

TRIBUTE TO COLORADO REGIONAL  
TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Colorado's Regional Transportation District (RTD) for being named the best transit agency in the United States and Canada by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA).

The APTA represents 1,500 public transportation agencies nationwide. This award is given for large systems that provide more than 30 million passenger trips per year, and is based on the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the member agencies. The award measures performance over a 3-year period, and recognizes outstanding service and operations from 2000 to 2002.

Denver has been named the most congested city of its size in America and the third most congested city nationally. So, RTD's task is a big one. But it has performed admirably—keeping its operating costs competitive, increasing its ridership and delivering outstanding service to its customers. The District provided more than 81 million passenger miles last year within the seven county metropolitan Denver area, operating over 1,100 buses over 179 routes and 49 light rail vehicles. At the same time, through an aggressive accident prevention program, RTD has reduced accidents over the 3-year period by 54 percent. To date in 2003, accidents have been reduced an additional 32 percent below last year's levels, reaching another all-time record low. And, with an attentive response to Colorado's ever-growing population, RTD has continued to add rail and bus transit services and been able to reduce traffic congestion by 13 percent by providing mass transit options throughout the metropolitan area. Congestion costs have been reduced by \$220 million annually, reducing air pollution, fuel consumption, and drive times.

With its sites on the future needs of the metropolitan region, new light rail systems are being planned and developed. A recent public-private partnership with the Colorado Department of Transportation, the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the City and County of Denver and local landowners, a development effort will renovate historic Union Station and the surrounding 19 acres to create an intermodal facility that will develop and expand transportation systems and commercial opportunities in central Denver.

RTD has been recognized for its quality, its sophisticated operations and its many safety improvements. Employees at the District benefit from General Manager, Cal Marsella's hands-on management style, and RTD has been recognized for its advancement of minority and female employees, and sensitivity to low-income and disabled customers through eco-passes and specially equipped buses. RTD's internal management has focused on strong marketing and community relations, policy development, financial management, and improved departmental and safety operations. With a concerted effort to provide innovative approaches to challenging transportation needs, Marsella has guided his 2,400 employees and 725 private service provider

employees to achieving this outstanding award.

I think Mary Blue, the RTD Chairman of the Board, put it well when she commended the staff by saying "Winning APTA's highest award shows that our prudent policies and sensible fiscal approach have paid off. This is a win not only for our employees and board members, but also for our passengers and taxpayers."

The Denver metropolitan area and Colorado are fortunate to have the Regional Transportation District provide outstanding service to its residents. We applaud their performance and celebrate the well deserved recognition they have received from the American Public Transportation Association.

RECOGNIZING PRESIDENT CHEN  
SHUI-BIAN OF TAIWAN UPON HIS  
RECEPTION OF THE INTER-  
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS  
AWARD

**TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the experts told us during the 1980's that freedom for South Africa was a lost cause, and sanctions would never work. South Africa is now free. They said that the Soviets would never release Nathan Sharansky. He is now a Member of the Israeli Cabinet. They said that freedom for East Timor was a lost cause. East Timor is now free. And they said democracy, free press and civil society would not thrive in Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Taiwan are living proof that there are no "lost causes" when it comes to human rights, only battles yet to be won. Taiwan's democratic development is exemplary of Chinese people around the world who, regardless of where they live, seek the same basic human freedoms as everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, like South Africa, Soviet refusniks, and East Timor, the road to freedom in Taiwan was not easy, and there were many choices to be made along the way. After political activists in Taiwan were arrested in 1980, Chen Shui-bian could have stayed silent. But instead, he joined the team of attorneys defending them. In 1986, when the Taiwan Government locked Mr. Chen behind bars for "criminal libel"—otherwise known as telling the truth—it would have been easy to withdraw from politics upon his release. Instead, Mr. Chen joined the Democratic Progressive Party, and ran successfully for the legislature in 1989.

In 1994, Mr. Chen ran for Mayor of Taipei even though the position of mayor had never been held by a member of the opposition party. He won. And during the 2000 Presidential elections in Taiwan, it seemed inconceivable that a member of the opposition would actually win the presidency for the first time in Taiwan's history. Not only did he prevail, but the peaceful transition of power demonstrated the strength and vitality of Taiwan's nascent democracy.

Mr. Speaker, it would have been easy upon Mr. Chen's election to focus solely on "bread and butter" issues—the economy, national security, education. He did all that, but Mr. Chen

never forgot the battle he waged for freedom, and the moral imperative to constantly fight for internationally-recognized human rights, freedom and democracy.

Mr. Speaker, President Chen Shui-bian proceeded to enshrine human rights as part of Taiwan's laws. He established Taiwan's first-ever Human Rights Advisory Committee. He continues to fight for the Taiwanese people to receive the respect they deserve in the international community. And he has zealously guarded and promoted Taiwan's democratic system, serving as a beacon for democracy throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

Mr. Speaker, some great fighters for freedom and human rights have preceded President Chen Shui-bian in receiving the International Human Rights Award—Nelson Mandela, Elie Wiesel, Andrei Sakharov, and George Mitchell, to name but a few. Given Mr. Chen's decades-long struggle for human rights and democracy in Taiwan, it is only fit and just that he has been invited to join this most-exclusive and noble club.

It is with great pleasure that I enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of President Chen's speech upon accepting the International Human Rights Award.

(By President Chen Shui-bian, Republic of China)

President Horton, Congressman Lantos, Congressman Ackerman, Mr. Rabaut, Mr. Wu, Executive Director Dr. Kantrow, Board Member Dr. Chen, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen: Good evening!

On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, I would like to pay special tribute to the International League for Human Rights (ILHR). Over the last 62 years since its establishment, the League has worked unrelentingly in carrying out its mission of defending human rights and rights advocates who have risked their lives to promote the ideals of a just and civil society.

The Human Rights Award conferred on me this evening is an honor bestowed upon the 23 million people of Taiwan. It signifies both affirmations and expectations. The award is representative of the international validation that the people of Taiwan have received for decades of effort in pursuit of democracy, freedom and human rights. It is also a reminder that we have assumed by destiny the duty of protecting human rights and of upholding international human rights principles.

The year 2000 marked Taiwan's first peaceful transfer of power and our country's first alternation of political parties, an accomplishment unprecedented in the history of all Chinese societies. In my inaugural speech, I proposed a goal of building our nation on the principles of human rights. We are committed to abide by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action. We also pledged to bring Taiwan on par with the international human rights system despite our authoritarian past.

Over the past three and a half years, concrete actions have been taken to fulfill our commitments. In step with the institutionalization of human rights protection mechanisms, comprehensive human rights policies and implementation measures have been carefully drafted, as outlined in our Human Rights Policy White Paper, and the Organic Law of the National Human Rights Commission is currently under review in our National Legislature.

My office has established a presidential Human Rights Advisory Committee and the Cabinet has also established an Inter-Ministerial Committee. Both have been collaborating with local and international human

rights NGOs for the purpose of incorporating the International Bill of Rights into a "Taiwan Bill of Rights." Furthermore, the "National Human Rights Report" will soon be published—another first for Taiwan—and work is in progress for a National Human Rights Memorial Museum responsible for social education and raising public awareness.

My friends, although our journey has not been easy, Taiwan has not stood alone. Support from the international community, particularly the United States, has played a critical role. I will never forget the watershed event—the Kaohsiung Incident—in Taiwan's democratization process. On December 10, 1979, a group of Taiwan citizens defiantly held a rally to commemorate International Human Rights Day. Because such activity was forbidden by the ruling regime of the time, rally leaders were charged with illegal assembly and conspiracy for sedition.

As a defense attorney in the Kaohsiung Incident, I personally witnessed the efforts of ILHR, who sent Professor John Kaplan to Taiwan to observe the trial at the military tribunal. The rest of the international human rights community also rendered assistance—and inspiration—to Taiwan's democratic movement.

My wife and I were both victims of human rights violation. I was sentenced to prison for fighting for freedom of speech. My wife was seriously injured in what is believed to be a politically motivated accident and must spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. However, like the brave sacrifices made by Taiwan's pioneers of democracy, our suffering only serves to strengthen the determination of the Taiwanese people in their pursuit of political and personal freedoms.

Today, there are no more black lists, no more political prisoners, no more religious persecution. Citizens in Taiwan now enjoy full civil rights—freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, freedom of press and other categories of rights. Despite our exclusion from the United Nations, Taiwan has never slowed its pace to push for human rights reform.

At a time when the international community is caught up in debates on "clashes of civilization" with regard to human rights protection, Taiwan's experience is proof that human rights are a universal value and humanity's common asset. All countries and individuals should have access to these universal rights; none should be subjected to a double-standard. As stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

I would like to take this opportunity to express appreciation to the government of the United States of America for its efforts to help promote human rights in Taiwan. Section II(C) of the "Taiwan Relations Act", which was passed by the U.S. Congress in 1979, stipulates that "the preservation and enhancement of the human rights of all the people on Taiwan are hereby reaffirmed as objective of the United States." We appreciate, and are always mindful of the concern and support a more established democracy has given to a fledging one.

Taiwan's achievement in human rights and democracy so far would not have been possible were it not for the generosity of those of the international community who have stood behind us. Likewise, we would not be able to receive the affirmation and commendation of the ILHR and other international human rights organizations.

Of course, a sound and solid institutionalized system is requisite for the effective pro-

tection of human rights. Taiwan has now established a fair electoral environment with an increasingly vigorous civil society. However, much remain to be further strengthened in terms of consolidating and deepening our democracy and human rights. Whether we succeed or not would rely on the collective and continuing efforts of the people, particularly on whether we can consolidate our democracy by rectifying the inadequacies in our constitutional framework.

More than two centuries ago, the founding fathers of the United States spurred in Constitutional debate, prompting a great New Yorker, Mr. Alexander Hamilton to criticize "the insufficiency of the present Confederation to preserve the Union." He argued in "The Federalist Papers" that the Articles of Confederation failed to address issues such as a checks-and-balances system of the government, separation of powers among agencies, fair representation of the states, and safeguarding freedom of the people. He concluded that the very design of the Articles of Confederation was insufficient to meet the needs of the American people.

As a result of extensive discussions and debates by America's founding fathers, the Constitution of the United States of America was created and has been honored to this day. The U.S. Constitution became the pulse of American society, and allowed for amendments, including Bill of Rights, to be incorporated, thereby guaranteeing freedom and laying a strong foundation for sustainable development of the American democracy.

Taiwan now faces a similar "insufficiency" of the constitutional framework. As my country's leader, it is imperative that I shoulder responsibility for Taiwan's national development and set a clear vision for the future. I believe that a sound and sustainable constitutional framework can be created through rational debate and engendered by civic consciousness. This is the rationale upon which I have proposed the concept of "hastening the birth of a new constitution for Taiwan."

The "hastening of a new Taiwan constitution" will determine whether or not our democracy can come into full bloom. This, strengthened and supplemented by the institutions of direct democracy, such as referendums, would be a necessary step in advancing Taiwan's human rights and the deepening of its democracy. One must not be misled by the contention that holding referendums or re-engineering our constitutional framework, bears any relevance to the "Four No's plus one" pledge presented in my inaugural speech. Neither should matters concerning Taiwan's constitutional development be simplistically interpreted as a political debate of "unification versus independence." I stand before you today, appealing to the collective conscience of the world community, asking that the voice of Taiwan be heard, for ours is the voice of democracy and progress. It is my job as President, to safeguard the security, democracy, freedom and human rights of the 23 million people of Taiwan, and, in so doing, build a solid foundation for the sustainable progress of Taiwan's continuing democratization.

The progression of democracy and human rights in Taiwan not only signifies a triumph of our people in the relentless pursuit for freedom, it is also a torch of democracy for all Chinese societies and has become an indispensable asset to the United States as well as the international society. I have great confidence that by advancing our democracy, we shall show where Taiwan stands in terms of values: a veritable part of the world's democratic community.

While furthering human rights in Taiwan, I call for a joint effort among Asian governments and regional NGOs for a regional

framework for the advancement of human rights, including a state-sponsored regional charter, a regional commission, and a regional court of human rights. The newly founded Taiwan Foundation for Democracy can serve as one of the channels through which we shall endeavor to make our rightful contributions and share out experience in the protection and promotion of human rights. I want Taiwan to be a positive contributing force in the international human rights movement.

On the Green Island, situated off the south-east coast of Taiwan, there used to be a concentration camp and prison for the confinement and deprivation of countless human rights defenders. On this island, the Taiwanese equivalent to the infamous Robin Island of South Africa, there stands a monument on which names of victims of human rights abuse are inscribed. The epitaph reads: "In those times, how mothers wept through long nights for their imprisoned children."

I have kept that epitaph in my heart, and tonight, I would like to share it with you as a tribute to all who support, advocate, and have stood up in the name of human rights: Let there be no more fear, let there be no more tears. Let the world take Taiwan as an example. She is emerging from her democratic metamorphosis.

Thank you.

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JONATHAN ROBERT BROUSE

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has devoted himself to serving others through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Jonathan Robert Brouse must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 402, the residents of Coshocton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Jonathan Robert Brouse as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

HONORING DR. PAUL F. HOM

**HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 4, 2003*

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the late Dr. Paul F. Hom, a man who made numerous invaluable contributions to the Sacramento Community. Due to strong public support, the Sacramento County Health and Human Services will memorialize Dr. Hom's important service to the community by naming the new County Primary Care Building after him. As his friends, family, and admirers gather to pay tribute to Dr. Hom's remarkable life