

SUPPORTING TAIWAN'S INDEPENDENCE IN THE FACE OF INCREASED CHINESE THREAT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Taiwan, and to call upon the leaders of the United States Government to defend this democratic nation against any Chinese aggression in this time of global crisis. The war on terrorism is, in fact, a war for the preservation of democracy, human rights, and freedom—the fundamental principles upon which America was built. While terrorism has occupied the country's immediate consideration of global security, prudent Americans must remember that the clear intention of a totalitarian country to conquer a democratic nation is a greater threat with greater repercussions.

China's aggressive posture and clear intention to occupy Taiwan, coupled with its recent shift in budgetary priorities toward military buildup, is cause for great concern. It threatens the stability of the entire region. The additional funding is expected to bolster China's missile program and revamp its military into a more offensive force. China already has 400 ballistic missiles aimed at Taiwan, and since it has threatened the use of force, it is reasonable to assume some of the military build up will be used to achieve China's publicly stated intentions. This type of foreseeable belligerence cannot be tolerated. I am comforted and heartened that U.S. official policy on this question clearly obligates our country to responding to such eventual belligerence.

Taiwan continues to be a beacon of democracy in an unstable region. Its democratic progress culminated in achieving a peaceful transfer of power from a Nationalist government to the freely elected Democratic Progressive Party in 2000. Since September 11th, Taiwan has been a resolute ally in the War on Terrorism. Moreover, Taiwan has maintained its desire for self-determination and international recognition as a free nation, despite unyielding pressure from China. The courage of the Taiwanese people, and their commitment to democratic principles should be recognized and rewarded.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon the United States Government to maintain its long-standing commitment to Taiwan. Additionally, I urge President Bush to seek from China, a renunciation of the use of any force, and the threat of force, against Taiwan's self-determination.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL JAMES E. BICKFORD, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED)

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a military veteran, dedicated public servant, and all around great Kentuckian, Brigadier General James E. Bickford, U.S. Army (Retired). I want to express my deepest gratitude for his many contribu-

tions to the people of our state and this great nation.

General Bickford is a highly decorated military veteran who has spent most of his life serving our country. Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army as a young man, his duties took him all over the world, including Europe, Asia, the Middle East and Africa. Throughout his military career, General Bickford received a host of service awards and decorations, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was the man in charge of logistics for the Persian Gulf War and I had the pleasure of attending the ceremony in Washington, DC this spring as he was inducted into the Defense Logistics Agency Hall of Fame.

In addition to his reputation as a strong and effective military leader, General Bickford is widely known for his compassion and commitment to helping others. Born in West Virginia and raised in the hills of Harlan County, Kentucky, he is especially interested in the well being and prosperity of Appalachia. Upon completion of his military service, he found his heart calling him back to Kentucky. He was appointed Secretary of the Kentucky Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet in December of 1995, and has worked tirelessly ever since to protect and enhance the natural resources of the Bluegrass State. Let me publicly state for the Record that we are absolutely delighted that General Bickford and his lovely wife, Shirley, decided to come back home.

It is through his service to Kentucky that I have had the great fortune of getting to know General Bickford. Our paths first crossed in 1997, when we were both invited to speak to a group in Louisville, Kentucky. Although we had never met, our speeches were stunningly similar and our goal was the same—to tackle the daunting task of cleaning up Southern and Eastern Kentucky.

As natives of the 5th Congressional District, we both knew that the environmental problems in our region were extensive and could only, if at all, be remedied through a coordinated federal, state and local effort. After our first meeting, we pulled our resources together—those of the Kentucky State Government and the United States Government—and got to work. Right away we began asking local mayors, judges and area development districts to join forces in our effort to clean up the region. Then we asked the public to help. Thus was formed the PRIDE program, which stands for Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment. The response has been overwhelming. Thousands are involved in improving their home region, thanks to General Bickford's dedication and leadership.

Through our federal, state, and local partnership, we have made significant strides in cleaning up our rivers and streams, helping our counties address sewage and trash problems, and educating our children about the importance of a clean environment. As a lifelong resident of Southern and Eastern Kentucky, words cannot describe how wonderful it is to see our region being reborn. Because of the success of the PRIDE program, and modeled after it, we are now implementing initiatives to enhance tourism, improve our economy and bring new jobs to the 5th Congressional District. These initiatives would not be possible without the efforts of General Bickford.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend General Bickford for the time, energy, and devotion he has invested in making our world a better place. I am especially grateful for his unwavering commitment to the PRIDE program and the people of the 5th District of Kentucky. There is no doubt in my mind that we will continue to benefit from his profound contributions for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KENNETH GEIGEL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 21, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to Dr. Kenneth Geigel from New Jersey, who is being honored by the Latino American Committee of Monmouth County.

Born in 1938, in the South Bronx, Dr. Geigel attended St. John Chrysotom's Elementary School. He had a short-lived career as a TV repairman before going to work at the Bank of America on Wall Street. Upon graduation, he returned to the Bronx and started to work for Casita Maria, a settlement house in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx. It was at Casita Maria that he met his wife Carmen. Eager to continue his education, Dr. Geigel, enrolled at New York University and received a Master of Arts in Human Relations. It was during the same time that he became involved with a small group of Hispanic Leaders in Manhattan and was instrumental in the founding of ASPIRA. Dr. Antonio Pantoja, the first Director of ASPIRA, hired him as the fund-raiser for the newly formed organization. Dr. Geigel left in 1967 and went to work for the New York City Board of Education as a Field Project Administrator. In 1968, he became a Special Administrative Assistant to the Board Members working on decentralization. After decentralization was passed in 1969, he was appointed by Mayor Lindsey to the Commission of Human Rights, the Hispanic Affairs Division. He resigned after one year and took another challenging opportunity as the Associate Director of the Higher Education Program at NYU.

Dr. Geigel and his family moved to Freehold, New Jersey. The commute into the city became hectic for him as well as unbearable for his wife who was still working at Casita Maria. He was offered the position of Registrar at Livingston College, a newly formed College of Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He was the first Hispanic to hold such a position at a major University within the State of New Jersey.

While working at Rutgers, he earned his Doctorate Degree in Education and became a founding father of the Hispanic Association of Higher Education of New Jersey. As a resident of Freehold Township, he became involved with the large Hispanic population in the borough. Working with the Catholic Church of St. Rose of Lima and the Bishop, they were able to locate a vacant building and transform it into what is now the St. Rose of Lima Hispanic Parish Center, a multi-service center for the community. Presently, Dr. Geigel serves as a council member of the Freehold Township Human Rights in the consulting firm of Johnson, Geigel and Yucht Associates, specializing in teaching and mentoring life skills to low-income groups.