

City. The State further noted that the area's escalating commerce in the farm industry also attributed to the cause for incorporation. Agriculture, still today, remains the area's largest economic resource.

Through the years, the community has dramatically evolved. In the 1930s and 40s West Branch grew its recreational attractions by establishing Trout Festivals and Alpine Ski facilities as well as promoting its suitability for hunting, fishing and agriculture. In the 1950s and 60s the City focused on highway and land development that brought the most famous highway in the state, I-75, directly through their emerging community. During the 70s, 80s and 90s the city experienced an economic boom and acquired two industrial parks. One of the parks was bestowed a "smiley-face" water tower, which is now the trademark of the City. The other, eventually became home to Tolfree Memorial Hospital, West Branch Regional Medical Center and the state-of-the-art Seaton Cancer Center.

The West Branch of today, with a population of 1,924, serves as the County seat for Ogemaw County. This fast growing community's expanding commerce, with its own Community Airport and bustling outdoor shopping mall contrasts the Victorian downtown that embraced its rich history during their recent streetscape enhancement.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the broadly shared opinion that West Branch is a warm and welcoming community. When the city was added to my new district after the 2000 census I held an open house for my district office there in order to get to know my new constituents. I was impressed by the thoughtful questions of the people who attended and was touched by their welcome to me as their new Representative.

Since then, I've held a healthcare forum in West Branch, visited with the West Branch Area Business and Professional Women's Club and even had the honor of throwing the first pitch at the West Branch Little League games. I continue to be very proud to represent the fine community of West Branch in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the City of West Branch and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 3, 2005, I missed the vote on final passage of H.R. 841, the Continuity in Representation Act, rollcall 52. Because it was announced earlier that this vote would be conducted as a voice vote, I immediately left the House floor following the vote on the motion to recommit, so that I could make a flight to my District. Later in the day, I learned Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD demanded a recorded vote on the question of passage of the bill.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the final passage of H.R. 841.

EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT CHINA'S PROPOSED ANTI-SECESSION LAW

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concern about reports of China's intention to pass an anti-secession law, which appears to permit China to punish Taiwan for what it perceives to be movements toward independence or separatist sentiments. At a time when we should be encouraging greater cross-strait cooperation, this effort by the Chinese could further heighten tensions and possibly move the region toward armed conflict.

When I traveled to Taiwan last year, I saw a vibrant democracy, a strong economy, and citizens appreciative of their high standard of living and ability to enjoy basic human rights. Most importantly, I met people who want to engage in the world community. Yet, the anti-secession law would permit China to decide for itself what constitutes an independence movement in Taiwan. Such carte blanche authority would be chilling in Taiwan, which has supported civil liberties and free speech rights.

I hope that Chinese leaders will use their better judgment and abandon this ill-conceived plan. We, as Americans, must do what we can to promote peace and cooperation across the Taiwan Strait. Despite our commitments in Iraq and elsewhere, we must remain engaged in this matter. Our silence could be interpreted as tacit permission for China to escalate its rhetoric and possibly initiate action against Taiwan, with whom the U.S. has a strong relationship. We must encourage our friends in Beijing to build on their history of cooperative efforts with Taiwan, economically and culturally, to enhance their relationship. I know the people of Taiwan look forward to greater engagement with the mainland and a peaceful coexistence with their Chinese brothers and sisters.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL PEACE CORPS WEEK

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Peace Corps and to celebrate National Peace Corps Week, which ran from February 28 to March 6, 2005.

Last week, we honored Peace Corps Volunteers for their dedicated work in promoting world peace and friendship across the globe. In an era where global interdependence and camaraderie has become increasingly important, the Peace Corps plays an integral role in connecting individuals from different countries, races, and creeds.

Since the inception of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961, over 178,000 volunteers have served in 138 countries. Currently, there are more than 7,700 Peace Corps volunteers

serving in 72 countries around the world—the highest number of volunteers in the field in the past 29 years. Peace Corps volunteers are quite a diverse group, serving as teachers, information technology consultants, youth and agriculture workers, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and business advisors.

I am proud to say that the 5th Congressional District of New York currently has 12 of its own as Peace Corps volunteers. They are, in alphabetical order and followed by the countries in which they serve: Kimberly A. Beers, Dominican Republic; Ling-Yun Chen, Turkmenistan; Michael E. Garris, Armenia; Seth B. Gazes, El Salvador; Melissa Gonzalez, Costa Rica; Orlando Gonzalez, Costa Rica; Amy Y. Han, Uzbekistan; Grace E. Lee, Madagascar; Pei-Zei Lin, Burkina Faso; Erin C. McNally, Turkmenistan; Richard Z. Mo, Paraguay; Debbie Nip, Moldova.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to please join me in honoring all of the past and present Peace Corps volunteers who selflessly serve abroad, empowering individuals in developing countries and spreading their message of world peace and friendship. These fine men and women have committed years of their lives to helping total strangers and to making our world a better and friendlier place. We salute your unselfish acts.

RECOGNITION OF DR. DONALD F. AVERILL FOR THE HARRY BUTTIMER DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR AWARD

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to give recognition to Dr. Donald F. Averill, Chancellor of the San Bernardino Community College District for receiving the Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrative Award. It is my honor to recognize Dr. Averill's leadership, dedication, extensive educational background, and his academic and administrative merits to the faculty and students of the State of California.

Dr. Averill earned his doctoral degree in Educational Management from the University of La Verne. He has contributed great efforts to vocational education and educational development through teaching and administration. In addition to his 40 years of experience as professor and administrator, Dr. Averill has also served his tenure of service as Superintendent and President of Palo Verde College, President of the California Association of Occupational Administrators, Chair of the Occupational Education Coalition, Chair of a Legislative Oversight Committee on Contract Education, Chair of the Southern 30's Human Resources Exchange, and Chair of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) Human Resources Commission.

Dr. Averill carries a strong commitment to public service, clearly demonstrated by his active involvement with the people and organizations of his community. He is currently involved with over 20 regional, state, and national organizations. Due to his broad knowledge in education and understanding of legislative and educational issues, Dr. Averill is frequently asked to take the lead in areas of higher education, economic development, and community college finances.

Furthermore, Dr. Averill has compiled an impressive list of community outreach, which includes his service as Co-Founder of the Orange County Technology Exchange Center, Chair of the local American Heart Association branch, Lt. Governor of Division Three for Kiwanis International, Chairman of the Board for Mary's Home, Director and Board Member of the Blythe Area Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Palo Verde Valley Economic Partnership, Member of the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino Area Chamber of Commerce and the Rialto Chamber of Commerce. He serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of California, the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and the Work Incentive Board of San Bernardino County.

Dr. Averill is an outstanding awardee to receive the Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrator Award. His leadership, commitment, loyalty, integrity, and merits all made him a perfect candidate deserving of such a great honor. The people of San Bernardino County and of the State of California thank him for his continued service.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
JAMES J. FLANNERY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of James J. Flannery, devoted family man, community leader, public servant, and friend and mentor to many.

As a former member of the Ohio House of Representatives from 1967 through 1972, Mr. Flannery served his constituents of Cleveland's Near West Side with commitment, integrity and energy. As a certified public accountant, he was instrumental in garnering statewide approval for the graduated income tax, implemented in 1971.

Mr. Flannery's life-long commitment of service to others, and dedication to the Democratic Party was handed down to him from his parents and grandparents. His father served on the Council for the City of Cleveland. For many years, Mr. Flannery's grandfather served as a Precinct Committeeman. And in 1947, Mr. Flannery's grandmother was elected as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. They also instilled within him an unwavering work ethic. He was raised in Cleveland, graduated from St. Ed's, then enrolled at the University of Notre Dame, where he graduated in 1960. He volunteered his time and efforts on behalf of numerous causes and organizations, including St. Ed's High School and the Notre Dame Club of Cleveland, where he

served as past president and trustee. In 1991, the Club honored him as their Man of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of James J. Flannery, beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. I offer my deepest condolences to Mr. Flannery's wife of 45 years, Judith; his children, Jim, Dan, Kelly, Mary Lou, Michele, Bryan, Judi Lynn and Eric; his sons and daughters in law, Maureen, Caroline, Rolly, Attila, Brian, Renee, Dan and Lori; his granddaughters and grandsons, and his extended family and many friends. Mr. Flannery will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him well, yet his legacy of concern for others, generous spirit, and kind heart uplifted the lives of countless individuals and families, including my own—and his life and his legacy, framed by love of family and community, will be remembered always.

PETER GILES HONORED FOR HIS
ESTEEMED SERVICE TO THE
CORPORATE, NONPROFIT AND
HIGH-TECHNOLOGY COMMU-
NITIES IN SILICON VALLEY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of Peter Giles, the retiring President and CEO of The Tech Museum of Innovation headquartered in San Jose, California.

Among Mr. Giles impressive accomplishments is his strong commitment to education and provocative methods that garner greater levels of understanding to those who do not have a collegiate engineering degree.

Under his leadership, The Tech has empowered 1 million educators and youth through teacher training institutes, web-based resources, field trips and various community partnerships with area schools and youth groups. His museum can also boast of the development of a signature learning approach called, "Design in Mind Learning," which provides professional development to educators and enhances curricula throughout the United States.

Mr. Giles has also committed himself to the sustainability of The Tech and the community it serves. The opening of the Tech Museum was funded by \$113 million, including an unprecedented \$32 million of in-kind contributions from the industry; in addition, his endowment fundraising totals \$14 million currently.

The Tech is one of the top tourist attractions for anyone visiting Silicon Valley. It has earned this reputation because of the unique mix of art, culture, education, and of course, technology. In addition, The Tech has subtly, but firmly espoused its core belief that science, engineering and technology are fun—and must remain to be fun in order for our country to thrive.

The tremendous success of this jewel is due in great part to Mr. Giles' visionary leadership. During Mr. Giles' 18 years of service at The Tech, he fostered a spirit of collaboration and

innovation that is the keystone of what makes Silicon Valley a truly unique locale.

Peter Giles is an amazing person. The former President of the Silicon Valley Manufacturing Group he had other, possibly more financially rewarding, career paths than the Tech. But Peter, who is a techie, a father and a visionary, has never been interested in his own aggrandizement so much as he is interested in the public good. Not only did he develop the Tech from a mere idea, he made sure that idea included our entire community. Let me give you just one example: To protect her privacy I'll just refer to "Az". This young woman started working for the Tech while in high school. Neither of her parents were college or high school grads, but Peter understood that reaching out to a community that had not been steeped in education was the Tech's most important mission. From Peter's own life, he understands how families reinforce each other.

Now "Az" has completed college and is embarked on teaching. Understanding the reach of families, her little brother is a math major at MIT.

Although Peter Giles is retiring, his legacy and contributions to Silicon Valley will remain in the hearts and minds of The Tech's supporters, contributors and patrons for many years to come; and even more importantly, in the living rooms of the homes of ordinary families, things have changed for the better.

IN MEMORY OF ROSEMARY
KENNEDY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 8, 2005

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say a few words about the remarkable life of Rosemary Kennedy, who passed away at age 86 on January 7.

She was not the most famous member of her family. Hers was a more private life than those of her siblings. But it was not a life without public consequences and enormous benefit to those around her.

The example of her perseverance and her dignity helped to raise awareness about people living with mental disabilities—not just about their problems, but about their potential. That example inspired her sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, to establish the Special Olympics. It has been going strong now for 37 years. Last year, it was my honor to co-author an historic Congressional authorization for Special Olympics with my good friend STENY HOYER. It is our hope that the authorization will help this successful program to grow even more.

I am pleased that the United States Congress is now counted among those who enthusiastically support Special Olympics and recognize its unique importance in improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities. Through the Special Olympics, Rosemary Kennedy has brought hope to millions of people around the world who either have disabilities or love someone who does.

In her eulogy for her sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver said, "Today, in villages and cities all