

the broader international community. Honoring the commitments of the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, on the other hand, would not only enhance economic growth in China; it would also strengthen China's standing in the international community.

If you, as leaders in the Hong Kong business community, can continue to harness the energy aroused by danger and opportunity, and, virtually every entrepreneur every morning senses both of those, we will all stand in admiration at the excitement you continue to produce and the further progress you achieve as you enter the 21st century.

Free societies rely on the courage, creativity, and commitment of each individual citizen. Dictatorship may marshal the obedience of their unthinking subjects, but democracies rely on the unique spark of each person's God-given talent. It may be a far less orderly society, but it is a vastly superior one.

Since each of us is uniquely endowed by the Creator with inalienable rights, there is not and cannot be a single dream. A free society has as many dreams as there are people. The power of those dreams has made America a great country filled with good people. The power of those dreams has made Hong Kong a uniquely successful community admired and studied all around the world.

We want to see the continued fulfillment of the dream of each citizen of Hong Kong. We want to be helpful and making sure that the opportunity outweighs the danger. We recognize that this is a long-term process, that true friendship and good neighbors require much talking over a long period of time and, whenever possible, require avoiding arguments in favor of having discussions. One of the steps we are going to take, after talking with a wide range of leaders here, including Mr. Tung, the current governor, the members of the legislative council, members of the business community, is that Congressmen Bereuter, who was the chairman of our Asia subcommittee, will be regularly coming back at the advice and suggestion of a very broad range of folks to visit here and to visit Beijing in a positive way, to seek positive understanding, to have a positive dialogue. We leave tonight to go to Beijing. We hope to meet with members of the National People's Congress to talk about the idea of a long-term relationship between our two legislative bodies, to develop the understanding and the dialogue.

Now, creating freedom didn't happen overnight anywhere. Having a healthy, open, free society is hard and going through transitions is difficult. We have more than enough examples of pain and failure in American history to not look on anyone with a judgmental sense of superiority. But we also know that, in the end, adhering to the great virtues of individual freedom and seeking to protect the right of the maximum number of people pursuing the maximum amount of happiness, because they get to define their lives is, in fact, the ultimate destiny of the human race. And in that calm optimism we can afford to reach out a helping hand to everyone, to have a dialogue with anyone, and it is in that spirit of learning from your successes, coming to understand your situation, and hopefully having a genuine exchange in the next few days in Beijing and beyond that, in Tokyo and in Taiwan, that we've started this trip. I think just to tell you that we have all found Hong Kong to be fully as remarkable as everyone always told us it was. Those of us who are here for the first time, just as you would expect, are overwhelmed by the achievement of the people of Hong Kong. And we look forward to helping you build on that to a even better 21st century.

Thank you very, very much.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN BIAS

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Allen Bias, a great Ohioan. Mr. Bias has inspired a community, a country, and a family. It is a great honor to pay tribute today to such an esteemed individual.

Mr. Bias grew up during the Depression with six brothers and sisters on a poor 60-acre hillside farm. Raised by their mother, they were taught the values of honesty and integrity. Despite their modest beginnings, Mr. Bias and his siblings have had successful careers and led productive lives.

At age 17, Mr. Bias joined the Navy to fight for his country in World War II. He volunteered for a special unit in the South Pacific Islands. A member of Marine Aircraft Group Twelve, Mr. Bias displayed tremendous heroism while engaging enemy forces in the South Pacific. He and other members of the Marine Aircraft Group Twelve received the Presidential Unit Citation presented by the President of the United States. Mr. Bias served this country with courage, dedication, and honor.

Mr. Bias has always had a strong work ethic which enabled him to have a long and highly respected career in the baking industry. He held several key management positions with one of the largest companies in the baking industry. He knew how to succeed in business, but more importantly, he knew how to treat employees and coworkers with respect and dignity.

When it was time to retire, Mr. Bias took the opportunity to continue his service to others by working at a center for the mentally disabled. Once again he gained the respect and admiration from those around him.

Mr. Bias has served his country, his community, and his family. He has taught his children honesty and integrity. For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to share his accomplishments with this Congress and the country.

HOUSTON QUICK, REBECCA UNDERHILL, KEN WILSON: SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO FRIENDS OF LABOR AWARDS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize Houston Quick, Rebecca Underhill, and Ken Wilson, as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for their dedication to helping working families and organized labor.

Houston Quick was raised in a union family. I worked with his father, H.B. "Hughie" Quick, who was an organizer for the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Since early childhood, Houston has been assisting and supporting labor causes. Motivated by his deep commitment, he has created the Houston Quick Organizing Scholarship Fund to train a new generation of labor organizers.

Rebecca Underhill has redefined the word "voluntarism" with her actions behind the scenes in support of every part of organized labor's services and programs. She has volunteered literally thousands of hours with the Labor Council, United Way's Labor Participation Program, annual food drives, and Labor to Neighbor. She is being honored by the Labor Council for this long-time commitment to the working families of San Diego.

Ken Wilson has been a friend to labor with his contributions and participation in labor causes and event. Formerly a member of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 30, Ken is in his seventh season as General Manager of San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium. He is the type of professional employer who exemplifies positive labor-management relationships.

These three individuals are being honored by the Labor Council as friends of labor: members of the community whose work has strengthened labor's efforts and who have touched the lives of thousands of San Diegans. It is truly fitting that the House of Representatives join in this recognition of Houston Quick, Rebecca Underhill, and Ken Wilson.

HONORING BAY RIDGE/MORGAN'S POINT NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGNATION

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Bay Ridge Park Association and the Morgan's Point historic district for their hard work and dedication to preserving the history and tradition of Morgan's Point in my district.

The Bay Ridge Park Association and Morgan's Point historical district have worked since the Texas sesquicentennial in 1986 to preserve Morgan's Point as a national historic district. Their commitment to this peninsula on Galveston Bay will be rewarded in a ceremony on Saturday, April 19, 1997 with the unveiling of an official Texas historical marker at Morgan's Point.

The small community of Morgan's Point has a long and rich history. Morgan's Point in many ways was born of history—named after Col. James Morgan, an early settler whose property was burned by Santa Anna's troops on the eve of the battle of San Jacinto, the decisive battle in Texas' drive for independence. The Morgan's Point area, with its spectacular views and cool gulf breezes, quickly became a favorite summer retreat for Houston residents seeking refuge from the harsh heat and humidity of the city. The homes along the beach front were modest yet memorable, and featured a broad sense of style. Among the grand houses is a replica of the White House built for Governor Ross Sterling. It is this history that has made Morgan's Point one of Texas' most significant seaside communities.

But in the late 1950's much of Morgan's Point was lost due to construction of the Barbour's cut terminal of the Houston ship channel. To preserve the remaining homes and history of Morgan's Point, the Bay Ridge Park Association fought for a national historic designation to ensure that the history of the

town lived on. Thanks to their efforts, the unique and colorful tradition of Morgan's Point will live on for future generations of Texans to enjoy.

ITALIAN-AMERICAN LEADERS IN
MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two great Italian-American community leaders in southeastern Michigan, Judge Michael Martone and Dr. Augustine Perrotta. Each has been named Metropolitan Detroit's 1997 Italian-American of the Year by the Italian Study Club.

Judge Martone, the son of a first generation Italian-American, was elected to the district court bench in 1992. He created the Court in the Schools-Critical Life Choices, a program that relocates his courtroom to local schools. Students witness defendants being fined, punished, or jailed for drunk driving, drug possession, and other crimes.

The second part of the judge's program includes an interactive dialog about what the students witnessed and the lessons they can learn.

Judge Martone, whose program has been copied by other States and featured on NBC's "Today Show," remains very active in the local community with his wife Martha and their two sons, Jonathan and James.

Dr. Augustine Perrotta, a first generation Italian-American born after Mount Vesuvius' eruption drove his family from their ancestral home in Arienzo, worked his way through college and medical school, graduating as valedictorian of his medical school class.

Named the "Top Doc" by Detroit Monthly Magazine in 1995, Dr. Perrotta is a leader in the medical community serving on the boards of numerous hospitals in southeastern Michigan.

His philosophy of practice has been to use humor as medicine and he is well known for maintaining Italian traditions in his home. His hospitality, warmth, and kindness are not only enjoyed by his wife Grace and their three children, but each and every one of his patients.

Judge Martone and Dr. Perrotta are outstanding community leaders. As we enjoy the 23d annual Festa Italiana, I want to recommend them and thank them for their long-time service and loyal commitment to our community.

DOGS HAVE MORE FREEDOM

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, "Dogs have more freedom than us; at least they are not afraid to go outside." Mr. Speaker, this is the conclusion of a young Romani father in Slovakia who recounted his experience with growing skinhead violence in his country. His story is, regrettably, just one of the many documented in a January 1997 re-

port prepared by the European Roma Rights Center [ERRC] entitled "Time of the Skinheads: Denial and Exclusion of Roma in Slovakia." This study describes a grim pattern of violent assaults against Roma perpetrated by skinhead extremists; it also suggests that local police forces have been, at best, unwilling to fulfill their obligation to protect their citizens and, at worst, have themselves actually engaged in violence against Roma. Descriptions of a 1995 organized attack on the entire Romani community in the town of Jarovnice—something that reads like a pogrom from a bygone era—were especially chilling.

Since Slovakia became an independent state in 1993, a great deal of international attention has, rightly, focused on the status of the Hungarian minority in that country, a community that makes up approximately 10 percent of the population. Slovakia also has another large minority population which is less well known abroad. While the exact number of Roma in Slovakia is contested, it is estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands. These people—the survivors of Nazi efforts to eradicate the Roma altogether—now face increasing violent attacks against their homes, their villages, and their lives.

The problems of Roma in post-Communist European countries are many, and often defy easy answers. But at least three of the problems described in "Time of the Skinheads" do have obvious solutions. First, the Slovak Government has failed to demonstrate any serious effort to acknowledge and address the widespread problem of violent skinhead attacks on Roma. On the contrary, some public officials—members of the ruling coalition—have repeatedly made crude racist remarks about the Roma. As long as such remarks stand uncontested or unchallenged by Prime Minister Meciar, skinheads will believe that they can attack Roma with impunity. Clearly, local police officials take their cues from the top. Accordingly, any improvement in the situation of Roma in Slovakia must begin with the leadership of that country stating that racism and bigotry will not be tolerated.

Second, the ERRC report described a pattern of excessive use of force by the police against Roma. When the victims seek to bring a complaint against the police, the charges are, in effect, reversed and the Rom is charged with assaulting the police. Significantly, the Council of Europe's Committee for the Prevention of Torture released a report on April 3, which also documented a problem of police brutality in Slovakia.

That report, like the report of the ERRC, noted that the failure to ensure that those charged with a criminal offense have adequate legal representation has significantly contributed to this miscarriage of justice. One of the purposes of providing such representation is to guarantee a fair trial, consistent with the due process of law, and to ensure that those accused of crimes do not have confessions extracted from them by force.

The failure to provide the accused with defense counsel violates one of the most important provisions of the international human rights system—the right to an attorney, a right articulated in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as para. 5.16 of the OSCE Copenhagen Document. I hope the Slovak Government will take immediate measures to redress this problem.

Finally, the ERRC report on Slovakia indicates that Slovak localities continue to use a system of tightly controlled residency permits to restrict the freedom of movement of Roma. Not only does this practice offend the non-discrimination provisions of the Helsinki process, this system also harkens back to the rigid controls of the Communist days. If people are not permitted to move where the jobs are, how can a free market system flourish?

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this pattern of violence against Roma is not unique to Slovakia. The ERRC, which was founded to defend the human rights of Roma, has also issued major reports on Austria and Romania. In addition, its most recent newsletter reported on problems Roma face in several other European countries. Clearly, there is much more that many governments in Central Europe can and should do to address these problems.

I realize that Slovakia is in the midst of grappling with a very broad range of fundamental questions regarding its development and future. The basic human rights of Roma should be a part of that agenda. I see no better time. Will Slovakia enter the 21st century as a country which seeks to unite its citizens in achieving common goals, or will it lag behind with those countries which have permitted nationalism and racism to divide their people and weaken the very state they worked so hard to create?

SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION LOCAL 2028 AND IRONWORKERS LOCAL 229: SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES LABOR COUNCIL, AFL-CIO LABOR TO NEIGHBOR AWARD

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 16, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize the Service Employees International Union Local 2028 [SEIU] and the Ironworkers Local 229 as they are honored by the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, for their strong support of the Labor to Neighbor program in San Diego and the Imperial Valley.

The Labor to Neighbor program educates and involves union members and their families in the campaign to protect jobs and the future of working people in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

The slogan of SEIU Local 2028 is "Politics is Union Business." This slogan embodies the essence of the Labor to Neighbor program. Local 2028 mobilized over 100 volunteers in the 1996 election and has also provided crucial support to the Labor to Neighbor Union Summer Program.

The Ironworkers Local 229 is being recognized for its leadership role in bringing Labor to Neighbor into the Imperial Valley. Local 229 also gave significant support to the Labor to Neighbor Union Summer Program and sponsored a golf tournament to help fund Labor to Neighbor's fall program.

For these activities, the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council, AFL-CIO, recognizes SEIU Local 2028 and the Ironworkers Local 229 with their Labor to Neighbor Award. I am pleased to join in honoring their contributions