

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN PRESIDENT  
CHEN SHUI-BIAN

**HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian. In early May, he will be making stops in the United States en route to Central and South America.

I commend President Chen for his leadership and wisdom in having maintained peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during the past six years. Despite the People's Republic of China's military buildup along the Taiwanese coast, despite China's passage of the anti-secession legislation last spring and despite China's continuous harsh rhetoric threatening Taiwan's future, President Chen continues to hope for a dialogue with his Chinese counterparts. President Chen wants permanent peace in the Taiwan Strait.

President Chen firmly believes in his people's right to maintain a free and democratic way of life. Any solution of the Taiwan question must have the consent and approval of the 23 million people of Taiwan.

We must help the 23 million people of Taiwan to determine their own future. First, we must reaffirm our commitment to the Taiwan Relations Act, which stipulates a peaceful solution to the Taiwan issue. In the meantime, let's give our support to Taiwan in its application to be an observer at the World Health Assembly meetings this May.

It is my hope that President Chen will be warmly welcomed in the United States. Too often he has been misunderstood. I salute him as a leader who's always put his country and his people first. He is our "peacekeeper" in the Taiwan Strait.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENTS  
OF AMADOR VALLEY HIGH  
SCHOOL'S "WE THE PEOPLE"  
TEAM

**HON. RICHARD W. POMBO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to both congratulate and wish the students of Amador Valley High School's "We the People" team the best of luck for their national competition in the District of Columbia this weekend. I also congratulate their parents and teachers for this remarkable achievement.

The U.S. Department of Education's Center for Civic Education sponsors "We the People" as an opportunity for students to compete in their knowledge of American civics. Students are quizzed on everything from the U.S. Constitution, the founding of our country, and the revolution of American government. This makes for a great experience for the students, because the testing occurs during simulated congressional hearings. These are creative students who excel in critical thinking and their mastery of history and government.

I am proud to say that on February 3, 2006, the "We the People" team from Amador Valley High School finished first in the State of

California. They are the seventh in the school's history in a line of successful teams to qualify for the national competition in Washington, DC.

These students have been victorious at the congressional, regional, and State levels this year. The team consists of 30 seniors who prepared in 15,000 combined hours of study and preparation. During this time, this diverse group of students have come together as one team; supporting each other in the most difficult and rigorous academic experience of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, I warmly congratulate the Amador Valley High School team and I want to add the names of these bright students in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Angela Aronoff, Kiel Barry, Sean Basalyga, Nihat Bayramoglu, Sanam Bhatia, Audra Bloom, David Crisostomo, Jennifer Doxey, Jasmine Guo, Scott Hanford, Jennifer Hank, Glenalyn Hunt, Lauren Johnson, Jack LaFrancesca, Jessica Ma, Amy Qin, Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh, Paula Reeve, David Rowse, Lakshmi Santhosh, Eugene Shenkar, Tiffany Shih, Suzanna Sund, Will Tagg, Sonia Talati, Susan Tang, Brookanne Thompson, Ronald Tran, Elise Viebeck, and Jenny Zhan.

H.R. 3277—FEDERAL AGENCY PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND SUNSET ACT

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to speak in favor of H.R. 3277, the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act." The Federal Government is fraught with chronic program overlap and duplication. As Congress has created multiple agencies and programs to meet the needs of our Nation over the years, it has become increasingly clear that many of these programs are now outdated because they serve similar purposes.

Did you know that: 19 federal programs throughout the government focus on substance abuse prevention; 90 early childhood programs exist in 11 federal agencies within 20 different offices; 86 teacher training programs exist in 9 different agencies; and 27 different programs and services to prevent teen pregnancy exist in HHS alone.

The costs of the hurricane recovery efforts in Texas and Louisiana have reached record proportions and will place an increasing amount of strain on our Nation's resources. The President has stated that federal spending cuts are inevitable in the near future if the government is to achieve a balanced budget. Congress must take accountability by making sure the most effective spending cuts do not hinder the necessary operations of the Federal Government.

The members of Congress have a unique opportunity in front of them. Together, we can help eliminate program overlap and duplication and at the same time help offset the costs of the hurricane recovery efforts with the passage of the Sunset Act. Under the "Federal Agency Performance Review and Sunset Act," or the Sunset Act the need and efficiency of each Federal Agency will be investigated by a Sunset Commission.

Once a Federal Agency has been reviewed by the Commission, Congress will have 2 years to positively reaffirm the need for that agency. No reauthorization by Congress in that 2-year span would result in the termination of the agency or program. The Sunset Commissions will empower the President to make the most effective spending cuts by trimming Federal programs whose functions exist elsewhere in the government.

Last year, Chairman Alan Greenspan testified before the Senate Budget Committee with regard to reforming the budget process. What was missing in government, he stated, was a systematic review of all Federal programs. He said, "[Congress] might want to require that existing programs be assessed regularly to verify that they continue to meet their stated purposes and cost projections." The Sunset Act is expressly consistent with this analysis, and would bring light of review and accountability to Federal programs, and result in considerable cost savings to the taxpayer.

A similar important piece of legislation that I introduced is H.R. 3276, the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act". Under the "Government Reorganization and Improvement of Performance Act," bipartisan commissions would be created to study specific areas where there might be overlap and duplication in federal operations. The commissions would issue recommendations to the President on how to reorganize, at which time the President would decide whether to submit the proposal to Congress. This legislation would require both the creation of a Results Commission and any reorganization proposal endorsed by it to come before Congress under expedited procedures to ensure that the proposal receives a clean, up-or-down vote in both houses.

It is clear that the world works at much faster speeds than it did 40, 30, and even 20 years ago. It is clear that it should not require an act of Congress to reorganize the Executive Branch so that real solutions for crises can be found in the most efficient manner. H.R. 3276 will allow a "fast-track" reorganization authority to exist that will increase the overall operability and efficiency of the government and allow it to keep pace with the speed of the world today.

Something has to be done to eliminate the government waste caused by chronic program overlap and duplication throughout the Federal Government and get the biggest bang for the taxpayers' dollars. The two commissions proposed in H.R. 3276 and H.R. 3277 are critical to achieving a sensible and responsible analysis of government programs and operations and ultimately in eliminating unneeded programs and reorganizing government operations.

IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I strongly support this bipartisan legislation—the Iran Freedom Support Act—which is a measured, appropriate and necessary response by this body to the continued belligerence and threatening actions of the Iranian regime.