

provided by the La Vergne Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

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EXTENDING PERMANENT MFN STATUS TO ROMANIA

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3161, a bill to grant permanent most favored nation [MFN] status to Romania.

I have to believe that Romania certainly meets the test for permanent MFN status. The administration has certified Romania on several occasions as meeting the freedom of emigration requirements under the Jackson-Vanik law.

From what I understand, Romania has also fully implemented its obligations under its bilateral commercial agreements and is a founding member of the World Trade Organization [WTO]. In fact, Romania is the only United States trading partner that is a member of the WTO but still receiving conditional MFN status from the United States.

By not granting permanent MFN to Romania, we really injure Romania and ourselves. Failure to act on this measure would deny United States firms their full rights under existing multilateral trade agreements, and would pose a continuing obstacle to the further development of Romania's economy and democratic institutions.

This measure has been endorsed by a bipartisan group of House Members and has been vigorously supported by the administration. In response to a request for public comments by the House Ways and Means Committee, over 38 firms, associations, ethnic groups, and individuals—including several former United States Ambassadors to Romania—recommended swift passage of H.R. 3161.

Moreover, in the past few days, both Houses of the Romanian Parliament passed resolutions endorsing the establishment of permanent MFN status between our two countries. A statement on the resolution that was passed by the Chamber of Deputies follows:

STATEMENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES

(By Adrian Nastase, President)

The members of the Chamber of Deputies have been pleased to note that bills to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory (Most Favored Nation) treatment to the products originating in Romania were introduced in the United States Congress on March 26, 1996 (S. 1644 and H.R. 3161). They appreciate that this initiative is of utmost importance for the development of the Romanian-American relationship and support the reform process and transition to market economy.

Taking into account the significance of this major action for the bilateral Romanian-American relationship, the members of the Chamber of Deputies of Romania reaffirm that, after the December 1989 Revolution, the majority of the main political parties, whether represented or not in the Parliament, have unequivocally favored a speedy integration of Romania into the Euro-Atlantic economic, political and security structures, particularly NATO and the EU.

With a view to reaching this objective, the leadership of the main Romanian parties agreed and reiterated, on various occasions, the basic orientation and the main directions of the Romanian foreign policy, to be promoted, in a consistent manner, by the Government. The development of a privileged partnership and alliance with the United States of America remains one of the essential directions of the foreign policy of Romania which enjoy the consensus of the majority of the Romanian political parties.

The consensus of the main parties represented in the Romanian Chamber of Deputies with respect to this priority of the entire foreign policy of Romania was eloquently expressed in the statements made by the leaders of the aforementioned parties in 1993, when Romania was conditionally granted the Most Favored Nations status by the United States.

The evolution recorded in the commercial Romanian-American exchanges in the two years and a half elapsed since the re-extension of the MFN status have fully confirmed the soundness of this measure. In 1994 and 1995 Romania's exports to the United States reached an annual level close to \$200 m., nearly 2.8 times higher than the level recorded in 1993, while the amount of the imports of American commodities increased from \$373 m. to \$465 m. in 1994. In 1995, the amount of imports from the United States was \$392 m.

The re-extension of the Most Favored Nations status has stimulated the American investment in Romania, reaching at present \$144.5 m., as compared to only \$72 m. in 1993.

Granting permanent MFN status will provide significant incentive for US companies to increase their investment in Romania and make the United States the largest trading partner of Romania.

The members of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies appreciate the fact that the United States ranks among the most important investors in Romania, along with Germany, South Korea and Italy.

The significant increase in the Romanian-American commercial exchanges and in the American investment will support the advancement of the economic activities in Romania, will encourage the transition to market economy and the speeding up of the proc-

ess of privatization of the state enterprises, contributes to the emergence of new mutually beneficial business.

At present, the firm resolve to develop close cooperation, partnership and alliance with the United States and, in connection to this, the belief that Romania is entitled to benefit of MFN permanent status are fully shared by the leading political parties and the Romanian people.

Under these circumstances, the view that granting MFN permanent status would influence the national election in Romania is not in accordance with our perception on this issue.

The members of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies have reaffirmed the political will of the parties represented in the Parliament to further develop the democracy and market economy and to ensure that this year elections are free and fair. They urge the members of the United States Congress to continue and to conclude the procedures aiming at granting the Most Favored Nation status to Romania, as soon as possible. The permanent extension of MFN is in Romania's national interest and it is granted to Romania and not to any political party.

The Romanian Chamber of Deputies considers that granting permanent Most Favored Nation status now would better serve the interests of the Romanian society, the political stability in the country as well as the strengthening of the bilateral relationship with the United States.

The members of the Romanian Chamber of Deputies take their opportunity to convey to the U.S. Congressmen the best wishes for success in their endeavors.

This Statement has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies at its session of May 23, 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all of my colleagues will support the effort to grant permanent MFN status to Romania.

OUTSTANDING SCIENCE EDUCATION IS ALIVE AND WELL IN MIKE MINNEMA'S CLASSROOM

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Minnesotan, and a friend, who was recently awarded the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching, Mike Minnema.

Mike teaches chemistry at North Community High School, which is part of the Minneapolis School System, where I once taught science myself. I had the pleasure of working with Mike during those years in a special setting, a Minnesota camp attended by young adults from the Minneapolis area. It was a summer long task for Mike but just a couple weeks assignment for me; however, it was an experience and relationship that was truly the essence of teaching life sciences. In some respects, I feel very much connected to the role of teaching. Even though the responsibilities and role in a policymaking task are different, it is simply a different focus on the same challenge.

Presidential Awards are given to outstanding educators in the fields of science and mathematics, and they represent the Nation's highest honor in these fields of education. Only one secondary school science teacher in

Minnesota is recognized each year, and I am glad to know that Mike Minnema's dedication to science and his students is being rewarded with such an honor.

In a time when people routinely refer to our Nation's public schools as uninventive, poor quality institutions, Mike demonstrates the error in these descriptions and makes science something for students not just to study, but to explore. His classes go beyond chemistry textbooks and laboratory exercises to include real world subjects such as humanity's affect on the environment. As a policymaker who has had the privilege of crafting numerous laws protecting our Nation's environmental heritage, I am glad to know that Mike is teaching young Minnesotans the importance of protecting our Nation's natural resource legacy for future generations. His classes also reach beyond the science of chemistry, interweaving mathematics and technology into lesson plans, which allow students to connect what they learn in his classroom to their other educational disciplines and the outside world.

Mike's experience outside of his teaching career enhance his lesson plans as well. He brings his students a view of the practical uses for chemical science, and this insight, hopefully, encourages other students to explore careers in scientific fields. Mike has worked in both the private and public sectors, utilizing his own science education background to benefit organizations from 3M and Honeywell to the Los Alamos National Laboratories. Mike has focused a teaching lesson for his students on measurement of pollution in Minnesota lakes, specifically the fluctuation of salt levels and how the environmental degradation is affecting the species and ecosystems of those special wetland areas.

As the world increasingly relies on science and technology, ensuring future generations understand science and training some for scientific careers will become an even more important endeavor. Educators such as Mike Minnema play an essential role in our Nation's ability to not only graduate adequately prepared scientists from our schools, but to attract students to scientific fields and generally enhance science literacy. I want to express my sincere congratulations and thanks to Mike for his efforts to inspire young minds to explore science and respect the environment and for his dedication to protecting the natural resource legacy that those young minds will one day inherit. Minnesota is truly fortunate to have such an exceptional educator working for its students.

HONORING THE MACON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Macon County Rescue Squad. These brave, civic minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members under-

go a training series over a four to six month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

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TRIBUTE TO NARSAI M. DAVID

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Narsai M. David who is being honored by the Anti-Defamation League with its Restaurant Industry Achievement Award for his outstanding accomplishments and service to the bay area community.

Narsai David brings people together and creates an understanding of cultural diversity through his exquisite culinary practices. Born to Assyrian immigrants, Narsai David ventured into a culinary career early in life, eventually working his way to the bay area in California where he became known as one of the bay area's leading restaurateurs. Narsai David has catered several large scale outdoor dining events including concerts for Bill Graham and the Napa Valley Wine Auction. Currently, his time is divided between travel and food segments for KTVU television, the management of Narsai's Specialty Food Business, and as wine and food editor of KCBS Radio. Furthermore, he is a columnist for the food section of the San Francisco Chronicle and makes celebrity chef appearances at gatherings throughout the world.

Narsai David has devoted much of his time to charitable causes in the bay area. He is currently president of the board of the Assyrian Aid Society, a member of the board of directors of the Berkeley Community Fund of the San Francisco Foundation and International House of Berkeley. He serves as host for many fundraisers in the bay area including the annual Meals on Wheels event in Alameda County, the American Heart Association gala, the Warren Eukel Teachers Trust event, the Taylor Family Foundation Day in the Park fundraiser for Pediatric AIDS, and the Narsai Toast to the Arts for the Berkeley Repertory Theater. In addition, he is also the president of the Pacific Coast Farmer's Market Association.

Mr. Speaker, Narsai David is an outstanding citizen of California and our country. As the only Assyrian-American Member of Congress,

I salute him for the commitment he brings to, and the contributions he has made to our community. Narsai David is a great source of pride to the Assyrian-American community. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. David as he is honored with the Anti-Defamation League's Restaurant Industry Achievement Award. He has promoted not only our foods but our culture as well.

HONORING THE OVERTON COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Overton County Rescue Squad. These brave, civic-minded people give freely of their time so that should disaster strike, we know that our friends and neighbors are there to help.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a member of the rescue squad. Rescue squad members undergo a training series over a 4 to 6 month period which includes instruction in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation [CPR], vehicle extrication, emergency driving, and rescue orientation. In addition to this training, rescue squad members also meet monthly to address business concerns as well as hear guest speakers.

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TRIBUTE TO ST. VINCENT SCHOOL OF NURSING

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 11, 1996

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Vincent School of Nursing, and to offer my congratulations as the school celebrates its centennial anniversary. Since 1896, the School of Nursing has remained a healthcare education landmark in Toledo, OH.

Opened by the Sisters of Charity of Montreal, more commonly known as the "Grey Nuns," the School of Nursing became the first school of its kind in Ohio. Sr. Elodie Mailoux served as the first director, from 1896 to 1898. Currently, Ms. Elizabeth Cain holds the post. She has been director since 1989 and is the 18th director of the school.