

CONGRATULATIONS TO GENERAL
VASCO JOAQUIN ROCHA VIEIRA

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations to General Vasco Joaquin Rocha Vieira the Governor of Macao on the Third Meeting, or the "Terceiro Encontro" of the Macanese people. The "Terceiro Encontro" symbolizes the importance of cultural diversity, social cohesion, and international ties in the historic development of Macao.

As the co-chair of the House Portuguese-American Caucus, and the only member of the House of Representatives of Portuguese ancestry I am very proud of the former Portuguese territory and its people.

The Macanese people reflect a unique and positive blending of the European and Asian Cultures. They also have made very significant contributions to the social, political, and economic welfare in the communities in which they reside.

The territory of Macao is situated on the meridional skirt of the China Coast and is scheduled to be turned over to the People's Republic of China on December 20, 1999. Throughout its more than 400 years of history, Macao has proudly been the stronghold of the Portuguese presence and culture in the Far East. The Portuguese flag was always flown in Macao, even during the Spanish occupation of Portugal. This proud history and strong roots makes the "Terceiro Encontro" a truly special event.

Mr. Speaker please join me in once again congratulate General Vieira on this important event.

REPORT FROM INDIANA—
BLOOMINGTON

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my "Report from Indiana" where I honor distinguished fellow Hoosiers who are actively engaged in their communities helping others. Today, I want to mention a special group of people from Bloomington, Indiana who I had the privilege of meeting recently.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my strong belief that individuals and communities can do a better job of caring for those who need help in our society than the federal government. The wonderfully kind and committed Hoosier who I have met traveling around Indiana has not changed my view.

Ruthie and I have met hundreds of individuals who are committed to making our communities a better place in which to live and raise our children—we can them "Hoosier Heroes."

I met these genuine Hoosier Heroes in Bloomington, Indiana recently. They are the Bloomington Rotary Club. They are men and women who, with no desire for recognition, re-energize their communities, and help those in need.

They have made Bloomington a better community through their voluntary efforts and have even made the world a better place through their drive to eradicate polio throughout the world. This chapter raised over a hundred thousand dollars and we are seeing the fruits of their labor. Since 1988 polio cases have been reduced by 90% world wide.

The Bloomington Rotary Club work has given so many people the most precious gift possible, hope. They don't do it for the pay, which is zilch; they do it for the smiles and laughter. They are true heroes in my book, doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

The Bloomington Rotary Club deserves the gratitude of their country, state, and nation and I thank them here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

HONORING GENE KRIGSVOLD

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a local hero from western Wisconsin. I want to honor Gene Kringsvold who took courageous action to aid another citizen.

For the past three years the Eau Claire Fire Fighters Local Union 487, in conjunction with the Eau Claire Fire Department, have recognized area residents who acted bravely in emergency situations. The recipients of the Citizen Community Involvement Awards are citizens who put the safety and well being of their neighbors ahead of other concerns in a time of need.

Gene Kringsvold is one of those extraordinary citizens. On June 13, 1998 The Navy Blue Angels sponsored The Upward 98 Air Show at the Chippewa Valley Regional Airport in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Thousands of people throughout Wisconsin came to participate in the festivities. Spectators were everywhere, watching the show from the streets, the air and the Chippewa River. Late in the afternoon a swimmer in the Chippewa River was struck by a boat. Gene Kringsvold, who had been boating on the river was there to assist the Eau Claire Fire and Rescue teams during the search for the missing swimmer. Without hesitation he offered his pontoon boat, which provided them with a diving platform. He was also able to provide them with knowledge of the river currents, having grown up on the lake. Gene and the rescue team members worked late into the day. Gene's efforts greatly contributed in the search for the missing swimmer.

On behalf of all the citizens of western Wisconsin I ask that the United States House of Representatives recognize Gene Kringsvold for his courage and thank him for being a concerned and giving community citizen.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN
KOSOVO RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 42) regarding the use of United States Armed Forces as part of a NATO peacekeeping operation implementing a Kosovo peace agreement:

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, there are many occasions when this body meets to consider important matters of national business. But none more important than this.

To discuss and debate a resolution regarding the development of American troops in a foreign land is the utmost in constitutional and moral responsibility. It is one we do not undertake lightly.

Yesterday during testimony before the House International Affairs Committee, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick was asked if she thought it was appropriate for this Congress to debate this issue at this time.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick, who supports potentially deploying U.S. troops in Kosovo, replied that it is always the constitutional prerogative of the Congress to weigh in on grave matters of national security. And so we do.

But we do so with caution and concern. I approach this issue from the perspective of preserving our national security and protecting our national interest. These are two essential principles that I believe must guide our policy as we work to guide the world toward peace.

How will it affect our national security—and how is it in our national interest? These are two questions which must be decided—before any troops can be deployed.

As someone who has been at once an internationalist in foreign policy and an advocate for more defense spending, I do have to say I find it somewhat ironic that we continue to discuss deploying our troops overseas to provide protection for other nations while here in our own nation we fail to provide basic protections for our own troops like good pay, benefits, training, and equipment.

I would urge this Congress to address the need to increase defense spending. Across the board. For every armed service. No more delays. No more broken promises.

Beyond that, I want to state for the record in no uncertain terms—that I believe the atrocities of Milosevic are despotic, demonic, and despicable. I need no clarification as to whether he is evil or whether he will do more evil. He is. And he will.

We don't need to guess what he will do in the future—we have seen what he has done in the past. The prospect of another Croatia or another Bosnia can give us little comfort.

Yet I remain deeply troubled by the possibility of deploying United States troops in Kosovo. Can we really make a difference in this far away land? At this point, I have my doubts. It's probably only wishful thinking, but it is tempting to think of what might have been.

If only the administration would consult the Congress more fully and more openly. They haven't.