

Mariposa County. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Sheriff C.A. "Pelk" Richards many more years of success.

A TRIBUTE TO NANCY RIVARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to pay tribute to one of my most extraordinary constituents, a beacon of kindness in the world, Ms. Nancy Rivard. This outstanding woman is a former airline attendant who single-handedly founded the Airline Ambassadors International (AAI), an extraordinary non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of needy children from all over the world.

Ms. Rivard's desire to establish this organization, dedicated to making a difference in the lives of needy children began over ten years ago. After years of trial, turmoil and rejection her dream finally became a reality when AAI was founded in 1996. Every year this wonderful organization makes a difference in the lives of over 100,000 children in 25 of the world's most troubled countries by having its members hand-deliver food, clothing, medicine, school supplies and personal care products directly to the children in the receiving countries. Since its inception AAI has seen the ranks of its volunteers grow to more than 400 people who have contributed over 600,000 hours of their time.

Mr. Speaker, this remarkable organization is made up of 4 different components. First, the Humanitarian Aid Program coordinates the local effort to collect and sort humanitarian and medical supplies. Volunteers arrange the pick up and packing of donations and then with the help of a participating airline, they ship the items to the countries that are currently receiving aid. From there the donations are hand-delivered directly to the children. The volunteers also are involved with facility refurbishing, holiday parties and planting trees. Second is the Children's Escort Program, which supplies volunteer escorts for children in need of medical care in the United States. AAI provides the adoption agency or nonprofit organization with a previously screened and qualified escort at a significantly reduced airfare. The child's airfare is provided through the "Miles for Kids" program. The third component is the Youth Programs. These programs give young people the chance to be involved in the humanitarian missions, a unique opportunity that offers adolescences the chance to help needy kids their own age and experience kindness and compassion on a whole new level. AAI also co-sponsors an annual youth art competition that has received entries from over 60,000 children in approximately 62 countries. Finally, the fourth component of AAI involves members volunteering at special events, locally, nationally and internationally with goals to better the world and bring goodwill into action.

Mr. Speaker, Nancy Rivard's tireless work has helped countless children in their time of need. Her selflessness, passion and drive have not only given the world's needy children the chance to experience things they had only dreamed of, but more importantly, she has given these children a glimmer of hope. Her

plan to build Airline Ambassadors into an organization of even more strength and ability is an ambitious plan, one that should be applauded. Nancy was recently presented with a well-deserved "National Caring Award" for her accomplishments with AAI.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to say that this remarkable woman is one of my longtime constituents and it delights me to think that I am representing such a fine example of the American people. I urge all my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Nancy Rivard, for this exceptional woman is truly an inspiration to all of us, proving that one person can make a difference.

COMMENDING THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE OF TAIWAN

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, Secretary of State Powell was in Beijing recently, asking for Beijing's assistance on the issues of North Korea and Iraq. Beijing responded by asking the Bush Administration to consider "trade-offs," especially more American flexibility on the issue of Taiwan. I want to commend Secretary Powell and the Bush Administration for refusing to participate in this sort of irresponsible horse-trading.

We continue to support peaceful solution to any political disagreements between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan. At the same time, Congress has repeatedly voiced its commitment to defend the people of Taiwan from aggression, and we have backed this commitment with economic, political and military cooperation. I believe that this Administration has done an exemplary job of reinforcing this commitment by refusing to compromise Taiwan's security in the face of Beijing's attempts at coercion.

Meanwhile, Beijing has turned a deaf ear to Taiwan President Chen Shui-Bian's calls for renewed dialogue between the two. This lack of communication will certainly result in misunderstanding, and could lead to dangerous miscalculations by both sides. These sorts of miscalculations can in turn lead to the sort of military confrontation that we all wish to avoid. I therefore strongly urge Beijing's new leadership to remove Chinese missiles from the area along the Taiwan Strait and to embrace a peaceful approach to managing the cross-strait relationship.

It is time for bilateral dialogue on economic cooperation, democratic governance, improved human rights and peaceful resolution of all issues between Taiwan and the People's Republic of China.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I know that all Members of the

House of Representatives will want to join me in saluting the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA) on the 100th anniversary of its founding. LIUNA, through its millions of members over the years, has long played a vital role in building America through the construction of highways, bridges, dams and power plants, factories, office buildings, schools, churches, hospitals, apartments, and houses throughout the country.

The first president of the AFL-CIO, Samuel Gompers, convened the meeting in April, 1903, that resulted in the creation of the International Hod Carriers' and Building Laborers' Union of America. That union represented just 8,000 workers. In 1965, the name was changed to the Laborers' International Union of North America to reflect the expansion of the union beyond the construction field.

Today, LIUNA consists of approximately 800,000 members in more than 650 locals throughout the country. LIUNA members work in a wide variety of fields including local, state and federal governments, health care, shipbuilding and hazardous waste removal.

LIUNA is one of the most innovative unions in the labor movement, with state of the art training centers across North America. LIUNA has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to protecting the rights of laborers and is among the most successful unions at organizing within the labor federation today.

LIUNA's success is predicated on the protection and promotion of its members—goals that are achieved through the dedication and hard work of union officers and their representatives working at all levels of government. The efforts of these men and women to protect and enhance the welfare of LIUNA's members serves to better the lives of all workers throughout the United States.

LIUNA's efforts to raise the standard of living for laborers are deserving of our attention and admiration. This is an extraordinary union whose leadership works hard every day to protect members' health and safety, provide laborers a strong voice in the workplace, provide extensive skill training to empower members to reach their full potential, and perhaps most importantly, to ensure dignity, respect and security for laborers in the workplace.

Mr. Speaker, I join LIUNA's officers and members in celebrating their 100th Anniversary, and I salute the work of the Laborers International Union of North America. I encourage my colleagues to similarly respect the positive impacts LIUNA has had within their home districts and states, and I encourage them to express their support of this historic anniversary.

182 YEARS OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE IN GREECE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 25, 2003

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 182 years that have passed since the Greek people's revolution from the Ottoman Empire. Nearly 400 years ago, the Greek people embarked on a powerful revolution against the Ottoman oppressors. As Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at Agia Lavras following the fall of Constantinople, the ancient Greeks forged a mighty wave of democracy and freedom.