

COMMEMORATING THE 88TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to pay tribute to a special occasion. In San Francisco we are celebrating the 88th Anniversary of the National Day of the Republic of China, known as the "Double Tenth" celebration of freedom day.

The people of the United States have a strong bond with and commitment to the people of the Republic of China [Taiwan] who have demonstrated to the world their pledge to democracy. The Republic of China continues to be a prosperous, colorful nation of peoples and interests characterized by strong economic growth and respect for basic human rights and democratic freedoms.

The Republic of China is an important partner of the United States—economically, culturally, strategically, and politically. It is my privilege to congratulate the celebrants of the "Double Tenth" festival of freedom. I am proud to voice the support and best wishes of the Republic of China's many friends in Congress and look forward to celebrating this historic event in the years ahead.

CO-OPS IMPORTANT TO ARKANSAS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, throughout my district and throughout rural America, cooperatives are the lifeblood of communities. Cooperatives are made up of groups of people who work together to produce results above and beyond what any one member could accomplish alone. Cooperatives embody the characteristics of hard work, economic liberty, interdependence, and togetherness that have defined American business and society throughout history.

In the 1st District of Arkansas, cooperatives provide electricity, farm supplies, and other services and products to residents. These businesses generate economic activity that fuels local economies, while providing savings to local citizens.

For years co-ops have provided great benefits to farms across Arkansas by selling fertilizer, marketing crops, and performing services that otherwise would be much more expensive. I am proud that cooperatives play such a vital part of the communities in my district. It is very fitting we celebrate co-ops' important contributions by recognizing October as National Cooperative Month.

NATIONAL COOPERATIVE MONTH

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important contribution of coopera-

tives to the economic health of the nation. October, after all, is National Cooperative Month. Cooperatives represent economic opportunity for nearly 40% of Americans who are members of a cooperative. Cooperatives come in many forms—rural electric, agriculture, telephone, credit unions, consumer co-ops and more.

This year commemorates the 155th anniversary of the cooperatives as we know them today. In 1844, the Rochdale Society of Pioneers in England formalized cooperative activity by writing down their principles and practices. These principles and practices are the basis of today's cooperative enterprises, which serve more than 600 million people in every country in the world.

In the United States, about 30 percent of farmers' products and farm supplies in the United States are marketed through cooperatives. Rural electric cooperatives operate more than half of the electric distribution lines in the United States and provide electricity for more than 25 million people. Consumer-owned and controlled cooperatives pioneered prepaid, group-practice health care. Today cooperative health-maintenance organizations (HMOs) provide health-care services to more than one million Americans. Moreover, credit unions have more than 63 million members and assets in excess of \$100 billion.

In my home state of Wisconsin, 2.9 million citizens depend on more than 800 cooperatives to market and supply agriculture products, as well as to provide credit, electricity, telephone service, health care, housing, insurance, and numerous other products and services. Cooperative businesses employ approximately 20,000 Wisconsin residents. Cooperatives provide hundreds of millions of dollars in annual economic activity in Wisconsin and pay millions of dollars annually in taxes.

Cooperatives have a rich history in my home state, with Wisconsin being one of the first states in the nation to enact a law authorizing cooperatives in 1887. A young woman—Anne Pickett—started Wisconsin's first dairy cooperative in 1841, pooling milk from neighborhood farms, processing it into our state's world class cheese and shipping it to the "big city" of Milwaukee for sale.

In addition, the nation's cooperative marketing of livestock had its beginnings in Wisconsin during the 1920s, when local livestock shipping associations organized at rail points to ship livestock to a terminal market.

Mr. Speaker, cooperatives are owned by their members who come together to meet their common economic, social, and cultural aspirations through a jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise. Member-owned cooperatives elect a board of directors who determine its management structure and direction. Cooperatives are everywhere, helping people meet their common needs through group effort.

Like everything else in today's world, cooperatives are changing to meet today's challenges. During this Month, let us pay tribute to the important role that cooperatives have played in the tremendous economic success of our nation.

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF
EMILY COLE

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Emily Cole, principal of Jefferson Davis High School in Houston, Texas. Ms. Cole has been principal of Jefferson Davis High School for the last 11 years and has been an educator for 34 years. As a Jeff Davis graduate, I am especially proud to join in paying tribute to her.

Emily Cole earned a BA and M.Ed from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Ms. Cole was the first in her family to earn a college degree. Education has always been a major part of her life. She has worked as a teacher in several elementary schools in Texas, as the associate director of the Teacher Corps at the University of Houston, and as an assistant principal and principal in Houston public schools.

Ms. Cole has spent her career working tirelessly on behalf of all children. She has always promoted what was best for school children, never forgetting that their best interest was her driving force.

During her tenure at Jefferson Davis High School, Emily Cole has made many improvements. The number of seniors receiving scholarships has increased, TAAS scores have risen, the dropout rate has decreased and the number of graduates has grown.

In addition, Ms. Cole has used Project GRAD (Graduation Really Achieves Dreams) to increase the number of college-bound students at Jefferson Davis High School. Project GRAD was started 10 years ago by Jim Ketelsen, former Tenneco chief executive officer, as a scholarship program. It now provides a comprehensive college-preparatory curriculum to students beginning in the elementary grades. Before the program was started at Jefferson Davis High School, only 20 graduates per year went to college. In 1998, 110 Davis graduates enrolled in college.

American historian and writer Henry Adams once stated that "a teacher affects eternity; he can never tell when his influence stops." For Emily Cole, the lives she has touched over her many years in the education field will ensure that her influence carries on far into the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the career of one of Texas' education heroes as principal of Jefferson Davis High School. Ms. Cole, we wish you well.

RECOGNIZING DR. EARL F.
SKELTON

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I wish to recognize the outstanding achievements of Dr. Earl F. Skelton, who recently retired from the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) after 32 years.

Dr. Skelton has made tremendous contributions to science through his research and teaching. He earned a Bachelor of Science in