

away at age 37. For the past six years, Gary served the State of Colorado with great distinction as a Member of the Colorado State House of Representatives. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this sudden and terrible loss, I would like to pay tribute to this statesman and friend.

Gary was born in Auburn, Washington, but attended school at Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska, graduating in 1981. He went on to Union College where his thirst for knowledge earned him a degree in business administration, as well as minors in history, psychology, social science and sociology. Gary then went on to earn his law degree at the University of Nebraska in 1988.

After law school, Gary moved on to what would become a highly successful career. His time as a lawyer saw him practicing for a number of different law firms, including Hall & Evans, Elrod, Katz, Preco & Look P.C., Fortune & Lawritson P.C., and most recently Kissinger & Fellman P.C.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a lawyer, Gary also served in the Colorado Legislature with great distinction. As a legislator, Representative McPherson fought hard on a range of issues important to Colorado's future. During his tenure in the legislature, Gary served as member of the Appropriations and Judicial committees as well as Chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Before serving in the Colorado State Legislature, Representative McPherson was a member of numerous organizations promoting the health and vitality of his community and all of Colorado. He served as president and board member of Jackson Farms Homeowners Association, director of the Attorney/Physician Suspension Alternative Project, chairman of the ABA Prelaw Counseling Committee, board member and legislative liaison for the Colorado Bar Association Military Law Commission, and vice chairman and board member of Arapahoe County Park and Recreation District.

Giving back to his community was a priority for Representative McPherson and his hard work and determination earned him a number of awards. His honors include Colorado Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent's Award, International Academy of Trial Lawyer's Award, and CACI Legislator of the Year 1995.

Gary was an incredible human being, a loving and devoted father, husband, and friend. His compassion for others and commitment to his community will not soon be forgotten. Gary served his community, State, and Nation admirably. This statesman, family man, and friend will be greatly missed.

#### PUTIN'S POTEMKIN DEMOCRACY IN RUSSIA

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, recent very disturbing trends in Russia with respect to press freedom have raised serious doubts about democratic development in that country. The

current effort by Russian President Vladimir Putin to eliminate the independent news media in Russia is a serious threat to Russia's democratic future.

It will take a long time to build democracy in Russia, Mr. Speaker, but one of the very few encouraging signs of the last decade in Russia was the presence of a free press. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am using the past tense—it was an encouraging sign.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Putin's administration puts an end to the persecution and harassment of whatever is left of the free media in Russia. But the attack against the independent media is serious and systematic, and it is deadly earnest.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post (October 2, 2000) published an excellent editorial expressing serious concern about freedom of the press in Russia. I ask that the text of this editorial be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read this important editorial.

#### IMAGE AND REALITY IN RUSSIA

[The Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2000]

Russian President Vladimir Putin tends to his international image with skill. He dines with American media heavyweights in New York City and professes his commitment to a free press. He lunches with former dissident Nathan Sharansky in the Kremlin and insists on his love of human rights. For a pathetically small price—a bit of attention—he co-opts Mikhail Gorbachev, who in turn says nice things about the young Russian president to foreign media. All this impresses Western leaders. Meanwhile, Mr. Putin is in the process of destroying the independent media in Russia. If he succeeds, democratization will be severely set back.

On a small scale, you can see Mr. Putin at work in the case of Andrei Babitsky, who is scheduled to go on trial in southern Russia today. Mr. Babitsky is a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty who reported honestly on brutal Russian behavior in Chechnya. Russian security forces arrested him for this affront and then arranged for him to be kidnapped by Chechen criminals. President Putin pretended to know nothing about this until international pressure became a liability, at which point Mr. Babitsky was freed. But the bullying did not stop. Mr. Putin's administration is prosecuting the reporter for carrying false documents—documents forced on him by his kidnappers.

Mr. Putin's assault on Media-Most is potentially more serious. The company owns NTV, the only Russian television network not controlled by the government. It also owns a radio station and publishes a daily newspaper and, in partnership with The Washington Post Co.'s Newsweek, a weekly magazine. Its survival now is threatened by a commercial dispute with the giant natural gas company, Gazprom, that lent it money.

As in the Babitsky case, Mr. Putin pretends not to be involved in this dispute. But the Kremlin owns a large piece of Gazprom and effectively controls the firm. Mr. Putin's administration set the stage for the dispute by throwing Media-Most's owner into prison for three days. After this KGB-style intimidation, the owner, Vladimir Gusinsky, was pressured—by a member of Mr. Putin's cabinet acting in close consultation with the Kremlin—to sign an unfavorable contract. Mr. Gusinsky was promised in return his freedom, which President Putin apparently feels is a commodity to be bargained, not a fundamental right. Now, despite Mr. Putin's

protest of noninvolvement in a commercial dispute, his prosecutor-general has opened a criminal fraud case against Mr. Gusinsky.

The West has little leverage over Russia. Oil prices are high, meaning that Russia, an oil-producing country, no longer needs Western loans. But as his image campaign suggests, Mr. Putin does crave acceptance in the West. Western leaders should welcome him as long as he respects democracy at home. If he does not—if he persists in undermining Russia's independent media—the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations should return to being a G-7. A Potemkin democrat does not belong in the club of democracies.

RESOLUTION HONORING NOBEL  
LAUREATES DR. ERIC R.  
KANDEL AND DR. PAUL  
GREENGARD

#### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to honor the American winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2000, Drs. Eric R. Kandel and Paul Greengard. These two distinguished scientists will share this year's award with a third winner, Dr. Arvid Carlsson of Sweden.

The scientists were recognized by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute for their important contributions to understanding how brain cells interact with each other at the molecular level to create moods and memories in individuals. Their separate but related pursuits, which began in the 1950s, have provided the basis for today's understanding of mental illness and neurological disorders, including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. This understanding has been essential for the drugs and treatments that have been already developed for these afflictions and provide the foundation for even more promising research in these areas.

Last year, the Office of the Surgeon General published Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General, which noted that although the United States leads the world in understanding the importance of mental health to the overall health of its people, the nation still has many challenges to meet. Today, one in five people in the United States are afflicted with some form of mental disorder. Furthermore, mental disorder is one of the key contributors to a leading cause of preventable deaths—suicide. The federal government, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided strong support toward research efforts in the mental health area. Indeed, NIH contributed to the discoveries made by Drs. Kandel and Greengard through grants and research support for over 30 years. As we celebrate the honor bestowed by the Nobel Assembly upon Drs. Kandel and Greengard, we should also look forward to the challenges ahead, which include not only continued scientific research but also improving the delivery of mental health services and helping society to overcome ingrained fears and misconceptions concerning mental illness.

GEORGE E. BROWN, JR. UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 17, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to add a few words to those of my colleagues in support of this bill to designate the U.S. Courthouse on 12th Street in Riverside, California, as the "George E. Brown, Jr., United States Courthouse." I think this is a worthy honor for a man who brought so much to his constituents in California, to colleagues in Congress, and to the citizens of this country.

The death of George Brown, Jr. last year deprived this Congress and this country of a great champion of science and technology. While I worked with him for only a brief time, I felt as though I had known him for years because he had been a colleague and friend of my father and because his reputation was so well known.

George Brown was a man of courage and vision and ideological consistency. In his 34 years of distinguished service in the House, he worked to advance energy and resource conservation, sustainable agriculture, advanced technology development, space exploration, international scientific cooperation, and the integration of technology in education.

With or without a Courthouse in his name, George Brown will be remembered. But I'm sure if he were with us here today, George would appreciate this gesture on the part of his colleagues and the country to ensure his legacy lasts beyond our own lifetimes.

HONORING ABDUL CONTEH

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday Major League Soccer honored Abdul Conteh, a star of the San Jose Earthquakes, by presenting the inaugural New York Life Humanitarian of the Year Award to him.

I want to add my voice to those honoring Mr. Conteh, and I want to commend Major League Soccer and New York Life for drawing attention to the world's humanitarian crises and to those working to do something to ease suffering.

Abdul Conteh was born in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. His family moved to the United States when he was a teenager, but he has not forgotten his people and his country and he is using his hard-won fame to champion their needs. In conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the American Red Cross, Mr. Conteh recently launched an initiative to raise funds to alleviate the suffering of a people who have experienced gruesome atrocities, death, and destruction during nine years of war.

His hope is to fund a school and other projects that can help his people reclaim their

lives. As he works toward this goal he is doing something else too: he is raising the awareness of soccer fans and others who otherwise wouldn't think about Sierra Leone—Americans who can do something to help the people of a nation founded by former slaves, people who have been trapped by fighting over the lucrative diamond trade for nine long years.

Rebel forces—funded by stealing Sierra Leone's diamonds and assisted by Liberia's president, Charles Taylor—have brutalized innocent men, women and children throughout Sierra Leone. They have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes and killed tens of thousands more. Some 20,000 of these suffered forced amputations of their hands, ears, or legs by machete; most of these victims died. Untold numbers of girls and women have been raped, many of them left infected with AIDS as a result. The country, which should be one of the richest in Africa, consistently ranks as the poorest in the world and the most miserable by every measure.

I have been to Sierra Leone and I have seen first-hand the results of these rebels. Last December, Congressman FRANK WOLF and I visited camps for the survivors of the rebels' attacks. We met thousands of people who are lucky to be alive, who did not bleed to death as they struggled to flee the rebels who had just cut off their arms, legs, or ears. Few were spared rebels' grotesque and evil acts. Infants' arms and legs were cut off. Young men in the prime of their life suddenly had half of a leg, or no hands. Women were raped by rebels and then had their arms amputated—only to give birth several months later as a result of the rape they suffered.

Mr. Conteh knows first-hand what I have just described; more than 20 of his family members have been killed in the bloodshed. The horrible images we all have seen and the stories we have heard about the atrocities in Sierra Leone touch Mr. Conteh and others personally. It is the survivors who are left with the empty beds, the missing generations, and the questions from the children as to why their friends, uncles, cousins, siblings, or parents are no longer here.

Through his initiative, Mr. Conteh will make a difference in people's lives in Sierra Leone. I commend Mr. Conteh for his efforts on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, I congratulate him for receiving this prestigious humanitarian award, and I wish him and others doing lifesaving work in Sierra Leone all the best.

BLASTING STERLING PRIVATE  
FEE-FOR-SERVICE M+C PLAN  
FOR RISK AVOIDANCE

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged that the Sterling Life Insurance Company, which operates the only approved private fee-for-service Medicare+Choice (M+C) plan, has established a benefit package for 2001 that is designed to enroll healthier patients and avoid sicker patients. For 2001, Sterling will require 50 percent copayments for home health services and durable medical equipment.

What Sterling is doing is an unconscionable rip-off of sicker beneficiaries and the Medicare program itself. Home health and DME are services that are associated with sicker patients, who are also more costly, so Sterling is deliberately avoiding sicker, more costly patients.

Under the Medicare law, M+C plans must provide all standard Medicare benefits, but are permitted to modify the cost sharing amounts for those services as long as the total actuarial value of the cost sharing does not exceed the total actuarial amount of the cost sharing in the traditional Medicare program. The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) must approve the actuarial value of the cost sharing, but has no authority under the statute to prevent M+C plans from tailoring their cost sharing amounts as they choose.

I will introduce legislation to require HCFA to approve all cost sharing amounts of M+C plans and prohibit M+C plans from manipulating cost sharing amounts to avoid sicker patients. Sterling is saying that they are trying to avoid fraud, but clearly, they are deliberately seeking to enroll only healthier, more profitable patients, while avoiding sicker, more costly patients. Since the Republicans have slowed the implementation of risk-adjustment of payments to M+C plans, Sterling will be overpaid for the patients that it enrolls. This practice is an obscene rip off of Medicare and the taxpayers, and I will try to stop it. When the new Congress convenes in January, I will introduce legislation to give HCFA authority to approve all cost sharing amounts to prevent such blatant risk avoidance.

REGARDING H.R. 4838

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 18, 2000*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to commend the House of Representatives for the successful passage of H.R. 4838, which waives the oath of allegiance requirement for people with disabilities that seek citizenship in our great nation.

The need for such a bill is best exemplified in the case of Vijai Rajan of Anaheim, California. Twenty-five-year-old Vijai was born in India and has been residing in the U.S. since she was four months old. Ms. Rajan has several disabilities including cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, and Crohn's disease which prevents her from raising her hand or memorizing and understanding the oath. Doctors say her comprehension is that of a baby or toddler.

This piece of legislation is significant in expressing our nation's view of acceptance and welcoming of new citizens. These people cannot be denied citizenship when they have played by all the rules and have waited for so long.

Her parents' four year battle with the INS is nearly over and Vijai as well as the other 1,100 disabilities waiver applicants are closer to becoming citizens of the United States. I am certain that these family members enjoy peace of mind and inner satisfaction knowing that their loved ones are part of America.