

TAIWAN CELEBRATES
PRESIDENTIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, a year ago, Mr. Chen Shui-bian, a former mayor of Taipei, captured the imagination of Taiwan voters and won Taiwan's presidency. Twelve months later, Mr. Chen has impressed the world with his leadership. At home, Chen has continued to push for greater democratic rights and accelerated economic reforms, especially banking reform. He has pledged to make his people and the world proud of Taiwan's human rights record and to do everything possible to stimulate Taiwan's domestic economy. In addition President Chen has announced on a number of occasions how he will try his best to conduct meaningful dialogues with Mainland Chinese leaders, hoping to achieve eventual reunification with the mainland.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan is an open, free and democratic country, home to over 93 political parties, and virtually every level of public office in Taiwan is vigorously contested through free and fair elections. Most important of all, Taiwan is our friend and one of our most important trading partners. We wish Taiwan well, and its President good luck and good fortune on the eve of his first anniversary in office. We welcome President Chen to the U.S. and wish him the best.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN JOHNSON

HON. JAMES. H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, this Friday, May 25th, a celebration will occur in my Connecticut congressional district that honors a man most deserving of our praise, respect and congratulations. Franklin Johnson of Naugatuck, Connecticut will be honored for 50 years of service to veterans, young people, his community and his country.

Born October 13, 1924, Mr. Johnson attended school in Naugatuck, graduating in 1942. Like many young men at that time, upon graduation he enlisted in the Army and saw significant action overseas, including the D-Day invasion at Omaha Beach, the liberation of Paris, and the Battle of the Bulge.

Following his years of military service to our nation, Mr. Johnson returned home and graduated from Springfield College in 1951. Two other events occurred that year that reflect the character and dedication of Frank Johnson. In August, he wed the former Jeanne DeCarlo, with whom, as his beloved wife of 50 years, he has raised a family of four children, and now eight grandchildren. That same year, he started his career at Naugatuck High School, where he eventually served for thirty-eight years as a teacher, guidance counselor and administrator.

At Naugatuck High School, Mr. Johnson paid tribute to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces, especially those that made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Each year he has conducted a ceremony

honoring our fallen heroes on the Friday before Memorial Day. This Memorial Day will mark his 50th such service.

Mr. Johnson has served as Post Commander of American Legion Post No. 17 in Naugatuck and has been a mainstay in Connecticut in keeping alive the memory of all servicemen and women. Since 1988, he has served as Chairman of the Naugatuck Veterans Council, which sponsors the annual Naugatuck Memorial Day Parade, recognized as one of the finest such events in the entire United States.

Mr. Speaker, during the course of Frank Johnson's nearly 77 years, he has dedicated himself to the advancement of Naugatuck's young people, to his fellow veterans across the nation, to his community and to his family. He has set an exemplary standard for all of the rest of us to follow.

On behalf of the Congress of the United States, I commend Frank Johnson on his service to his country and thank him for his great contributions to securing and improving the quality of life for us all.

HONORING HOWARD AND MARY
LESTER

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Howard and Mary Lester for their longstanding entrepreneurial and philanthropic commitment to the San Francisco community. The Lesters are being honored on May 30, 2001 by San Francisco's Delancey Street Foundation, a residential rehabilitation community that provides housing and training to thousands of ex-convicts and recovering addicts at no cost to the client or taxpayers. Delancey Street will thank the Lesters for their generosity in donating furniture, dishes and flatware to the foundation's Crossroads Café, making it possible for hundreds of people to be trained in the hospitality field.

Howard Lester purchased Williams-Sonoma, Inc. in 1978. As Chief Executive Officer and Board Chair, he built Williams-Sonoma, The Pottery Barn, Hold Everything, and Chambers into phenomenal success stories. In April 2001, he turned over his CEO responsibilities, but remains Chairman of the Board. In addition, he has committed to sharing his expertise and success with young people through his endorsement of the Lester Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of California at Berkeley.

Mary Lester is a longtime philanthropist whose activism with various nonprofit boards and community organizations has greatly enriched the City of San Francisco. She chaired the Raising Hope charity campaign, raising millions of dollars for cancer research programs at the University of California at San Francisco Medical Center.

I am proud to join my constituents in thanking Howard and Mary Lester for their years of service. Our community has been blessed by their visions and generosity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL
SECURITY NUMBER PRIVACY
AND IDENTITY THEFT PREVEN-
TION ACT OF 2001

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 25, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today we continue our quest to protect the privacy of every American by cracking down on the fraud, abuse, and theft of Social Security numbers through the introduction of the "Social Security Number Privacy and Identity Theft Prevention Act of 2001."

Beginning last year, the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security has heard about the truly devastating effects of identity theft. Colonel and Mrs. Stevens of Maryland saw their Social Security numbers used on 33 fraudulent accounts accumulating \$113,000 of bad debt. Mr. Bob Horowitz, a single father and small business owner from my district, saw his number used to open five fraudulent credit accounts. Months and years later these victims were still spending time, money, and energy to clear their names.

This week we heard from two more of the countless number of victims who have had their identity stolen and their credit ruined. Nicole Robinson of Maryland had her personal information stolen by a worker for a business that maintained HMO data bases. Her identity thief charged \$36,000 worth of goods in three months using Nicole's hard-earned good credit. These crimes have impacted Nicole's ability to refinance her home, obtain credit, and purchase cellular phone service.

Emeka Moneme of the District of Columbia had his personal property stolen at a gym in Ohio last year. He believes the crucial piece of personal identification his thief obtained was his Social Security number. This theft resulted in 13 fraudulent accounts with a total of \$30,000 in stolen credit.

It's no wonder why, in a Wall Street Journal poll last year, respondents ranked privacy as their number one concern in the 21st century, ahead of wars, terrorism, and environmental disasters.

When Social Security numbers were created 65 years ago, their only purpose was to track a worker's earnings so that Social Security benefits could be calculated. But today, use of the Social Security number is pervasive.

We have literally developed a culture of dependence on the Social Security number. Businesses and governments use the number as the primary way of identifying

Although Social Security numbers are used for many legitimate purposes, the wide availability and easy access to this very personal information has greatly facilitated Social Security number-related crimes and generated a growing concern for privacy. According to the Federal Trade Commission, Social Security numbers are a crucial piece of information used to commit identity theft.

The occurrence of identity fraud against U.S. consumers has increased dramatically in recent years. Identity theft is considered the fastest growing financial crime in the country,