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COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
THE HONORABLE FLOYD SPENCE
OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1928-2001

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and public service of a great advocate for our nation's defense, a true gentleman in the finest Southern tradition, and my good friend, Floyd Spence.

For those of us who knew him only later in life, it may come as a surprise that this gentle soul spent his early life as a terror on the gridiron at Lexington High School and the University of South Carolina. It's less of a surprise that he had a distinguished 36-year career in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve, because his knowledge of our nation's military was rivaled only by his deep affection for it.

Mr. Spence was a leader with the courage of his convictions. He became a Republican in 1962, when Republicans in the South were still a rare commodity. That party switch cost him his seat in the South Carolina House of Representatives, but the people of South Carolina came to respect his courage and shortly thereafter sent him to Congress in 1970. By the time I first came to Capitol Hill in 1994, Southern Republicans had become relatively commonplace. That happened because people like Floyd Spence followed their conscience and accepted the consequences willingly.

When I met Floyd, he was then the newly installed Chairman of what was then called the House National Security Committee. He handled his considerable responsibility with grace and dignity, displaying fairness to all members, regardless of party, and showing considerable patience with us freshmen who showed up full of enthusiasm but short on experience.

Chairman Spence knew that freedom isn't free and deeply believed that lasting peace could best be achieved through unquestioned strength. He pushed for better funding for training, modernization, readiness and quality of life initiatives. His leadership was instrumental in finally stemming the tide of declining defense budgets and placing our military on the road to recovery. The soldier enjoying his new pay raise, the military families moving into improved post housing, the pilot stepping into a much-needed new fighter jet—each of these people, and many others, can thank Floyd Spence for fighting for them. We would be well-advised to continue along the path to recovery that this remarkable man worked so hard to put us on.

An old historian once noted that, "Great men are not often good men." Well, Floyd Spence was certainly both. Those of us who have had the great opportunity to know him are far better for the privilege.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MIRIAM
THOMAS, S.C.

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to pay tribute to Sister Miriam Thomas, S.C., a phenomenal individual who has devoted her life to enhancing the lives of others. After her 50 years of ceaseless work to educate and counsel others, and improve the communities she lives in, I take great pride in honoring Sister Thomas's 50th anniversary of service to God and humanity with this congressional tribute.

Sister Thomas was born and received her early education in South Brooklyn. Upon graduation from high school, Sister Thomas answered the calling to devote her life to God. At age 18 she entered Sisters of Charity where she received an invaluable theological education as well as a degree from Mount Saint Vincent College in the Bronx. Once she professed her vows, Sister Thomas brought her newly-honed ministry skills to Ascension Grammar School in Manhattan, where she remained for 8 years. She then relocated to Ponce, Puerto Rico where her education was enriched at Catholic University. At this point, with more years of training and instruction, she was ready to take on the South Bronx. There, she was assigned to St. Athanasius Parish where she has shared her gift of easing souls and invoking smiles for the past 39 years.

Mr. Speaker, in 1972, Sister Thomas, along with her neighbors, heard that a woman who served as the administrator of Simpson Street Development Association was murdered while on the job. Courage and an unflinching sense of devotion allowed Sister Thomas to stand up and fill this important position. There, with a tireless and supportive staff, Sister Thomas works miracles daily by providing social services and emotional guidance to people in need. Beyond these commitments, Sister Thomas also sits on the South Bronx Community Board 2 as chairperson. Her involvements in other community-based organizations are too numerous to mention. She says that her ceaseless community involvement was inspired by Father Louis Gigante, a visionary and dear friend.

Sister Thomas's ability to take the Gospel and translate it into language that speaks to the hearts and souls of nearly every St. Athanasius parishioner, has made her a priceless component of many people's spiritual and earthly lives. I am not the first to recognize her contributions, of course. Of the many rewards Sister Thomas has received throughout her years of service to the Church and humanity in general, she most treasures being named a Sister of Charity and her acceptance as a resident in the Hunts Point Community of the South Bronx.

Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing the 16th district of New York where Sister Thomas practices her faith each and every day and I am truly delighted to acknowledge her today. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable woman.

September 10, 2001

TAIWAN AND THE UNITED
NATIONS

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, as the United Nations General Assembly prepares to convene on September 11, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the achievements of Taiwan. Over the past several years, Taiwan has established itself as a world economic power and a stable political presence in Asia. Since the passage of the Taiwan Relations Act in 1979, the United States and Taiwan have developed a strong friendship and understanding of each other.

Most importantly, Taiwan is a thriving, multi-party democracy. Its leaders have successfully confronted the most difficult moment emerging democracies face: turning over offices to others when their own party loses. They have allowed open competition for office, and encouraged public discussion on the full range of issues that face Taiwan. It is clear that the people of Taiwan have the right to determine their nation's future.

Unfortunately, at a time when Taiwan's example and its assistance could be most beneficial to the world community, it continues to be isolated from that community. Restoration of its membership to the United Nations would end that isolation. As new democracies emerge, I am convinced that the world could greatly benefit from the counsel of a nation that has recently transformed itself into a democracy.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, when the Defense Production Act was enacted in 1950, considerable damage was done. Some of the worst damage occurred as a result of wage and price controls and the improper delegation of economic powers to the President (much of which economic power even Congress itself didn't have).

This bill's entire existence rests on the presumption that its supporters have absolutely no confidence whatsoever in either freedom or the market process. In a time of crisis, you don't need an "industrial policy" and you don't need some fascist or corporatist variety of socialism. What one needs more than ever in a time of crisis is the market—deviation from the market process is the worst thing an economy can do. Oftentimes, it's the "industrial policy" which is the very cause of the economic crisis one hopes to remedy with yet another round of "industrial policy" intervention.

We have an energy crisis in California created by the bureaucrats and the politicians. As prices skyrocket and a crisis is declared, it is later said that prices are now down and there's less of a shortage or crisis. But it's the market process that worked because the