

Every day he writes The Sun's editorials. Readers have no difficulty understanding where he stands. He has not hesitated to call on public officials and bodies to correct what he views as an errant course.

In newspaper circles, he is best known for his beliefs in the tenets of the first amendment. He has filed more lawsuits than any other Arkansas editor or publisher to enforce the provisions of the state Freedom of Information Act. "The public's business should be done in public" is his oft-repeated philosophy.

John has been a mentor, advisor, and friend to all of Northeast Arkansas. He has dedicated his life to serving his fellow citizens as a leader in both his profession and his community, and he deserves our respect and gratitude for his contributions. On behalf of the Congress, I extend congratulations and best wishes to my good friend John Troutt, Jr. on his successes and achievements.

HONORING AL MOLITOR

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding achievements of an extraordinary man, Al Molitor. For 35 years, Mr. Molitor has served in the administration of public health and welfare programs for non-profit organizations and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In addition, the contributions he has made within the Montgomery County community and particularly the Abington-Rockledge Democratic Committee are invaluable.

Al earned his bachelor of arts from Temple University and continued his studies at the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work and Research where he received his master of social service degree. Al has held leadership positions in state public health and social work professional associations. He has served on the Abington Township Library Board, in parent-teacher organizations and the Boy Scouts. He also organized the Old York Road Genealogical Society, and served as its president for nearly 4 years.

Al has been a prominent figure within the Abington-Rockledge Democratic Committee for a number of years and became chairman in 1994. He also served as chair of the Montgomery County Voter Registration Drive from 1992-1994. His work within the Democratic community in Montgomery County is unparalleled and much appreciated. With a solid Republican background, Al found himself as a non-partisan when the moved to Abington in 1958, but quickly found a home within the Democratic community in Montgomery County. In spite of an extremely busy public life, Al remains devoted to his family. He and his wife, Natalie, have two children, Elizabeth and Steve, and three grandchildren.

It is an honor and a privilege to acknowledge the dedication and contributions of Al Molitor who has served his community well.

VALUE OF ESTABLISHING THE
SWISS CENTER OF NORTH AMERICA

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, our nation was built on the dreams of immigrants who came here to create a better life for themselves and their families. The ethnic diversity of the American patchwork quilt makes this nation strong and has helped our nation become the envy of much of the world.

I am proud to be from a state whose ethnic heritage can be seen in our faces, our foods and families. Wisconsin is a state made up of settlers who came from the far corners of the world to build their businesses, raise their families and stake their claims for a piece of the American Dream.

There is an exciting new project underway in my congressional district that has national and international implications. The Swiss Center of North America is proposed to be located in New Glarus, Wisconsin. This new center will facilitate historical research, cultural exchanges and business partnerships extending beyond the beautiful rolling countryside of America's Dairyland.

Like many ethnic groups, the Swiss came to North America in large numbers in the 19th Century, settling in each state of this Union and every province of Canada. They brought their traditions, culture, languages, foods and a rich heritage that have made a lasting impact throughout this continent. The Swiss government helped these new immigrants by setting up colonies for their countrymen and women on this side of the Atlantic to ease the transition into the New World.

One such colony remains largely intact, located in New Glarus, Wisconsin. This community, which I am honored to represent in Congress, continues to celebrate its Swiss heritage, attracting Swiss immigrants and welcome visitors from around the world.

Many in North America are not aware of the accomplishments of their Swiss-American neighbors. The Swiss have brought a multi-cultural background encompassing elements from German, French, Italian and Roman heritages. Many things of Switzerland as a land of Alpine meadows, decorated cowbells and colorful window boxes. Yet this fails to fully recognize the very modern, multilingual and multi-cultural aspects of this small, yet diverse, nation.

Those of Swiss descent in North America are very proud of their heritage, as Switzerland has made many important contributions to the world. Yet, unlike many other nationalities, there is no permanent venue to showcase Swiss cultural, economic, historic, and social contributions in North America. I hope that is about to change.

The Swiss Center of North America aims to be a state-of-the-art facility located in New Glarus, Wisconsin. It will highlight the contributions of the Swiss of yesterday, today and tomorrow. With historical exhibits, modern interactive displays, genealogical research facilities and premiere meeting space, the Swiss Center will help spread the word that Swiss living in the United States, Canada and Mexico continue to offer much to the North American

melting pot. The State of Wisconsin has already committed \$2 million to this project and an international fund-raising drive is now well underway.

I support the Swiss Center of North America not just because it will be located in my district. I support it because those of Swiss heritage need a place to house their artifacts and tell their story. This is a valuable project, in part, because learning more about where we come from helps guide us to where we are going. The more future generations learn about this nation, the more they understand about our rich diversity. The Swiss Center of North America will help foster a better understanding between cultures and will offer us the promise of a broader appreciation of the heritage of our international ancestors.

THANKING WOLODYMYR LUCKHAN
FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE
UNITED STATES DURING WORLD
WAR II

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank one of my constituents, Wolodymyr Luckhan, for the heroic action he took during World War II to save an American tank division from an enemy ambush near Swizel, Germany, in April 1945. Mr. Luckhan, seized by the Germans into forced labor, overheard the impending attack against an American tank force approaching the city of Swizel. Mr. Luckhan commandeered a boy's bicycle and peddled through German lines, risking his life to reach the Allied forces. Without his timely warning, the loss of American lives would have been considerable. Mr. Luckhan's example once again demonstrates that the virtue of selflessness merits recognition.

After the war, Mr. Luckhan came to the United States, became a citizen and raised a family. At age 91, Mr. Luckhan still recalls the event that changed the course of history for so many. Walt Whitman wrote that "To have great poets, there must be great audiences, too." I present Mr. Wolodymyr Luckhan as a spokesperson for freedom whose stage for heroism was made possible by the great audience of men and women who gave their lives in service of our country and those who, thanks to the efforts of people such as Mr. Luckhan, have survived to share in the quality of life that only this great nation can afford.

SERBIA DEMOCRATIZATION ACT
OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1064, the Serbia and Montenegro Democracy Act. This resolution coincides with the highly important general elections held in Serbia on September 24, 2000. We can only hope that the ongoing election count at this hour reflects a fair, free, and open election, Mr. Speaker.

As we all know, Yugoslav President Milosevic has maintained his power in Serbia throughout the 1990s through a combination of virulent Serb nationalism and outright oppression.

The violence that occurred in Kosovo was brutal and a dramatic affront to the inhabitants of those environs. He has also tried to silence democratic opponents in Montenegro—the only remaining republic outside Serbia in the Yugoslav Federation. Now, the democratic opposition must be given every incentive to flourish in Serbia and Montenegro.

This bill authorizes as much as \$50 million to support democratization of the Republic of Serbia (excluding Kosovo) and \$55 million in support of ongoing political and economic reforms and democratization in the Republic of Montenegro.

H.R. 1064 directs the radio and television broadcasting to Yugoslavia in both the Serbo-Croatian and Albanian languages be carried out by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Inc. The message of democracy and human rights can be disseminated directly to the people of Serbia if we use all technological means at our disposal. The bill also provides funds for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to facilitate contacts by democracy activists in Serbia and Montenegro with their counterparts in other countries.

The bill contains some measures that hold the worst human rights abusers accountable. H.R. 1064 maintains sanctions against the government of Yugoslavia until the following conditions are met—agreement on a lasting settlement in Kosovo; compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina; implementation of internal democratic reform; settlement of all succession issues with the other republics that emerged from the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and cooperation with the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia indicted by the tribunal.

The bill also blocks all Yugoslav assets in the United States; restricts U.S. citizens from doing business with the Yugoslav government; prohibits U.S. visas to senior Yugoslav government officials and their families; and restricts non-humanitarian U.S. assistance to Yugoslavia.

Finally, the bill directs the President to coordinate multilateral sanctions on the governments of Serbia and Yugoslavia; requires that the United States fully support the investigation of President Slobodan Milosevic by the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and grave breaches of the Geneva Convention; directs the President to report to Congress on the information provided to the tribunal; and urges the President to condemn the harassment of ethnic Hungarian inhabitants in Vojvodina.

HONORING JOHN KIDNEY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge the accomplishments of John Kidney. John has been an integral member of the

Abington Rockledge Democratic Committee in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania since 1966 and it has been a privilege to work so closely with him over the years.

John was raised in Hartford, Connecticut where his political career began. At the age of 17, he was appointed a delegate from East Windsor, Connecticut to the 1944 Democratic State Convention. While earning his undergraduate degree from Yale University, John served as president of the Yale Young Democrats and was invited to be a political commentator at a local radio station during the 1948 presidential election.

Upon completion of an MBA from Harvard University, John and his wife Polly moved to Montgomery County. In 1958 they relocated to Italy and did not return to the United States until the mid 1960's. He and Polly have four children and six beautiful grandchildren. John has served as a committee person and the Treasurer of the Abington-Rockledge Democratic Committee since 1971.

John worked for Rohm and Haas Corporation in various financial positions from 1951 to 1991. After retiring from Rohm and Haas, he managed investments and administered charitable grant programs for the Haas family.

John's expertise and knowledge in the political arena are invaluable assets. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize John Kidney and the outstanding contributions he has made to the Democratic community in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF SWITZERLAND FOR REJECTING A LIMIT ON FOREIGNERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we tend to be quick to criticize and slow to praise. Earlier the Swiss were subjected to intense international criticism for the policies and practices of Swiss banks during World War II. The Swiss government and Swiss banks have moved in the right direction since that matter became an issue of international concern.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the people of Switzerland in a national referendum demonstrated their willingness to act in a remarkably enlightened fashion on an issue that is sensitive and that has been subject to demagoguery. By a vote of nearly 64 percent, Swiss voters decisively rejected a proposal to reduce the number of foreigners in their country to 18 percent of the total population. A majority of voters in all of the 26 Swiss cantons rejected the proposal. To their credit, the Swiss Cabinet urged voters to reject the proposal.

This was a serious issue, Mr. Speaker, because foreigners currently make up about 19.3 percent of the population of Switzerland—some 1.4 million out of a population of 7.2 million, almost one in five residents of the country, are foreigners. A quarter of the Swiss work-force is foreign. These figures are high even by European standards. Austria and Sweden, both of which have among the highest foreign population in the nations of the European Union, have only about one in nine foreigners living in their countries.

Mr. Speaker, the action of the Swiss people in this referendum was enlightened and informed, and it dealt a blow in the fight against far-right and neo-Nazi fringe groups, who support placing limits on foreigners in Switzerland. It is important that we acknowledge and commend the Swiss people and the Swiss government on this decisive and most encouraging result.

HONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000—EXTEND NATURALIZATION TO FORMER SPOUSES OF DECEASED HONG VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to exempt the widows of the Hmong veterans from certain citizenship requirements.

The Hmong are a mountain people mainly found in southern China and northern areas of Burma, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Beginning in the 1950s, Hmong soldiers fought the communist Pathet Lao movement in Laos and later assisted U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. The Hmong aided U.S. forces, collected intelligence, rescued downed American pilots, protected sensitive U.S. military installations monitoring the Ho Chi Minh Trail and tied down an estimated 50,000 North Vietnamese troops in Laos. When the war ended, the Pathet Lao took power in Laos and persecuted and imprisoned many of the Hmong allies of the United States.

The Hmong come from a tribal society that, until recently, had no written language and many have found it difficult to naturalize because of their difficulty in learning English. This legislation would exempt them from this difficult requirement. Currently this same exemption has been given to those men and their spouses who served with a special unit, operating from a base in Laos in support of the U.S. military. It is time to extend this same exemption to the widows of these men.

This is a great step for the widows who were not covered under the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act. The Hmong have faced insurmountable odds with the English language portion of the citizenship exam. This bill provides a needed form of relief in the citizenship process by exempting the widows from that portion of the exam.

Mr. Speaker, these women are the same spouses of men who sacrificed everything to help us. Many of their husbands gave their lives to save U.S. pilots and other Americans. They fought side-by-side with the U.S. forces and then lost everything. This legislation represents what the Congress can do to provide for the widows of these brave men.