

at the Battle of Puebla, the Mexican soldiers fought bravely and died with dignity for their countrymen's freedom. Each Mexican soldier fought valiantly with one common goal. In the end, it was the French army that surrendered on Mexican soil.

In addition to its historical significance in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo is significant to all Americans because it marks the last time that any foreign power threatened to conquer North American soil.

Cinco de Mayo is also a celebration of the rich cultural heritage people of Spanish and Latin American descent have shared with the United States. They have shared their music, art, language and traditions and these elements are sewn into the colorful fabric of "American" culture.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in commemorating Cinco de Mayo—a day that reflects the core principles that America was founded upon.

THOSE MEMORIES SHOULD NOT BE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following poem by Mary-Ann S. Stanky of Cleveland, Ohio:

THOSE MEMORIES SHOULD NOT BE

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
Said the new enlistee
A new defender of democracy
Salute, stand tall, and be proud.
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
In line with his comrades
Wearing alike uniforms
Issued a gun to defend democracy.
We are ready!
Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah!
Turning a corner. . . .
Rapid bursts of gunfire, from where?
Shouts from everywhere
Roof tops, windows noise all-around
Heads swirling left to right, up and down.
Quiet . . . an eerie quiet finally descends
Labored breathing
Eyes burning red, mouths dry,
Ears ringing from uncommon sounds
Minds fighting to stay in control.
Streaks of red trickle down, blood?
Look again, no!
Look again, yes!
Blood spills from open wounds
medic!
There! go there! hurry!
Pick-up the gun
Defender of democracy
My friend has gone home to a
Flag flying half-mast.

—Mary-Ann S. Stanky

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CINCO DE MAYO

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 230, a bill recognizing the significance of Cinco de Mayo.

This day holds special meaning for me as it does for millions of other Mexican Americans and it provides a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the innumerable contributions that generations of Mexican Americans have made to our national life.

On Cinco de Mayo, we celebrate the valor of a small contingent of Mexican patriots who prevailed against a much larger French army in the Battle of Puebla. Just as in our own fight for independence, they triumphed despite overwhelming odds. Indeed, like Lexington and Concord, Puebla marks a significant victory in the struggle for liberty in the New World.

Today Cinco de Mayo has evolved into a day to celebrate our Mexican American culture and the immeasurable ways in which Mexican Americans have shaped this country. Through music, literature and cuisine, we have enriched the American melting pot. Through an entrepreneurial spirit, Mexican American small businesses are playing a critical role in our economic recovery. Our men and women on the battlefield are helping to secure lasting peace in Iraq and Afghanistan. As CEOs, religious leaders, cabinet secretaries and Members of Congress, we are providing leadership in the face of unprecedented challenges both at home and abroad.

Finally, Mexico is among our most important allies and this day offers us the chance to reaffirm that friendship. As our neighbors to the south fight drug cartels and the H1N1 flu virus, we should pause to consider what more we can do to aid the Mexican people. Just as they did on Cinco de Mayo 1862, they are waging a courageous battle against forces that seek to undermine their democratic society and just as on that famous date, I am confident that Mexico will emerge a stronger and more prosperous nation.

IN GRATITUDE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND DONGGUK UNI- VERSITY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to express my appreciation and thanks to the faculty of Dongguk University for the Honorary Doctorate in Political Science they bestowed upon me during my recent visit to South Korea. I wish to also recognize my friends in Korea and at Dongguk University who help make the conferral of this Honorary Doctorate possible. These individuals include: President Young-Kyo Oh and President Dong-Jin Sohn of Dongguk University, Governor Kwan-Yong Kim of Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Mayor Sang-Seung Baek of Gyeongju City, former Korean Ambassador to the U.S. Tae-Sik Lee and Mrs. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Il-Hwan Cho and Mr. and Mrs. Dong-Suk Kim of the Korean American Voter's Council in New York.

I have always believed that the Republic of Korea is one of America's most committed friends and allies, and the warmth and hospitality extended to me and my wife during our stay in April reinforced my belief that the bonds that bind the people of the United States together with the people of South

Korea are as strong today as they have ever been.

Even so, I believe we should always look for opportunities to strengthen our alliance and friendship and one of the key areas of opportunity is passage of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement.

During my stay, I had the privilege of meeting with Foreign Minister Myung-Hwan Yu, National Security Advisor Sung-Hwan Kim, Chairman Jin Park of the Korean National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, our U.S. Embassy senior officials and the American Chamber of Commerce in Korea. In practically every meeting, the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement was high on the agenda. No agreement or treaty is ever perfect, as it is always a product of compromise. And I agree that Congress has a legitimate right to debate the merits of the agreement; so let's have that debate; let's take this agreement out of legislative limbo, bring it to the House Floor, have an honest up or down vote, and let the chips fall where they may, Madam Speaker. I think we owe our South Korean friends that much respect because there's more at stake here than just economic growth; this Free Trade Agreement recognizes our special relationship with South Korea and reinforces the message that the United States stands squarely behind our friends and allies.

Madam Speaker, I would like to ask unanimous consent to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of the remarks I delivered at Dongguk University, entitled: "The Korea-U.S. Alliance Partnership." And I would also ask all of my colleagues to join me in recognizing the historic significance of the U.S.-Korea alliance and its growing importance in the years to come.

President Young-Kyo Oh, distinguished members of the faculty, and students of Dongguk University, ladies and gentlemen and friends: Thank you for your kind introduction. It is a great pleasure to be here today in the heart of Korea's ancient capital city. We are surrounded by history, culture and the memories and friendship that our nations have made together through battles and treaties, commerce and trade.

When I think about this partnership, one particular Korean-American friend comes to mind. His name is Johnny Yune. When Johnny was eleven years old, his family's home town was bombed by communist forces. As they attempted to flee, a particular blast knocked Johnny off his feet and sent him tumbling to a ditch where he was left to die. An American soldier named Private Brown found Johnny, rescued him from the ditch and saved his life that day.

In the weeks and months that followed, the Yune family got to know this Private Brown very well. Johnny remembers how he used to come over to his home, unshaven, with a guitar on his back and a truck full of rationed food. Private Brown would sing and teach them American songs like "Oh Susanna" and give them candy. Johnny is alive today because of that American soldier; and, although he never saw the Private once his unit had moved on, Johnny never forgot his kindness. In his career as a television and movie star, he often speaks of the war hero.

The virtues of the personal relationship between Private Brown and Johnny are not limited to this experience. In a greater sense, The United States and Korea also share a very special relationship.

The United States and the Republic of Korea first became partners more than 125 years ago, when we signed a treaty of amity

and commerce in 1882. This partnership was forged on the battlefield during the Korean War. The South Koreans fought bravely to stay free from the chains of tyranny and communism and have remained a beacon of light and democracy ever since. For more than half a century, we have been diplomatic, political, economic, and cultural partners and great friends.

In the early years, the United States reached out a hand to South Korea, assisting as the nation transformed itself from a war-torn "basket" economy into what it is now: a full-blown democracy with the world's 13th largest economy. South Korea is now an indispensable partner in promoting democracy and extolling the benefits of free market economies. Today, South Korea is the United States' seventh largest export market and the fifth largest market for U.S. agricultural products.

South Korea is committed to the freedom of its people, even when threats grow daily, and especially in light of the North's recent missile launch. The nation is a key partner in the Six-Party Talks to resolve North Korea's nuclear issue, despite the constant fear of war that clouds the peninsula. South Korea is an important military ally with over 29,000 U.S. troops stationed in the country and plays a vital part in securing peace and stability in the region. The United States is committed to the strengthening and survival of freedom on the Korean Peninsula.

South Korea has also reached out a hand to the United States in times when we have been threatened. It is one of only three nations which stood alongside the U.S. in all four major conflicts that the U.S. has faced since the Korean War. The nation has been a strong ally in the U.S.-led War on Terror, having committed troops to Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon. Korea is a true friend of the United States. We are committed together to defending freedom and liberty throughout the world.

Over the past several years, the relationship between the United States and Korea has grown even stronger. As a Member of Congress and, especially, a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Korea, I have been able to observe and participate in legislative actions that have contributed to consolidating the U.S.-Korea alliance. The Embassy of Korea in Washington and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Seoul have played a larger role in recent years in bringing to the attention of Congress those issues of importance and concern to the Korean people. This has informed congressional action and improved the legislative process.

Of the important legislative achievements of the past few years, the inclusion of Korea in the Visa Waiver Program, which makes it easier for Koreans to visit the United States for business, leisure, or family purposes, deserves special mentioning. In early 2006, there were about two dozen countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program administered by the U.S. Department of State. Most of them were European allies and trading partners. While responsibility for expanding or contracting the Visa Waiver Program lies with the Executive Branch, Congress took the lead in persuading the Bush administration to include Korea in the program.

My colleagues and I argued that, by allowing South Korea to participate in the Visa Waiver Program, we would not only be adhering to its stated goals, but at the same time we would build upon a strategic partnership with our close friends in East Asia. Although it took some time, legislation to open the door for Korea to accede to the Visa Waiver Program passed in July 2007, and in November of last year, Korea officially

joined the program at long last. It was a major accomplishment for our bi-lateral alliance.

A second great achievement was the upgrading of Korea's Foreign Military Sales (FMS) status to NATO+3. As I have already noted, Korea and the United States have a close and integral military alliance. But for years, Korea was treated in an unfair fashion by U.S. laws related to the sales of military equipment. So the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate sought to correct this problem by raising Korea's Foreign Military Sales status to something known as NATO-plus-3. This status elevation was long overdue and absolutely necessary to reverse the unfair exclusion.

In doing this, we acted on our firm belief that the Republic of Korea has been one of our most important and staunchest allies in the Asia-Pacific region. Our mutual alliance is dynamic and comprehensive, encompassing political, economic, military, security, cultural, and social spheres. By the end of last year, Congress had approved the upgrade in status for Korea and it now stands at NATO+4. I am convinced that both of our countries will benefit from the greater partnership that this status upgrade brings.

Finally, we were able to see the passage of a resolution bringing world attention to the plight of the "Comfort Women" who suffered at the hands of the Imperial Japanese Army during the Second World War. In 2007, the House of Representatives at long last passed House Resolution 121, which I co-sponsored and which received bipartisan support and worldwide attention in the news media.

In fact, Congress took the lead in raising the issue of the "comfort women." We invited survivors from Korea to tell their stories in front of television cameras on the record. After the United States Congress acted on this critical human rights issue, other legislative bodies around the world took notice and acted themselves. Thus, the plight of Korea's comfort women became an issue of international concern that, we hope, will serve as a reminder to future generations that such horrific violence shall never occur again.

While some cynics dismissed the resolution as simply revisiting a tragedy of the distant past, I believe a relevant assertion of the importance of respecting human rights is timeless, and the world should never again deny women the right to be safe and secure and to maintain their dignity.

Though these accomplishments are notable, I believe there are even greater accomplishments in our future. In the coming months I hope we can pass the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement of which I am a strong supporter. As most of you undoubtedly know, the United States and Korea signed a free trade agreement in June of 2007, after months of diligent negotiations. The agreement has not yet been ratified and, to be candid, action on the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement may not take place for some time.

It is no secret that there are members of both the United States Congress and the Korean National Assembly who oppose the Free Trade Agreement. But there are also those of us—and I include myself among them—who believe that free trade among free peoples is a positive good, and those agreements or treaties that advance the principles of free trade bring more benefits than risks, promote future prosperity, and provide a stronger foundation for peace and stability around the globe.

Just last month the World Trade Organization warned of a rising threat of trade protectionism around the world. This threat has emerged because of the general decline of the global economy over the past two or three

years. Governments are doing what they have done for centuries in the face of economic contraction; they look inward. This is, in my opinion, a mistake, and it is a mistake borne out by the lessons of history.

The benefits of a U.S.-Korean Free Trade Agreement are manifestly clear. This agreement, once it is ratified, will constitute the largest and most commercially significant Free Trade Agreement the United States has negotiated in 15 years.

The numbers are truly impressive. Korea is the 13th largest economy in the world with a GDP of nearly one Trillion U.S. dollars and a per capita income of over \$20,000. It is the United States' 7th largest trading partner and our 5th largest market for U.S. agricultural export products. Trade between our two nations is nearly \$80 Billion and includes important goods like computer chips, industrial machinery, organic chemicals, agricultural produce, civilian aircraft and, of course, beef. A Free Trade Agreement would bolster U.S. exports to Korea, open duty-free access for Korean goods in the U.S. market, and stimulate job growth in both of our countries.

A Free Trade Agreement would also benefit the great State of Indiana, which I proudly represent in Congress. Korea is Indiana's 10th largest export market, and Indiana exports \$303 Million in goods to Korea annually. Not only that, but almost 10,000 Korean-Americans reside in the State of Indiana and more than 2,000 Korean students study at Indiana's prestigious academic institutions.

This new partnership between the United States and South Korea is sure to be a win-win for both of our countries. I pledge that I am committed to working closely with the U.S. and Korean negotiators as FTA talks proceed, so that we can ensure the best opportunities for Americans and Koreans alike.

Unfortunately, the political mood in the United States right now is not conducive to the ratification of the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, or any other such trade agreement. I can assure you, however, that my colleagues and I who believe strongly in the principle of free trade and specifically in the importance of the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, will not let this agreement die for lack of action. We will continue to fight for its approval by Congress, we will press the White House to fight for it, and we will go directly to the court of public opinion to persuade American consumers, business leaders, and workers to support it. I know that, with time and wisdom on our side, the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement will be ratified and the relationship between our countries will become even stronger because of it.

In closing, I am reminded of the look on my good friend Johnny Yune's face, and the way his voice cracked as he re-tells the story of Private Brown. It is the same affection I have experienced on my visit here and the affection I have felt toward my old and even new Korean and Korean-American friends.

Our friendship is different from the relationship of any other country with the United States. I would say to my Korean friends that we should continue to focus on what keeps our relationship strong and more unique than any other alliance in world history. It is my fervent belief that the U.S.-Korea alliance is worth protecting and strengthening. That is why the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement is so important to me.

Once again, I have been struck personally by the extraordinary warmth and hospitality of the Korean people since my arrival here in this beautiful country. This has been true not only among my formal hosts, but with everyone I meet. I am honored and humbled

to accept this honorary degree at this historic institution, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May we never cease to find ways to strengthen and deepen the ties that bind our two nations together.

President Oh, distinguished faculty and students of Dongguk University, friends and colleagues, it is my distinct honor to accept this degree. I will always cherish this moment with great humility and I pledge to do all I can to see that our very special alliance to grow even closer in the coming years.

Thank you, and “GAHM-SAH-HAHM-NIDA!”

TEACHERS OF DREW MODEL SCHOOL HONORED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO ACHIEVING ACADEMIC SUCCESS FOR ALL

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 5, 2009

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week and to honor the teachers of Drew Model School for their outstanding and tireless efforts to raise academic achievement levels for all students at this institution.

The teachers and staff at Drew Model School approach each student with the belief that every child learns best within a social en-

vironment that supports and respects his or her unique development. Their programs encourage children to develop independence of thought and confidence of character while learning at their own pace. Additionally, Drew faculty members incorporate the traditional approach of children working, learning, and developing in mixed-age groups with the academic experience of gentle guidance under a specially trained teacher.

I am proud and grateful for the enthusiastic teachers at Drew Model School. Teachers make a difference in all of our lives, and today I would like to extend my warm thanks for their hard work and service to America's children.

I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring Drew Model School teachers whose commitment to quality education is extraordinary and dedication to academic achievement is unmatched.