to form their own local assembly and affiliate with the Knights of Labor. A few more locals soon organized, and a district council was formed. In 1833 this council called a general strike against the telegraph companies. The strike failed and broke up the first unknown attempt to organize electrical workers. The urge to unite was strong, however; and another attempt was made in 1884, this time with a secret organization known as the United Order of Linemen. Headquarters for this union was in Denver, and the group attained considerable success in the western part of the United States.

The nucleus of the Brotherhood formed in 1890. An exposition was held in St. Louis that year featuring ''a glorious display of electrical wonders.'' Wiremen and linemen from all over the United States flocked to Missouri's queen city to wire the buildings and erect the exhibits which were the ''spectaculars'' of their era. The men got together at the end of each long workday and talked about the toil and conditions for workers in the electrical industry. The story was the same everywhere. The work was hard; the hours long; the pay small. It was common for a lineman to risk his life on the high lines 12 hours a day in any kind of weather, seven days a week, for the meager sum of 15 to 20 cents an hour. Two dollars and 50 cents a day was considered an excellent wage for wiremen, and many men were forced to accept work for $8.00 a week.

There was no apprenticeship training, and safety standards were nonexistent. In some areas the death rate for linemen was one out of every two hired, and nationally the death rate for electrical workers was twice that of the national average for all other industries. A union was the logical answer; so this small group, meeting in St. Louis, sought help from the American Federation of Labor (AFL). An organizer named Charles Cassel was assigned to help them and chartered the group as the Electrical Wiremen and Linemen's Union, No. 5221, of the AFL. A St. Louis lineman, Henry Miller, was elected president of that union. To him and the other workers at that St. Louis exposition, it was apparent their small union was only a starting point. Isolated locals could accomplish little as bargaining agencies. Only a national organization of electrical workers with jurisdiction covering the entire industry could win better treatment from the corporate empires engaged in telephone, telegraph, electric power, electrical contracting and electrical-equipment manufacturing.

The founders of the union met in a small room above Stolley's Dance Hall in a poor section of St. Louis. The name adopted for the organization was National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The delegates to that First Convention worked night and day for seven days drafting the first Constitution, general laws, ritual and emblem the well-known first grasping lightning bolts.

Today the IBEW remains strong with approximately 750,000 members. The IBEW is united through more than 1,100 local unions established over the length and breadth of the United States and Canada. It is one of the largest unions in the world, and their wages and working conditions are second to none in any comparable field. IBEW members enjoy better health and welfare coverage, improved pensions, longer vacations and more holidays, as well as a shorter workweek.

They stand where they are today because strong, intelligent and loyal men and women created, protected and preserved the union. They cared about what happened to them and to their children. They remained loyal to the organization that gave them protection and strength. Each era writes its own history. The IBEW's union heritage, vibrant and strong, has been passed on to people today. As IBEW International President Barry said during the opening of the 35th International Convention:

> We in the IBEW want a world where a man can go to a safe workplace, earn a fair wage and use his skills to do a good day's work. We want a world where a woman can develop her talents to the fullest and have a wealth of opportunity before her . . . where workers can retire with dignity, with the security of knowing their healthcare is affordable and available . . . where children are treated like the precious treasure they are—nurtured, educated and loved so they can carry the torch into the future, . . . and where workers can organize and bargain collectively to achieve all these things in fairness and in justice.

For 100 years, Local 309 has helped build and shape the metro-east as well as the surrounding counties of Southern Illinois with its expertise and craftsmanship. Local 309 is prepared to continue being a leader in the Electrical industry with advancements in training, organizing, market recovery and service to its members.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Centennial of IBEW Local 309 and to congratulate their membership on the occasion of this anniversary and to wish the 1100 members and their families the very best for the future.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF BOY SCOUTS FROM TROOPS 27 AND 36 IN SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS AREA

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Boy Scouts from Troops 27 and 36 in the Springfield, Illinois area.

I have received notification that these Scouts completed all necessary requirements to earn the Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge. These requirements include items such as a basic understanding of our nation's governmental structure, a tour of the state or national capital, and a formal letter to their congressional representative concerning an issue that they would like to see resolved.

It is reassuring to know that the youth of our country are aware of the issues that stand to affect their future. The Scouts have made suggestions on a wide range of topics that are currently on the congressional agenda.

The boys of Troops 27 and 36 truly exemplify the ideals upon which the Boy Scouts of America was founded here in Washington, D.C. some 92 years ago. Their accomplishments commend great pride upon themselves and the Boy Scouts of America.

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has successfully completed his first two years in office. His performance as leader of his country has received widespread praise around the world. In terms of Taiwan's relations with the People's Republic of China, President Chen has, on many occasions sought to assuage Beijing's anxieties about Taiwan's declaration of independence. In his inaugural address two years ago, President Chen promised that he would not seek independence as long as the PRC would refrain from using force against Taiwan. Furthermore, President Chen has taken concrete steps to reduce tension in the Taiwan Straits. Travel between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland has been made much easier, officials from Taiwan and the Chinese mainland having been visiting one another across the Straits. We hope that Taiwan and the PRC will soon resume their dialogue on reunification and other commercial issues affecting them. Peace in the Straits is in everyone's interest.

President Chen was also instrumental in making Taiwan's admission to the World Trade Organization a reality. We hope that President Chen will continue his efforts in making Taiwan a more visible global player; we understand Taiwan has been trying to gain observer status in the World Health Organization and other international bodies, including the United Nations. We applaud President Chen's leadership and wish him every success.

Relations between Taiwan and the United States have been steadily improving. Taiwan has been buying all types of American agricultural and consumer products and the United States has agreed to sell more advanced weaponry to Taiwan, including Kidd-class destroyers, twelve Orion antisubmarine surveillance aircraft and eight diesel-powered submarines.

Domestically, President Chen has been trying to reinvigorate Taiwan's economy, to eliminate corruption and gangster influence in politics and the economy, and to gain his people's trust and support in making Taiwan a complete democracy.

At the midway point of Mr. Chen's presidential term, we salute him for his many accomplishments such as maintaining stability in the Taiwan Strait, improving Taiwan's visibility in the international arena and its relations with the United States, and reinvigorating Taiwan's economy. Congratulations, President Chen, you have done a good job.

HONORS GAYLORD HOSPITAL AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, for one hundred years Gaylord Hospital of Wallingford has