

Whereas, Corporal Easterday exposed himself to two separate fixed automatic weapons positions in order to relieve his platoon from deadly suppression fire; and

Whereas, Corporal Easterday eliminated both positions with expert use of both rifle fire and hand grenades while completely unsupported and exposed to enemy fire; and

Whereas, Corporal Easterday's actions allowed his platoon to advance on the flank of their objective and quickly capture it, saving lives and material with the speed of its accomplishment; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Corporal Carlos M. Easterday on winning the Bronze Star with "V" Device for heroism and gallant action. We recognize the incredible determination, loyalty, courage, and valor he displayed for his comrades on that day in August 1951, and all the days of his service to the United States Army.

IN HONOR OF BRENT LARKIN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Brent Larkin, upon his retirement as Editorial Page Director of the Plain Dealer, where his political columns and news stories inspired emotion, provoked thought and blazed across the pages of our City's daily newspaper for nearly thirty years.

A native Clevelander, Brent Larkin graduated from Brush High School in 1965. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ohio University, and later a doctorate of law degree from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1986. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1987.

Brent's interest in Cleveland's political scene was sparked in 1970, when he was hired by the Cleveland Press to cover the news at Cleveland City Hall. In 1976, he was named the newspaper's politics editor. In 1981, he joined The Plain Dealer as a politics writer then later as a columnist. In 1991, he was named director of The Plain Dealer's opinion pages. Brent Larkin has been honored several times over the years for his work in journalism, including an induction into the Cleveland Press Club Hall of Fame in October of 2002. Brent's editorial columns deftly highlighted Cleveland's political and social scenes for Ohio's largest newspaper.

Madam Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Brent Larkin, upon his recent retirement from The Cleveland Plain Dealer. Fearless in expressing his opinion, his columns were entertaining, informative and above all, his ability to zero in on the heart of an issue in just a few strategically written paragraphs earned him a constituency of readers that kept coming back to see what he would write next.

TAIWAN'S INVITATION TO THE
WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, at the end of last month, Taiwan received an invitation from the World Health Organization (WHO) to attend this year's World Health Assembly (WHA) meeting as an observer under the name "Chinese Taipei." The WHA weeklong meeting started a few days ago on Monday, May 18, 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland.

This week marks the first time Taiwan has been allowed to participate in a meeting or activity of a specialized United Nations agency since losing its UN membership to China in 1971. I have seen some label Taiwan's participation a "breakthrough" and I have heard the "goodwill of the mainland authorities" praised.

Yes, we should celebrate the announcement that Taiwan will finally be permitted to participate in the WHO. But we also need to remind ourselves that participation as an "observer" does not give Taiwan the right to vote. In addition, Taiwan's participation is not permanent; it comes only under Beijing's sponsorship on a one-year-at-a-time basis. While we are grateful that Taiwan has been given the chance to attend the WHA meeting, I hope that Taiwan's 23 million people will one day be represented at the WHO as a full fledged participant.

We all remember that in 2003 Taiwan was struck by an outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. By the end of May 2003, 483 probable cases had been reported. A total of 60 people died. Worries over SARS subsequently hampered international travel and commerce, dealing a serious blow to Taiwan's economy. This morning, Taiwan reported its second case of H1N1 flu.

Despite these outbreaks, China continues to block Taiwan's full and equal membership in the WHO. Disease knows no borders and I believe the current threat of a worldwide epidemic demonstrates Taiwan's need for the highest level of access to the WHO as possible.

In addition, I would prefer to see Taiwan join the WHO under the name "Taiwan," which, after all, is the name of the country. Taipei is merely Taiwan's capital.

When I was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2002, some of my colleagues had already been campaigning for Taiwan's inclusion in the WHO for more than five years, ever since Taiwan launched its campaign to participate in the WHO in 1997.

I am concerned that that Chinese approval is becoming a prerequisite for Taiwan's participation in any international organization, and that countries will begin to view China as Taiwan's suzerain. If this view becomes the accepted international norm, Taiwan's current status as an independent, sovereign state would be undermined.

It is an outrage that China has essentially blocked Taiwan from participating in the WHO for so long. I firmly believe that the health of Taiwan's 23 million citizens should not be used as a political weapon. I therefore urge my colleagues to join me in continuing to support Taiwan's full and equal membership in the World Health Organization.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTH
MAUI COASTAL PRESERVATION
ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the North Maui Coastal Preservation Act of 2009, a bill directing the National Park Service to study the suitability and feasibility of designating certain lands along the northern coast of Maui, between Sprecklesville and Paia, as a unit of the National Park System.

The citizens of Maui strongly support preservation of this coast, which provides important open space and public beach areas. Thousands of post cards in support of creating a national park or national seashore along this coast have been sent to me and to my predecessor.

This beautiful coastline is under significant development pressure. Its closeness to major population centers in Maui and its popularity with both visitors and residents makes protecting access a major concern.

Supporters of this park have asked that it be named after Congresswoman Patsy Takemoto Mink, a native of Maui who grew up in the Hamakua Poko/Paia area. While this bill, which authorizes a study, does not direct what the prospective national park would be named, I would certainly support naming it after Patsy Mink, whose commitment to the people of the island and state was without question.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

MR. SCOTT HOLUPKA

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor Mr. Scott Holupka, recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award from The Optimist Club of Dundalk, Inc. Scott has dedicated his time and talents to the constant improvement and revitalization of the Dundalk community.

Scott is a life-long resident of Dundalk, Maryland, and a native to the Three Garden Village in southeastern Baltimore County. He went on to attend nearby Dundalk High School. In 1983, he graduated from Johns Hopkins University with a Ph.D. in sociology. Soon after graduating, he returned to Dundalk, where he immediately began working on a project called the "Greening of Dundalk." The recycling effort included in this program was the first of its kind in Baltimore County.

Since then, Scott has held positions in many community organizations including president of the Board of the Family Crisis Center, co-creator of the Southeast Neighborhood Development Coalition, member of the Baltimore Citizens Planning and Housing Association, president of the Greater Dundalk Community Council, and cofounder of the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation. These organizations are just a glimpse into the busy, community-oriented lives Scott and his wife, Amy, have led.