

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the announcement of Taiwan's participation as an observer in the World Health Assembly, WHA, to be held in Geneva, Switzerland. This announcement is the culmination of more than a decade of efforts by the Taiwanese people to be included in the assembly. Additionally, many of my congressional colleagues and I have been active in supporting Taiwan's participation in the WHA. I am delighted that after years of work in both Taipei and Washington, DC, these efforts have finally paid off and that Taiwan will be able to send a delegation to the WHA later this month under the nomenclature of "Chinese Taipei."

With the outbreak of the H1N1 virus sweeping across the United States and several countries, Taiwan's inclusion as an observer in the WHA is especially crucial in coordinating global responses to epidemics. Diseases do not stop at national borders, and Taiwan's long absence from the WHA meant that a coordinated global response to outbreaks was not as effective as it could be with Taiwan's inclusion.

I congratulate the Taiwanese people on finally winning inclusion in the WHA and look forward to continuing the good relations between Taiwan and the United States.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GLENN THOMPSON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 209, I was absent on the evening of April 27, 2009, because I was attending a public meeting at the Allegheny National Forest in Warren, Pennsylvania, regarding the pending Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, SEIS, ongoing litigation, and the proposed "settlement." Recent Forest Service actions on the Allegheny have created adverse economic distress in my rural district and are unfairly denying my constituents access to their legally owned subsurface mineral rights.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO MALINDA WRIGHT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, Malinda Smith Wright will turn 100 on May 17, 2009. Malinda was born and raised in Brazoria County, TX, which is in my congressional district, and has spent all of her life there.

Malinda was married to Alex C. Wright for over seventy years. Together, Malinda and Alex raised six children. A lifelong lover of reading, Malinda continues to read the newspaper every day, and I understand that she is particularly interested in the stock market.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Malinda Wright as she prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday with her friends and family.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK KEMP

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Jack Kemp who left us this past Saturday.

While his passing saddens all of us, Jack lived a full life that was truly remarkable. In addition to being a wonderful husband and father, Jack achieved outstanding success as a professional quarterback, United States Congressman, Cabinet Secretary, and Vice Presidential candidate. This is a man who excelled both personally and professionally. His economic policies formed the heart of the Reagan Revolution. Even after his political career ended, he made sure to continue his public service by writing, speaking, and continuing to tackle some of America's greatest problems. Jack Kemp always had ideas to offer and he was most often right.

Jack not only shined but took a leadership role in everything he did. Whether it was on the football field leading his team to victories or being a driving force in the House of Representatives, he was always in the middle of the action. Jack Kemp certainly embodied what Theodore Roosevelt said about the "man in the arena." His was the face that was [literally] "marred by dust and sweat and blood" during his many athletic and political battles over the years.

And even though he was able to achieve so much during his time here, we grieve for what he still had to contribute. This is a man who continuously pushed himself in whatever profession he found himself in.

I was proud to know Jack Kemp for more than thirty years and to be his friend.

My thoughts and prayers go out to Joanne, his wife of more than fifty years, his four children, Jeff, Jennifer, Judith, and Jimmy, and his seventeen grandchildren.

Jack Kemp was a great man and a true public servant who touched so many lives in a positive way during his life. He will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on the afternoon of April 29, 2009, and on April 30, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall

vote 223, against final passage of H.R. 1913. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 228, for final passage of H.R. 627.

PRESIDENT NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 4, 2009

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Nursultan Nazarbayev on his offer to host a nuclear fuel bank in Kazakhstan administered by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which the United States would expect to meet the highest international standards for safety, security and safeguards. It is my understanding that the U.S. Department of State has welcomed President Nazarbayev's announcement, and is prepared in principle to support this offer. In fact, even today, Secretary Hillary Clinton is meeting with Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Marat Tazhin, and I understand that this important measure is on their agenda.

I am pleased by these series of events, especially in view of history. From 1949 to 1991, the Soviet Union used Kazakhstan as its nuclear testing ground, exploding more than 500 nuclear bombs and exposing more than 1.5 million Kazakhs to nuclear radiation. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Kazakhstan inherited the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal and the second largest nuclear test site. While Kazakhstan could have retained enough highly enriched uranium to produce 20 nuclear bombs, President Nursultan Nazarbayev, in cooperation with the United States, and under the auspices of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program, voluntarily dismantled and shut down the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk.

Kazakhstan has since signed with the United States amendments to a bilateral agreement on the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction which has moved the two nations towards a new level of cooperation in preventing the threat of bio-terrorism.

As a Pacific Islander, I have a special affinity for President Nazarbayev and the people of Kazakhstan. From 1946 to 1958, the United States detonated 66 nuclear weapons in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) including the first hydrogen bomb, or Bravo shot, which was 1,000 times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Acknowledged as the greatest nuclear explosion ever detonated, the Bravo test vaporized six islands and created a mushroom cloud 25 miles in diameter. If one were to calculate the net yield of tests conducted by the U.S. in the RMI, it would be equivalent to the detonation of 1.7 Hiroshima bombs every day for 12 years. Regrettably, the U.S. has never fully made right the suffering of Pacific Islanders who, then and now, face severe health problems and even genetic anomalies for generations to come.

Through His Excellency Kanat Saudabayev, now Secretary of State for the Republic of Kazakhstan, I learned of President Nazarbayev's historic leadership in the cause of nuclear nonproliferation and, since my visit to Semipalatinsk, I stand with him in calling for