

S. 1146, Aviation Drug-Trafficking Control Act

# INTRODUCING THE BELARUS FREEDOM ACT OF 2004

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Belarus Freedom Act of 2004. This bill will graduate Belarus from the requirements of the Jackson-Vanik statute and thereby establish permanent normal trade relations with that country.

The Jackson-Vanik amendment was adopted in 1974, during a time when the U.S.S.R. was imposing enormous "education repayment fees" on anyone seeking to emigrate from that country. The statute was designed to prevent temporary restoration of an already suspended "most favored nation" treatment unless its freedom of emigration requirement is complied with. After the break-up of the U.S.S.R., the successor countries found themselves subject to Jackson-Vanik—meaning that they had to prove yearly that they allowed free emigration in order to enjoy normal trade relations with the United States. Several former Soviet republics have already been permanently graduated from Jackson-Vanik, and several others are in the process of being graduated. Belarus has gained a presidential waiver for every year since 1992, indicating its ongoing compliance with the requirements. Therefore it is time to recognize the passing of the Soviet era and move on toward better trade relations with Belarus.

Though some have tried to read additional requirements into the original amendment, Jackson-Vanik is in reality solely about freedom of emigration. And, as I have stated, Belarus has attained a Presidential waiver every year since 1992.

Time and time again we see that peaceful trade and good relations with other countries does much more to foster democratization and liberalization than sanctions, diplomatic expulsions, and accusations. Our Founding Fathers recognized this when they cautioned against foreign entanglements and counseled instead free trade and friendly relations with all countries who seek the same.

I hope my colleagues will join with me as cosponsors of this bill and support further constructive relations with the Republic of Belarus.

HONORING MR. MARK SIMONI

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary to honor Mr. Mark Simoni, 9th District Rear Commodore of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, for his hard work and dedication to promoting recreational boating safety within the Great Lakes and the Saginaw Bay. On February 21, 2004, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flint Flotilla 15-02, will

gather to honor Mr. Simoni during the "Change of Watch" awards ceremony to be held in my hometown of Flint, Michigan at Mario's Restaurant.

Mark Simoni was born in Flint, Michigan, on December 19, 1952. He graduated from Grand Blanc High School in 1971, and upon completion he attended the University of Michigan and Northwestern University. In 1991 Mark became a member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary-Saginaw 15-05. Mark has unselfishly given of his time and resources to ensure the safety of boaters and families. His commitment to the U.S. Coast Guard team mission led him to hold elected offices such as Flotilla Commander-Saginaw 15-05, Division 15 Captain from 2002-2003, and Vice Captain from 2000-2001. Mark has also held staff positions on the Flotilla, Division, District/Region and National level. Recently (2004) Mark was promoted to 9th District Region Rear Commodore of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. Mark has volunteered countless hours in the areas of Public Education, Vessel Safety Checks, Safety Patrols, Search and Rescue, Maritime Security and Environmental Protection. A fine example of loyalty is when he used his personal watercraft to patrol the Great Lakes along with other auxiliaries to ensure that Michigan waterways were secure after the September 11, 2001 World Trade Center tragedy. Mark has proven himself worthy of his new title as 9th District Region Rear Commodore. This new position will allow him the opportunity to provide administrative and supervisory support to the Flotillas and Divisions within his district.

Mr. Speaker, as a Member of Congress, I ask my colleagues in the 108th Congress to please join me in congratulating Mr. Mark Simoni on his promotion and also in honoring him for his past deeds. He has and continues to serve his country with enthusiasm and steadfastness. I wish him all the best in the future.

## BLACK EAGLE WINS GRAMMY

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Black Eagle, the winner of the 2004 Grammy for Best Native American Music Album. This drum group from Jemez Pueblo draws upon the rich history of the Native American Powwow for musical inspiration. Their fifteen years of performing has developed a deep and broad following across the country. It is my great honor to congratulate them for this win.

Black Eagle formed in 1989 after group leader Malcolm Yepa attended a powwow in Lame Deer, Montana. He became enamored with the singing and drum playing being performed and upon returning to Jemez Pueblo, Malcolm and his brother David Yepa Jr. formed Black Eagle. Cousins who had heard of Malcolm's experience were eager to join and the group soon consisted of twenty-one members.

After learning popular songs by listening to the recordings from other drum groups, Black Eagle began performing at local powwows. Their music coalesced into a definitive sound

as they gained experience and soon the group was drawing wide recognition. Touring across the country during the next few years brought encounters with several others in the same musical vein, including fellow drum group, Black Lodge of White Swan, Washington.

It was at this time, after speaking with Black Lodge, that Black Eagle began writing and performing original music written by members of the group. Making the music even more exceptional was the fact that it was written, and performed, in the Towa language, the dialect of the Jemez Pueblo. Such a project had never been done before, and release of their freshman album, titled, "Volume I," brought wide praise.

The production of music by Black Eagle continued unabated. "Vol. II," the group's second album, was quickly followed by, "Soaring High" and "Star Child." By 2001, when they released their fifth album, "Life Goes On," Black Eagle had gained a wide following through extensive touring and word-of-mouth. This fifth work however, would be the work that gave Black Eagle national prominence and critical acclaim. A collection of round dance and hand drum songs, "Life Goes On," garnered a Grammy nomination under the "Best Native American Music Album" category.

While the 2002 awards ceremony did not bring a win for the group, Black Eagle was bolstered by the nomination and in March of 2003, they released, "Flying Free." This sixth work utilized new technology to create a "live" recording sound in the studio and also bridged Native American music history when bells used on legendary group XIT's albums were played by Black Eagle.

"Flying Free" was nominated, and won, the 2004 Grammy for "Best Native American Music Album." Black Eagle's roots, which reside deep within the Jemez culture, are reflected on the album. Jemez Pueblo has a very long history in the great State of New Mexico, and continues to this day to preserve its cultural, spiritual and traditional customs. Events at the Pueblo, including feast days, dances, and arts and crafts shows, are still the primary responsibility of several members of the group.

Going from a single teenager captivated by the music of his people to a familial, rooted award-winning group, Malcolm Yepa and Black Eagle are to be applauded for their musical achievements, commended for their loyalty to the history of the powwow, and wished the very best in their future aspirations.

## KOOTENAI VALLEY RESOURCE INITIATIVE

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of the House a shining example of our great experiment in democracy. The Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative came to life in 2001, the result of collaboration between the Boundary County Board of Commissioners, the City of Bonners Ferry, and the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho. The mission of the KVRI is to act as a locally based effort to improve coordination, integration, and implementation of existing local, state, and federal programs that can effectively maintain, enhance,