

many causes she has worked so hard for. She leaves big shoes to fill and we will miss working with her for the betterment of San Jose State University. Good luck Janet.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, a very important initiative is being launched in my district by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Many of us think of a museum as merely a place to visit to see educational exhibits. That is not always the case. Many of our Nation's museums are leading the way in critical scientific research.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is one such museum. It is the steward of one of the world's largest collections of marine life, representing hundreds of years of ocean biodiversity. The Museum aims to organize its valuable, world class marine collection and merge that with new research opportunities to gather and distribute information critical to biodiversity studies and conservation efforts. With this, the Museum is establishing the West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity as a hub for oceanic preservation and research.

The West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity will be an extraordinary public-private partnership that will benefit the world's oceans and the future sustainability of its valuable resources. Most importantly, the Center will take a significant step to fulfilling the goals of the Federal Government to save the world's oceans and the ecosystems they support.

There has been significant news lately regarding the status of the world's oceans with the release of the Ocean's Commission Report earlier this year. I know the researchers and data at the West Coast Center for Biodiversity can be a tremendous asset to the efforts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other Federal departments and agencies doing similar work. I strongly encourage the development of a partnership with these Federal entities and the West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

LEONARD C. BURCH POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in condemning the ongoing civil war in Southern Sudan and the genocide in the Darfur region of the same country.

I was with my colleagues of the House of Representatives on July 22, 2004, when we unanimously voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 467, a resolution declaring that the atrocities in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide. That same resolution commends the Administration's leadership in seeking a peaceful resolution to

the conflict in Darfur and in addressing the ensuing humanitarian crisis.

I do not support H.R. 5061, Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act, however, because I believe it limits the President's options in dealing with Sudan at a time when he should have flexibility. I expect continued resolve from the administration and believe that we should preserve whatever flexibility is needed to move toward effective solutions in Sudan.

SPACE AND AERONAUTICS PRIZE
ACT

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I can think of no better way to end my tenure than to finally witness the dream of commercial human space flight becoming a reality. Burt Rutan's tremendous accomplishment this week not only proved that space is no longer the sole domain of government, but it is a testament to the innovative and creative potential of space entrepreneurs. On my watch, I've been privileged to peer into the future of dynamic citizen astronauts routinely flying to and from the heavens. I applaud the hard work and dedication of Burt Rutan and the good people behind the Ansari X-Prize. They are shining examples of the American can-do spirit at its best.

Commercial space transportation is advancing on-orbit services that have so enriched our daily lives. The private sector should be encouraged to continue this successful trend. I am convinced a new generation of space entrepreneurs is ready to make their mark in contributing to low Earth orbit development, as well as returning to the Moon.

In the past, prizes have played an important role by promoting progress in the development of aviation. Charles Lindbergh won the \$10,000 private Orteig Prize for becoming the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic, and the U.S. government offered prizes in the 1920s and 1930s to meet its aviation needs. The X-Prize has served as a means to stimulate private manned space activities. I believe we can do more in making the President's vision for space exploration a reality by awarding cash prizes to encourage greater participation of the private sector in the national space program. Today, I am introducing legislation that will establish a National Endowment for Space and Aeronautics for the national good.

The Endowment is intended to provide an exciting new incentive to private sector space entrepreneurs. Cash prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements in the scientific research and technology development are envisioned as critical to the Endowment's program. The program also is directed to receive donations and private gifts for the benefit of the Nation's aeronautics and space endeavors.

The Endowment is specifically directed to award a prize for the demonstration of a reusable space flight vehicle to carry at least one person to a minimum altitude of 400 kilometers from the United States, or its territories. The spacecraft is to complete at least three complete orbits of the Earth and return

safely to the Earth. The total amount of the cash prize for this demonstration is not to exceed \$100,000,000.

Like the pioneers before them, I'm encouraged that individuals like Burt Rutan, Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, as well as others, will open new frontiers that will continue to benefit American's leadership role in space. The Endowment legislation is a small step in the right direction.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan Ambassador David Lee, President Chen Shui-bian, and the 23 million people of the Republic of China on the occasion of their National Day, October 10th.

The United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner. In 2000, total U.S.-Taiwan trade was approximately \$65 billion, with a Taiwan surplus of approximately \$16 billion. Taiwan's chief exports to the United States include clothing and footwear, toys, and various electronic products. In recent years, Taiwanese government officials have attempted to accommodate increased U.S. pressure on trade issues by meeting many U.S. demands for greater market access for U.S. goods and services, and responded to U.S. complaints by taking stronger measures to protect U.S. copyrights and other intellectual property rights.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a genuine democracy and its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. As one of our largest trading partners and friends in the Far East, it is my opinion that the Republic of China on Taiwan deserves much greater international recognition. I will continue to press for more favorable U.S. treatment of Taiwan and for Taiwan's inclusion in some capacity in international organizations like the World Health Organization. Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization is vital to the interests of the people of Taiwan, and will open Taiwan's access to the latest information on epidemics and diseases. I have joined the House Taiwan Caucus to express my support of this important ally.

I hope that we will continue to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and raise the level of strategic cooperation between the United States and Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UTAH RECREATIONAL LANDS EXCHANGE
ACT OF 2004

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of legislation that my colleague CHRIS CANNON and I are introducing in the House today. I am pleased that so many stakeholders have come together to create this legislation, which will preserve thousands