

Taipei-Washington relationship is in the best interests of both and the stability of East Asia. This year, we celebrated the 33rd anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of our relations with Taiwan.

Furthermore, Taiwan has been an important trading partner of the U.S. Its imports of U.S. products and services have created thousands of job opportunities for our people. Many more thousands of Taiwanese students study at U.S. colleges and universities and Taiwanese tourists choose the United States as their number one overseas destination, outside of destinations in Asia. For all these and other reasons, we thank the Taiwanese people for their friendship and close ties to us.

Hoosier's of the 8th District also have an important, mutually benefiting relationship. Indiana exported products worth nearly \$220 million last year, making Taiwan the 21st largest importer of Hoosier-made goods. As of 2011, Taiwan intends to purchase \$4 billion worth of soybean and corn from Indiana; benefiting Hoosier farmers in one Indiana's most important industries, agriculture.

Additionally, Hoosier businesses such as Eli Lilly, the world's biggest producer of psychiatric medications, and Cummins Engine, the world's largest producer of diesel technology, both have operations in Taiwan. I am pleased to see discussions with Taiwan have recently resumed in the hopes of producing a free trade agreement between our two countries.

On Republic of China (Taiwan)'s forthcoming National Day on October 10th, 2012, I hope our relations with Taiwan will continue to grow and flourish.

May U.S.-Taiwan relations remain strong forever. Congratulations.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT PAUL ATKINSON OF MARBLEHEAD, MASSACHUSETTS

**HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Sergeant Paul Atkinson of Marblehead, Massachusetts, for his efforts to assist hundreds of orphans in Afghanistan while serving with the Massachusetts National Guard.

It was brought to my attention by a fellow resident of Marblehead, Mark Brings, and highlighted in an article published in the Salem News, that while stationed as a sergeant in charge of maintenance at Camp Phoenix in Afghanistan, Sergeant Atkinson secured the delivery of hundreds of mattresses and bed frames to two orphanages in Afghanistan which care for more than 700 children.

The efforts of Sergeant Atkinson extended from Afghanistan to Marblehead where local residents, including Mark Brings and his family and Sergeant Atkinson's wife, Maria, worked to collect, clean and deliver hundreds of sheets and blankets to the orphanages.

I am pleased to recognize Sergeant Atkinson and the members of the community for volunteering their time providing these critical items to children in need, and I thank Ser-

geant Atkinson and all the members of our Nation's armed forces for their service to the country.

CONGRATULATING JENNIFER POTTER ON HER RETIREMENT

**HON. ADAM SMITH**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate Jennifer Potter, the President and CEO of the Initiative for Global Development (IGD), on her retirement.

Jennifer has been with IGD since its creation in 2003, helping the organization achieve its goal to reduce global poverty through advancing business growth and investment. During her tenure at IGD, the Seattle-based group grew from an idea to a widely recognized international organization.

Under Jennifer's leadership, IGD has successfully leveraged millions of dollars in investments for the developing world and changed the way governments and businesses engage for the better. Her commitment has opened up the door for employment opportunities and increased market access for developing communities around the world.

Her inspirational drive and vision will be difficult to replace, as her efforts to achieve large-scale poverty reduction will be remembered and appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Jennifer Potter on her retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL TO ADDRESS CHILDHOOD OBESITY

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 21, 2012*

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize that September is National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month. Childhood obesity is increasingly becoming a national issue, affecting children ages 6 to 11. Recent studies indicate that more than one-third of America's children and adolescents are overweight. Childhood obesity has been linked to earlier and increased risks that the child will develop conditions such as diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and even cancer. National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month is an important opportunity to highlight the progress that has been made thus far, as well as to inspire continued efforts toward building a better future for the next generation.

In order to address these growing issues, children's hospitals across the nation have made it a priority to educate families about the importance of a healthy diet and fitness routine, and highlight the consequences if proper nutrition is disregarded. I am pleased to acknowledge that in October 2012, Central Florida will welcome a new pediatric care hospital,

Nemours Children's Hospital. Nemours is a non-profit children's medical hospital devoted to the advancement of pediatric healthcare and research. Nemours Children's Hospital has created the "Center for Integrative Pediatric Obesity Care" to help research and prevent childhood obesity. Not only does this Center conduct research and provide medical care to obese and overweight children, but they also plan to engage in community outreach programs to help parents and caregivers create healthier environments for children.

The community and families of Central Florida are blessed to have a committed pediatric medical center such as Nemours. I commend Nemours Children's Hospital and children's hospitals across the nation for the measures they are undertaking to combat obesity and strengthen the future of America's children.

PROHIBITING USE OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR PARTY CONVENTIONS

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 19, 2012*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5912. This is a misguided bill that repeals public financing of our national political conventions and allows moneyed special-interests to complete their corporate buyout of America's electoral process.

Public financing of both Democratic and Republican conventions, created in 1976 following the Watergate scandal, was designed to establish a safeguard against corruption in the political system by reducing the emphasis on fundraising in presidential campaigns and diminishing the influence of wealthy special interests. In recent years, the need to modernize the system for today's campaign environment has become evident, but the system remains as critical as ever to the integrity of our democracy—especially in the wake of the Supreme Court's Citizens United vs. FEC ruling.

The disastrous Citizens United decision that unleashed nearly a billion dollars of corporate funding into the Presidential race has demonstrated how essential it is to restore and uphold the integrity of our elections. Passage of H.R. 5912 would only serve to further undermine this integrity by enabling secretive Super PACs and billionaires to take full control of our political conventions, a critical component of America's electoral process. Furthermore, public financing plays a vital role in helping state and local governments offset the costs associated with hosting national political conventions. These costs may include property taxes, parking accommodations, and local law enforcement funding. H.R. 5912 is unfair to the municipalities that have the honor of hosting these important national events.

The financing system for political conventions must be repaired, not repealed, to better serve the interests of the American people and protect against corruption.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.