

this proposed law as hostile and unnecessary. China already has hundreds of missiles pointed at Taiwan. Passage of this law will only further already tense relations across the Strait.

The people of Taiwan live in a vibrant democracy and enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. Taiwan is a beacon of freedom and an engine of prosperity in eastern Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the right of the Taiwanese people to live in a free and democratic society. This proposed law threatens Taiwan's freedom, its security, and its prosperity. During President George W. Bush's address earlier this year, he said "when you stand for liberty, we will stand with you." I urge my colleagues to stand for freedom and liberty and to stand with the people of Taiwan in its opposition to the Chinese anti-secession law.

HONORING THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEACE CORPS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to honor the 44th anniversary of the Peace Corps, as we concluded the celebration of National Peace Corps Week on Sunday. The Peace Corps has made great contributions over the past 44 years with 178,000 volunteers that have served in 138 countries.

I would like to thank all those who have served and recognize their service and contributions they have given to the world.

I would also like to honor those colleagues who have served in the Peace Corps. Among them are former Ohio Congressman Tony Hall, who is now U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Food and Agriculture agencies in Rome and who served in the Peace Corps in Thailand from 1966–67. Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD from Connecticut also served as a Peace Corps volunteer from 1966–68 in the Dominican Republic.

I hope all Americans will join me in recognizing the valuable service of those who have served in the Peace Corps and their hard work in helping to portray a positive image of the United States throughout the world.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMAL COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAY MILLIKIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioner Jay Millikin.

His patriotism stems from a lifetime of service to both town and country. Jay Millikin served for 24 years in the United States Air Force before becoming a City Councilman, and the eventual Mayor, of the City of Garden Ridge.

Commissioner Jay Millikin's commitment to the community is exemplified through his membership and involvement with countless

environmental, transportation, and development councils and committees. His diligent efforts have served the citizens of Comal County with distinction since 1999.

Commissioner Millikin is a man that understands community needs and the value of hard work and dedication. It is important to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioners such as Jay Millikin, because they are an inspiration to many others in the community. They are the backbone of positive action in our local counties and communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to recognize the accomplishments of Comal County Commissioner Jay Millikin.

TEXAS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, March 2 marks a historic day for my home state of Texas and specifically for the people of my district living in Washington and Austin Counties. Today, Mr. Speaker we celebrate the birth of Texas and the place where our great state was born because right along the banks of the Brazos River, Texas declared its independence.

Texas Independence day marks a time when Texans and Americans of today honor and celebrate the work and sacrifices of Texans generations ago, people who valiantly claimed their freedom from Mexico and sought out their own destiny governed by the laws of a true democracy, a constitution written by the people and the colors of their flag waving over what would become the free and independent nation of Texas. And I am proud to say this historic story of freedom, independence and democracy took place in two important places in the Tenth Congressional District of Texas, the district I am proud to say I represent.

It's a history that started long before that early March day in 1836.

Between 1820 and 1836 the Mexican Government offered Americans the opportunity to live and work in what was then the land of Texas under Mexican Rule. But these Americans, living under Mexico's government quickly found the spirit of freedom lacking. Mexican leaders, at that time, presumed they could dictate economic, social, even religious life for those living in Texas. They allowed the military to interfere in civil issues, trade even legal proceedings.

The inspiring story of how the battle against this, then, anti-democratic government began in what was then, the Stephen F. Austin Colony, the first colony of Texas, now known as Austin County, Texas. It was there that the first sparks of freedom flew from the spirits of men, tired of living under an intrusive and burdensome Mexican government. It was in the Austin Colony in 1835 that Texans first established a provisional government, with the intention of writing a declaration of independence soon after. With the Mexican Army intent on destroying any move towards Texas independence, the Consultation of 1835, as it was known, adjourned without the organization needed to continue the cause for freedom.

But the want for independence from Mexico did not die in that colony. Less than a year

later, many of the same delegates present at the Consultation of 1835 arrived along the Brazos River, in the Village of Washington, just north of the Austin Colony.

By the spring of 1836 the encroachments on basic freedoms had reached a point of action for many living in Mexico controlled Texas.

They were simply fed up with such unnecessary and uncontrolled interference from a greedy government. The time for action was upon them.

On March 1, 1836, 59 delegates hailing from all corners of Texas arrived at the then relatively unknown village of Washington right alongside the Brazos River.

They met inside an unfinished frame building to decide the principals they would invoke in claiming their freedom from Mexico. And as these brave men began to construct the language which would declare their independence from Mexico, they were in fact constructing a document which very well may have served as their death warrants. For while their declaration of independence shouted freedom for the Texans, it also declared Mexico unfit to govern and the Mexican Army immediately began seeking retribution for this act of defiance.

But like so many brave heroes before and after them, these 59 delegates were willing to pay the ultimate price for freedom.

It was a bloody and dramatic time for Texas. While the men along the Brazos River fought for the right words and ideals with which to claim Texas' independence, their fellow statesmen and warriors fought for their lives and freedom. For as the delegates along the Brazos River put pen to paper in writing Texas' declaration of independence men like Davey Crockett, James Bowie and William Travis fought to their deaths in fighting for Texas freedom at the Alamo.

Despite the defeat at the Alamo, the revolution continued. In 1842 Texas president, Sam Houston moved the nation's capital from Austin to the birthplace of Texas, Washington on the Brazos River.

Three years later, by an act of Congress, the United States made Texas part of the American Union, and Texas became the 28th state of the United States of America.

There can be no argument about the Lone Star State's contribution to American history, nor can there be any debate about that history's importance.

We must always remember where that history began for Texas. Just like so many Americans travel to Philadelphia to witness the buildings and symbols involved in America's Declaration of Independence, thousands of people every year make the journey to Washington on the Brazos to understand the depth of history and events involved in Texas' Independence.

For many Americans, this place has become a phrase acknowledging an event in Texas history long forgotten. But tonight we must remember Washington on the Brazos and Austin County as the places where the proud nation of Texas found life with a want for freedom and spirit for democracy.

Texas will always have a long and storied history, which we can never forget. We must continue to remember the commitment of those men who started a new book in Texas history as they wrote the nation of Texas into independence.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INSULAR
AREAS SMALL BUSINESS DEVEL-
OPMENT ACT

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would provide greater access to an important tool for the development and growth of small businesses in Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). My legislation would expand the areas currently designated by the Small Business Administration (SBA) as Historically Underutilized Business Zones (HUBZones) to cover the insular areas in their entirety. Not only would this legislation provide an important tool for small business growth in these economically disadvantaged areas, it would correct issues of implementation related to the current one-size-fits all criteria for designating HUBZones. This criteria disadvantages small businesses in the insular areas.

Currently, only those zones in the insular areas designated by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as "qualified census tracts," are recognized by the SBA as HUBZones. Many additional zones in the insular areas would also be designated HUBZones under the program's "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria, as is the case in the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, if not for technical issues of implementation. A principal factor of eligibility under the "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria is a high level of unemployment in a given county. The insular areas do not subdivide into counties, nor does the Bureau of Labor Statistics collect Local Area Unemployment Statistics for Guam. Therefore, firms located in a number of financially distressed areas in these jurisdictions are deprived of the opportunity to participate in the HUBZone program, as no alternative formula is used for the "qualified 'non-metropolitan county'" criteria in the insular areas.

The purpose of this legislation is to support economic self-sufficiency in Guam and the insular areas by helping small businesses located in these jurisdictions to effectively compete for federal contract work. Over the past several years, the SBA's HUBZone program has been one of the most successful vehicles for directing federal contracts and subcontracting dollars to locally-owned small businesses. I am confident that the expertise exists among small businesses in the insular areas to successfully meet federal contracting needs, particularly for local projects. Universal HUBZone designation throughout the insular areas would provide incentives for federal agencies to utilize local firms. Considering the relative geographic isolation and unique economic challenges encountered in these areas, and the problems associated with implementing all provisions of the law in the insular areas, it makes sense to designate the entirety of these jurisdictions as HUBZones.

I look forward to working with Mr. MANZULLO and Ms. Velázquez on this legislation.

DENTON'S LINK BUS SYSTEM
NAMED OUTSTANDING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Denton's Link bus system, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition as an "Outstanding Metropolitan Transit System" for 2004 by the Texas Transportation Association.

Denton's Link won the award for increasing its ridership by more than fourfold from 2003 to 2004. With better routes and an influx of new riders from the local universities—Texas Woman's University and University of North Texas—Link has helped limit congestion on our streets. The "Outstanding Metropolitan Transit Award" is given for designing and implementing programs that demonstrate innovative concepts or effect problem-solving techniques. But a company must not only initiate these programs but also successfully implement the techniques. The Texas Transportation Association also awards transit systems that enhance safety measures, make their operating systems more efficient and improve customer service.

Denton's Link sets a wonderful model for other Texas public transit systems looking to make improvements. I am proud of the Denton public transportation system and citizens of Denton who continued to better their community through the use of Denton's Link.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS
OF GUADALUPE COUNTY COM-
MISSIONER JUDY COPE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the dedication of Guadalupe County Commissioner Judy Cope for her civic service.

Judy Cope graduated from MacArthur High in San Antonio, and went on to attend the College of the Mainland, receiving a degree in criminal justice. She has put her training to work as a special investigator, compliance officer, gang issues coordinator, and concealed handgun instructor.

Commissioner Cope's experience has not been limited to law enforcement; she has held positions in various different fields. Early in her career she worked as an accountant, owned a feed and tack store, assisted with operations at her husband's construction company, and held a state real estate license for 21 years.

She now puts this tremendous diversity of experience to work for the citizens of Guadalupe County. She is a strong believer in government transparency and accountability, and she has worked hard to help the public be more involved in county government.

Mr. Speaker, Guadalupe County Commissioner Judy Cope's efforts to enforce the law, forge community ties, and open government to the public are worthy of praise, and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her work publicly.

RECOGNITION OF ARMY
SPECIALIST JACOB PALMATIER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Army Specialist Jacob Palmatier who was recently killed in action fighting for freedom in Iraq.

Palmatier was a 29-year-old from Springfield, Illinois who served as an Army Specialist assigned to the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division based at Fort Benning, GA. Palmatier went to Springfield's Lutheran High School and later entered Illinois College, where he graduated magna cum laude with a degree in English. He excelled in languages, learning to speak fluent Japanese as well as some Norwegian, Russian and French. He had been in Iraq for less than a month when he was killed outside of Baghdad by a roadside bomb.

Palmatier is survived by his wife Bridget of Rochester whom he married in 2003 and his parents David and Margaret Palmatier of Springfield. I am proud of the service this young man gave to our country and the service his fellow troops perform every day. Not enough can be said about Army Spc Palmatier. It is troops like him that are risking their lives day in and day out to ensure our freedom here at home and to others throughout the rest of the world. I salute him and my best wishes go out to his family and all the troops fighting to ensure freedom and democracy.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO JOHN
KAUFFMAN ON THE OCCASION
OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to Mr. John Kauffman, upon his retirement as the Managing Editor of the Advertiser-Tribune Newspaper in Tiffin, Ohio.

John Kauffman, like many young Americans, entered his adulthood by proudly serving his country as a member of the United States Navy. After John's enlistment, he attended and graduated from The Ohio State University where he was an integral part of the student newspaper, The Lantern.

Upon graduation, John embarked on his journalistic career at the Ypsilanti Press in Michigan and later served as Editor of the Kenton Times. Then in 1981, John accepted his current position as Managing Editor of the Advertiser-Tribune where he has provided constant leadership.

Drawing upon his past experiences, John has brought stability and journalistic integrity to a newspaper which has seen tremendous changes. As Managing Editor, John remained cognizant of the Advertiser-Tribune's rich history which can be traced to 1832 with the beginnings of the Seneca Advertiser and its predecessor, the Seneca Patriot. With this rich