Brotherhood of Teamsters. During his tenure as President, union membership has increased and the budget has been balanced for the first time in nearly a decade.

The Teamsters have also increased their global outreach, creating a new office of global strategies to focus resources on building alliances with workers from around the world, and by holding meetings of the International Transportation Workers Federation, ITF, with union leaders representing 624 transport unions that consist of 4.5 million workers from 142 countries.

Most recently, Mr. Hoffa faced intense challenges while the union family chose to take different directions for its future. It is my hope that these changes will be positive for the Teamsters and provide Mr. Hoffa with a continued opportunity to lead.

It is for these reasons that I stand to recognize the work and dedication of Mr. James Hoffa, and his commitment to workers and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

PRESIDENT CHEN’S LUNAR NEW YEAR’S DAY REMARKS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in his Lunar New Year’s Day remarks to the nation, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian expressed his concern over Taiwan’s lack of representation in major international organizations and the Taiwanese people’s need to revisit the issue of national unification with China.

Taiwan has tried to rejoin the United Nations and the World Health Organization but its efforts have been blocked by China and its diplomatic allies year after year. To break out of China’s diplomatic suppression of Taiwan, President Chen was wondering if Taiwan should apply for membership in the United Nations under a new name, “Taiwan.”

Apart from Taiwan’s lack of international presence, Taiwanese people have developed a strong feeling that the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait has shifted to China’s favor. Last spring, China passed its anti-secession law codifying the use of force against Taiwan.

In recent years, China’s military build-up along the coast of Taiwan has engendered suspicion and deep distrust of China’s intentions toward Taiwan.

The Taiwanese people fear a military confrontation in the Taiwan Strait. It is therefore not surprising that their president would voice their apprehensions in his Lunar New Year’s Day remarks. President Chen was wondering aloud if Taiwan should consider abolishing the National Unification Commission and the Guidelines for National Unification in view of China’s repeated hostile actions taken against Taiwan. The President’s remark is being studied by Taiwan’s National Security Council. President Chen must seek to explore venues, other than the National Unification Commission and the Guidelines for National Unification, to safeguard Taiwan’s future.

To help ease Taiwanese apprehension, we, as friends of Taiwan, must ask President Bush to assure the people of Taiwan that America will adhere to its commitments to Taiwan under the Taiwan Relations Act and that America would defend Taiwan if China were to invade Taiwan. Also, I think it is worthwhile for President Bush to further express America’s strong concern over China’s passage of the anti-secession legislation. The enactment of the law has in effect changed the status quo in the Taiwan Strait, thereby threatening the stability of the Asia-Pacific region.

Once again, President Bush should openly inform Chinese leaders that the future of Taiwan must be solved through peaceful means and with the consent of the people of Taiwan. Last but not least, President Bush should encourage Chinese leaders to resume a meaningful dialogue with Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian over cross-strait issues under the principles of sovereignty, democracy, peace and parity.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian has not reneged on his inaugural pledges to his people. In the last 6 years he has not declared independence for Taiwan. He would like Chinese leaders to openly pledge to the world that China would not use force against Taiwan either now or in the future—a statement that we here in the Congress would welcome as well.

TRIBUTE TO COACH GENE BESS

HON. JO ANN EMERSON
OF MISSOURI
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, February 16, 2006

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishment of Three Rivers Community College basketball coach Gene Bess. Coach Bess is a fixture of the southern Missouri community of Poplar Bluff and a legend of college basketball coaching. This season, he will accomplish a tremendous feat for a coach in any sport at any level: Coach Bess will win his 1,000th game.

Three Rivers Community College is lucky to have a great coach—a model of perseverance and service. In Coach Bess, the Three Rivers Raiders have a mentor, a leader, and a friend to coach them both on and off the court. For the first time in nearly a decade, the Raiders have a mentor, a leader, and a friend to coach them both on and off the court. For southern Missouri, Coach Bess is more than a coach in any sport at any level: Coach Bess is a mentor that accomplishes our goals requires planning, hard work and plenty of sacrifice.

After notching 1,000 wins, Coach Bess has also become an expert on sportsmanship. His players are instructed in the art of fair play right along with the other fundamentals of the game.

Most remarkable about Coach Bess to me and to many is that the basketball team is not the first priority in his life. He is proud of the fact that his faith and his family always come before his work. This is just one secret of his success.

But today I join with Coach Bess’s family, his friends, his colleagues at Three Rivers, the hundreds of young men who have played on his teams, and the proud fans of the Eighth Congressional District to congratulate Coach Bess on achieving a rare milestone. In his long tenure as coach of the Three Rivers Raiders, Coach Bess has never had a losing season. His 1,000th victory marks a record that is unsurpassed at any level.

We are proud of this tradition, proud of this record, and most proud of Coach Bess.