

congratulate President Chen Shui-bian, the recently elected President of Taiwan. Today is especially significant because it marks the first national day under a President elected from the Democratic Progressive Party. Taiwan has done something that very few nations have been able to do successfully—complete the peaceful transition of power based on a free and democratic election.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, this transition did not come at an economic cost—quite the contrary, Taiwan is an economic powerhouse. In just the first six months of this year, Taiwan's exports exceeded \$74 billion, an increase of 21 percent. I hope other countries facing political issues will look at Taiwan's success in both business and politics as a sign that democracy does work, that democracy does not have to come at an unacceptable economic price.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the new Representative from the Republic of China on Taiwan, Ambassador C.J. Chen. While Ambassador Chen is no stranger to Washington, this is the first time he has come here as the head of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office. As the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations Committee, I look forward to the opportunity to continue working with Ambassador Chen in building an ever-stronger relationship between the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, on this very special holiday for the people of Taiwan, I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in extending our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the 22 million inhabitants of this remarkable island.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KENNETH L. AKINS, M.D. FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO OTTAWA COUNTY, OHIO

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding individual from the State of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on August 31, 2000, Dr. Kenneth L. Akins retired as Coroner of Ottawa County, Ohio, after nearly two decades of distinguished service.

Early in life, First Lieutenant Ken Akins wore his country's uniform during the Korean conflict. Since that time, he has dedicated his life to serving the people in his community as a family physician. Dr. Akins has combined his sound medical skills with his compassionate, personal approach to the practice of medicine for thirty-four years. His medical career alone distinguishes him as a most valued citizen, but Dr. Akins has contributed so much more.

In addition to his service as Ottawa County Coroner, Dr. Akins has been active on the medical staff at H.B. Magruder Hospital in Port Clinton throughout his medical career. He has served as Magruder's Chief of Medical Staff and on the Infection Control Committee. He acted as a consulting physician in the early

days of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station operation in the Port Clinton area. He has provided many dedicated hours as a member of the Ottawa County Board of Health.

Dr. Akins' philanthropic activity includes participation with Volunteers in Missions, an organization that provides free medical care to persons in third world countries. He is active in his church, serving on the administrative board of the Faith United Methodist Church. Out of concern for his area's seniors, Dr. Akins serves on the Board of Directors of the Vineyard, the Presbyterian retirement community in Port Clinton.

Dr. Akins' dedication to his community is second only to his great love for his family. Along with Naomi, his loving wife of more than forty-one years, he is blessed with two children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I have known Dr. Akins for many years and have the highest regard for his character and abilities as a physician. At this time, I would ask my colleagues of the 106th Congress to join me in paying special tribute to Kenneth L. Akins, M.D. His professionalism and service as Ottawa County Coroner are a credit to the local government service everywhere. We thank him, and wish him the very best in all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF HERB B. SIPERSTEIN, RECIPIENT OF THE HUMANITARIAN AWARD FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS (JWV) OF THE U.S.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Herb B. Siperstein, recipient of the Humanitarian Award from the New Jersey Department of Jewish War Veterans (JWV) of the U.S. This award is bestowed on those exceptional individuals, who have consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to the fight against bigotry and discrimination.

Herb Siperstein was born on October 6, 1923, in Jersey City, New Jersey. After high school graduation, he began fulltime-work for the family business, Siperstein's paint store. Siperstein's was founded by his parents, Nathan and Lottie.

From 1943 to 1945, Mr. Siperstein served in the 7th Infantry in World War II. As a Jewish American soldier, Mr. Siperstein served with exceptional courage and valor. In the process of defending his country and fighting against the worst aggression the world had ever seen, Mr. Siperstein received numerous accommodations: the Bronze Star Medal; the Good Conduct Medal; two Bronze Arrowheads; six Campaign Stars; the Presidential Unit Emblem; the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal; the Combat Infantry Badge; the Expert Infantry Badge; the Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII; and the French Fourragere.

After the Second World War, Mr. Siperstein returned to the family business, and as the president, he has seen Siperstein's Paint and

Wallpaper grow and prosper. Today, there are seventeen stores in New Jersey and six new stores in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

Herb Siperstein has given back to the community in a profoundly caring fashion, including financial support for local churches, temples, and schools. In addition, the Sipersteins have made extremely generous donations to their community, resulting in an auditorium at B'nai Jacobs and a Library at St. Peter's Preparatory School. Mr. Siperstein has also received many awards from civic organizations, including the Anti-Defamation League's David H. Litter Humanitarian Award and the New Jersey Department of Jewish War Veterans' Humanitarian Award.

Last year, the Mayor of Jersey City, Bret Schundler, declared October 12th, Herb Siperstein Day in recognition of his contributions to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Herb B. Siperstein for his unparalleled contributions and commitment to our community.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE JESUS AGUON AQUINGOC ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 10, 2000

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this occasion to congratulate one of Guam's municipal leaders on his well-earned retirement. The Honorable Jesus Aguon Aquingoc, the mayor of the village of Umatac, will step down upon the completion of his term at the end of this year.

Mayor Aquingoc was born in Umatac on October 10, 1932—the son of Juan Quinata Aquingoc and Concepcion Aguon Aquingoc. Having graduated from George Washington High School in 1952, he enlisted in the United States Navy in the following year. During his 26-year Navy career, Major Aquingoc served aboard the U.S.S. *John R. Craig* (DD-885) and the U.S.S. *Galveston* (CLG-3). He was additionally given assignments in San Diego, California; North Island, California; Guam; Virginia Beach, Virginia; Thailand; and the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

Mayor Aquingoc returned to Guam upon his retirement from the Navy in 1979. Upon his return he worked for the University of Guam as a personnel specialist. Later, he served as the administrative services officer for the Guam Department of Parks and Recreation, a position he held until his retirement from the Government of Guam in 1993.

All this time, Mayor Aquingoc's was deeply dedicated to the Catholic faith and deeply involved in church related activities. He is the Charter Grand Knight of the San Dionicio Council 11630 of the Knights of Columbus. In addition, he serves as president of the San Dionicio Church Parish Council, as a Eucharistic minister, and as a teacher for the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD). Mayor Aquingoc's involvement with civic and community activities has led him to serve