

President Annette Lu, and the People of Taiwan on Taiwan's National Day. Since escaping the clutches of Communist China in 1949, the people of Taiwan have made great strides economically, politically, and socially. Taiwan has become a bastion of democracy and an economic power in East Asia. They have made this progress because they have committed themselves to building the institutions that are so important to democracy and the preservation of freedom. They have also liberalized their economy, conformed to the standards of international business, and earlier this year, gained acceptance into the World Trade Organization. They should be commended for proving to the world that democracy, free market economics, and hard work are the keys to success in today's world.

But Mr. Speaker, we should not recognize Taiwan's achievements without also thanking them for their partnership in containing China's expansionist tendencies. For over fifty years the Taiwanese have stared down China's threats of invasion and annexation, choosing instead to build a modern, free society and, most importantly, choosing to be our friend. They have played a key role in containing the specter of Communism in East Asia. We should never forget that. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Taiwan on their day of national celebration and I congratulate them on all they have achieved.

THE POLLY KLAAS FOUNDATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Polly Klaas was a vibrant, talented child, full of life with the promise of a bright future. When she was kidnapped at knifepoint from her bedroom slumber party on October 1, 1993, in my hometown Petaluma, California, our community responded with an unprecedented effort to find her. The Polly Klaas Foundation was formed October 23, 1993, to help continue that search for Polly.

Following the discovery of her murderer, the Foundation adopted a new mission: "Make America Safe For Children." As part of their efforts, they've been working hard at the state level to enact Amber Alert plans. Amber Alerts empower the community to take action—immediately. From Southern California to St. Louis to Philadelphia, the recent wave of child abductions has kept our nation riveted, angry, and scared for the safety of our children. The Amber Alert Plan is a voluntary cooperative program between law enforcement agencies and local broadcasters that sends emergency alerts to the public when a child has been abducted. Amber Alerts leap into action in the first crucial hours of a kidnapping when the tracks left by the abductor are still fresh. Like a modern day, high-speed Paul Revere, Amber Alerts spread the word fast so we don't have to rely on slower methods like handing out flyers, or word of mouth for news of the abduction to catch on from one city to the next.

Just two months ago, only 14 states had statewide Amber Alerts. Now, thanks in part to the Polly Klaas Foundation, 28 states have statewide Amber Alerts. However, our work is far from done.

We must continue to work towards a national network for Amber Alerts so that law enforcement can use Amber Alerts across state lines. The Senate passed an excellent bill in September that would do just that. The House Judiciary Committee had a chance to pass that bill, H.R. 5326, on the House floor yesterday.

Instead, they unfortunately chose to pass H.R. 5422, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. While this bill contained the non-controversial Amber Alert provisions, it also contained far more controversial provisions concerning death penalties, mandatory minimum sentences, wiretap extensions, pre-trial release, and a whole host of other unrelated provisions which will impede this bill's chance of final passage in the Senate. It was a poor decision by the House leadership that will doom the Senate's good work.

At the White House Conference on Missing and Exploited Children last week, President Bush announced that the Justice Department would develop a national standard for the Amber Alert, and named a new Amber Alert coordinator at the Justice Department who will work on increasing cooperation among state and local plans. Congress must pass legislation to give the new coordinator the legal authority; funding and programmatic guidelines needed to effectively perform his duties and help to protect our children.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of AMBER Alert legislation. The statistics and the facts are clear: Amber Alerts are already being credited with saving the lives of 31 children around the country. But the real people, the real stories, the real lives saved are far more convincing than any statistic. Just look in the eyes of the parents of the two Riverside, California teenagers whose lives were saved because of the Amber Alert, and you will know why this law is so important.

I am proud of the Polly Klaas Foundation and would like to thank the foundation for all of the hard work they have been doing to enact Amber Alert programs.

Mr. Speaker, we still have time in this legislative session to bring the Senate bill to the House floor, and we should do just that. Every day that a national Amber Alert system is not in place, is another day that law enforcement and the public have inadequate tools and resources needed to protect our children.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. "CHUCK" YEAGER

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Brigadier General Charles E. "Chuck" Yeager. I congratulate him on his pioneering work in the field of aeronautics and thank him for his many contributions to our country over the past 60 years.

Brig. Gen. Yeager became the first man to ever break the sound barrier on October 14, 1947. This feat was accomplished in the experimental Bell X-1, called "Glamorous Glennis," which is now on display at the Smithsonian Institution. He was able to successfully pilot his aircraft above the speed of

sound, thereby proving the feasibility of manned supersonic flight. General Yeager also set another aviation record six years later by flying to Mach 2.44 in the X-1A. He continued to test experimental aircraft at Muroc Air Force Base (now Edwards Air Force Base) until 1954. These noteworthy acts, as well as his testing of hundreds of different aircraft during his career, are well worth our praise and accolades.

Brig. Gen. Yeager not only set records, but he also helped establish a unique program at Edwards Air Force Base to train military test pilots as astronauts. In 1962, he was selected as the commandant of the new U.S. Air Force Aerospace Research Pilot School (now the U.S. Air Force Test Pilot School), serving at this post until 1966. Despite his retirement from the military in March of 1975, Brig. Gen. Yeager has continued to fly in the annual Edwards Air Force Base Open House and Air Show and serve the U.S. Air Force as a flight test consultant. He will be taking to the skies again this year for the show, just like he always has, in what will be his last flight as pilot of an Air Force aircraft.

In addition to his accomplishments as a test pilot and mentor, he is also a decorated combat veteran. After being shot down during World War II over occupied France on his eighth mission, he returned to fly 56 more combat missions and total 12.5 aerial victories. His heroics in WWII, his achievements in flight testing, and his service as a combat commander during the Vietnam War earned him a Presidential Medal of Freedom and a special peacetime Medal of Honor. On the occasion of Brig. Gen. Yeager's last military flight, I ask that you join me in saluting one of our nation's greatest aviation pioneers.

HONORING THE RATIFICATION OF "THE U.S.-CYPRUS MUTUAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE TREATY"

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize a new step in American-Cypriot relations. On September 18, 2002, the United States and the Republic of Cyprus ratified "The U.S.-Cyprus Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty" bringing these two nations even closer together to fight the war on terrorism.

This Treaty provides for many provisions that will fight not just global terrorism, but also organized crime and drug trafficking. In particular, the Treaty will allow the two countries to more effectively coordinate the transfer of persons in custody, execute searches and seizures, share documents and intelligence materials, identify persons of interest to authorities, and prosecute a wide range of criminal offenses.

The PATRIOT Act, which I worked hard to advance and was passed into law late last year, complements this treaty well. The PATRIOT Act facilitates cooperation between the United States and foreign governments in the areas of information and intelligence sharing. With this Treaty now ratified and the PATRIOT Act made into law, the U.S. and Cyprus are in an excellent position to put an end to the evil and cowardly actions of terrorists everywhere.