

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR C.J.  
CHEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, soon Ambassador C.J. Chen of the Republic of China (ROC) will be returning to Taiwan after serving as his country's chief representative in the United States for the last four years. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and salute Ambassador Chen for everything he has done to improve the political, economic, and cultural ties between the United States and Taiwan during his service here in Washington, D.C.

The Republic of China has been one of our most important and loyal allies in the World; and Ambassador Chen has worked diligently to strengthen the ties that bind our two great Nations despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Taiwan. Today, U.S.-Taiwan relations are the best they have been since the late 1970s. In fact, Taiwan and the United States are friends and partners, not merely allies, and I think that in large measure this is due to the tireless efforts of Ambassador Chen.

An expert in international law and diplomacy, Ambassador Chen has spent 37 years in the diplomatic service of the Republic of China on Taiwan—with over half of his career spent here in the United States. In fact, he has been assigned to Washington, D.C., three different times, beginning as a third secretary in the ROC Embassy in 1971. In 1983, he began a seven-year stint as Deputy Representative for Taiwan's Representative Office, and in 2000, he started his present job as Representative. Over the course of his long and distinguished career, C.J. has also held several prominent positions within Taiwan's government, serving as Foreign Minister, Government Spokesman, and Legislator.

During the past four years, Ambassador Chen has forged many close personal relationships and made hundreds of friends—I am proud to count myself among that company—proving that he was one of the hardest-working diplomats and also one of the most gracious hosts, on Embassy Row. With respect, graciousness, and a keen sense of humor, wit, Ambassador Chen has helped many American audiences, large and small to more fully understand the sometimes difficult issues relating to Taiwan, such as Taiwan's recent Presidential elections and national referendum. He has also helped put into perspective Taiwan's military needs, Taiwan's efforts to join international organizations like the World Health Organization, and Taiwan's economic and political achievements, especially in the area of human rights and freedom of the press, where the actions of Taiwan stand in stark contrast to the brutal perpetrators of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Mr. Speaker, I am personally sad that Ambassador Chen and his beautiful wife, Yolanda Ho, are leaving Washington. It is a little-known fact that Yolanda—a renowned designer in Taiwan's textile and apparel industry—actually designed the wedding gown for Linda Hall Daschle when she married the current Senate Minority leader, TOM DASCHLE of South Dakota. I hope that they will both look back fond-

ly upon their years in Washington as a valuable and rewarding time. The diplomatic and cultural community of Washington will certainly be diminished by their absence. Nevertheless, we are grateful for the time they could spend here, and I know that they will both continue to make lasting contributions to the future enrichment of relations between Taipei and Washington. I wish them all the best for a successful and happy future, which they so deeply deserve.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAMLEY  
FUNERAL HOME IN DIVERNON, IL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bramley Funeral home in Divernon, Illinois on the occasion of its 80th anniversary on June 6, 2004.

Bob Bramley helped his late father, Chester Bramley, in the family's mortuary business many years ago. Bob graduated from high school in 1939 and went to work as a clerk for the C & IM Railroad; served in the armed forces from 1942 to 1946 as a Master Sergeant in the Army Medical Corp. In 1947, he attended mortuary school in Saint Louis, Missouri and graduated in 1948. Bob and his wife Carolyn were married on December 27, 1947, and worked with his father until his father passed away in 1967. The Bramley's also operated an ambulance service, which discontinued service in 1981.

Tim Bramley, Bob and Carolyn's son, went to mortuary school in Carbondale, Illinois and received his license in 1979. Tim then went to work at the Bisch Funeral Home in Springfield, Illinois for 13 years. Tim left Bisch Funeral Home and went to work with his father when the Bramley's opened a second funeral home in Auburn, Illinois on June 4, 1991. Tim's daughter Sarah graduated from the Carl Sandburg Mortuary School in Galesburg, Illinois in May of 2003 and is currently serving as an apprentice with her grandfather and father.

In addition to the family's business, Bob has also worked for the Postal Service for 22 years, kept books for the Divernon School District for 30 years, and worked as the Village treasurer for 49 years. Bob also served many years the secretary and treasurer of the Divernon Fire Protection District and is currently the secretary and treasurer of the Brush Creek Cemetery Board, a position which he has held for 45 years.

Bob states that his wife, Carolyn, has always been there in the background; her help and support have been invaluable to him throughout the years. Mr. Bramley feels strongly about providing this service to the community, even though being in a small town is difficult because every person who passes away is your friend. Mr. Bramley has dedicated his whole life to the community and the village of Divernon has recognized June 6, 2004 as "Bob Bramley Day."

FALLEN HEROES

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 2, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation by paying the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom and democracy.

While we should honor all our nation's veterans both living and dead throughout the year, on this particular Memorial Day, we pay tribute to the nation's World War II veterans. On May 29th, the World War II memorial, a fitting tribute to "the Greatest Generation," will be dedicated on the National Mall. Hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans and their families will visit the memorial which is a permanent reminder to us and to future generations that the sacrifices made by the soldiers who served overseas, their families, and the Americans who were on the homefront, saved the world from tyranny. From the beaches of Normandy to the Battle of Midway to the construction of the China-Burma-India Road, these soldiers fought for a cause bigger than themselves.

One of these heroes, Michel Thomas, resides in my congressional district and recently was awarded the Silver Star for his extraordinary courage during World War II. I, along with Senator John McCain (R-AZ), worked with the Department of Defense on Mr. Thomas's behalf so that he finally would receive the honor he so justly deserves.

Michel Thomas was born in Poland to a Jewish family with a thriving textile business. In 1933, he fled Hitler's regime in Germany for France. Thomas last saw his family in 1937. He later learned they were all murdered at Auschwitz.

During the war, he survived two years of concentration and slave labor camps in Vichy France and narrowly escaped deportation to Auschwitz. He joined the Secret Army of the French Resistance, where he was active for two years as a commando leader. In 1943, Thomas was caught by and escaped from Klaus Barbie, the notorious Butcher of Lyon. The next year Thomas served in Combat Intelligence in the 180th Regiment of the U.S. Army 45th Division, The Thunderbirds, and was nominated for the Silver Star for his bravery.

On April 29, 1945, Thomas, an agent in the U.S. Army's Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), arrived at Dachau concentration camp on the day of liberation. Thomas interrogated and photographed the crematorium workers. Two days later Thomas captured the "Hangman of Dachau," Emil Mahl, who was subsequently convicted of war crimes.

In early May 1945, Thomas tracked a convoy of trucks to a paper mill outside Munich, where he rescued from destruction the Nazi Party's worldwide membership card file of over ten million members. The Nazi leadership had shipped the cards, along with tons of other important Third Reich government documents, to be pulped in the final days of the war. These documents became the heart of the collections of the U.S.-run Berlin Document Center, and were crucial in the Nuremberg war crimes trials and in the denazification of Germany.

In 1946, Thomas helped to capture Gustav Knittel, who was convicted of war crimes for