

community for the past 2 years. This foundation has worked hard to see that the dream of a college education is not out of the grasp of any deserving young student.

From its inception in May 1995, the foundation has granted annual scholarships to academically gifted and underprivileged students pursuing a college education. This year the foundation's \$15,000 scholarship award will be granted to 5 academically gifted students in Chicago-area high schools, and another \$75,500 will be distributed among 15 1995-96 scholarship awardees, currently pursuing studies at some of the most prestigious universities in the Nation.

These awards have been a blessing to many students and their families, but the benefits of this scholarship program reach far beyond the individual student's home. The surrounding community and our Nation at large will benefit from the quality education and training that these students receive.

It brings me great pleasure to honor the Quentis B. Garth Foundation today. I am certain that their good work will continue to enrich all of our students and our lives for many years to come.

U.S. ASSISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF ECONOMIC REFORM IN ARMENIA

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I have exchanged correspondence over the past 2 years with the executive branch on the question of how our assistance programs help to promote the United States objective of economic reform in Armenia. In recent months, I have exchanged correspondence with the Agency for International Development [AID], pertaining to its plan to provide a \$30 million grant to Armenia during fiscal year 1997 to purchase natural gas. It is my firm belief that U.S. assistance to each of the New Independent States should, whenever possible, be conditioned on the achievement of specific reform objectives.

The text of a March 7, 1997 letter from AID, my reply of March 19, and AID's reply of April 16 follow:

U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, DC, March 7, 1997.

Hon. LEE HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: As a follow-up to staff discussions on January 3, 1997, with Mr. Kupchan on the FY 1997 Armenia natural gas program, I am writing to confirm that our provision of natural gas commodity assistance to Armenia is contingent upon significant energy sector reforms.

Ambassador Tomsen has recently communicated to the Prime Minister and Minister of Energy that the provision of FY 1997 natural gas would require: (1) evidence of progress in implementing conditions contained in last year's agreement, e.g., creation of an independent energy regulatory authority; and (2) commitment to new conditions that deepen and broaden the movement to restructure and privatize the energy sector. Furthermore, we are coordinating this position closely with the World Bank as well as introducing elements that go beyond the World Bank's conditions.

If you should require more detailed information, my staff are available to discuss our position and progress in obtaining energy reforms.

Sincerely,

THOMAS A. DINE.

COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 19, 1997.

Hon. THOMAS DINE,
Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Europe and the NIS, USAID, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. DINE: Thank you for your letter of March 7 regarding the Armenia natural gas program and the reforms upon which this agreement would be contingent.

I support your decision not to release the \$30 million until: (1) the government of Armenia provides evidence of implementing conditions contained in last year's agreement, and (2) Armenia commits to new conditions which go beyond the World Bank's conditions.

However, I would appreciate receiving more detailed information on both issues before I could support providing another round of funding for fuel. First, what progress has Armenia made, in AID's view, on complying with last years' agreements? According to a letter of April 3, 1996 from Assistant Secretary Barbara Larkin to me, the US was to seek Armenian agreement to increase tariffs in the private sector, pursue energy sector reform in parliament, and reform the gas sector. Your letter of March 7, 1997 mentions creation of an independent energy regulatory authority as a US goal. Where are we on these issues?

Second, if this year's \$30 million award goes forward, what specific conditionality *over and above* that already in World Bank agreements, will US assistance be contingent upon? What steps will you insist that Armenia take to deepen and broaden the movement to restructure and privatize the energy sector?

I look forward to working with you on this issue and other matters pertaining to NIS assistance.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

LEE H. HAMILTON,
Ranking Democratic Member.

U.S. AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT,
Washington, DC, April 16, 1997.

Hon. LEE H. HAMILTON,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMILTON: We appreciate your continuing interest in the Armenia energy program and wish to reconfirm that our provision of natural gas commodity assistance to Armenia is contingent upon significant energy sector reforms.

As requested in your letter of March 19, 1997, to Assistant Administrator Tom Dine, I would like to highlight some of the significant progress Armenia is making in achieving energy sector reforms. Tariffs have been raised and are on a path to economic cost recovery, a goal that may be reached in early 1998. The Armenian Government recently completed its first round of privatization in the power sector, focused on small hydro-power plants. Although the Energy Law has not yet passed, the Law was submitted to Parliament March 31 and should be acted upon shortly. Meanwhile, the Government of Armenia has just issued a presidential decree acceptable to both the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Bank establishing an independent energy regulatory body. The new regulatory body will play a critical, catalytic role in

further movement toward a financially-viable, market-oriented utility system. According to USAID energy advisors who have worldwide experience, both the decree and the Energy Law are superior to those enacted in other NIS and Eastern European countries.

We have established new covenants in connection with the provision of natural gas in 1997 that go beyond the conditions set by the World Bank. These conditions relate to:

Full implementation of the aforementioned regulatory body;

Establishment of a financial settlement process and procedures for improving cash flow in the power sector;

Consolidation of power distribution companies to a reasonable number;

The formation of power sector joint stock companies with corporate charters;

Development of an action plan for further privatization;

Promotion of a Petroleum Law to encourage foreign investment; and

Implementation of a least-cost power investment plan to provide replacement power for the Armenia Nuclear Power Plant.

We have discussed these covenants with the Government of Armenia and expect them to agree to these covenants in the very near future.

The 1996 delivery of gas to Armenia amounted to \$15 million, which purchased 201 million cubic meters or about 33 percent of Armenia's total annual gas use. Due to changes in international gas prices, this year's \$30 million should purchase about 290 million cubic meters, which could represent from 25 to 50 percent of Armenia's 1997 gas imports, depending on future industrial demand, next winter's severity, and alternate energy supplies.

If you should require more information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

ROBERT K. BOYER,
*Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator,
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs.*

TRIBUTE TO DAVID HARRIS

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor David Harris of Dixon, CA. David Harris has served as the city manager for the city of Dixon for 19 years, from June, 1978, to July, 1997.

During David Harris' career as city manager to the city of Dixon, he placed the city of Dixon on the map. Dixon grew from a population of 6,031 in 1978 to a population of 13,078 in 1997. Furthermore, the city's area increased from 3.2 square miles in 1978 to 6.5 square miles in 1997.

He served under Mayors Maureen Southwell, Marime Burton-Halloran, Joe Anderson, Richard Brians, and Don Erickson.

David Harris oversaw the planning and development of Dixon City Hall in 1981, the Senior Multi-Use Center in 1987, the Council Chambers in 1988, the Dixon Police Station in 1991, and the Dixon Fire Station in 1997.

In addition, he is credited with creating the city of Dixon's logo, overseeing the planning and development of Northwest Park, and all the major renovations of Hall Park. Under David Harris' leadership, the first traffic signal was installed at the corner of North Adams

Street and West A Street in 1990, and the first computer for the city was purchased.

David Harris was involved in forming the Joint Powers Authority with Solano Irrigation District for Water Service, and was instrumental in developing the Joint Powers Authority with the city of Vacaville, which has resulted in over 1,000 acres being placed in permanent open space. Known as the Vacaville-Dixon Greenbelt, this agreement received statewide recognition for its commitment to preserving agricultural land.

Throughout his years of service to the city, David Harris has seen the adoption of three General Plans, the Central Dixon Redevelopment Project, the Economic Development Plan, the Dixon Downtown Revitalization Plan, Certification of the Housing Element, Specific Plans for various areas of the city, and major infrastructure master plans.

In addition to his successful career as the city manager, David Harris has been an active member of the Dixon community and the entire region. He has served as a board member and past president of the Sutter Davis Hospital for 9 years, has been a member of Rotary for 19 years, and has been active in the Boy Scouts of America. He has raised five children, all of whom have attended local schools.

During his 19 years of service to Dixon, David Harris has been an outstanding city manager, leading the city to achieve countless goals, and implement plans which will benefit future generations of Dixon citizenry. His presence in city hall, and his role as city manager will be truly missed by many members of the Dixon community and surrounding areas.

WEI JINGSHENG: A PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you and my colleagues, my support for the release of Wei Jingsheng, one of the world's most important political prisoners and certainly the strongest voice of China's democracy movement.

Today, Wei Jingsheng continues to serve a 14-year prison sentence because he chose to stand up against tyranny and advocate democracy for China. He chose to be on the side of human rights. He chose to act on his beliefs for the betterment of his people and for that, he has been made to suffer.

I am sure you are familiar with the history behind Wei Jingsheng's imprisonment.

Wei was first imprisoned from 1979 to 1993 on charges of counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement. He was accused of passing a military secret he had seen in the Chinese news media, to a foreign journalist. He was arrested in conjunction with his participation in the 1979 democracy wall movement, during which he argued that the government's modernization plans were impossible without democratic reform. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

In 1993, he was released from prison and continued speaking out for democracy and human rights, advocating an open and peaceful campaign for change. However, in April 1994, Wei was detained again and held in in-

communicado detention for 20 months. This would soon be followed by a formal arrest, charges, and after given a 1-day trial, conviction, and sentencing. We cannot allow this injustice to continue.

Wei Jingsheng is the 1994 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award laureate as well as the recipient of last year's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought which was bestowed upon him by the European Parliament. He received the 1993 Gleitsman Foundation International Activist Award, and since 1995, has been nominated every year for the Nobel Peace Prize.

This week marked the publication of his book, "The Courage to Stand Alone: Letters from Prison and Other Writings," the first book-length collection of Mr. Wei's letters and other writings. How fitting it would be to do the right thing, to do the human thing, and set this man free.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues here in the Congress to do all within its power to grant Wei Jingsheng's release. He should be a prisoner of conscience no more.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AIRLINE PASSENGER SAFETY ACT

HON. BARBARA B. KENNELLY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to promote greater safety in commercial aviation. The Airline Passenger Safety Act would require commercial flights to carry adequate medical supplies and equipment to deal with in-flight medical emergencies.

As a frequent traveler of our commercial airlines, I know how important safe air travel is. Yet every year, passengers on U.S. airlines die in the air because the medicine or equipment that could have saved their lives were not on board the plane. Today, we have the technology to deal with in-flight medical emergencies, such as sudden cardiac arrest. But we do not have a requirement that planes carry this life-saving equipment. In fact, we do not even require airlines to keep records of in-flight medical emergencies.

Technology to deal with sudden cardiac arrest has come a long way. Today's automatic external defibrillators [AED's] are smaller, lighter and more durable and with appropriate training, can be used by anyone. This past fall, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of these devices for commercial aircraft. To increase passenger safety, we need AED's aboard our commercial airlines.

I am introducing this legislation which would improve the chances of survival for passengers in the case of an in-flight medical emergency, like a sudden cardiac arrest. My bill would require air carriers to establish steps to be taken in the event of an emergency. It would also require airplanes to carry an automatic external defibrillator and require each member of the flight crew to be trained in CPR and in the use of an AED. Since there is no method of recording in-flight emergencies, my legislation would also mandate that air carriers describe what happened and what actions were taken to assist the passenger in the

event of an in-flight medical emergency and report the incident to the Secretary of Transportation so the public can be fully aware of the number of in-flight medical emergencies that occur each day. I have also included a "Good Samaritan" provision which exempts from liability both the airlines and passengers who step forward to offer assistance during an in-flight medical emergency.

I think it is time that our airlines provide the safest possible travel for all passengers. As a frequent flyer, I think we all deserve to travel on a plane that is stocked with medical supplies and equipment and to travel with a flight crew that is prepared to handle medical emergencies, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING MANUAL HIGH SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a high school basketball team in my hometown of Peoria, IL. The Peoria Manual Rams won their fourth consecutive Illinois State title, with a final record of 31-1. Consequently, they were recently named the high school boys' basketball national champions by USA Today. In the 90-year history of Illinois high school basketball, no team had ever won four consecutive State championships.

In addition, Manual captain Sergio McClain, a team leader all 4 years, became only the second Peoria area player to win the coveted title of Illinois' Mr. Basketball. This award recognizes not only his athletic skills, but also the inspiration and leadership he provided his team throughout the year.

The team is led by head coach Wayne McClain, and All-American center Marcus Griffin, All-State guard Frank Williams, and Mr. Basketball Sergio McClain. The other title winners on the team are: Greg Andrews, Marlon Brooks, Creston Coleman, Drake Ford, Jerron Hobson, Robert Johnson, Jerral Page, Alphonso Pollard, and Alex Stephens.

The city of Peoria is very proud of the Manual Rams, only the second Illinois team to win the national title. Coach McClain and the Rams have proven that teamwork, dedication, and sportsmanship are still an important part of high school athletics. Perhaps we can all learn from their example.

AWARD WINNING STUDENTS OF WOODBRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 16, 1997

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on April 26-29, 1997, outstanding people from 50 schools throughout the Nation came to our Nation's Capital to compete in the national finals of the We the People . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program. I am proud to announce that the class from Woodbridge High School in Bridgeville represented Delaware. These young scholars worked diligently to reach the