

great determination and unity are needed in order to safeguard the treasured ideals we share.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 41st Independence Day, I share their joy for having created a prosperous, open society based on solid foundations. Furthermore, I believe this is a opportunity for the United States of America and Cyprus to come closer together, as they stand united in their resolve to fight the battle on terrorism. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

IN MEMORY OF IMAM KHATTAB

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of the Imam Abdelmoneim Mahmoud Khattab, Imam Emeritus of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. Imam Khattab passed from this life on September 15, 2001 after courageously battling cancer.

The Imam was born in a village near Cairo and eventually attended Al-Azhar University in Egypt. He received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in that ancient institution of learning. After graduating he worked briefly for the Egyptian consulate in Calcutta, then returned to Al-Azhar to lead the Institute of Foreign Languages. In 1964, the university appointed him to direct the Canadian Islamic Center in Edmonton, Alberta. While there, he received a second graduate degree, in Sociology, from the University of Alberta and completed work toward a doctoral degree from the University of Waterloo.

Prior to his arrival in Northwest Ohio in 1980, Imam Khattab was the director of London, Ontario's Islamic Center. His arrival in Toledo preceded the groundbreaking of our own community's Islamic Center, and he guided its construction and philosophy. A decade later, he led the effort to establish a chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Toledo and he established a training center at the Islamic Center for students of Al-Azhar to train to become Imams for American Muslim communities.

Imam Khattab was truly a man of enlightenment. His wise and thoughtful counsel could be counted on even in the most troubling of times, and he was both friend and mentor to many. Quietly persistent, combining his sense of humor and powers of persuasion, he led the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo on a path of prominence not only in our community but our country. Imam Khattab's successor, Imam Farouq Aboelzahab, described his theology: "When he talked about Islam, he talked about Islam as a religion of love and humanity. He represented Islam as a religion that cares about human beings, regardless ethnicity, national background, or religion. He committed himself to that goal." Noted as an original thinker, Imam Khattab was a true religious scholar whose teachings put him on the cutting edge of Islam in North America. Years ahead of many of his contemporaries in terms of interpretation of Islam, The Islamic Center's

President noted, "He's done so much for Islam. He never had any barriers. Nobody was ever categorized. He didn't differentiate between men and women. . . . He wasn't just the religious leader. He was in our homes. He was our friend, our father, our brother, our uncle."

Able to make religion both global and personal, Imam Khattab earned an international reputation for bringing disparate groups together. Not only did he bring together the 22 ethnic groups that made up the families of his mosque, but also he promoted unity among all religions, focusing on the common themes between Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

Although he retired and returned to Ontario in 1998, Imam Khattab remained an integral part of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo, returning to the mosque weekly. He also served on many regional and national organizations including the Council of Imams of North America, the World Call council, and Michigan's Interfaith Roundtable.

Our deep condolences to Imam Khattab's wife Fauzia, children Khalid and Huda, brother and sisters Muhamad, Soad, and Zuhrah, as well as the entire community of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. The Imam may be gone in body, but his spirit lives on through the millions of lives he touched and his legacy is carried through our own work now and in the future as we build on his foundation of faith.

REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in wishing the people of Taiwan the very best as they mark their National Day on October 10, 2001.

The people of Taiwan have demonstrated their dedication to human rights, political freedom, and democracy as they have consistently remained an important ally of the United States. Taiwan has expressed its support of and grief for the tragic events of September 11th and has indicated they will spare no effort in helping America win the war against international terrorism. We are deeply appreciative of their continued friendship as we extend to the people and government of the Republic of China on Taiwan our best wishes on this day of national celebration for our close ally.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, the National Day of the Republic of China (Taiwan) is today, October 10. I would like to recognize this day of celebration.

Americans are thankful for our faithful friends in Taiwan. We appreciate all nations

that stand for freedom and oppose terrorism. I wish to extend my best to the citizens of America who came from Taiwan as they recall this National Day of Freedom in their former homeland.

RECOGNIZING THE SUPPORT AND FRIENDSHIP OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON NATIONAL DAY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank President Chen Shui-bian and Ambassador C.J. Chen of the Republic of China for their strong support of the United States in the aftermath of the hellacious acts of September 11. Taiwan was among the first to declare its unequivocal support for and cooperation with the United States, and Taiwan has offered us any assistance it can provide in combating terrorism.

Taiwan firmly believes the United States is on the right course in going after extremists and terrorists worldwide. Terrorism knows no national boundaries and seeks to destroy our democracy and way of life. Standing shoulder to shoulder with America, Taiwan mourns with America and unites with us in our mission to eradicate terrorism worldwide.

Taiwan will be celebrating its National Day today, October 10. In recent years, we have witnessed The Republic of China's campaign to return to the United Nations. I believe we should give Taiwan our support. The Republic of China is a true democracy, which guarantees fundamental rights to all of its citizens. Taiwan is also one of the most important economic entities in the world.

On Taiwan's National Day, I hope Taiwan and the Chinese mainland will one day be reunited under principles of freedom and democracy, thus leading to lasting stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to once again recognize Representative C.J. Chen. Representative Chen is a distinguished diplomat who is always courteous and very sharp on issues. As so many of our colleagues know, his briefings on the Hill are always to the point—crisp, witty and intelligent. He has done a stellar job in representing the Republic of China on Capitol Hill, and I applaud him and Taiwan for their unwavering support.

TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day. The Republic of China on Taiwan is a true democracy that guarantees political freedom and civil liberty to its people. As we continue into the 21st Century, Taiwan's importance as an economic player in the world