

new leaders, proponents of freedom and capitalism, realize that their relations with the leaders in Beijing can enhance or threaten these economic ties. And they favor PNTR.

AVOIDING PAST MISTAKES

As I have studied the situation with China, I have found myself reflecting more and more about mistakes made by the U.S. this century. Almost a century ago, we made a gigantic mistake in not joining the League of Nations, and it helped lead to war with Germany.

A half century ago, we made a gigantic mistake with regard to Cuba. I have concluded that our policies in that situation were seriously mistaken. I believe that if we had resisted imposing the embargo on Cuba, Castro would be history and democracy would be flourishing there as it is in almost every other nation of the western hemisphere. Our effort to isolate Cuba has contributed mightily to keeping its economy from growing. But obviously they did not succeed in bringing about political change. Quite the contrary.

By letting a tiny but vocal minority dictate our Cuba policy, we missed an opportunity to send our message of freedom to the oppressed people there. We have strengthened Castro, unwittingly, and put ourselves in a situation where we have very little real influence on a nation only 90 miles from our shores.

We must not make the same mistakes with a country of 1.3 billion people that we made with a country of 10 million people. China has over 20 percent of the world's population; she is important, even vital, to world peace and prosperity in the decades ahead.

CONCLUSION

This agreement includes the strongest anti-surge controls ever legislated. We created the Congressional-Executive Commission on China to oversee every aspect of human rights, including worker rights. We negotiated a provision blocking imports from slave or prison labor. We fought for the creation of a specific inventory of the rights Congress will examine annually on behalf of the Chinese people. This new way of keeping the spotlight on Beijing is crucial, in my view, as we seek to build on the progress of the past.

China must become part of the world community, one way or another, or we will live in a more dangerous world for decades or longer. I think everyone involved in this debate agrees on that central point. The real question is how we can best influence continued change in China. Whatever choice this Congress makes, China will become a member of the WTO and an ever more important player in the global economy. That will inevitably impact on U.S. labor and U.S. business in ways we cannot avoid—only try to shape.

Labels help to shape the debate, of course. We talk about this being a vote on Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China. But is "permanent" the right word in a world where little is permanent, where laws can change from year to year? I don't think so. To my mind, the better words to use as a label for this issue would be Continuance of the Normal Trade Relations that have existed for 20 years. After all, this year's vote would simply end what has before been an annual automatic sunset on normal trade relations. But it would hardly prohibit Congress from re-visiting the matter next year or at any time in the future and sunseting it with an affirmative vote, rather than by automatic operation of law. So those who say this is fraught with danger be-

cause of its "permanency" are, in my judgment, incorrect.

As I have reviewed this situation, I have frequently thought about the young people of China. A generation ago, Chinese students traveled to Moscow and learned the Russian language and Marxist-Leninist doctrine. Now, the children of these students attend universities in New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Buffalo and Rochester.

The collaboration between the school of business at the University of Buffalo and its counterparts in two Chinese universities is a dramatic example. Graduates of those programs are now a successful and influential group of alumni inside China. I have no doubt that China benefits from this educational partnership. But I am also convinced that the United States benefits, too. American faculty and students learn about China while they learn about us. And the messages of capitalism and freedom are spread.

This is but a microcosm of what engagement can mean. Look at what happened in Poland. Americans found ways to interact with people in Poland. Our labor unions supplied Solidarity with computers and vast amounts of assistance and encouragement. No one can know exactly how significant these contacts were in bringing the communist regime down and setting the stage for dismemberment of the old Soviet empire. But what we do know is that they did play a part, and the world is a better place for it.

My vote, Mr. Speaker, is for engagement and against isolation. Our leadership in the world requires it.

TRIBUTE TO JAKE SCHRUM

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jake Schrum, a tremendous educator who will soon be leaving his position as president of Texas Wesleyan University after a distinguished tenure.

Under Jake's stewardship, Texas Wesleyan has become a truly first-class university—enrollment has doubled, the Annual Fund and operating budget have doubled, and the University has acquired a law school that is accredited by the American Bar Association.

Jake has preformed important work in defining the role of the university in America's urban, multi-cultural settings. His Democracy's last Stand: The Role of the New Urban University, focuses on the mission of Texas Wesleyan and similar schools in maintaining an inclusive learning environment and serving the needs of a student body representing a broad cross section of America's college students.

In addition to his service at Texas Wesleyan, Jake has served on numerous business and community boards and educational organizations in our Fort Worth community and around the world—working on educational issues in Europe, Mexico, and Canada. Jake has said that his primary interest in higher education is fostering the moral development of students.

Jake will become president of Southwest University in Georgetown, Texas. Our loss will certainly be Southwest University and the

Georgetown Community's gain. Thank you, Jake, for all you have done for Texas Wesleyan and our Fort Worth community.

COMMEMORATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join my colleagues in the Congressional Asian Pacific Caucus to commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The Asian Pacific American experience displays a journey characterized by triumphs and struggles. Like many groups of people who came to America from other shores, Asian Pacific Americans embraced the values of this nation and worked to build a better life in this country while contributing to a stronger America. Indeed, these citizens have enriched our society in virtually every field and facet.

Today, I am pleased to recognize such notable Asian Pacific Americans as nuclear physicist Samuel Chao Chung Ting whose work earned him the Nobel Prize. Architects like I.M. Pei and Minoru Yamasaki have made enormous contributions to their profession. I extend my appreciation to athletes like Sammy Lee, Kristi Yamaguchi, Michelle Kwan, and Michael Chang who have represented the United States with inspiration and excellence. Our nation has been enriched by Asian Pacific Americans like these who have done so much to earn the applause of their fellow Americans.

As we celebrate the achievements of Asian Pacific Americans, we must also remember the obstacles they endured. Asian immigration into the United States began in the mid 1800's. These immigrants came to work in hopes of a better life. Unfortunately, America did not always extend the torch of liberty to these immigrants. In 1882, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act prohibiting immigration from China. Further, in 1917, Congress acted to prohibit immigrants from an area called the Asiatic Barred Zone which included most of Asia and a majority of the islands in the Pacific Ocean. These actions displayed the resistance that America showed towards Asian Americans at that time.

One of the most staggering reminders of the discrimination that these Americans faced is the unconscionable internment of more than 100,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Branded as disloyal to the very flag they saluted, these Americans of Japanese descent endured tremendous hardship during one of our nation's most trying times. History would eventually vindicate these loyal Americans as not even a single documented case of sabotage or espionage was committed by an American of Japanese ancestry during that time. Indeed, the Japanese American soldiers of the 44th combat regiment, the most decorated group of soldiers in American history, proved their devotion for this country as they fought for our nation even as their own family members stood locked behind barbed wires.

Truly, Asian Pacific Americans of every stripe have proven their love for their country. I am privileged to represent Los Angeles, home to the largest Asian Pacific American population in the United States. This is a thriving community of people who exemplify American values and a love for our nation. That is

why it is so appropriate that we celebrate the profound contributions of Asian Pacific Americans to this country. Accordingly, I stand with my colleagues in observing May as Asian Pacific American Heritage month and salute this rich and diverse community.

RECOGNIZING TERRY STYLES

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate Terry Styles for receiving the Developer of the Year Award for 2000.

The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties presented Stiles Corporation with this award. This is a first for a developer in South Florida. This prestigious honor, which is only given to one company each year, illustrates the vibrant industry that entrepreneurs such as Terry Stiles are creating in South Florida.

Stiles Corp. met the six requirements necessary to win the award from NAIOP. The criteria include quality products and services, civic involvement in their communities, and financial consistency and stability. South Florida can use more outstanding companies such as Stiles Corp. I ask the House to join me in paying tribute to a great businessman.

IN HONOR OF THE ELIZABETH WATERFRONT FESTIVAL

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Elizabeth Waterfront Festival, an annual event celebrating the diversity of this great country by bringing together Hispanic families from Cuba, Colombia, Honduras, Peru, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ecuador, and Mexico.

The festival will take place in Elizabeth, New Jersey on May 27, 28, and 29. The expected 450,000 visitors to the festival will enjoy three days of games, rides, crafts, and traditional Latin music and food.

The Waterfront Festival celebrates the history, culture, and arts of the area's Hispanic community, while also providing access to some of Elizabeth's fine resources. The waterfront is an exceptional feature of the city and a perfect place to hold a festival honoring Hispanic heritage.

In addition to celebrating the heritage of other nations, this festival celebrates America's heritage by acknowledging the contributions that made our country great—we are a nation of nations, and this festival is a fine example of why America's collective soul lives on in prosperous fashion—with this celebration, we honor our past and embrace our future.

This celebration would not have been possible without the sponsorship and support of the City of Elizabeth, Melly Mell Productions, Inc., and the Elizabeth Cubanos Lions Club. For their kind support, I extend my sincerest gratitude.

I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring this wonderful festival, and ask that we honor America's rich diversity.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES HELEN AND ALBERT LEVINSON

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Helen and Albert Levinson of Monroe Township, who will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this Friday. Together they have served on a wide variety of committees, held countless leadership positions in the community, and tirelessly advocated the importance of public service and "giving back" to the community.

Both Helen and Albert Levinson were born in the United States. Both of their fathers emigrated from Eastern Europe, while their mothers were born in the United States. They met in Newark, NJ, and were married in 1940. Albert served his country during World War II by working in the Newark Shipyards. After the war, he opened Levinson's Furniture in Newark, and in 1968 entered a real estate business specializing in commercial real estate. Albert concluded his real estate career by joining forces with his two sons, Robert and Marc, in the form of Levinson Associates. Helen received a degree in teaching from Newark State Teachers College, and began teaching primary school while raising her two young boys. She eventually embarked on a new career in social services, specializing in pediatric casework.

Albert and Helen moved to the Clearbrook Adult Community in Monroe Township in 1973, and Albert served as president of that community for 3 consecutive years. He was then asked to join the Township Council and was elected for a 4-year term. Today, both Albert and Helen remain active in their communities. At 83 years of age, Albert still comes to work daily, and is a commissioner of the Monroe Township Municipal Utility Authority.

Albert and Helen have willingly given themselves to the community. As they plan to celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary tomorrow, I urge my fellow representatives to join me in recognizing this exceptional couple.

CONTRIBUTION OF SULTAN QABOOS OF OMAN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS COUNTRY AND TO U.S.-OMANI RELATIONS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, without doubt, the most distinctive feature of my office in the Rayburn House Office Building is a model ship. This is not just any model of a ship, it dominates my office—the ship fills one entire wall of the office standing nine feet tall and stretching about 12 feet long. This ship model, Mr. Speaker, is an accurate scale model of the ship *Sultanah*, a vessel built in Oman in

the last century. The model was constructed from the original blueprints for the ship which are still in the hands of the Omani government. The *Sultanah* has great importance for United States relations with Oman because this ship brought the first Arab ambassador to the United States in 1840. In fact, Mr. Speaker, April 13 of this year was the 160th anniversary of the arrival of the *Sultanah* in New York harbor.

This ship is not only an important symbol of U.S.-Omani relations, but it is important for U.S. relations with the entire Arab world. This model ship was given to the United States Congress by the government of Oman in 1995 when I hosted an exhibit of Omani culture and history in the Rotunda of the Cannon House Office Building to mark the 25th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of Oman of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Sid Al-Said. The model of the *Sultanah* is temporarily in my office, Mr. Speaker.

I mention this model of the *Sultanah*, Mr. Speaker, as an introduction to remarks I wish to make today in paying tribute to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos of Oman. First, I want to call to the attention of my colleagues the singular honor recently bestowed on His Majesty. Georgetown University presented the 25th Anniversary Founders Award of the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies to Sultan Qaboos in recognition of his important contribution to the establishment of the Center. In 1975, when the Center was established, the Sultan made one of the first grants to permit its establishment. Five years later, he endowed the Sultanate of Oman Chair in Arabic and Islamic Literature, and in 1993 he made a further endowment by establishing a scholarship fund for the Department of Arabic at the university.

This is only the latest recognition of the Sultan's role in improving relations between Oman and the United States and between the Arab world and the United States. His commitment to better ties between our two countries has been an important element in the friendship that marks our relationship with Oman.

Mr. Speaker, the second reason I call the attention of my colleagues to the activities and role of Sultan Qaboos is that this year marks the 30th anniversary of his assumption of power on July 24, 1970. When he became the new leader of Oman, he was confronted with insurgency in a country plagued by endemic disease, illiteracy, and poverty. One of the new sultan's first measures was to abolish many of his father's harsh restrictions, which had caused thousands of Omanis to leave the country. He offered amnesty to opponents of the previous regime, and many of them returned to Oman and have played critical roles in the economic, political, and cultural development of the country.

Sultan Qaboos established a modern government structure, launched a major development program to upgrade educational and health facilities, built a modern infrastructure or roads, airports, and public utilities, and began the development of the country's resources. The results of this effort have been dramatic. The number of schools rose from three in 1970 to more than 840 by 1993, while hospital and clinic beds increased during this period from 12 to 4,355. There have been further substantial increases in quantity and quality of public services since that time.

Under the leadership of Sultan Qaboos, Oman has pursued a foreign policy that has