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RECOGNIZING OCTOBER 10, 2002 AS THE 91ST NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, On the occasion of Republic of China's 91st National Day, I wish to express my best wishes and congratulations to the leaders and people of Taiwan. While I regret that our government does not have formal relations with Taiwan, we do enjoy a flourishing relationship with Taiwan. I have met with President Chen Shui-bian, and others members of the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan, and congratulate them on their commitment to maintaining Taiwan as a vibrant democracy and a free market economy.

Indeed, through the free market system Taiwan's economy has grown spectacularly. In terms of Taiwan's trade with us, Taiwan is our eighth largest trading partner and seventh-largest export market. Our exports to Taiwan in 2001 totaled US\$18.2 billion and Taiwan exported \$27.7 billion of goods to us. Taiwan's importance as a world economy can be witnessed in Taiwan's accession into the World Trade Organization (WTO) earlier this year, the culmination of twelve years of collaborative efforts with the government of the United States. Due to its strong free market economy Taiwan is a likely candidate for future free trade negotiations with the United States. The signing of such an agreement could promote even stronger bilateral economic relations.

It is now universally acknowledged that Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and Taiwan should be accorded a proper place in the family of nations. It has been unproductive to keep Taiwan out of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and other major international organizations. Over the past decade, Taiwan has become a successful model of rapid political reform. Taiwan is today home to more than 90 political parties and virtually every political office is hotly contested through free and fair elections. And just two years ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian, a former political dissident, was elected the tenth president of the Republic of China. Democracy is doing very well in Taiwan.

It is my pleasure to extend my congratulations to the people of Taiwan as they celebrate their National Day this October 10th. It is my hope that our relations with Taiwan will continue to be maintained in friendship, based on the mutual commitment of our peoples to free enterprise, democratic values and respect for individual liberty.

COMMENDING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF COLONEL WILLIAM H. PETTY

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the distinguished career of Colonel William H. Petty of the Alabama National Guard who prepares for retirement in the coming months. Colonel Petty has distinguished himself through more than twenty-nine years of service in the United States Armed Forces.

Colonel Petty is best known for his outstanding performance as the director of human resources for the Alabama National Guard. As the human resources officer, his command presence and superb situational awareness helped to ensure all units within the Alabama National Guard, both Army and Air, exceeded personnel standards.

Colonel Petty developed, implemented, and coordinated the State's first reduction-in-force of full-time personnel for both Army and Air AGR programs. Thanks to his efforts, no full-time AGR soldier lost his or her job. His superior application of technical, tactical and leadership abilities earned him the respect and admiration of all soldiers assigned to the command.

In his current assignment as director of human resources, Colonel Petty has fully demonstrated his desire and ability to lead soldiers by example and prepare them for possible mobilization and deployment.

Colonel Petty is a tough, standards oriented officer who always extracts the very best performance from soldiers assigned to his command. Colonel Petty is the epitome of the core Army values and proudly serves his nation, the State of Alabama, and the local community in an unwavering manner.

Colonel Petty's numerous achievements and outstanding dedication to duty are in keeping with the highest traditions of military service and reflect great credit on himself, the Alabama National Guard, and the United States armed forces.

U.S.-U.K. COOPERATION ON GULF WAR SYNDROME RESEARCH

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to recent developments in the Government Reform Subcommittee of National Security, Veterans, Affairs, and International Relations.

I would like to commend my colleagues, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PUTNAM and Mr. SHAYS, on their trip to London in June, where they met with Lord Alfred Morris of Manchester as well as veterans, parliamentarians and researchers from the United Kingdom. The purpose of the meeting was to examine the status of international cooperation with regard to epidemiological and clinical research into illnesses reported by the United Kingdom Veterans of the Persian Gulf War.

This meeting followed a hearing held by Chairman SHAY's subcommittee last January

that examined Allied research into Gulf War Illnesses and recent progress in that field.

It is only fitting that the United States and Great Britain should pool their respective resources in unraveling the mysteries of Gulf War Syndrome and fight together in learning more about it and how to combat it.

I strongly support the efforts of our British Ally to make the results of their research available to the Congress and to the Department of Veterans, Affairs Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans Illnesses.

Later tonight, the House will vote on a resolution authorizing the President to use force in Iraq. American and British troops may soon face the prospects of fighting on the potentially toxic battlefields of Iraq. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we continue in our struggle to understand Gulf War Syndrome's causation and cures. We must not withhold information from our allies which might help us to reach these goals, and the level of cooperation between Mr. SHAYS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. SANDERS and our British Allies, during their meeting in June was very much in the spirit of this idea.

RECOGNIZING THE MOST REVEREND WILTON D. GREGORY AND THE RED MASS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 10, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit the homily given by the Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory at the Red Mass to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Bishop Gregory is a constituent of mine from Belleville, Illinois and serves as the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. He delivered the Red Mass homily on October 6 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The Red Mass is sponsored by the John Carroll Society. This group was created in 1951 to encourage educational, religious and charitable activities in the community. To achieve this, the organization is involved with many projects in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, including the Red Mass.

The Red Mass was first introduced in the United States in 1928 at Saint Andrew's Church in New York City. Since 1953, the John Carroll Society has sponsored the Red Mass annually in Washington D.C. This mass takes place on the Sunday before the first Monday in October, just before the Supreme Court begins its new term to bless those that administer justice in our society.

Bishop Gregory's homily was an eloquent message about the importance of responsibility and fairness in the administration of justice. Furthermore, while some believe there have been signs of darkness in our society in the past year, Bishop Gregory reminds us that we cannot afford to give up our hope and our faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bishop Gregory and to commend him for his message of hope and his dedicated leadership.

HOMILY OF BISHOP WILTON GREGORY, RED MASS, SUNDAY 6 OCTOBER, 2002

It is a pleasure and an honor to be able to add to the words of greeting of Cardinal