

with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving, "For this child I prayed; and the Lord hath given me my petition which I asked of him."

U.S. AND TAIWAN'S AIR DEFENSE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about an issue of concern to me and to my Taiwanese American constituents.

Today's Taiwan is a strong ally of the United States that shares with us the ideals of freedom, democracy, and self-determination. Taiwan enjoys elements of independence, although Taiwan continues to be under an ominous shadow cast by the over 1400 short and medium-range ballistic missiles that the People's Republic of China (PRC) has aimed in its direction. China continues to refuse to renounce the use of force against Taiwan, continues to claim Taiwan as a renegade province, and in 2005 passed an "Anti-Secession Law" that mandated military action if Taiwan moves towards formal and legal independence. The U.S. Congress quickly and strongly condemned China for this action with a vote on the House Floor.

A 2009 Pentagon report on the military power of the PRC stated that "in the near-term, China's armed forces are rapidly developing coercive capabilities for the purpose of deterring Taiwan's pursuit of de jure independence." It added that these "same capabilities could in the future be used to pressure Taiwan toward a settlement of the cross-Strait dispute on Beijing's terms while simultaneously attempting to deter, delay, or deny any possible U.S. support for the island in case of conflict."

Madam Speaker, the 1979 Taiwan Relations Act is the cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations and the "Law of the Land." It declares that it is the policy of the United States "to consider any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means, including by boycotts or embargoes, a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and of grave concern to the United States."

Furthermore, section 3(b) of the Act stipulates that both the President and the Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of such defense articles and services 'based solely' upon their judgment of the needs of Taiwan.

On January 29, 2010 the Obama Administration notified Congress of a long-awaited package of arms sale to Taiwan, totaling US\$ 6.4 billion. The package included 114 Patriot PAC-3 missiles, 60 Black Hawk helicopters, 12 Harpoon missiles for training purposes, two Osprey-class refurbished mine hunters and military communication equipment. However, not included in the package were 66 F-16 C/D fighter aircraft, which Taiwan requested in 2006.

Prior to the notification, in a report dated 21 January 2010, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency made an assessment of the status of Taiwan's air defense. It concluded that Taiwan's air defense is showing increasing vulnerability due to the aging of the air force fighter aircraft.

Madam Speaker, let me conclude my remarks with urging my esteemed colleagues to

join me in requesting the Obama administration to immediately move ahead with the sale of F-16s to Taiwan at this time. One of the main reasons to move now is that the production of the F-16s is nearing its end, as more countries are switching to the advanced F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

HONORING LIONVILLE YOUTH ASSOCIATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lionville Youth Association as it celebrates 40 years of providing excellent recreational opportunities and sports programs to boys and girls in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Association has come a long way since its inception in 1970 when it developed playing fields on two, pie-shaped parcels along Devon Drive in an era when backstops were made of chicken wire and the snow fences served as outfield walls. Last year, more than 1,600 children participated in sports leagues organized by the Association and competed on well-groomed playing fields with dugouts, electronic scoreboards and press boxes. Countless youth teams have celebrated championships earned while playing on one of the athletic fields faithfully maintained by the Association. More importantly, the Association has afforded boys and girls a chance to learn valuable lessons in team work, hard work and perseverance that will benefit them long after they leave the playing field.

The Association's tremendous success and increased participation in youth sports can be attributed to the 550 volunteers who generously give 180,000 hours each year to serve as coaches, umpires, referees, concession stand workers, league officials and in various other roles.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in congratulating the Lionville Youth Association as it commemorates this very special milestone and offering best wishes for continued success in enriching the lives of our youth and strengthening the bonds within our community.

RICK MAZER

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I take this time to honor one of Northwest Indiana's most respected business and community leaders, Mr. Rick Mazer, from Saint John, Indiana. On April 8, 2010, Rick was honored by Horseshoe Casino and the Northwest Indiana Forum in appreciation for his many years of service as a dedicated executive and for his numerous contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana. The celebration took place at Gamba Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana.

Rick Mazer's professional and academic career led him to become a prominent leader in

the gaming industry for nearly thirty years. In 1976, Rick earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Boston University. His lifelong career in the gaming industry began in 1979, in Atlantic City, where he held various positions at Caesar's Entertainment and Resorts International. In 1991, Rick's career led him to Peoria, Illinois where he played an instrumental role in the grand opening of Par-A-Dice Riverboat Casino, where he served as Vice President of Marketing. In late 1995, Mr. Mazer became the Director of Marketing and Advertising at the Empress Casino in Joliet, Illinois. He joined the team at Horseshoe Casino nearly fifteen years ago and successfully maintained a leadership role through three ownerships. In 2007, due to his outstanding management skills and superior business strategies, Rick was subsequently promoted to oversee the two Harrah's Entertainment casinos that book-end the state, picking up responsibilities for what was known as Caesars Indiana, now Horseshoe Southern Indiana. Mr. Mazer led the transformation from one great brand to another. The "mother of all boats", or MOAB, is the moniker fondly used internally to reference the \$500 million casino that Rick spearheaded. The design, construction, and opening of one of the most stunning casinos in America could have only happened under his guidance. For his efforts, Mr. Mazer has been presented with the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce Business Person of the Year award. After years of service in the Indiana market, Rick was given an opportunity to oversee multiple casinos in America's gaming capital, Las Vegas. Staying within the Harrah's Entertainment family has made the transition very smooth.

Rick Mazer exemplifies what it means to be a true leader. His outstanding leadership skills are reflected by staff members, who have been quoted as saying, "Rick actively engages members of his team, constantly challenging them to expand their expertise while fostering their talent and growth. Rick understands that with a truly engaged team, anything is possible."

In addition to his impressive professional career, Rick passionately serves the people of Northwest Indiana through his involvement in many community organizations. Among his many contributions, Rick is actively involved with the Northwest Indiana Forum, Tradewinds Rehabilitative Services, Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, Casino Association of Indiana, Lake Area United Way, Crisis Center, Haven House, American Cancer Society, Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce, Lake County Convention and Visitor's Bureau Hospitality Committee, and the Indiana Black Expo. For his many charitable efforts, Rick was awarded the prestigious Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award. For his continuous, selfless devotion to the community of Northwest Indiana, Mr. Mazer is to be highly commended.

Rick's dedication to his community is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. This coming May, he and his wonderful wife, Aria, will celebrate 30 years of marriage. They have two beloved daughters, Ericka and Racquel.

Madam Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Mr. Rick Mazer as he is honored for his lifetime of service and dedication to the Northwest Indiana community. Rick continues to touch the lives of countless people,