

needs to be liberated from the nightmare that is the Castro regime. Through peaceful activity, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has been a courageous voice against the totalitarian regime and their continued acts of tyranny and terrorism.

According to Amnesty International, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba has suffered harassment for his activities, including being detained in the grotesque gulag and fined in October, 2002. Despite the continued threat of brutal retaliation for his peaceful activities, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba continued to believe in, and advocate for, freedom for the people of Cuba. Unfortunately, as part of the tyrant's heinous, March 2003, island wide crackdown on peaceful pro democracy advocates, Mr. Sánchez Altarriba was arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial, he was sentenced to 15 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Mr. Sánchez Altarriba is currently languishing in an inhuman gulag because of his belief in democracy. According to a letter written by fellow prisoner of conscience Léster González Pentón and published by M.A.R. por Cuba:

A cement wall is all that separates both jails, but that one has a tougher regime than this one, several guards hitting defenseless people inside the jails using "marabu" sticks. That is the reason why many prisoners suffer from aches and sicknesses behind bars, worsened by lack of medical care, this being the reason for self-inflicted wounds as a way to get care. Thousands of mosquitoes, rats, crawl around as in their own home, with the worst hygiene conditions. Eight of us brothers in the cause were removed from the cells. There only remains Claro Sánchez Altarriba, from Santiago de Cuba.

Mr. Speaker, it is unconscionable that human beings are locked in this barbarously inhuman gulag because they believe that all men and women have a right to freedom and democratic government. While the entire world sits by and ignores the suffering of the Cuban people, brave men and women like Claro Sánchez Altarriba represent the best of mankind. My Colleagues, we must demand freedom and human rights for all people, especially those who live under the darkness of totalitarian regimes. We must demand immediate and unconditional freedom for Claro Sánchez Altarriba and every prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing my strong concern regarding China's proposed Anti-Secession Law. This unilateral initiative by the People's Republic of China, PRC, is a very provocative move that could permanently destroy the balance in the Taiwan Strait.

This proposed law, which will be voted on as early as March in the full Chinese National People's Congress, is more than just propa-

ganda. The law assumes that China and Taiwan are now unified and that China has the rights to punish anyone expressing separatist sentiments or engaging in separatist activities. Ultimately, China can legally pursue unification of Taiwan by military force.

Because I believe this will challenge the wishes of the 23 million people of Taiwan who have chosen a democratic system of government, I sincerely urge Chinese leaders to abide by the wishes of the Taiwanese people and not adopt the Anti-Secession Law this March. I also urge the international community to join us in voicing their disapproval of this confrontational law.

THE BIRTH OF MADALYN ELIZABETH PRIEST

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the birth of Madalyn Elizabeth Priest. My Legislative Director, Matt Priest, and his wife Lisa welcomed little Madalyn into the world on January 31, 2005. Weighing 7 pounds 3 ounces, Madalyn has already become the pride and joy of her happy parents.

With each new birth we are reminded of just how precious life is and how amazing a design God has created in us all. We also have an opportunity to reflect on the role this body can play in protecting human life at its most innocent and vulnerable stage.

HONORING A.J. YATES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AGRICULTURE AS AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE ADMINISTRATOR

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me today to pay tribute to my friend and fellow Californian, A.J. Yates, who has served as Administrator of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) for the past four years. It has been an honor to work with him on legislative matters involving agriculture, and many of us here on the Hill have come to rely on his expertise.

President Bush appointed A.J. Yates AMS Administrator in September 2001 to oversee more than 50 programs designed to maintain a stable marketing environment for the benefit of America's farmers, ranchers, and consumers. AMS accomplishes this mission through federal marketing orders, research and promotion programs, the federal-state marketing improvement program, and the wholesale marketing development program. Agricultural transportation issues, market regulatory laws, market news, and federal grading and certification are other tools the agency uses to help ensure a steady supply of high quality food on American tables.

Mr. Yates brought to AMS many years of experience in both the agriculture industry and

state government, and USDA and the American people have benefited greatly from his expertise. His background is quite impressive. Mr. Yates served as Deputy Secretary for the California Department of Food and Agriculture, CDFA, from August 1991 to December 1996 and as Under Secretary until January 1999. During his tenure at CDFA, Mr. Yates helped provide leadership to the CDFA's seven divisions and developed and implemented policy for California's agricultural industry and consumers. After leaving CDFA, Yates was a senior marketing consultant with Panagraph Marketing Solutions in Fresno, CA.

Mr. Yates graduated from California State University at Fresno in 1957 with a bachelor's degree in agronomy. As a life-long farmer from Kerman, California, he has been actively involved in organizations supporting agriculture and education, serving as President of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, State Director of the California Sugar Beet Growers Association, and Director of the Mid-Valley Irrigation District.

While at AMS, Mr. Yates has proven to be a tireless advocate for the long-term survival and economic well-being of America's farms. His leadership has proven crucial in several issue areas important to America's farmers, including the management of Federal marketing orders and the Fruit and Vegetable Advisory Committee and launching the implementation of the organic program.

AMS employees wish Mr. Yates the best as he returns to California to spend time with his wife Joyce and their three sons. I, too, wish him well and join my colleagues in commending him on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO 1LT ANDREW C. SHIELDS

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 17, 2005

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am moved to commend to this House a thoughtful eulogy commemorating the life of one of America's finest: 1LT Andrew C. Shields.

The eulogy was written and delivered by Brandon Steelman at First Lieutenant Shield's funeral at New Prospect Baptist Church, Campobello, South Carolina, on December 18, 2004.

EULOGY FOR A FALLEN SOLDIER: FIRST LT. ANDREW C. SHIELDS

This past week has been filled with things that quite simply can't be understood. While there are many larger and more profound mysteries, one of the smaller mysteries I've faced this week is why Andrew would have me give these remarks today. Certainly, he had many friends who knew him just as well, if not better, than I did. And certainly he loved his family above all others. Each of those family members would be better suited to make these remarks today; after all, I didn't spend my childhood dressing like him as Philip did! But I think I'm here because Andrew would be too uncomfortable watching a beloved family member stand and undoubtedly cry in remembrance of him. But he was always OK when I stood up to embarrass myself. In fact, he encouraged it. So I