

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BOB CLEMENT**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 385, 384, 383, 382, 381, 380, 379, and 378, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, September 9, 10, and 11, I was unavoidably detained and thereby absent for votes on rollcall numbers 375 through 384. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall number 375, "yea" on rollcall number 376, "yea" on rollcall number 377, "yea" on rollcall number 378, "yea" on rollcall number 379, "yea" on rollcall number 380, "yea" on rollcall number 381, "yea" on rollcall number 382, "yea" on rollcall number 383, and "yea" on rollcall number 384.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 384, I was home in Michigan on Wednesday participating during the day and evening in ceremonies commemorating September 11, 2001. As a result, I was not able to vote on H. Con. Resolution 464. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

## SUPPORT A DEMOCRACY AND OUR ALLY: TAIWAN DESERVES TO BE PART OF THE UNITED NATIONS

**HON. DOUG OSE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is one of the few independent nations that has not been allowed to join the United Nations as a full member. And it looks like opposition to their bid is again forming among those who would keep Taiwan and its 23 million citizens from joining their rightful place among the community of nations.

Simply put, Taiwan's 23 million people deserve a voice and a seat in the United Nations. Taiwan's population is larger than those of two thirds of the U.N. member states. Over the last 50 years Taiwan is the world's 17th largest economy, with the 15th largest trading volume. Taiwan's economic performance has contributed greatly to world prosperity. At a time when the U.N. continues to ask the United States to contribute more money to its budget, why is it turning away a willing, dues-paying member?

Perhaps the best reason the United States should continue to support Taiwan and its bid for U.N. membership is shared values. Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and endorses the ideals of peace, human rights, and development. More importantly, Taiwan is able and willing to carry out all U.N. Charter obligations.

Some have argued that granting Taiwan membership in the U.N. would be unacceptable to the People's Republic of China. However, Taiwan has repeatedly stated its willingness to work with the Chinese mainland. Taiwan leaders have repeatedly appealed to PRC leaders for peaceful settlement of political disagreements between the two sides. In addition, Taiwan hopes that Taiwan and the PRC will work together to help maintain peace and stability in Asia and Pacific. The United Nations should encourage a dialogue between Taiwan and China—not ignore it. Granting Taiwan U.N. membership is a positive first step to permanent peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Finally, it is worth noting that Taiwan's exclusion from the U.N. violates the U.N. principle of universality. Remember that the U.N.'s mission is to "reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small."

As President Bush addresses the U.N. on this very day, and talks about the threats facing the world and those nations truly fighting for peace, I urge him to remember our friend and ally who is not allowed to join him at the U.N.'s headquarters in New York. I urge him to remember Taiwan and to support them in their bid to join that great body of free nations.

## TRIBUTE TO SISTER LORRAINE BIEBEL

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the work and amazing accomplishment of a Franciscan nun who has left a lasting mark on Springfield, Missouri. She has overcome adversity and criticism to win the respect of many of her peers by creating important social services that have helped the less fortunate people of Springfield, Missouri.

In 1983, Sister Lorraine Biebel took on the temporary assignment of opening a soup kitchen in Springfield. Since then, Sister Lorraine has remained at the helm of what has become known as the Kitchen Ministry. Today the ministry that Sister Lorraine started has a \$3.5 million budget, nine buildings, a small army of volunteers and a reputation for helping anyone with a legitimate need.

Sister Lorraine has been a vigilant visionary and leader to meet the demands of those less fortunate. It has been a labor of love and faith. Biebel's holistic approach has seen the conversion of an old hotel into a 90-room shelter with three dormitories and transitional housing. The Family Nurturing Center offers childcare for infants and pre-schoolers, as well as after school programs. There are also counseling services, walk-in medical services, dental clinics, and mental health counseling. In addition, it offers referral services, job programs, outreach programs for at-risk youth, literacy and

GED training. Sister Lorraine helped to create a free store for residents and a thrift store for the community that offers free household items, clothing, and food for those people trying to improve their family unit or get back on their feet.

In praise of the God she serves, Sister Lorraine's faith is what has driven her to these accomplishments. Sister Lorraine has been a tireless servant of God's compassion for the disadvantaged, the homeless, and the countless volunteers who have rallied to support the programs.

With the naming of her successor, Tobias Meeker, Sister Lorraine is retiring but her work will not end. She hopes to reactivate the Little Portion Retreat Center where she lives in Republic, Missouri. There she promises to continue to nurture the spiritual health of others in a less stressful environment.

Sister Lorraine Biebel and the Kitchen Ministry are a wonderful example of the substantial social changes faith based initiatives can bring to a community's less fortunate population. Working with the federal and state government, local charities, churches of many denominations, and generous donors, Sister Lorraine has molded a multifaceted ministry that provides shelter, clothing, health care, counseling, education, job skill training, and spiritual guidance. The Kitchen Ministries have professionally and cost-effectively provided these services and care in a manner in which the federal government could not. The ministry is the work of many caring people, led by a woman of great faith whose work has touched thousands of lives.

We wish Sister Lorraine good health and best wishes in her retirement.

## H. CON. RES. 401, RECOGNIZING THE HEROISM AND COURAGE DISPLAYED BY AIRLINE FLIGHT ATTENDANTS EACH DAY

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 12, 2002*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 401, a resolution to recognize the heroism and courage displayed by airline flight attendants each day.

The anniversary of the September 11 terrorist hijackings and attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon is just two days away. All Americans remember and mourn the lives lost that tragic day.

The world has changed for all of us. Before that time, flight attendants and their families and loved ones lived and worked with the knowledge that rare instances of mechanical failure or hijackers could endanger their lives. But no one imagined the dreadful assault of September 11, when terrorists turned four airborne planes into missiles used to attack thousands of Americans.

That day, flight attendants again demonstrated their courage in the face of extreme danger. From all that we know of the final minutes on those flights, flight attendants worked to communicate with the ground, and in all likelihood helped prevent Flight 93, which crashed in rural Pennsylvania, from taking many more lives.

I would like to bring my colleagues' attention to the heroism of Betty Ong, a flight attendant