

of America. She served a 4-year term as the General Secretary of the Cyprus Federation of America, an umbrella organization representing Greek Cypriot associations and brotherhoods throughout the United States.

In addition, Ms. Christodoulou, who has a 14-year-old son, was President of the Parent-Teacher Association of the Greek Afternoon School of St. Demetrios and is currently serving on the School Board of the St. Demetrios Greek American School.

In recognition of these outstanding achievements, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Christodoulou and the Pancyprian Association's Women's Issues Network, for their passion and commitment to the betterment of the Astoria community.

TRIBUTE TO THE PLEASANTON
RAGE UNDER-12 GIRLS SOCCER
TEAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a very talented group of young women in California's 11th District. The Pleasanton Rage Soccer Team has won the 2003 Under 12 Girls Cal-North Snickers State Cup Championship and will now advance to the Far West Regional Championship in Hawaii this June.

On the afternoon of Sunday March 2, 2003, the Rage beat the Bay Oak Bombers of Alameda 2 to 1 in the final game of the championship at Lucchesi Field in Petaluma, California.

This is the first time in 13 years that an Under-12 girl's soccer team from Pleasanton has won this title of State Cup Champions.

The team of 16 girls has been working extremely hard—training three days a week since last July and attending tournaments to prepare them for this prestigious title. In January, the team played their first round of games for the State Cup Tournament in Morgan Hill, California. They played against teams from a pool of 51 in their age group from clubs in the Cal North district which stretches as far south as Bakersfield and all the way to the Oregon border in the north. Through their first six games in the State Cup Tournament, they shut out every opponent. They entered the finals with an amazing record of 17 goals for and 0 goals against.

Impressively the only goal they gave up came in the first minutes of the Championship game on a penalty shot. After adjusting to the artificial grass surface, the Rage came back to seal the win with 2 consecutive goals for the biggest win of their lives.

Each player was given a 1st place medal and the team was awarded a large trophy for their accomplishment. Parents were on hand to give out Hawaiian leis while many fans with blue and white hair and face paint were there to show their support of this amazing young Rage team. The Pleasanton Rage Girls U-12 team is currently ranked #1 in the State and #12 in the Nation.

They have earned the right to represent California in the Far West Regional in Hawaii from June 23–June 28th, 2003. In the week

long tournament they will compete against teams from Hawaii, Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and Colorado.

The Championship Rage players are Michelle Avendano, Krista Bormann, Sammy Cloutier, Marisa Fraticelli, Tanya Hanson, Stacey Hildebrand, Claire Kennedy, Olivia Klei, Ashley Loughmiller, Amanda Luxford, Ashlyn Mazur, Rachael McGlinchy, Sophie Metz, Carlee Payne, Katie Voss, and Kim Zetterlund. They are coached by Gary Oetman and Paul Ratcliffe and trained by Phillippe Blin.

The team is to be congratulated for their remarkable performance and provided with the best wishes of everyone in California's 11th District as they continue to compete at the national level.

24TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, on April 10, 1979, the Taiwan Relations Act became law, and the United States affirmed its friendship with the people of Taiwan.

That friendship remains a cornerstone of America's vision for a free, secure, and prosperous Asia at peace with itself and the community of nations.

The TRA requires the United States to provide Taiwan sufficient arms to defend herself and demands a peaceful resolution to its dispute with Beijing.

Under the TRA, the Taiwanese are assured the United States will not allow bullying or blackmail across the Taiwan Strait.

Today, its 24th anniversary, this historic legislation is even more relevant than at its enactment.

Though Taiwan is one of America's largest trading partners, our friendship is much deeper than an economic partnership. Our two nations are bound by common values of self-determination, freedom, and economic opportunity.

We are also bound by a common resistance to the efforts of any regime to repress man's God-given human rights.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance," Thomas Jefferson said.

Free men and women in Taiwan, whose neighbors on the mainland suffer under the boot-heel of Communist tyranny, have no choice but to live that sentiment every day.

Taiwan is a free nation, and must remain so. Her open and tolerant society should be seen by Beijing not as a threat, but a model for progress.

I have traveled to Taiwan several times. Anyone who has can tell you it is home to a vibrant, modern nation of free and prosperous people, grateful for America's friendship.

It is now our responsibility to ensure that friendship grows even stronger. Our responsibility in such times is no less than to ensure the security of free men everywhere in the world.

The House of Representatives understands this responsibility, and has affirmed its support for Taiwan numerous times since TRA, including in its overwhelming passage of the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act in February, 2000.

So, too, does the President. He has made it clear the United States will do whatever it takes to defend Taiwan. His Administration has provided Taiwan with essential weapons systems and continues to expand our economic partnership. The House will continue to work with the Administration to ensure Taiwan's security.

For 24 years, the United States has cultivated a relationship with Taiwan, whose roots run to the core of our shared love of liberty. Against the harsh winds of despotism, that relationship has bloomed, and through the eternal vigilance of our two nations, billions will one day enjoy its fruit.

HONORING FORMER PRISONERS-
OF-WAR

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in recognizing National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

As others have said, America's former POWs are national heroes. Their service to our country placed them in dangerous situations and led to their capture and imprisonment.

Many suffered brutally at the hands of their captives. Many died.

During this time of hostilities in Iraq, we particularly remember the service members held prisoners there and ask for their humane treatment as we seek their immediate release. We also ask for an accounting of all the missing.

We take great pride in the successful rescue of Pfc. Jessica Lynch. We hope for her swift recovery.

Mr. Speaker, we shall never forget the tens of thousands of Americans who endured the hardship of enemy confinement—individuals like Bob Brigham of Torrance, California.

An Army private during World War II, Mr. Brigham was captured by the Nazis July 27, 1944 at St. Lo, France.

Nine months to the day, he was liberated from the camp at Memmingen, Germany, but not after hard labor digging air raid shelters under the camps railroad tracks.

Brian Ward of San Pedro was captured by the North Vietnamese when his F-4 bomber was shot down 2 days after Christmas 1972 while on a combat mission northeast of Hanoi.

Both he and his pilot suffered broken arms and back injuries as a result of their ejection. They were immediately captured, stripped of everything but their underwear, and transported to the "Hanoi Hilton". Two weeks later, they were transferred to a prison known as the "Zoo" a few miles southeast of Hanoi.

Mr. Ward was returned to the United States on March 29, 1973 as the next-to-last prisoner released from Hanoi.

There are other former POWs among the residents of my District. I salute them all. Their physical and emotional scars remain a reminder of the high price of liberty.

Mr. Speaker, I also join my colleagues in remembering those whose fate in time of war remains unknown.

While patriotic ceremonies and speeches will commemorate this day, for the families of the missing, the war is never over. Their loved