CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

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RETRIEval OF COL. JOHN R. BOURGEOIS, USMC

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge the “passing of a baton” both in the literal and figurative sense.

On July 11, 1996, Col. John R. Bourgeois, the 25th director of the U.S. Marine Band and Music Advisor to the White House, retired. He had led the band, known as the President’s Own, for 17 years.

A native of Louisiana, Colonel Bourgeois joined the Marine Corps in 1956 and joined the band just 2 years later as a guitarist. When he was appointed to his present grade, he became the first musician in the Marine Corps to serve in every rank from private to colonel.

As director of the Marine Band and Music Advisor to the White House, Colonel Bourgeois has selected the music for each Presidential inauguration since 1981 and has appeared at the White House more frequently than any other musician.

I am sure that those of my colleagues who have enjoyed the band’s incredible performances at the evening parades or in other venues are not surprised that Colonel Bourgeois and the Marine Band remain the favorite of Presidents year after year.

When he retired, Colonel Bourgeois literally passed the baton—a baton that had been given to another director of the Marine Band, John Philip Sousa, over a century ago—to Maj. Timothy W. Foley, who has been nominated to become the next director.

The particular connection between the military profession and its rousing music has transcended the years and national borders. It is as much a part of history as military service itself.

As Bourgeois retires from active duty after a distinguished career of service to the Marine Corps and his country, I know all of my colleagues join me in expressing our deepest appreciation for the passion and professionalism he has brought to his duties, and the joy and pride he has brought to so many Americans.

TAIWAN STUDENTS AND FREE EXPRESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in our Nation we take for granted the ability to speak freely and express what we please with no governmental interference. There are a number of celebrated legal cases that delineate the standard of time and manner regulations that exist in America and other select limitations. Moreover, here in America we don’t believe that expression is allowed for one group and not for comparable organizations. Such designated permission is paramount to censorship of the party denied their speech.

In this regard, I voice my concern today about an incident that has been reported about an incident that occurred at the Olympic Games in Atlanta during a table tennis championship between Taiwan and the People’s Republic of China. During the game, two Taiwanese students waving the national flags of Taiwan were arrested under the premise that they could not wave large flags, yet all around them large flags from other countries were in fact being waved by a multitude of those present at the event.

Mr. President, to understand the deep significance of this event is to know that the contentions over flags and other items of national emblems and insignia is one of the issues that has long obstructed an amiable relationship between the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan. This history is extensive and, frankly, humiliating to Taiwan, which has not always been afforded the full privileges of national pride at events where both the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan have been represented.

Again, at these Olympic Games in Atlanta, Taiwan was subject to not displaying their recognized flag and subjecting their representatives to wearing other colors and design. While the Taiwan Government recognized the need for its official representatives to abide by an arrangement with the United States, Taiwanese fans were not subject to such agreements.

Nor should they have been. I believe the United States would have been furious if its citizens were asked to not display the Stars and Stripes or substitute the flag for another emblem under which to cheer their teams. Yet, in Atlanta, the Taiwanese citizens were arrested for “disruption of public order by waving the flag of the National Republic of China (Taiwan),” Mrs. Hsu, a citizen of the People’s Republic of China and chairman of the International Table Tennis Association, admits to calling on the police to arrest the students.

I am concerned that the Atlanta Police Department was answering to a citizen of the People’s Republic of China in conducting arrests of individuals in America. Additionally, the question of subjecting citizens from countries to all of the agreements that the formal representatives may agree to is also a disturbing precedent. I believe the International Olympic Committee should carefully examine these circumstances, particularly since we in the United States fundamentally believe in free expression rather than less.

The next day, her emotions were still raw.

“All these horrible things about love ones going to a better place. I just hate that,” she said. “The politician said it’s just the 20 million meaningless things. As if that could help. As if any of that could help.”

It is going on eight years since Mrs. Cohen and her husband, Daniel, lost their only child, Theodore, 20, to the terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people. “The pain will never go away,” Mrs. Cohen said. “It will never go away.”

Theodore—Theo to all she knew—was a singer and aspiring actress. “She had a beautiful soprano voice,” Mrs. Cohen said. “She was vibrant and artistic.”