hostile stance toward the United States and our national interests ever since Iranian radicals seized the American embassy in 1979.

Furthermore, there is little question today that Iran has engaged in a deliberate campaign of lies and deceit to conceal its quest for nuclear weapons.

As the French foreign minister stated earlier this year: "No civilian nuclear program can explain the Iranian nuclear program. It is a clandestine nuclear program."

In 2002, it was revealed that Iran was continuing to develop a nuclear program at two secret nuclear facilities—in direct violation of its international obligations.

Last August, the Iranian government resumed its conversion of uranium, a development that led to a 27-to-3 vote in February by the International Atomic Energy Agency to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council.

And, on March 29, the Security Council gave Iran 30 days—or until this Friday—to stop its nuclear activities.

Unfortunately, the Iranian regime seems intent on following a path of confrontation rather than cooperation.

And that is why I urge the members of this body to support this legislation, which, among other measures, would require the President to impose any two of six specified sanctions against any foreign company or entity investing \$20 million or more in the development of Iran's oil or gas industry—so long as Iran refuses to dismantle its chemical, biological or nuclear weapons program.

This bill also would authorize financial and political assistance to human rights dissidents and pro-democracy advocates in Iran.

And, it expresses the sense of Congress that the President should instruct our U.N. representative to work to secure a Security Council resolution calling for sanctions on Iran for its repeated and flagrant breaches of its nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

Madam Speaker, the members of this body are properly focused on our Nation's continuing efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, we cannot afford to dismiss or ignore the grave danger looming in Iran.

Let me emphasize, I believe that the international community has a collective obligation to exert its will on lawbreakers, such as Iran. This is not the duty alone of the United States or any other single state.

The measure before us is warranted, appropriate and necessary. And I urge the members to support it.

HONORING ROBERT B. WEGMAN

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert B. Wegman, Chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc, and a well known business leader and philanthropist who passed away Thursday, April 20, 2006 at the age of 87.

After 3 years of service in the United States Marine Corps, Wegman became a store manager at his family business in 1947. He took over the business after his uncle's death in 1950. Born at a time when people bought fruits and vegetables from pushcart peddlers, Robert Wegman was a pioneer in the supermarket industry. He not only spearheaded the concept of one-stop-shopping by adding in-store cafes, federal credit unions, pharmacies, photo labs, dry cleaning services, video departments and childcare centers to Wegmans Markets, he built a successful business based on the simple idea that it was essential to treat customers and employees right.

Anyone who has shopped at Wegmans knows that these stores are not your average supermarket chain. This is in large part due to fact that Robert Wegman valued quality more than a quick profit. In explaining his goals, he said "I have never pursued growth for growth's sake—all we really want from our efforts are the finest food stores anywhere, operated profitably." Combined with a desire to expand the choices and quality of goods available to consumers, Wegman revolutionized the industry and turned shopping into an experience rather than a chore. When a shopper enters a Wegmans they not only find high quality products at low prices, but they enter an environment with all of the charm of a European market and all of the convenience that one expects of a local supermarket. Under his leadership, Wegmans received the Golden Shopping Cart Award for Best Supermarket, was named the "Most Family-Friendly Supermarket in America" by Child magazine and has been awarded the prestigious Black Pearl Award for advancing food safety and quality.

In addition to his business savvy, Robert Wegman knew the importance of taking care of his employees. The 70 Wegmans Markets that stretch from New York to Virginia employ more than 35,000 people and offer programs like the Wegmans Scholarship Program, which has awarded \$56 million to 18,000 employees since 1983. As a result of Robert Wegmans efforts, Wegmans has been named one of the "100 Best Companies to Work For" by Fortune Magazine for nine consecutive years starting in 1998. In 2005, Wegmans achieved the honor of being ranked number 1 on the list.

Outside of his life as a businessman, Robert Wegman was also a philanthropist. He has donated millions of dollars to charity, including \$25 million to the Rochester Roman Catholic Diocese to educate inner-city students, \$10 million to the Aquinas Institute, \$5 million to St. John Fisher College for the Wegmans School of Pharmacy and \$8 million to the University's School of Nursing.

Robert Wegman is survived by his wife, Peggy; sister, Cecilia Wright; brother, Jim Wegman; children, Danny Wegman, Gail

Tobin, Joan Goldberg, and Marie Kenton; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

COACH JOHN WOODEN POST
OFFICE BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 4646, which would rename the postal facility in Reseda, California in honor of a UCLA legend, a teacher and community leader, and the greatest coach in sports history: John Wooden.

Coach Wooden achieved unmatched success in his years at UCLA. His commitment to excellence, his steady leadership, and his great wisdom have made him one of the most beloved figures in the history of that great university.

As we saw this year, Coach Wooden's legacy continues. Through hard work, determination, and a deep belief in the power of teamwork, his Bruins captured the Pac10 Championship and advanced to the NCAA Championship game. This year's victories are Coach Wooden's victories because his wisdom and work ethic are the lifeblood of the UCLA basketball program.

I was lucky enough to attend UCLA in the years leading up to the Bruin's unprecedented string of championships and undefeated seasons. Coach Wooden's leadership was the driving force behind four undefeated seasons, 88 consecutive victories, and 7 consecutive NCAA championships.

In addition to the wins on the court, Coach Wooden was an inspiration to his players and the UCLA community. His players' admiration and respect has extended decades beyond their time at UCLA. The University's worldwide visibility and commitment to excellence are forever tied to Coach Wooden's great legacy.

I wish Coach Wooden many years of health and happiness and it gives me great pleasure to support H.R. 4646.

IN HONOR OF THE BARON DE
KALB COUNCIL NO. 1073 OF THE
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 of the Knights of Columbus and to offer my thanks for the continual dedication it has shown to the southern Brooklyn communities it serves. The Baron De Kalb Council No. 1073 was founded in 1906 by Ambrose P. Rikeman, who became their first Grand Knight. It was founded on the principals of charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism, principals that have been ingrained in the hearts and minds of its members ever since. The Council is named for Baron Johann De Kalb, a courageous and loyal military leader whose spirit continues to live on in the leaders of this great Council.