I urge my colleagues to join me and vote for the CPC "Budget for All".

CONGRATULATING THE REELECTION OF PRESIDENT MA YING-JEOU OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on January 14, 2012, the Honorable Ma Ying-jeou was elected to a second term as the President of the Republic of China. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate President Ma and the people of Taiwan on the strength and vitality of their commitment to democracy.

For over a half century, Taiwan has been a strong, democratic ally to the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and across the world. Our peoples have enjoyed a close friendship forged by our political, economic, cultural, and strategic ties. Taiwan's sustained economic and sociopolitical development has set an admirable exemplar that many countries seek to emulate. Taiwan's global scope and leadership has transcended many sectors, particularly healthcare. Taiwan boasts one of the most innovative and efficient healthcare systems in the world. As an advocate for building mutual relationships, I am confident that the U.S.-Taiwan bond will only become stronger with Taiwan's inclusion in the U.S. Visa Waiver Program. Over 400,000 Taiwanese citizens visit the United States each year; this could increase by 20 to 30 percent once Taiwan gains admission into the U.S. Visa Waiver Program.

As Chair Emeritus of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I know firsthand the importance this partnership holds for our Taiwanese-American communities. According to the 2010 Census there are approximately 230,000 Taiwanese-Americans currently living here in the United States, many of whom live in my home district in Silicon Valley. Taiwanese-Americans are frequently highly educated contributors to the vibrancy of the U.S. economy, and this is reflected in their sectors of employment. The majority of Taiwanese-Americans work in management, business, finance, information technology, sciences and engineering. As a representative of ethnically diverse Silicon Valley, I proudly join Taiwanese-Americans and the technology industry in celebrating the growing, collaborative economic relationship between the United States and Taiwanese companies.

Many of these advances are attributed to President Ma's strong and visionary leadership during his first term as president. I commend President Ma and his Administration for their tremendous strides in working toward stability amidst international economic uncertainty and in strengthening cross-strait relations with the People's Republic of China. President Ma's reelection is a testament to the people of Taiwan supporting his efforts and leadership. In fact, Taiwan's presidential race elicited unprecedented grassroots organization, from everyday citizens to business executives, to rally support for President Ma's reelection. The Taiwanese people have truly spoken, and their approval of President Ma's rapprochement policy with the People's Republic of China is an encouraging beacon from which we can all learn from.

Once again, I congratulate President Ma Ying-jeou and the people of the Republic of China for a highly celebrated election. I look forward to my upcoming visit to Taiwan and meeting with President Ma. It will be a pleasure to continue working with President Ma and his Administration to strengthen our U.S.-Taiwan partnership and ensure peace and stability for our peoples, the region, and the world.

HONORING MS. TINA MATTE

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History month I rise today to honor Ms. Tina McCain Matte, an outstanding individual and someone who has continuously supported the Southwest Florida community.

Ms. Matte is currently serving as President of Gravina, Smith, Matte & Arnold, an influential marketing and public relations firm located in Fort Myers. The firm specializes in developing long-term, results-oriented public relations programs for regional residential and commercial developments, resorts, governmental agencies, professional firms and nonprofit organizations. She has excelled in her position as President and in 2008 was named a Top 50 Power Player by Gulfshore Business, in recognition of her influence and leadership in Southwest Florida. The Florida Public Relations Association has also awarded her numerous times for her excellent service.

Amongst her duties as president she has also finds the time to be active in her community. From 2002–2008 she was appointed by then Governor Jeb Bush to serve on the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission, where she served as chair from 2006–2007. Currently, Ms. Matte serves on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army, as well as Floridians for Better Transportation, a statewide business and transportation association committed to making transportation safer and more efficient in Florida. Throughout her career, Ms. Matte has served the community admirably and has been a stalwart leader in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Ms. Tina McCain Matte for her continued service to the Miami community and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF CRAFTON HILLS COLLEGE IN YUCAIPA, CALIFORNIA

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 40th anniversary of one of the most dynamic centers of learning in my district: Crafton Hills College, in Yucaipa, California.

I have spoken to my colleagues before about this fine community college. It has grown from an initial 881 students in 1972 to more than 5,600 today. The faculty continues to expand, with more than 90 full-time teachers and administrators. More than 150,000 students have expanded their education and found new job skills at Crafton.

As many of my colleagues are aware, community colleges have become a haven for many of our fellow citizens who have lost jobs and are desperately seeking new skills to advance their place in our economy. Crafton Hills has certainly been one of those havens, offering more than 60 degrees and certificates ranging from Radiologic Technology to Internet Web Design. The college has maintained its high standards and student services despite facing its own budget cutbacks.

In just the past few years, the campus has seen a number of wonderful additions. Even as they faced tough economic times, voters in our area approved a bond measure that paid to build a 60,000-square-foot Learning Resource Center, which now houses the library, a computer center, an art gallery and a tiered auditorium. The bond also paid for installation of a fabulous new swim center, which incorporates the competitive pool used in the 2004 Olympic trials in Long Beach, California. I was pleased to help arrange moving the pool to the campus.

The campus will soon dedicate a seven-acre Solar Farm that will provide nearly all of the college's electrical needs, as well as taking a tremendous load off of the public electrical grid. All of these improvements are clear evidence that Crafton Hills College is laying the groundwork to be a top educational institution for decades to come.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to once again praise the college for its role in the San Bernardino Regional Emergency Training Center at the San Bernardino International Airport. Established with the support of the Federal Aviation Administration, the center has trained hundreds of firefighters from across the nation in how to handle commercial aircraft fires—with real-life scenarios set in the fuselage of a former jet-liner. I have no doubt that many lives will be saved in the future by firefighters who have learned their techniques here.

Mr. Speaker, Crafton Hills College is a top example of the kind of center for higher education that will train our future workers, researchers and academics. Please join me in congratulating the college's administration, faculty and students for their efforts, and wish them success for the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall No. 139 on March 28, 2012, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on ordering the previous question, so that the House could consider the bipartisan Violence Against Women Act.