

GENERAL

Tennesseans Stand With Taiwan

The Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has always viewed non-conformity to them as a threat. In Xinjiang province, state leadership continues to wage genocide against the Muslim Uyghur minority, and in Hong Kong, the CCP led a hostile takeover of the local democratic government. However, this authoritarian aggression has faced overwhelming opposition in Taiwan. In spite of Beijing's demands for reunification and reeducation, over half of the island's citizens support independence. President Trump knew this and recognized Taiwan on the world stage by intentionally strengthening America's relationships with Taiwan instead of with the Chinese Communist Party. However, President Xi Jinping views this momentum toward a free Taiwan as a direct challenge to his authority. Desperate to silence dissenters and guarantee a historic third term in office this year, President Xi launched a new round of military exercises intended to scare the world into silence.

These demonstrations escalated following Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip in early August but did not dissuade me from making my own

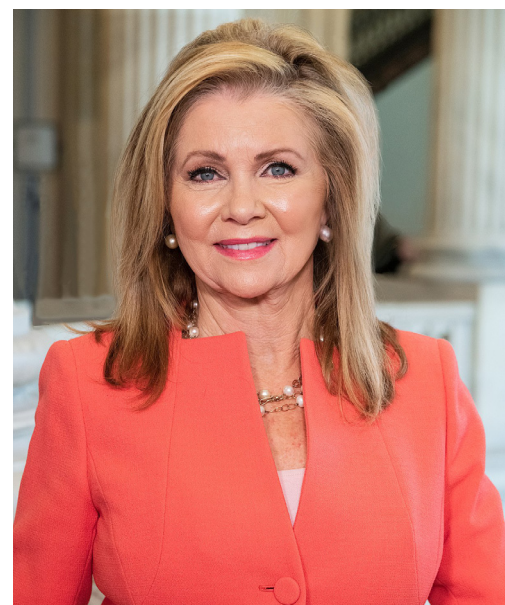
journey to the Indo-Pacific. After stops in Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea, I met with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu to express America's support. I also delivered remarks before Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, where I publicly reaffirmed America's backing of Taiwan in front of dozens of diplomats and ambassadors. When the CCP heard my speech, they responded directly to my office by doubling down on their denials of Taiwan's independence and levying veiled threats to regional stability.

This unhinged response is indicative of how much China has to lose. A reunified Taiwan would grant China more control over the South China Sea. In addition to being a strategic military stronghold, the South China Sea also plays host to one third of all maritime trade. In terms of production, Taiwan is a powerhouse: more than 90% of all advanced semiconductor chips, which are essential for cars, medical technology, and modern appliances, are made in Taiwan.

Without access to Taiwan's semiconductor market, the United States' economy would suffer.

Domestic producers are working quickly to fill potential gaps in the supply chain, but in the meantime, Chinese aggression poses a direct threat to the emerging domestic vehicle production industry in Tennessee. When I talk with folks in the Volunteer State, they are frustrated that more is not being done to stand up to the CCP. In response, I have introduced legislation to secure semiconductor supply chains and strengthen relationships with our partners in the Indo-Pacific Region. My visit to Taiwan took these efforts a step further by demonstrating to China that we will not relent in our defense of democracy.

While it would be easy to ignore what is happening overseas, Tennesseans aren't content leaving this up to diplomats. We know the danger that China poses and that there is no path to countering China through cowardice. Tennesseans stand with Taiwan, and they expect the White House and Congress to follow suit. With the United States leading the way, Taiwan will remain sovereign and the New Axis of Evil will not win. If the United States backs down, China's dominance is all but guaranteed.



By Senator Marsha Blackburn Communist China is on a mission for dominance. At the helm of the New Axis of Evil, China has indicated they will invade independent countries and destroy democratic leadership to achieve that end. My recent visit to Taiwan made it abundantly clear that the leaders in Taiwan want the United States and our allies to stand with them as they fight to keep their independence.

Veteran: from front

Community outreach programs, such as Ready to Learn, the Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest and the WTCI Kids Klub, were also founded under Mr. Hogstrom's influence.

After beginning in 1973 as a producer/anchor/reporter for KBYU-TV/FM in Provo, Utah, his career progressed to include positions in commercial, cable access and noncommercial stations.

Mr. Hogstrom grew up and received his early education in West Africa. He earned two bachelor's degrees from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah—one in mass communications, the other in international relations. His master's degree also is from BYU in mass communications with a minor in political science. Mr. Hogstrom, who revealed that his road to success hasn't always been easy, offered words of wisdom to future business leaders.

"First of all, prepare yourself," he advised. "In addition to that, persevere and don't give up. Be deter-

mined, because there will always be people trying to stab you in the back, especially in the world we live in today. But determination, planning and critical thinking, that opens doors and will get you results."

From 2005-2008, Mr. Hogstrom served as president and CEO at Kansas City (Missouri) Public Television, and from 2011-2013 as director and general manager at the Utah Public Network.

When a search committee contacted Mr. Hogstrom in 2016, it was the third time PBS Kansas had tried to recruit him as chief executive. During his 27-year public TV career, he had built a reputation as someone who can lead PBS stations out of a financial crisis.

Before arriving in Wichita, Mr. Hogstrom had led three PBS stations through financial turnarounds and overseen construction of new buildings in Chattanooga and Redding, Calif.

"People know me as the turnaround CEO," Mr. Hogstrom said. "That's what people call me."

When Mr. Hogstrom arrived in Wichita in 2016, the PBS Kansas

station was operating out of a former auto parts store next to a railroad track, with trains constantly disrupting studio production. The station had borrowed money to make payroll for its 20-member staff, struggled with lackluster fundraising results and wasn't producing any local programs for its weekly lineup.

That began to change when Mr. Hogstrom took over and began rebuilding the station's programming and community image. Mr. Hogstrom also focused on erasing the station's debt, which he accomplished by the end of his first fiscal year at the helm.

Over the past six years, public support for PBS Kansas has more than doubled, to \$4.6 million; membership has almost tripled, to 17,820; and nine new local programs have debuted. Six of the new shows are weekly productions.

PBS Kansas also expanded its staff, adding six full-time and two part-time positions, and began producing local programs. One of the first, "One on One with Victor Hogstrom," borrowed a concept he developed in Chattanooga. The weekly show features his interviews with lo-

cal politicians, civic leaders and the occasional PBS personality, such as the late Jim Lehrer, a former Wichita resident.

Mr. Hogstrom calls the series an "excellent friend-raiser" that attracts viewers who enjoy learning about people in their community. The average weekly audience for the show ranges from 3,500 to 6,000 households, depending on the featured guests.

In June, PBS Kansas moved into a new \$4.5 million headquarters. The 31,000-square-foot building offers two spacious studios, a Children's Discovery and Education Center that will offer rotating hands-on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics)-related exhibits and a museum which will showcase the station's history with displays of archival items such as old equipment, videotapes and photographs.

Despite living and working in locations spanning the globe, Mr. Hogstrom still calls Chattanooga home.

"I love Chattanooga," he said. "I still live in Chattanooga. I only work in Wichita."

HCS: from front

ing to Robertson, the chief talent officer is vital to the district's success.

"Given the current competitiveness of the job market and the important role our employees play in the future of Hamilton County, it is critical that our Talent Department use both proven and innovative practices to recruit and retain the best talent possible for our school system," Robertson said. "As our director of Induction and Leadership Development, Dr. Brown has overseen the implementation of

innovative strategies like our LEAD program for leadership development and Grow Your Own, which provides a pathway for non-teacher employees to become classroom teachers."

Superintendent Robertson continued, "Additionally, Dr. Brown has managed our new teacher induction program, which identifies, recruits, and hires new teachers and provides comprehensive support for them during their first three years of service. As a result, we are seeing a nearly 90% retention rate for our newest educators. I believe Dr. Brown's knowledge and experience will provide us the leadership we need to con-

tinue moving our district forward in the days, weeks and months ahead."

Prior to becoming the director of Induction and Leadership Development, Dr. Brown spent three years as the director of Secondary Schools, Opportunity Zone. In this role, he implemented School Improvement Plans across each campus and executed solutions to enhance student performance, teacher attendance, dropout rates, and more.

He also oversaw the execution of school-wide behavior programs to equip all students with the supports and opportunities needed to meet high behavior expectations.

During his time in Hamilton County Schools, Dr. Brown has also served as assistant superintendent for School Operations, executive principal of The Howard School and principal of East Ridge High School. "I am honored to lead the incredibly dedicated Talent team at Hamilton County Schools," Dr. Brown said. "We will be a trusted partner delivering outstanding customer service and organizational development solutions that contribute to the success of our district through cultivating, attracting, retaining, and developing a talented and diverse workforce so that all students can thrive."

Davis: from front

and uphold the city's longstanding commitment to bring world class public art to every neighborhood. A veteran of the arts and entertainment industry, Davis will develop a comprehensive strategy for the division to accelerate and amplify public art as a vital contributor to community dialogue and engagement.

"With her extensive knowledge of the local arts community and her demonstrated commitment to community service, Carmen brings a tremendous amount of passion and leadership to the City's new Division of Culture, Arts, and Creative Economy," said

Mayor Kelly. "As division director, she will play a vital role in integrating art into our public spaces and events, while elevating local artists' contributions to building and sustaining our community."

The division's alignment within the Department of Parks and Outdoors will allow Davis to more quickly scale her efforts to better connect the arts to the community. The new division will be able to leverage the city's broader infrastructure to support the arts community, through communication resources to grant writing to community engagement assistance.

Davis brings more than two decades of experience in facilitating civic

engagement around arts and entertainment, most recently serving as a Program Management Coordinator with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.

"Carmen has a real passion for community service—a passion she has used to benefit local non-profits on behalf of BlueCross for seven years," said Scott Wilson, Vice President of Corporate Communications & Community Relations at BlueCross. "BlueCross will miss her, but I'm excited to watch what she'll do when she applies her talent and drive to building community through the arts in Chattanooga."

For over a decade, Davis served as Curator and Program Director for the Bessie Smith Cultural Center, where her

work helped position the Bessie Smith as a cultural pillar and vital community space for Chattanooga. She also served on the Hamilton County Human Rights Commission under former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker and on the Entertainment and Attractions Committee for Chattanooga Forward, under former Chattanooga Mayor Andy Berke.

Davis has co-founded a number of community-based organizations and projects, all with a common theme of connection and service within Chattanooga and Hamilton County. She remains active in the community, volunteering her time on multiple boards and with multiple local community organizations throughout the city.

Williams: from pg 9

on the efforts of her father to train his daughters, the passing of the baton from Venus to Serena, and the sisters' style of play. Moreover, woven through that coverage was an underlying suggestion that Serena Williams did not fit within the definition of respectable tennis, as reporters commented on her fashion choices or wondered if her style of play was damaging the women's game.

Sports don't happen in a vacuum. Practicing sports journalism by "sticking to sports" leaves reporters ill-equipped to cover news events that de-

mand a wider lens.

Such was the case in 2001 when fans at the Indian Wells tennis tournament subjected the Williams sisters to traumatizing racist insults, an experience that led the duo to boycott the event for 14 years.

Researchers who studied the event found that most of the ensuing media coverage focused solely on the incident itself and provided little insight to address the forms of whiteness and patriarchy ingrained in pro tennis.

This type of journalism is often described as episodic, in that it casts a light solely on the singular event, divorcing it from the forces that contributed to the specific situation. This framing technique is not uncommon in sports journalism.

Coverage of the U.S. women's gymnastics coach Larry Nassar, who was convicted of abusing dozens of athletes under his care, tended to focus on individual victim stories, while framing Nassar as "one bad apple." And stories chronicling intimate partner violence committed by NFL players have a history of being framed similarly – a crime carried out by a singular individual, separate from a system that may foster violence toward women.

But Williams demanded sports journalists do more than analyze her serve. She has spoken publicly from her own experiences about the tragedy of subpar maternal care for Black women. She asked journalists assembled at her post-championship match news conference at the U.S.

Open in 2018 – where she had argued with the judge and been deducted a point – whether a man would be so acutely penalized for doing the same thing.

She has pushed the boundaries of women's tennis, and in doing so, has insisted that women be treated better by journalists and event organizers, calling for an end to the pay disparities between men and women on the professional tours.

Scholarship on sports journalism suggests the boundaries of the genre are rapidly changing. And the field is shedding its stick-to-sports ethos, in part, due to activist-minded athletes like Serena Williams.