

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S  
NATIONAL DAY

**HON. JOHN B. LARSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. LARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China on Taiwan, which celebrates its birthday today. Taiwan has much to celebrate. It is a modern country led by a democratically-elected President, Mr. Chen Shui-bian. President Chen was elected on March 18, 2000, and this free and fair election resulted in the peaceful transfer of power from the ruling Kuomintang Party (KMT) to the more progressive Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). This election demonstrated to the world that Taiwan is democratic and is worthy of the respect it has received from democratic nations.

In addition to the freedom to select their government leaders, the people of Taiwan can also celebrate their other freedoms, such as the freedom of religion and the freedom of speech. I believe that the freedom and democracy in Taiwan set an example for other nations in the area to follow.

The people of Taiwan can also celebrate their stunning economic success. Taiwan is the nineteenth largest economy in the world and is the United State's eight largest trading partner. This economic achievement has given the people of Taiwan the twenty-fifth highest per capita gross national product (GDP) in the world and one of the highest living standards in Asia and the world. In recent years, Taiwan has led most Asian nations in its production of computers, chips, and telecom equipment and has contributed mightily to the worldwide high technology boom.

Mr. Speaker, let me say again that Taiwan has a lot to celebrate today. On the occasion of Republic of China's National Day, it is important to remember that the United States has a strong relationship with Taiwan and its people. We share a mutual respect for democracy and freedom, as well as a strong economic bond, and I hope that this relationship will continue to flourish in the year to come.

TRIBUTE TO RONALD BONKOWSKI

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, last Friday, the former Mayor of Warren, Ronald Bonkowski, passed away. His sudden death stunned all of us who knew him and thousands of citizens in Warren and elsewhere in Macomb County who knew him through his service in public office.

Today, the date of the funeral for Ron Bonkowski, there appeared in the Macomb Daily a tribute to him, and I insert it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD as a testimonial to his life's work. I know that I express the feelings of my constituents in extending condolences to his wife, Christine, and their four children and his mother, Estelle Bonkowski.

BONKOWSKI WILL BE MISSED

Ron Bonkowski will be missed. By his family, friends and by the political types that take pride at being Warren residents.

In the years Bonkowski served the public, from his earliest days on what was then the county board of supervisors, to the Warren City Council and for three terms as mayor of Warren, he did not define his public service as work.

"Politics is an art. First you must love it, and secondly, know when to walk away from the turf of politics," he told editors of The Macomb Daily during a visit with the newspaper's editorial board.

When word spread through Warren that Bonkowski, 62, had fallen victim to an apparent aneurysm early Friday, the only way to describe the reaction was that across the city, county and state there was an expression of disbelief.

The towering Bonkowski had been troubled in recent years with severe back pain, a medical problem that triggered his decision to retire from elective politics. He had recently purchased a winter home in Arizona to escape our bleak winters in favor of the dry, warm climate of the Southwest.

Bonkowski's keen financial mind and accounting knowledge proved to be an asset while serving as Warren's full-time mayor, and through the years earned the respect of mayors across the state.

He won praise from mayors such as Dearborn Mayor Mike Guido, who while attending a Michigan Week function in Macomb County at the time Bonkowski was serving as mayor, said: "When I look at Warren's operating budget, and the services its population expects and is getting, you have to admire Bonkowski's financial wisdom at being able to get the best out of every tax dollar."

During visitation hours at the D.S. Temrowski Funeral Home for the public to pay respect to the former Warren mayor, many who came shared their thoughts openly: "He was a smart man. And always boasted about the positive image of Warren. We need more Ron Bonkowskis . . ."

Former city attorney Walter Jakubowski, now a 37th District Court judge, said of the many good character traits he learned from the former mayor was "to be true to yourself and be loyal, and no bull . . ."

And at today's services at St. Martin DePorres, the former mayor will be remembered as a good family man, proud of his Polish heritage, and thankful for having been given the opportunity to serve as the mayor of Warren.

We share the community's loss of its former mayor. He was taken from his family and friends at too young an age.

But in his length of public service, he accomplished what some politicians just dream of achieving. His booming voice was tempered with love and compassion for the people who called Warren their home.

Ron Bonkowski will be missed, but never forgotten for his contributions to the City of Warren.

TRIBUTE TO VALMY THOMAS, THE  
VIRGIN ISLANDS "FIRST MAJOR-  
LEAGUER"

**HON. DONNA MC CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to my constituent,

fellow Virgin Islander, the father of one of my Washington staff members and my friend, Valmy Thomas, on the occasion of his induction into the Puerto Rico Baseball Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, although Valmy Thomas was born in Santurce, Puerto Rico in 1925, he is a "Crucian" through and through. Valmy took to playing baseball as a youth even though the main sport of his father's generation was cricket. He remembers cutting his own bats in the brush and having to substitute a tennis ball for a baseball, because he wanted desperately to play ball.

Valmy spent over seven years with the Navy, stationed in Puerto Rico, where he played baseball with a number of local teams. In 1950-51, he was Rookie of the Year with Santurce. In 1951 Valmy became another of the black players who went to Canada's Provincial League under a working agreement with the Pittsburgh Pirates who owned his U.S. rights. He played one year for St. Jean, a Montreal suburb but even though he was doing well, he left the club for economic reasons, even though it held up his progress to the majors. He pretty much "voluntarily retired" to protect his eligibility but played summers in the Dominican Republic from 1952 through 1954.

Valmy's shot at the majors came courtesy of the friendly working relationship between New York Giants owner Horace Stoneham and Pedin Zorrilla. To make this happen, though, he had to go back and play the 1955 season in St. Jean. The Giants organization was able to draft him from the Pirates.

Valmy's first stop in the majors was in Minneapolis, where the frigid early-season weather disagreed with his Caribbean blood. When the Minneapolis GM told him he was jeopardizing his chances of going to the big leagues, he replied that he would be increasing his chance of catching pneumonia if he stayed. He wrangled an assignment to the desert climes of Albuquerque and on the strength of his .366 average there, the Giants wanted to call him up the fall of 1956. Because he didn't want to go up and sit on a cold bench, he waited until the next spring to go up to the majors.

Valmy's first season with the New York Giants was his best. He also saw good action for the San Francisco team and the '59 Phillies who had obtained him in a trade. He spent most of 1960 and 1961 in the minors, though he did some time with the Orioles and Indians. He became the first black to play in Las Vegas, which was partly segregated. He is the only major-leaguer to play five years, each in a different city. He was also an innovator, wearing a light flexible chest protector inside his uniform even when he was at bat.

Valmy won two more championships with the Cangrejeros in Puerto Rico in 1958-59 and again in 1961-62, brining his total to five before he wrapped up his Puerto Rican career in 1962-63. After his retirement from baseball, Valmy returned home to St. Croix where he served as a sports consultant with the Bureau of Recreation for six years, setting up many baseball events. These included a series between pro-am Virgin Islands teams and Puerto Rican Winter Leaguers, exhibition games between the Red Sox and Yankees in

Frederiksted, St. Croix and baseball clinic with the likes of Hank Aaron and Lou Brock.

Valmy also became Deputy Commissioner of the Virgin Islands Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs on St. Croix where he oversaw all recreation programs on the island. For the past 41 years he has owned the United Sporting Goods Store in Christiansted, St. Croix.

Congratulations, Valmy on your much deserved recognition. You have been a teacher and inspiration to many Virgin Islands youth. Your friends and family in your beloved Virgin Islands salutes you.

CONGRATULATING THE REPUBLIC  
OF CHINA ON TAIWAN ON THE  
CELEBRATION OF ITS NATIONAL  
DAY

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China on Taiwan will be celebrating its National Day on October 10, 2000. Taiwan has many notable achievements, both economic and political. Today, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse, ranking 25th in the world in terms of per capita income and 19th in terms of GNP, impressive economic statistics for an island with only 22 million people. Politically, Taiwan has evolved from a closed society to a full-fledged democracy in less than a decade. In March of this year, ROC citizens freely elected Chen Shui-bian as their President. For the first time in 89 years, the ROC had a non-Kuo Min Tang candidate as head of state.

Taiwan's accomplishments are due to the hard work of its leaders and its people. I am certain the leaders and people of Taiwan will reach even greater economic and political heights in the months and years ahead.

As Taiwan prepares to celebrate its National Day, let me also take this opportunity to express my best wishes to the Republic of China's new representative in Washington, Ambassador C.J. Chen. Ambassador Chen began his duties here in Washington just two months ago. I am hopeful he will further strengthen the already secure bonds of friendship between the United States Congress and the people of Taiwan.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL  
DAY

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, the Republic of China on Taiwan will celebrate its 89th anniversary of its founding on October 10, 2000. As Taiwan's friend, I would like to extend my congratulations to the ROC President Chen Shui-bian and Ambassador C.J. Chen of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in Washington, D.C.

In recent days, I have been apprised of Republic of China's campaign to return to the

United Nations. I believe that Taiwan should have a place in the United Nations. With its huge financial resources, Taiwan is and has always been willing to contribute to UN causes. Unfortunately, Taiwan is barred from substantive involvement in many international organizations and affairs because of Taiwan's lack of UN membership.

The time has come for the world to recognize Taiwan's true potential as an active player in the international community. To admit Taiwan to the United Nations is the first step for the UN to honor its own principle of universal membership.

On the eve of the Republic of China's National Day, I wish that the Republic of China will one day, hopefully soon, return to all international organizations.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN EDWARD J.  
WILLIAMS

**HON. FLOYD SPENCE**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the service of an outstanding South Carolina, Captain Edward J. Williams. I submit the portion of an article, which appeared in the August 27, 2000 edition of the Times and Democrat, of Orangeburg, South Carolina, which outlines the military service of Captain Williams and the recognition that has been bestowed on him, as well as how his devoted family has coped with their loss.

CAPT. EDWARD J. WILLIAMS

Captain Williams' wife and daughters have carried his legacy and name with pride, like a banner, since Williams' plane disappeared over Korea.

Williams was drafted while studying engineering at Howard University. In the early 1940s, he was in the first class for pilots at Tuskegee Army Air Field in Alabama.

The Tuskegee Airmen were the elite group of black fighter pilots of the 99th Pursuit Squadron.

This squadron was later incorporated into the 332nd Fighter Group and fought during World War II. Approximately 1,000 Americans of African ancestry completed flight training at Tuskegee Army Air Field. Of these, 445 went overseas as combat pilots. They flew in bombing escorts and ground attacks.

The Tuskegee Airmen's record was impeccable. Not one plane escorted by these pilots was ever lost in enemy fire. Combat records indicate they destroyed 251 enemy aircraft, winning more than 850 medals.

Williams served under Benjamin O. Davis Jr. Davis later became a general and died only a few years ago.

Daniel "Chappie" James was Williams' flying partner and Edwina's godfather. James also became a general and now lives in Washington.

Williams flew in Europe during World War II and returned to Tuskegee as a training instructor. There he met wife-to-be, who worked on the base. Mrs. Williams recalls her husband as "caring, courteous, just a man of integrity."

Their first child Edwina was 4 months old and the second Cherryetta was on the way when Williams was called to Korea. Mrs. Wil-

liams relates. "They had not anticipated the Korean War. He had been given order to come home for the new baby. But they decided they needed him in the air."

While flying in formation over Seoul, his plane was shot down. The Red Cross brought the news in the form of a telegram to Mrs. Williams. It was March 1951 and he was officially listed as missing in action.

Mrs. Williams remembers the shock and said: "It was a time when we needed support from family, community and it came in various ways. We thank God every day for those who extended a hand and really cared."

Williams' eldest daughter Edwina, says of her father: "He gave the supreme sacrifice by fighting for his country. We miss him because he did not return. Our family has been in a state of flux because just receiving a telegram in the early '50s stating that he is missing in action, there is no closure to whether he is really gone or is a prisoner of war possibly."

Mrs. Williams was presented the Purple Heart Award at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter. She had her two infant daughters by her side. They have remained a close-knit family unit since.

Mrs. Williams said, "I celebrate my husband by being involved and answering the call." She is president of the VFW Ladies Auxiliary, president of the Women's Club, and was voted Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Girl Scouts. She taught music at Claflin College for years. She is still employed at Claflin as chaplain.

Edwina and her sister Cherryetta have carried on the legacy of her father's pioneering spirit. They were among the first blacks to integrate the schools in Orangeburg and Columbia College. "We were following Daddy," Edwina proudly says. "Service is one of the things that my family had done through the years and is evidenced by the fact that my father is not with us because he gave his life in service for the country."

Mrs. Williams believes the Purple Heart medal is "something that he deserved and that he earned because of his commitment, his determination and his desire to make the world a better place to live."

She still considers herself married and the wife of Captain Williams. His memory lives on.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. CHRISTINA EVE

**HON. CARRIE P. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 10, 2000*

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to pay tribute to one of Miami-Dade County's unsung heroines, Mrs. Christina Eve. On Thursday, November 9, 2000, I will be joining countless friends and admirers, fellow educators and former students who will dedicate the new Christina M. Eve Elementary School to perpetuate her commitment to the thousands of boys and girls in my community.

I am privileged to represent this educator par excellence in the Congress. She symbolizes not only the dignity of a phenomenal lady, but all the virtues of a scholar whose mission in life is to enhance the future of our children. Mrs. Eve pursued her B.A. degree at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina and obtained her Master's degree at New York University. She has also pursued advanced studies at Barry University and at Florida Atlantic