

of Taiwan. Today, Taiwan is home to more than ninety political parties, and virtually every political office is actively contested through free and fair elections. In fact, President Chen is a former political dissident himself. Taiwan's constitution guarantees its citizens extensive political, personal and religious freedoms. Further, President Chen has committed Taiwan to many international human rights treaties.

Under President Chen's strong leadership, Taiwan has remained true to its democratic values and has continued to be a model for its neighbors in the region. But as the Taiwanese people celebrate the third anniversary of their President's election, they also are struggling to contain the recent outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, in their country. The SARS outbreak is a good demonstration of what Secretary of State Colin Powell said recently—that the deadly virus recognizes no international borders. Taiwan is a part of the world that has been deeply affected by SARS and needs to play its proper role in preventing further spread of the virus. For these reasons, Taiwan urgently needs representation in the WHO.

I also strongly support Taiwan's democratization at home and its campaign to join international organizations abroad. Taiwan is a strong ally which stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States after the events of September 11, 2001. We in the United States Congress appreciate Taiwan's support for our nation—a solid partnership that has endured for many years.

Taiwan is making significant contributions to the international community and I know that our bilateral relations will only grow stronger in the coming years. Again, congratulations to President Chen and to the people of Taiwan.

CONGRATULATING SAI GUNTURI  
ON WINNING THE 76TH ANNUAL  
SCRIPPS HOWARD NATIONAL  
SPELLING BEE

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor the champion of the 76th annual Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee. 251 spellers advanced to the finals of the National Spelling Bee that were held here in Washington, D.C. during May 28–29.

The champion of the spelling bee is Sai Gunturi, an eighth grader at St. Mark's School of Texas, that is located in Dallas. Sai was challenged throughout the 15th round of competition, and ultimately won the tournament by correctly spelling the word pococurante {pO-kO-kyu-'ran-tE} (pococurante is defined as caring little or indifferent, nonchalant). Sai was sponsored by The Dallas Morning News and comes from a fine family tradition of spelling excellence, as his sister Nivedita, tied for eighth place in the 1997 National Spelling Bee.

Sai is not just a terrific speller, but also a tremendous asset to the greater St. Mark's school community. He is a community leader and an astounding scholar. My sincere congratulations go out to Sai, his family, and to his teachers and friends at St. Mark's.

HONORING SAINT RICHARD  
PARISH

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to St. Richard Parish. On June 8, 2003, St. Richard will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. With its location on the southwest side of Chicago, St. Richard Parish has a warm and rich heritage which warrants recognition.

On the 8th of June 1928, His eminence George Cardinal Mundelein established St. Richard Parish. The Parish was named after St. Richard de Wyche, bishop of Chichester, England.

Reverend Horace Wellman was appointed the first pastor and in late June 1928, he celebrated his first mass. The first mass was given in a storefront on 51st Street that also served as a temporary home for the church. A census was taken over the following months to determine how many families would support a newly established church. Results from the census comprised of many different ethnic backgrounds for a total 110 families.

Property for St. Richard Parish was purchased at the intersections of Kostner Avenue, 50th Street, and Kenneth Avenue. Within a month the new church was ready and on September 2, 1928 the first mass was presented. The official blessing of St. Richard Church took place October 21st, with Rt. Rev. Msgr. D.J. Dunner D.D. officiating.

Father Wellman served his people well until he unfortunately and surprisingly passed away from a heart attack in 1931. The second pastor appointed to St. Richard Parish was Father Francis J. Quinn who officially took over on October 17, 1931. Under the direction of Father Quinn the Parish grew steadily in number, while also recovering from the Great Depression.

In April 1944, Father Quinn left St. Richard to assume the pastorate of St. Ambrose Church and was succeeded by Father Joseph Griffin. Father Griffin had to resign because of poor health, after serving as pastor for six months.

On November 10, 1944, Reverend Edward L. Kilroy was appointed pastor of St. Richard Church and helped continue the growth of the Parish. Under his direction and guidance, a new brick building combining both church and school was erected. It was Father Kilroy who asked the Dominican Sisters from Sinsinawa, Wisconsin to teach in the school, which opened in September of 1947. By the late 50's the enrollment in the school had passed 1,000 students. Father Kilroy recognized the need for expansion and so in 1959, a new church was erected on the southwest corner of West 50th Street and South Kostner.

In March 1966, Father Kilroy was given the honorary title of Pastor Emeritus and retired from his pastoral duties. Father William Fisher was assigned to succeed Father Kilroy as pastor of St. Richard Parish.

Father Fisher and the people of St. Richard combined their efforts and talents to organize what has become known as the "annual county fair," more commonly known as a carnival. Since 1972, the annual county fair has become a staple within the community.

Father Fisher retired from St. Richard Parish in 1981 as Pastor Emeritus and was succeeded by Reverend Jerome Siwek. Under Father Siwek the church was remodeled and lay minister programs were developed. Father Siwek became Pastor Emeritus on June 13, 1999.

Reverend Thomas Bernas followed Father Siwek and was installed as Pastor of St. Richard Church in June 1999. Upon his arrival he completed many projects that were planned as part of the "Into the 21st Century" campaign. Father Bernas sought to expand the vision of St. Richard Parish and has presided over the continued growth in its ministries and programs.

Organizations and groups continue to meet the many and diverse needs of the Parishioners. Because of St. Richard's excellent reputation, and because of the hard work of the faculty and staff, the school continues to see an increase in enrollment. Father Bernas also involved the Parish in a variety of community groups and organizations. St. Richard Parish is an active member of the Archer Heights Civic Association and the Chicago Police Caps Program.

This year marks the 75th Anniversary of St. Richard Parish. For 75 years God has generously blessed this Parish. Hopefully this will be a year of jubilee and celebration. St. Richard Parish has been and continues to be a proud community where people gather to worship God, socialize, work together, learn together, and celebrate as a family of faith.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FREE-  
DOM AND DEMOCRACY IN  
BURMA

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 4, 2003*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show my wholehearted support for those struggling for freedom and democracy in Burma and to condemn Burma's ruling military junta for their premeditated and cowardly attack on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi—whose whereabouts and condition are still unknown—and members of her National League for Democracy this past weekend.

Although they won an overwhelming victory over the military junta in Burma's 1990 election and are the legitimate, elected government of Burma, Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD's mandate to rule has been ignored by the junta for 13 years and one week as of today. While Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD are committed to working with the junta in order to reach a non-violent political solution to restore democracy in Burma, the junta has shown their utter contempt for such civilities and has resorted to violence as every scared, impotent dictatorship does when it feels threatened. In this case, the evil-doers did not stop at a brutal assault, they followed up their premeditated attack by putting the noble laureate and her top officials in so-called "protective custody," then proceeded to shut down their party offices around the country, tear down their party flags, cut party members' phone lines and place top members under house arrest. So afraid of the power and will of their people and especially the youth of their country, the junta went so far as to shut down all universities the day after the attack.