

past president of the Reserve Officers Association of Guam.

Throughout his life, Carlos promoted the preservation and celebration of the Chamorro culture. He was among the first authors of plays and pageants depicting Chamorro epic tales, and he wrote essays calling attention to the need to do more to promote the Chamorro language and culture. He encouraged cultural groups to perform chants and dances that depicted Chamorro culture in the pre-contact era. He helped to found Pa'a Taotao Tano', an organization of cultural performers and their supporters who are dedicated to preserving a more authentic portrayal of Chamorro culture in song and dance. He promoted indigenous culture and pride at a time when Guam was undergoing many social and economic changes, and his voice reminded us then as now of the importance of the Chamorro culture to our people and to our nation.

The people of Guam will always remember Speaker Carlos Pangelinan Taitano as a visionary leader who was proud of his Chamorro heritage. He served our nation and our island as a soldier and statesman and his contributions will always be appreciated and

remembered. I join the people of Guam in extending our sympathy to Marian Taitano and to their children, Linda, Carl and Tyrone and their extended family. Speaker Carlos P. Taitano was a leader and public servant who inspired us in many ways and we honor his contributions to our island community and to our nation.

WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the second annual World Autism Awareness Day. As the Founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Children's Health Care Caucus, I recognize the debilitating force that is autism and I am proud to recognize Worldwide Autism Awareness Day in order to bring attention to this life-altering and, too often, unrecognized disorder.

I am proud to consistently support medical research on autism and its causes. I have worked with many members of this body and many other individuals and groups to increase funding to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in order to more fully understand the root causes and best prevention practices to minimize its debilitating effects.

But we must continue to work. Evidence shows that one in every 150 American children is affected by an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Last year at this time, there was no medical detection or cure for autism. This year, there has been progress to uncover more about the root causes of ASD related disorders and why they may occur more often than expected among people who have certain other medical conditions.

Families need hope, and we must make a commitment to help them find the missing pieces to the puzzle. I urge all of my colleagues to continue supporting NIH funding so that—as groups like Autism Speaks and Families for Early Autism Treatment know—we can continue to fight against the fastest-growing developmental disability in the world.