

TAIWAN OBSERVES ITS NATIONAL HOLIDAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 10th, the Republic of China on Taiwan will celebrate its national holiday that commemorates the founding of the Republic of China by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in 1911.

Throughout my 31 years in Congress I have continually drawn attention to what has been achieved in Taiwan. It is one of the most dramatic examples in modern history of the power of freedom—that a small island, only slightly larger than the state of Maryland and with relatively few resources of its own, could rise to such a position of prominence in the global marketplace.

But a free market economy—the free exchange of goods and services—is not the only key to Taiwan's great success. The free exchange of ideas has also had a profound impact. And I know I speak for the entire House of Representatives when I say that the evolution of Taiwan's political system into a full-fledged democracy has been a source of great satisfaction to the American people and their representatives in Congress.

On the occasion of this year's R.O.C. National Day we are also pleased to welcome back to Washington a man many of us have known and admired through the years. Chien-jen-Chen—known to his many friends simply as "C.J."—is back in town as Taiwan's official representative and director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office.

C.J. Chen served in Washington from 1971 to 1980 as a political secretary in what for most of those years was the R.O.C. Embassy. He was back between 1982 and 1989 as Taiwan's deputy representative in the United States. For us old hands here in Congress, C.J. Chen is a well-known figure and a great friend. It's good to have him back.

And I might add that during his years back in Taipei in the 1990s, C.J. Chen served in several high-level posts, including that of Minister of Foreign Affairs over the past year.

Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to welcome C.J. Chen back to Washington. And may I also extend the congratulations of Congress and the American people to the Republic of China on Taiwan on the occasion of this year's National Day celebration. May the close ties of friendship and solidarity between our two peoples continue to flourish in the years ahead.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TAIWAN

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, The Republic of China on Taiwan will celebrate its birthday on October 10, 2000. Taiwan has much to celebrate, it is a country lead by a freely elected

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

President, with a open and vibrant press, an astonishingly successful entrepreneurial free market economy and a supportive and caring program of government assistance to counties in need all over the world, from war torn eastern Europe to Africa. In March of this year, Taiwan citizens freely chose Mr. Chen Shui-bian, the candidate representing the Democratic Progressive Party, as their president. Since his inauguration on May 20th, President Chen has shown strong leadership on behalf of the 22 million citizens on Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, on the eighty ninth occasion of the Republic of China's National Day, it is important to remember that Taiwan has a strong relationship with the United States, and we hope this relationship will continue to flourish on the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE B.F. HOXIE ENGINE CO. NO. 1

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1 of Mystic as it celebrates 125 years of service of its community. The B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1 has been, and continues to be, a tremendous asset to residents throughout Mystic.

Since its inception in 1875, the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1 has played an important and crucial role in protecting the community from fire damage. The company has been responsible for responding to and extinguishing several major fires during its operation, including the Noank Shipyard fires of 1890 and 1898.

Today, the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1 stands as a pure example of the evolution of firefighting. Jumping directly into the new technologies of firefighting, the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. was one of the first fire departments to introduce the use of the compressed air breathing apparatus for firefighters. The company utilizes the latest and most advance equipment available, including a thermal imaging camera to quickly locate the heart of a fire, a laser to measure surface temperature and a Biosystems PhD meter to detect gases in the air.

Powered only by volunteers, the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1 is responsible for founding Mystic's first ambulance service, providing EMT service and responding to highway accidents and other emergencies, as well as hosting a weekly fish frying fund-raiser during a portion of the year to benefit the activities of the department.

Volunteer firefighters are true American heroes. They give their time and their energy to protect our families, our homes and our treasures. Some brave volunteers make the supreme sacrifice every year to save their neighbors and to make our communities safer.

Mr. Speaker, the members of the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1, past and present, exemplify these qualities every day. I join with residents throughout Mystic and southeastern Connecticut in congratulating the B.F. Hoxie Engine Co. No. 1 on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.

October 6, 2000

REGARDING THE NATIONAL DAY OF TAIWAN

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I take a moment to congratulate our friends and allies in the Republic of China on Taiwan as they prepare to celebrate their National Day on October 10. As a Member of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, it gives me special pleasure to mark this occasion.

As my colleagues know, the Taiwanese people recently made history as they successfully and peacefully held their second democratic presidential election and chose Mr. Chen Shui-bian, the candidate from the opposition party, as their head of state. President Chen and the people of Taiwan are to be commended for that landmark achievement.

Like his predecessors, President Chen continues to seek a proper role for Taiwan in the international community. President Chen also has sent goodwill messages many times to resume a dialogue with the People's Republic of China. In the meantime, he exhorts his countrymen to make Taiwan a strong, peaceful, and worthy ally of ours in a region that is so important to our national interest.

I join with my colleagues in the Congress and many Taiwanese-American friends in the United States in congratulating the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan on this 89th anniversary of their National Day.

A POINT OF LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: REV. DR. JAMES S. BULLOCK, PASTOR, HOLY SACRED BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Rev. Dr. James S. Bullock, the distinguished Pastor and Spiritual leader of Holy Sacred Baptist Church in Brooklyn, New York.

Dr. Bullock, the former Pastor of Mars Hill Baptist Church of Coney Island, New York, was called to Holy Sacred Baptist Church in August of 1999 and was installed on December 19, 1999 by The Metropolitan Interdenominational Ministers Conference, The Eastern Baptist Association, The Pastors and Churches Union and the Holy Sacred Baptist Church family. Presiding over the installation ceremonies was the Rev. Dr. B.T. McCollum, Vice-Moderator of the Eastern Baptist Association, the Moderator D.H. Dvovore Chapman, Co-President.

The installation service was heralded by countless community leaders, including officials of the African American Clergy and Elected Officials of Brooklyn, the Rev. Joe L. Parker, President and many other clergymen and women along with school officials, teachers, and officers of the various PTA groups.

Rev. Dr. James S. Bullock is a community minded clergyman. He participates in many

community-based organizations. He is involved with the following organizations: Secretary of the Association of Brooklyn Clergy for Community Development, Secretary of the African American Clergy and Elected Officials of Brooklyn, Vice President of The Metropolitan Interdenominational Ministers Conference, Parent Body Member Eastern Baptist Association, President of the North Bay Tenant Association of Coney Island, and President of The Men and Women's Interdenominational Ministers Conference of Brooklyn, New York.

Rev. Dr. Bullock is a man of vision. He is a multi-talented person who is considered an excellent Preacher and Teacher, a builder of ideas and developer of community motivation, and a master decision maker. He is steadfast in his beliefs and a loyal supporter of the missions of the organizations to which he belongs. He consistently endorses the politics of community empowerment and the practical projects which bring the benefits of empowerment to the poor.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to salute Rev. Dr. James S. Bullock as a distinguished "Point of Light" for all Americans.

HONORING A HOOSIER HERO:
KATHY ALFKE

HON. DAVID M. McINTOSH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 6, 2000

Mr. McINTOSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a very special Hoosier who has been chosen to receive the Patrick Groff Teacher of the Year Award. This national award will be presented by the National Right to Read Foundation, an organization devoted to increasing literacy in America through scientifically-based reading research. Only one award is given each year, and this year the award will go to Indiana's own Kathy Alfke.

In addition to teaching reading skills to fourth and sixth graders at Riverside school in Indianapolis, Kathy teaches other teachers, parents, aides, tutors, and principals the Direct Approach Method, a reading instruction technique which brings amazing results. Since last February, she has taught teachers at 12 Indianapolis Public Schools and is currently instructing educators in at least 15 other schools. In her home town of New Palestine, she provided training for the reading tutors and the Director for Instruction at the town's newest school. In all, Kathy trained over 60 teachers this summer and has taken on more students this fall.

Her efforts are making a difference. Having taught the Direct Approach to Reading and Spelling teachers at Switzerland County schools, they scored sixth in the state on the Indiana Statewide Testing for Educational Progress (ISTEP). Kathy has contributed to her own school's dramatic progress leading to its removal from double probation status. Kathy received a National Literacy Award from the James Flannigan Foundation and UPS last year.

Kathy's success as a teacher was built on the determination to go beyond the status quo for the sake of children. Kathy graduated from

Indiana State University with a B.A. in Education and a reading endorsement in 1983. She completed her Masters Degree at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) three years later. For many years, Kathy taught at Indianapolis Public Schools. After transferring to a school near her home, Kathy faced a situation which tested her resolve as a teacher. The teaching philosophy embraced by the administration rejected formal learning. Teachers were forbidden to have text books or skills charts in the classroom.

Of this experience, Kathy says, "The principal made sure you did what she said or you stood the chance of being on the 'hit list.' I withstood this environment for three years until I started feeling oppressed. I was losing my creativity and did not want to come to school. I felt like I was dying inside. I knew I was a good teacher and that God put me on earth to fulfill that position, but was I to continue to be in a building where things were so stressful and were not allowed to teach isolated skills? I was supposed to be a reading specialist, but I didn't know how to teach phonics."

Deeply discouraged with a system which was leaving kids without the most basic skills, Kathy took one year off on to home school her own son. During this time, she met a woman named Mercedes Russow, a 79-year-old lady who introduced her to a direct, systematic phonics approach to teaching reading called the "Direct Approach Method". This program was developed in the late 1950's by Mercedes' mother, the late Pauline Banks, a former Indianapolis Public School Teacher.

Mrs. Russow gave Kathy the skills and the hope she needed to return to the classroom. Since then, her success as a reading teacher has drawn the attention of teachers and principals alike. She divides her time between teaching children and other teachers.

Her workshops are full. Speaking of last year's fall seminar, Kathy states, "The meeting room was packed with teachers from all over Indianapolis who attended the training sessions in May and June to brush up on their phonics and word attack skills. Private school teachers, recently graduated "prospective" teachers, tutors, parents, principals, and Indianapolis Public school teachers and assistants from schools 14, 21, 37, 42, 48, 68, 81, 93, and 103 learned how to supplement their existing curriculum with the simple yet effective techniques of Direct Approach Phonics."

Kathy's success is an inspiration. Rather than accept a system that left some children behind, she sought the skills that were needed for a successful reading program, and now she is passing these skills on to others. Sound reading instruction is needed in Indiana. Kathy herself points out, "As far as education in general, in the schools where I go, I see wonderful, dedicated teachers who a lot of times are spinning their wheels trying to think, 'What is it that I need to do to improve what we're already doing?' Probably the most consistent thing I hear from teachers is the lack of training. From their university training they don't feel adequately prepared to teach reading, I see good things, but a lot of frustration."

Sadly, many of our students across the country do not have mastery of this basic skill of reading. The 1998 National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) has found that

69% of 4th grade students are reading below the proficient level and that 85% of minority 4th grade students, most of whom are in Title I programs, are reading below the proficient level. Many of these students will end up in special education.

Studies indicate that at least half of the students being placed in Special Education programs have not been taught to read. The cost of Special Education—federal, state and local—is exceeding \$60 billion each year. The cost to those who never learn to read adequately is much higher. The job prospects for functionally illiterate adults are slim. Opportunities for those who cannot read are few.

Reading is fundamental. To ensure mastery of these skills, correct teaching methodology is essential. According to the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development the ability to read depends on one's understanding of the relationship between letters and the speech sounds they represent. Intensive instruction in phonics teaches this skill—the 26 letters used to symbolize about 44 speech sounds and the most common ways they may be spelled.

The National Reading Panel's report on successful reading strategies which was released on April 13, 2000 echoes this point. After reviewing 30 years of reading research, the reading panel found that the most effective reading programs include instruction in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary.

The research in support of intensive, systematic phonics is widely available yet teaching colleges often neglect to provide their students with the skills to teach this body of knowledge. Too often, teachers like Kathy graduate without the tools to successfully teach reading. These teachers are deeply devoted to children and want to teach the best they can, yet they lack essential teaching skills. Until teaching schools adopt successful reading instruction methods, the only place teachers can learn these is in workshops like the ones Kathy provides.

This is but one of the reasons Kathy is an education hero. In addition to helping children learn to read, she is providing other teachers the means to become excellent teachers. She is fighting the fight against illiteracy and arming others to do the same. Because of teachers like Kathy, I am hopeful that the literacy deficit in our country will become a thing of the past. It is for this reason that I will be presenting Kathy with a Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition for her service to Indiana next week. Her commitment to children and literacy is outstanding.

I would like to thank the National Right to Read Foundation for selecting this wonderful Hoosier to receive the Patrick Groff Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak about this very special woman. I am reminded of the words of Historian Henry Brooks Adams who once said, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."