EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

July 20, 2001

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, President Chen Shui-bian of Taiwan recently completed his first year of service as head of state, and I would like to take this occasion to congratulate him and comment on a few of Taiwan's achievements.

Taiwan has long been a friend of the United States. Over the last decades, Taiwan has made great strides towards becoming a model of rapid political reform. Taiwan subscribes to the private enterprise system and offers its people one of the highest standards of living in Asia. In terms of its trading relations with us, Taiwan represents our seventh largest export market, thus providing many jobs for our manufacturers. In addition, more than 30,000 Taiwan students are studying at U.S. colleges and universities. The U.S. is the number one destination for most of Taiwan travelers. Taiwan and the United States share many values in common such as attachment to freedom, democracy, and human rights.

One of the most notable feature of President Chen's administration is his championing of human rights. For many decades, human rights had been a taboo subject in Taiwan until Taiwan's martial law was repealed in 1987. In recent years, the government has been cooperating with civic groups to recognize the government's past mistakes and has taken steps to improve human rights.