

peoples of South Asia must have self-determination now."

CONGRATULATIONS TO TAIWAN
PRESIDENT CHEN AND HIS NEW
CABINET

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, as Asians all over the world prepare to celebrate the lunar New Year, I would like to extend good wishes to all my Asian constituents and friends. I would especially like to wish Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan good luck in this year of the Horse, along with continuing economic success and meaningful political reforms.

Since President Chen's inauguration in May 2000, he has made many gestures of good will. This includes encouraging Beijing to start meaningful discussions between Taiwan and Chinese mainland on the issues separating them. It is my hope that both Taiwan and the Chinese mainland will soon begin a dialogue on reunification, leading to a peaceful co-existence, hence, maintaining stability and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Also, I would like to extend my good wishes to President Chen's new cabinet. Mr. Yu Skyikun has been appointed the new premier. Mr. Yu possess a wide range of administrative experience and diplomatic skills which will help bring all political factions together. Other top cabinet posts includes Dr. Lee Ying-yuan, former deputy representative to the United States. In his new role as Secretary-General of the Executive Yuan, Dr. Lee will keep relations between the executive and the legislative branch working smoothly. Another excellent cabinet choice is the new foreign minister Dr. Eugene Chin. Before appointment, he was a diplomat and in previous administrations, he was Minister of Transportation and of Environmental Protection. Last but not least, my best wishes go to Ambassador C.J. Chen. A distinguished career diplomat, he is Taiwan's chief representative in Washington. He is industrious, courteous, and more importantly, experienced. His briefings are crisp, witty, and well-informed. Like many of my colleagues on the Hill, I enjoy working with both him and his knowledgeable and friendly staff. They are wonderful representatives for the Republic of China on Capitol Hill.

Again, my best wishes in the coming year.

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO
EDUCATOR MRS. BARB VOGEL

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a sad development in my district. I recently learned that one of Colorado's great educators will be retiring at the end of the current school year. Mrs. Barb Vogel will soon be leaving her post at Highline Community Elementary School in Aurora, Colorado. Barb is an outstanding teacher in all respects, but her

passion to end slavery around the world, Mr. Speaker, has given me great strength during my short time here in Congress.

Mrs. Vogel and her class of fourth and fifth graders learned of the slave trade in Southern Sudan in 1998 after reading an article about it. Her students, outraged at the realization that slavery still exists in the world today, began to raise money to free Sudanese slaves by making lemonade stands and collecting change in a jar. In remarkably little time, Mrs. Vogel's "little abolitionists" had raised enough money to free one thousand slaves. The class formed the "Slavery That Oppresses People (STOP)" campaign to help educate students around the world about the horror of slavery as it still exists in Sudan and elsewhere.

When I first came to this body, determined to try to do something about the horrific war in Sudan, remarkably few of my colleagues knew the details of the conflict or the extent of the suffering taking place there. The STOP group has helped immeasurably in the fight against that lack of awareness, with two trips to Washington, including one to give testimony to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and one to meet with senior administration officials.

I cannot help but wonder, Mr. Speaker, whether the efforts of Barb Vogel and the STOP campaign have done more to free Sudan from slavery and oppression than have three years of legislative and diplomatic wrangling. In the process of doing so, Barb succeeded in teaching scores of her students that a determined few who are willing to work hard can change the hearts and minds of millions. It is no small feat that she helped her students to prove to the world that one need not be rich or powerful or even grown-up to take a stand against evil.

I have no doubt that the work of the STOP Campaign, led by Mrs. Vogel, will continue after she leaves the classroom in June, and for that, Mr. Speaker, we should all be grateful. I wish Mrs. Vogel the happiest of retirement, for she has certainly earned it.

RECOGNIZING KSEE 24 PORTRAITS
OF SUCCESS HONOREES

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NBC affiliate KSEE 24 and its Portraits of Success program celebrating African-American History Month. Currently in its eighth year, this program combines public service announcements, a five-part news series, and an awards luncheon to recognize the contributions of distinguished local leaders. This year's honorees are Reuben Phillips, Britt King, Bessie Miller, Walter Pierce, and Dr. Mae Rogers.

Reuben Phillips has worked in and served Fresno since he opened his auto part sales store in 1946. Phillips became the first African-American to serve in Fresno's Finance Department in 1977. He has also volunteered at 25 disaster sites with the Fresno-Madera Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Britt King was named the women's basketball head coach at California State University, Fresno in 1998. Since then she has been building a winning program and bringing talent

to the team from all over the Nation. King's impressive resume includes being named Providence College Athlete of the Year in 1986 and Black Coaches' Sports Magazine's Coach of the Year in 1995.

Bessie Miller encourages young people to achieve their dreams through her work as Senior Advisor with Leadership West Fresno. Miller is a Site Manager for the State of California Employment Development Department. She has developed a great rapport with the youth and helps them find the motivation they need to succeed.

Walter Pierce began his work at Fresno State as the university's first affirmative action director. He works through the Office of Advising Services to help students reach their academic goals. Pierce also serves the Athletic Department as an advisor to athletes and a mentor to coaches.

Dr. Mae Rogers began an after-school multi-level learning program during her work with the Affordable Housing Development Corp. Rogers now works with community school students ordered by the court to find an alternative school program.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend KSEE 24 for their Portraits of Success program and honor Reuben Phillips, Britt King, Bessie Miller, Walter Pierce, and Dr. Mae Rogers for the work they have done in the community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing these honorees many more years of continued success.

CONGRATULATIONS LANSDOWNE
VOLUNTEER FIRE ASSOCIATION
#1, INC. ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2002

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Association #1, Inc. on their 100th anniversary.

In response to several local fires that needlessly consumed area homes, citizens of Lansdowne gathered together on February 14, 1902 and resolved to create their own fire department that would protect and preserve the safety and well-being of the entire community. And so, began the history of the Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Association—a history rich with examples of determination, courage, and above all, selflessness.

The Association's members have responded to the call of duty whenever their community, their neighboring community, or their nation needed them. They exemplify the virtues of citizenship. No blizzard, no hurricane, no disaster was ever too great to hinder the members from serving their neighbors.

To this day, the spirit of community that sparked its founders burns relentlessly among the members of the Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Association. I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting the bravery and fortitude that is the essence of the Lansdowne Volunteer Fire Association's service.