

Laureate Andrei Sakharov, of political dissidents locked up in Siberian gulags, and of my friend Natan Sharansky, then an imprisoned refusenik and now a senior minister in the government of Israeli.

Fortunately, those days are behind us. But without the fundamental building blocks of a democratic society, the most notable of which involves freedom of the media and freedom of expression, such advancements may only be temporary. The means of informing the citizenry must not be obstructed. Tyranny knows no better friend than silence.

While the Russian Constitution offers firm guarantees of freedom to the news media, such protections have not prevented numerous violations of this principle. The State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998, which was released just last month, states that during 1998 "federal, regional, and local governments continued to exert pressure on journalists by depriving them of access to information, using accreditation procedures to limit access, removing them from their jobs and bringing libel suits against them, and violating their human rights." Furthermore, the State Department estimates that "between 250 and 300 lawsuits and other legal actions were brought by the Government against journalists and journalistic organizations during the year in response to unfavorable coverage of government policy or operations. . . . In the vast majority of such cases, the Government succeeded in either intimidating or punishing the journalist." Mr. Speaker, this is a dangerous and an ominous precedent, one that could be exploited in the future by autocratic leaders to trample on the liberties of the Russian people.

The threats to the Russian media vary both in their nature and their severity. The State Department identifies an alarming range of specific cases, from the efforts of federal tax authorities to shut down Novaya Gazeta (a Russian daily "known for its relative independence and aggressive reporting on corruption at high levels") to the detention of well-known journalist Irina Chernova, who was allegedly blackmailed by Volgograd police officers. According to the report, the officers were "threatening to release pictures and videotapes of her engaged in sex acts" in response to critical articles about the department's performance. Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to carefully examine the State Department's report in order to obtain a better understanding of the seriousness and scope of this problem.

My concerns about this serious matter were piqued last week by the Russian Duma's passage of legislation to tighten state control of television and radio. If it becomes law, this bill would provide a government-appointed "supreme council" with unreasonable powers to regulate media content, and the council would have the authority to suspend or revoke a broadcaster's license. I ask my colleagues to join me in urging President Boris Yeltsin to veto this misguided and dangerous initiative.

Mr. Speaker, one of this century's great statesman, President Dwight David Eisenhower, voiced the following words of reason forty-five years ago when he delivered the commencement address at Dartmouth College: "Don't join the book burners. Don't think you're going to conceal faults by concealing evidence that they ever existed." I sincerely hope that the leaders of Russia will honor this

advice, and that they will recognize that the free exchange of ideas is the foundation of any stable democracy.

It is important that we here in the Congress affirm our commitment to the principles of freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Our resolution does this in clear and unequivocal terms. I invite my colleagues to join in cosponsoring this important legislation, Mr. Speaker, and I ask that the text of the resolution be placed in the RECORD.***HD***H. Con. Res. 67

Expressing the sense of the Congress that freedom of the news media and freedom of expression are vital to the development and consolidation of democracy in Russia and that the United States should actively support such freedoms.

Whereas the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union has brought new and unique opportunities for democratic political change and the development of market-oriented economic reform in Russia, but the recent economic difficulties in that country have created turbulent and difficult conditions for the Russian people;

Whereas one of the most important means of assuring the continuation of democratic government and the ultimate guarantee of individual freedom and respect for human rights is an open, independent and free news media;

Whereas a free news media can exist only in an environment that is free of state control of the news media, that is free of any form of state censorship or official coercion of any kind, and that is protected and guaranteed by the rule of law;

Whereas freedom of the news media and freedom of expression in Russia today are threatened by elements in the Government, the Duma and elsewhere throughout Russian society which are opposed to freedom of the press and freedom of expression;

Whereas the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1998 notes that "federal, regional, and local governments continued to exert pressure on journalists by depriving them of access to information, using accreditation procedures to limit access, removing them from their jobs and bringing libel suits against them, and violating their human rights";

Whereas the Country Reports further notes that in the past year "between 250 and 300 lawsuits and other legal actions were brought by the Government against journalists and journalistic organizations during the year in response to unfavorable coverage of government policy or operations" and "in the vast majority of such cases, the Government succeeded in either intimidating or punishing the journalist; and

Whereas the Duma recently adopted legislation establishing a "Supreme Council" with a mandate to review the content of television and radio programs and authority to suspend and/or revoke a broadcaster's license: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) a free news media is vital to the development and consolidation of democracy and the development of a civil society in Russia;

(2) freedom of the news media and freedom of expression must be safeguarded against those forces which would limit or suppress these fundamental human rights;

(3) Russian Government leaders, including the President, the Prime Minister, and Members of the Russian Parliament, should fully support freedom of the news media and the right of free expression in Russia;

(4) the United States should actively support freedom of expression and freedom of the news media through our programs of assistance to Russia;

(5) when considering requests by the Russian government for loans or other economic assistance from the International Monetary Fund and other international financial institutions, the United States government should take into account the extent to which Russian government authorities support the full, free, and unfettered freedom of the news media and freedom of expression in deciding whether to support such requests; and

(6) the President and the Secretary of State are requested to convey to appropriate Russian Government officials, including the President, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this expression of the views of the Congress.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF COLONEL
RICHARD F. ROTHENBURG

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I call to your attention the outstanding public service of one of our nation's finest military attorneys and a dear personal friend of mine, Colonel Richard F. Rothenburg the Chief Judge of the United States Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. On May 1, 1999, Colonel Rothenburg will retire after 30 years of especially distinguished service. Colonel Rothenburg was born in Washington, DC. After graduating from Catonsville High School, Maryland, he received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from the University of Maryland in 1964, and his bachelor of law (LLB) degree in 1967 from the University of Maryland School of Law. The Chief Judge received his commission in 1964 through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps Program. After completing his legal studies, Colonel Rothenburg entered active duty in 1967. Colonel Rothenburg was first assigned to Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. In 1969, Colonel Rothenburg was assigned to Headquarters 7th Air Force, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. In addition to serving as both a prosecutor and defense counsel, Colonel Rothenburg sat as a military trial judge on 27 courts-martial during his tour in Vietnam. Colonel Rothenburg is the only officer still on active duty to have served as an Air Force judge advocate in Vietnam. Colonel Rothenburg's other early assignments included positions as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, and Staff Judge Advocate at Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico. Colonel Rothenburg attended Air Command and Staff College between 1978 and 1979, then took the reins as Staff Judge Advocate at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia; then the home of Tactical Air Command. Colonel Rothenburg was next selected to serve as a military judge for all air bases in Europe, where he presided at more than 150 felony

trials. Colonel Rothenburg returned from Europe in 1986 to serve as the Air Force Tactical Fighter Weapons Center Staff Judge Advocate at Nellis Air Force Base, Nevada. Then, from 1988 to 1992, he served as the 15th Air Force Staff Judge Advocate at March Air Force Base, California. In 1992, Colonel Rothenburg was selected to serve as the Director of the United States Air Force Judiciary in Washington, DC. As Director, Colonel Rothenburg oversaw a 3.5 million dollar budget and 350 people directly involved in the Air Force's worldwide military justice system. Based on his vast experience in military justice and impeccable judicial temperament, Colonel Rothenburg was selected in 1997 to serve as the Chief Judge of the nine-member Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals. He was sworn in as Chief Judge on April 2, 1997. In the face of a blistering docket average of 600 appellate opinions per year and an undermanned Court, Chief Judge Rothenburg led the Court to its lowest backlog of cases awaiting review in a decade. At the same time, Chief Judge Rothenburg guided the Court into the uncharted waters of electronic pleading at the federal appellate level. Chief Judge Rothenburg's influence on the shape of military appellate law and practice will endure well into the next century.

Colonel Rothenburg's military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm leaf. Colonel Rothenburg is a member of the bar in Maryland and the District of Columbia. He is married to the former Linda Lee Gossard of Hagerstown, Maryland. They have two children: Richard and Anne. I ask that you join me, his colleagues, and Colonel Rothenburg's many friends in saluting this distinguished officer's three decades of service to the United States of America. I know our Nation, his wife Linda, and their children are extremely proud of his accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM A. COBURN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. COBURN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 18, I was visiting with officials in Albania and consequently was not present for Roll Call votes 57 through 59. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 57, agreeing to the resolution providing for consideration of the bill H.R. 4. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 58, the motion to recommend with instructions. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 59, passage of H.R. 4, a bill to declare it to be the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense.

A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSEUMS AT STONY BROOK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this hallowed chamber to pay tribute to The Museums at Stony Brook. This year marks the 60th anniversary for the historic museums located in beautiful Stony Brook, Long Island.

Since the Museums at Stony Brook first opened their doors in 1939, they have helped to spread the wonderful history of our local community. Their praise and revival of Long Island's celebrated past has been a great benefit to our families, schools and neighborhoods. The museums have helped countless numbers of Long Islanders remember their history and increase their respect for its rich and vibrant culture.

Led by Museum President, Deborah Johnson, the Museums have enriched Long Islanders by spreading the legacy of Ward and Dorothy Melville, two of Long Island's most respected citizens. The Museum has reached out to all members of our community, young and old, to keep sacred Long Island's past. The museum's importance to our community is truly evident in their success for sixty strong years.

In particular, one Museum program deserves special recognition, it is their summer program for children. The Museum enlists community volunteers to help teach their children about their past, while creating an enjoyable environment. The success of this program has contributed to the vital and vibrant participation of the Museum in our community. This is a fine example of the community spirit that is evident in my Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring 60 years of devoted service to our community. I only hope that the Museums at Stony Brook will be able to continue to further enrich our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 50, on House Congressional Resolution 819, Federal Maritime Commission Authorization Act of 1999, I was unavailable to vote because I was returning from a bipartisan Congressional Delegation trip to Russia. The objectives of this four-day trip included meetings with the Russian Duma and other governmental officials concerning the missile defense threat as outlined in the report of the Rumsfeld Commission. Our delegation was joined in Moscow by former Secretary Don Rumsfeld and two members of his commission, Mr. Jim Woolsey and Mr. William Schneider, Jr.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH SILVER ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF KRIKOS, A CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC LINK WITH HELLENISM AND THE WORLD

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to KRIKOS, an outstanding Hellenic cultural organization located in my district, as it celebrates its 25th Silver Anniversary.

Since its founding in 1974 and ensuing incorporation in 1975, KRIKOS has served as a vital link between the various communities of the Hellenic world. KRIKOS aims to foster and promote cooperation and fellowship among Hellenes and phil-Hellenes throughout the world and to preserve and enrich the Hellenic heritage of Hellenic communities worldwide.

Over the past 25 years, the organization has taken many important initiatives to attain its goals. KRIKOS has organized over forty conferences throughout the world and, where possible, published the proceedings. The conferences have covered such topics as energy alternatives for Greece, media coverage of Greece, a history of Byzantium, Greek-American Letters and Arts, the Macedonia-Tinderbox of Europe and the Yugoslav Civil Wars, to name a few.

KRIKOS has also organized a Medical Task Force and, since 1982, held annual medical conferences. The Task Force has supplied various hospitals with kidney dialysis machines, medical publications and other needed supplies. KRIKOS has also guided college and college-bound youth; made arrangements for students to visit abroad through a work-study program; established and assisted in locating and listing the treasures of St. Catherine Monastery on Mt. Sinai through computer technology; created "information banks" of available expertise in a wide spectrum of specialties; donated 5,000 books to the Polytechnic University in Athens; and published a newsletter. The organization has also experimented publishing a quarterly magazine of social commentary.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring to your attention this important event in the history of KRIKOS. This organization has played a significant role in the Hellenic community both here in the United States and abroad. I am pleased to recognize them on their Silver Anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH WHITMER KOZLOSKI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 23, 1999

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Judith Whitmer Kozloski, an extraordinary citizen of San Mateo County, California, who will be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame on Friday, March 26, 1999.

In 1998, Judith Whitmer Kozloski became the first woman in San Mateo's County's history to serve as Presiding Judge of the San