

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Andrew Gorski for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

U.S.-TAIWAN ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, for the past 60 years, the United States and Taiwan have enjoyed a unique and vital relationship. Forged during a period of mutual confrontation with communism, our ties have flourished over the years. Indeed, what began as primarily a security-focused partnership has become one based on a wide range of mutual interests.

The growth of our relations was in no way a coincidence. Instead, the common values of freedom, democracy and prosperity have guided both our peoples over the years. During the past two decades in particular, America's support has helped Taiwan develop a vibrant democratic government and strong economy, which in turn have provided hope and inspiration to others in the region and around the world.

Today, as Taiwan prepares for yet another milestone in its democratic progression—the inauguration of a new President later this month—I would like to recognize some of the successes we have had together under the leadership of its outgoing President, Chen Shui-bian.

From President Chen's first months in office, the United States and Taiwan worked to advance its rightful role in the international community. This began with cooperative efforts to first call for and later secure Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Organization.

Our governments also worked closely together during this period of increasing global health awareness and activity. Over the past several years, America has consistently pushed to have Taiwan included in international forums where it can convey lessons learned from its experience with SARS and the Avian flu. In addition, our senior diplomats—backed by strong congressional direction in 2003—have sought a meaningful role for Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

Our security interests have also been closely aligned during President Chen's tenure. The tragedy that befell the United States on September 11, 2001 was met with a swift response by Taiwan, which assisted with resources for coalition efforts in Afghanistan, cooperative efforts to track and shut down terrorist financial networks, participation in our government's Container Security Initiative, and many other joint efforts. Taiwan even contributed generously to the Pentagon Memorial Fund, in recognition of those who lost their lives on 9/11.

The partnership we have built with Taiwan has also served both governments well as we have been compelled to respond to hostile Chinese gestures in recent years. Perhaps the starkest example of this during President

Chen's time in office occurred in December 2004, when China unveiled and subsequently enacted its Anti-Secession Law, a measure providing legal authority for the People's Liberation Army to invade Taiwan without provocation. A steady and determined response by President Chen was matched by strong statements of concern from the international community, signaling to China that hostile action would be met with strong resistance.

America has also sought ways to counter a wide range of other Chinese measures that seek to isolate Taiwan:

Militarily, China has noticeably increased its threat to Taiwan's security through the steady deployment of missiles targeting Taiwan, in numbers that have grown by more than 100 per year and now far exceed 1,000 in number.

Diplomatically, China has attempted to block at every turn Taiwan's efforts to participate in the global community. It opposed Taiwan's recent application to join the United Nations as a full member, and has repeatedly thwarted Taiwan's attempts to join the UN and its affiliate organizations—such as the World Health Organization—even as an observer.

Economically, China has sought to prevent Taiwan from expanding its role in international markets—using the dependence created by their over \$80 billion in annual bilateral trade as a means to advancing unification. At the same time, it has been working to build bilateral and regional free trade agreements (FTAs) that deliberately exclude Taiwan.

Politically, China's authorities refused to communicate with Taiwan's elected leadership during President Chen's tenure, despite repeated offers by him to engage in open dialogue.

As evidenced by the constructive efforts cited earlier, the United States and Taiwan have worked closely to address each of these threats as they have arisen. And we will continue to do so when President Ma Ying-jeou assumes office on May 20th, building on the record of achievement that our governments have amassed in just the first years of this new century. I look forward to working with President Ma's government as we seek to further advance our common values and interests.

PULLMAN HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES IN NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Pullman community in congratulating the Pullman High School Science Bowl team on being selected to compete in the 18th annual U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl.

The U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl is a nationwide academic competition that tests students' knowledge in all areas of science. Much like Jeopardy, the students put their science knowledge to the test as they are quizzed in a fast paced question-and-answer format.

Led by their coach, Barbara Harding, the Pullman High School team includes Randy Xun, Shashank Dwivedi, Suman Jandhyala, Xingyu Zhang, and Prastuti Singh. These outstanding students won their regional tournament and now join 66 other teams from throughout the nation to compete for the opportunity to travel to the International Youth Science Forum in England and a trip to visit nuclear power generation facilities in France.

The accomplishments of the Pullman High School team bring attention to the great need we have in our country to continue to encourage high school students to pursue careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. In order for our country to remain competitive, we need more young, bright students like these who will grow up to be our future doctors, scientists and engineers. I am certain these students would agree that a career in science is one that holds infinite potential.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in commending the Pullman High School Science Bowl team for their commitment to academic excellence and for their exceptional performance in the National Science Bowl.

HONORING WILLIAM S. ROBBINS III

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize William S. Robbins III, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

William has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years William has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending William S. Robbins III for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, May 14th marks the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. For six decades, America has stood by Israel's side as her partner in peace and defended her as a beacon of democracy in a region dominated by war, authoritarian regimes, and religious conflict.

In 1948, the United States became the first country to welcome Israel into the community