

Director General Victor C.Y. Tseng is hereby commended for his outstanding and successful tenure as Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in San Francisco.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE CITIZEN  
AND THE CONSTITUTION

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2002*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, on May 4–6, 2002, more than 1200 students from across the United States will visit Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

I am proud to announce that the class from Duluth Central High School from Duluth will represent the state of Minnesota in this national event. These young scholars have worked diligently to reach the national finals and through their experience have gained a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. The hearings consist of oral presentations by high school students before a panel of adult judges on constitutional topics. The students' testimony is followed by a period of questioning by the judges who probe their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People . . . program has provided curricular materials at upper elementary, middle, and high school levels for more than 26.5 million students nationwide. The program provides students with a working knowledge of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the principles of democratic government. Members of Congress and their staff enhance the program by discussing current constitutional issues with students and teachers and by participating in other educational activities.

It is inspiring to see these young people advocate the fundamental ideals of principles of our government in the aftermath of the tragedy on September 11. These are ideas that identify us as a people and bind us together as a

nation. It is important for our next generation to understand these values and principles which we hold as standards in our endeavor to preserve and realize the promise of our constitutional democracy.

The class from Duluth Central High School is currently conducting research and preparing for their upcoming participation in the national competition in Washington, D.C. I wish these young "constitutional experts" the best of luck at the We the People . . . national finals. They represent the future leaders of our nation.

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH  
FIRST STATE VISIT TO CHINA

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2002*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, President George W. Bush is making his first state visit to China and I would like to take this opportunity before his departure to China to express my concern regarding Taiwan. I hope that President Bush will stand firm on the issue of Taiwan in his discussions with the Chinese and I encourage him not to comply with any demands from the Chinese government that affect the best interests of Taiwan.

The United States and the Republic of China on Taiwan have been maintaining strong relations for decades. In recent years, despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the United States and Taiwan, Taiwan has been unwavering in its support of the United States in all areas.

In the aftermath of the tragedies of September 11, Taiwan was one of the first countries to give its unflinching support to the United States and has also been extremely cooperative in providing information and resources to the United States to combat terrorism. Taiwan has been enormously supportive in other areas as well, such as reducing its trade surplus with the United States and promoting U.S. goods and services in its domestic market.

Any attempts by the Chinese to ask the United States to reduce arms sales to Taiwan will endanger the balance of power in the Pacific Rim and lead to instability. I hope that President Bush will uphold the U.S. policy of continued arms sales to Taiwan and that he will urge the Chinese leaders to resume talks with Taiwan on reunification and other issues.

As long as we stand firm on our principles of providing what Taiwan needs militarily, there will be stability in the Taiwan Strait and that is in everyone's best interests.

I hope the President's visit to China will improve U.S.-China relations, but foremost, I hope the visit will be based on the premise of the best interests for Taiwan.

U.S. SUPPORT FOR TAIWAN

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 14, 2002*

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, President George W. Bush will be making his first state visit to the People's Republic of China later this month. This is a very important trip for both countries, and I hope President Bush will receive assurances from China for its full cooperation in our fight against worldwide terrorism.

In the meantime, I am hopeful that the President will work to protect the interests of the Republic of China on Taiwan. It is likely that the Chinese leaders will ask President Bush to make certain concessions on the issue of Taiwan, and we must strongly urge President Bush to stand firm on the United States' existing policy toward Taiwan, including our commitment to sell defensive arms to Taiwan.

As we all know, Taiwan is a small country, yet it faces a formidable adversary in the People's Republic of China. Despite all odds, and with U.S. assistance, Taiwan has been able to enjoy great economic success, significant political reforms, freedom and democracy. As a new member of the World Trade Organization and the world's 17th largest economy, Taiwan has a major economic presence in the world. Its 23 million people enjoy a high standard of living and will continue to do so as long as there is peace in the Taiwan Strait.

Peace in the Strait depends in large part on American support. I hope President Bush will give a message to Chinese leaders that peace in the Taiwan Strait will lead to greater prosperity for both Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, and that Taiwan and the PRC should begin serious discussions about economic cooperation and other issues of mutual interest.

I wish the President a safe and productive trip.