

activist. After seven months of detention and the arrest and subsequent arbitrary sentencing of her secretary and one son, Ms. Kadeer was given a 4-hour trial. During this trial, neither she nor her lawyer were able to speak, none of her children were allowed to attend and the 300 Uighurs who had gathered at the courthouse were dispersed by Chinese police.

This was not a trial. It was a farce. If China wants to be a full partner in the international arena, it has to start abiding by international norms and living within the rule of law. Seven months of arbitrary detention and a trial where the defendant's lawyer is not allowed to speak is not an accepted practice within the international community and should not be an accepted practice in China.

Ms. Kadeer was traveling to meet with congressional staff, official representatives of the U.S. Government, when she was detained. This did not seem to matter to the Chinese and it appears to be one of the factors for the timing of her arrest. Clearly, the Chinese were sending a signal: Any citizen who meets with or talks to United States citizens is risking detention, arrest and a prison sentence.

I call on the Chinese Government to immediately and unconditionally release Rebiya Kadeer, her son, Ablikim Abyirim and her secretary, Kahrman Abdukurim. They have not committed any crimes. Further, I call on the Clinton administration to do everything in its power to secure these releases.

Incidents like this prove that this is not the time to ease the pressure on China. We in the United States, and around the world must never give up our ideals and belief in human freedom, and need to pressure dictators, oppressors and abusers around the world that lack the respect for the rule of law and for human life. Only if Ms. Kadeer's case is brought to the highest level of our Administration and the Chinese Government is there any hope that Ms. Kadeer will not spend the next 8 years of her life in a Chinese prison—8 years she should be spending with her husband and 10 children—and for speaking up for the most basic human rights of her people, the Uighurs.

FOR ITALIANS, "SOPRANOS" IS A
SOUR NOTE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is time to end racial and ethnic stereotyping in our national media. While many ethnic groups have been victimized in this way. Italian-Americans have lately been the target of a hit television program about a family of gangsters, titled "Sopranos."

Frankly, all of the Italian-Americans that I know are honest, upstanding citizens who work every day to support their families, to educate their children, and to build their communities. They are blue- and white-collar workers and professionals. They vote, pay taxes, and believe in the American dream that hard work will yield success.

My dear friend and our former colleague in the House of Representatives, the Hon. Frank Guarini, eloquently addressed this issue in a letter to the Wall Street Journal on February 15, 2000.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Feb. 15, 2000]

FOR ITALIANS, "SOPRANOS" HIT A BIG, SOUR
NOTE

(By Frank J. Guarini)

Eric Gibson's Jan. 28 *de gustibus* column ("Second Thoughts About a Mob Hit on Sunday Night," *Taste* page, *Weekend Journal*) correctly notes that the HBO series "The Sopranos" and others like it have put a slick entertaining face on a subgroup of criminals who rightly deserve society's harshest condemnation. We wish he had taken his criticism one step further, however, and included the harm that programs like "The Sopranos" do to the image of an estimate 20 million Americans of Italian descent.

Thanks to Hollywood and television, Italian Americans see their culture, religion and customs repeatedly used to give "color" to stories about organized crime. As a result of such stereotyping, most Americans believe Italian Americans are prone to the same violent, immoral behavior that "The Sopranos" offers up as entertainment.

The National Italian American Foundation would like to see HBO present Italian-Americans as they really are: as scientists, educators, military and political leaders and entrepreneurs. It's time for the entertainment industry to balance the false and harmful stereotypes of organized crime figures like Tony Soprano and his mob crew by creating Italian American characters who are educated, law-abiding and articulate.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE OHIO STATE FIRE
MARSHAL'S OFFICE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office on its 100th Anniversary, on April 8, 2000.

The Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office is the oldest established State Fire Marshal's Office in the United States. The office is very proud of its history of fire safety. The Ohio State Fire Marshal serves the citizens of Ohio who rely on the safety of the public buildings in the state, including hospitals, nursing homes, and hotels. They serve and train the firefighters of the state, they investigate cases of arson, and they provide fire safety and fire prevention education to the children in Ohio's school system. The mission of the Ohio State Fire Marshal's office is to "focus on education, research, regulation, and enforcement in the area of fire safety and fire prevention."

In order to celebrate this important day and to honor the four living former Ohio Fire Marshals, the Fire Marshal's office has planned a Fire Service Exposition on April 8, 2000. Included in the day's festivities will be safety performances by Ohio firefighters and demonstrations by the Ohio arson dogs, as well as interactive children's activities and historical firefighting exhibitions. The Expo will also honor fallen firefighters with a "last call" and bagpipe tribute.

The Fire Marshal plays an important role in preserving the safety of all the citizens of the state of Ohio. Please join me in honoring the Ohio State Fire Marshal's Office on the occasion of its 100th Anniversary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was regretfully absent on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, and consequently missed two recorded votes. Both were conducted under suspension of the rules. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: H. Con. Res. 288, vote No. 56, "yea"; H. Res. 182, vote No. 57, "yea."

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. SMITH OF TEXAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following article to accompany the speech I gave on March 16, 2000.

[From the Washington Times, Mar. 16, 2000]

PROPERTY OWNERS DUE A HEARING

(By Nancie G. Marzulla)

In 1992, Bernadine Suitum faced the ultimate nightmare for a homeowner. When she was ready to build a retirement house on a lot she and her late husband bought years earlier, she was informed that the property, in the middle of the bustling Incline Village subdivision, suddenly was deemed part of a "stream environment zone."

This meant she could not build because a government regulation, imposed after she and her husband had bought the property, required the lot to remain open space. Mrs. Suitum sued the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) for compensation for her property, as the Fifth Amendment explicitly requires in such instances. TRPA argued that her case was not "ripe" for court review because there had not been a final agency action.

After six years of bitter litigation, the elderly Mrs. Suitum was carried in her wheelchair into the U.S. Supreme Court—not to be compensated for her property, but merely to win the right to have her case declared ripe for court review. During oral argument, Justice O'Connor turned to the government attorney and asked incredulously, "Why can't you just let this poor woman have her day in court?"

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on the same question today. H.R. 2372, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 1999, was referred out of the House Judiciary last week. If passed, the bill would cut through the bureaucratic red tape that hobbles property owners such as Mrs. Suitum when they attempt to take their constitutional claims to federal court. H.R. 2372 takes head-on the issue of when a case is ripe for court review by defining when an agency action is sufficiently final so court review is appropriate. By providing an objective standard of when enough is enough, the bill eliminates the need for the endless, expensive and excruciating cycle of appeals.

Government attorneys often win cases by taking full advantage of the confusion over when a case is ripe for court review. They win by nitpicking procedural battles, exhausting the resources and the will of property owners. This has had a chilling effect on landowners who know they simply cannot compete with bottomless government resources in a judicial system tilted toward the side with the biggest war chest.

Professor Mandelker from Washington University in St. Louis reported to Congress last session that 81 percent of the federal constitutional takings cases taken to federal court for claims against a local or state government are dismissed on procedural grounds. In his testimony he cites another study that reports a whopping 94 percent dismissal rate. Of the small percentage of cases not dismissed, those same studies show it takes property owners almost a full decade to have their cases heard on the merits in federal court. According to Professor Mandelker, the current ripeness rules "are an open invitation for some local governments to do mischief." He confirmed that "land use agencies across the country have applied the ripeness requirement to frustrate as-applied takings claims in federal court."

While H.R. 2372 goes a long way toward preventing abuses of the current ripeness requirements, it does not guarantee property owners a win once they are in court. H.R. 2372 still requires property owners to meet the strict burden of proof needed to win their cases on the merits. Nor does H.R. 2372 amend any land use laws or any environmental protection statutes, or require compensation at some designated level. In short, the bill does not change substantive "takings" law or the ease the burden of winning a case for a property owner. It simply makes the litigation process fairer and less expensive.

The constitutional right to just compensation for the taking of property rights is so important to Americans that many people refer to it as the linchpin of liberty. By clearing out the underbrush in the procedures for litigating takings claims in federal court, Congress can take a crucial first step in achieving protection for this critical constitutional right.

ROTARY OF RIVERSIDE 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the Rotary Club of Riverside's 80th anniversary. From their very conception on April 20, 1920, when they received their charter from Rotary International, the Club has enriched the Riverside community by observing the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." Members of the club include community leaders in business, trade, professions and government.

The Rotary Club of Riverside has given to the local community by sponsoring projects to aid Riverside youth through the sponsorship of Bryant Elementary School; through an annual awarding of scholarships to deserving Riverside high school seniors, from the \$200,000 John Cote Scholarship Fund; through the establishment of a vibrant Interact Club at Riverside Poly High School; and through contributions to the establishment of the Riverside Youth Museum.

On an international basis the Rotary Club of Riverside has contributed and supported the Rotary International Polio Plus program to eradicate polio in developing countries and regions worldwide; and a little closer to home, through materials, gifts and caring to the children of orphanages in Tijuana, Mexico, in partnership with the Rotarian of Centenario Rotary Club of Tijuana.

The Rotary Club of Riverside will officially observe its anniversary with a Picnic Celebration on April 2, 2000, in Riverside, CA. It will be attended by the club's members and their families, guests and dignitaries, including: the Honorable Ronald Loveridge, the mayor of Riverside; the Honorable Tom Mullen, chairman of the Riverside County Board of Supervisors representing the 5th county district; and the Honorable Rod Pacheco, California Assemblyman representing the 64th assembly district.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Rotary Club of Riverside on its 80th anniversary and commend its local community and international service.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate Women's History Month, it's fitting to recall the words of a writer and historian from Georgia named Octavia Albert, who said: "I believe we should not only treasure our history, but should transmit it to our children's children as the Lord commanded Israel to do in reference to their deliverance from Egyptian bondage." The stories of our history, she explained, can inspire our own generation and the generations that follow to fulfill the country's promise of freedom and opportunity for all.

Octavia Albert's story is certainly inspirational. She was born into slavery in Oglethorpe, GA, in the area of the state that I have the privilege of representing. After becoming a teacher in the county where she was born and raised, she published a book based on interviews with former slaves that was widely read at the turn of the century. Her book eventually helped improve conditions for a newly emancipated people and, in late years, provided a wealth of information for historians.

More than a century later, another Georgian named Susan Still Kilrain is inspiring young people in our state and across the nation. A graduate of Georgia Tech, she became a U.S. Navy pilot in 1987, who served as a flight instructor and later as a test pilot who eventually logged more than 2,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft.

In 1994, Susan Kilrain was accepted into the country's space program as an astronaut. Her first space mission came in 1997 as part of the crew of the Microgravity Science Laboratory-1, making 63 orbits of Earth and traveling more than 1.5 million miles in space. Three months later, the Microgravity Science Lab went back into space, and she was on it. This time, she spent 16 days in space, making 251 orbits and traveling 6.3 million miles.

Marguerite Neel Williams of Thomasville, GA, which is also located in my area of Georgia, who passed away not long ago, is certainly an inspiration. Just this month, she was formally recognized by the Georgia Women's History Committee and the Georgia Commission on Women as one of the greatest historic preservationists in our State and, in fact, in the country.

During her years as president and director of Landmarks of Thomasville, she was instru-

mental in saving the community's historic district and in saving and restoring many homes, churches, and other beautiful buildings. She salvaged the city's old post office, which now houses a Welcome Center, a fine Arts Library, and the offices for the Antique Show and Sale in Thomasville, which she founded and which has become one of the most outstanding events of its kind in the country. She devoted her life to civic improvements, and helped raise the quality of life for many thousands of her fellow Georgians.

To one former President, and to all of her neighbors in Plains, GA, Maxine Reese is certainly an inspiration. She served as Jimmy Carter's campaign manager in Plains, where the Presidential campaign headquarters was officially located. Maxine Reese later played a big part in persuading Congress to designate Plains as a National Historic Site, which has promoted tourism in this area and a better quality of life for many families. The people of Plains recently rededicated the city park as the Maxine Reese Park in recognition of her service to her community, State and country.

When inspiration is the topic of discussion, another person who qualifies is Harriett Riggs McGhee, a native of Lee County in the heart of Georgia's Second District. Surrounded by scores of friends and family members, she recently celebrated her 116th birthday at the Union Missionary Baptist Church, where she has been a member for more than 80 years. Mrs. McGhee spent many of her earlier years picking cotton and peanuts to support her family. Throughout those years, she was always active in her church and ready to help others in need. Even in hard times, recalls her great-grandnephew Eddie Holsey, she has always been "the sweetest woman on God's earth."

These are women with extraordinary courage and commitment, whose exemplary lives have helped the country fulfill its promise. They are exceptional people. But they are certainly not alone. There are countless examples of women from my State of Georgia, and from throughout the country, who have made heroic contributions in public service; civic leadership; business; religion; the military; the arts; sports; entertainment, and in every endeavor that has made our country what she has been and what she is.

Mr. Speaker, Women's History Month gives us an opportunity to treasure our history—and, in so doing, to inspire us to strive even harder to fulfill our country's great promise for ourselves and future generations.

IN HONOR OF JANE SCOTT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jane Scott of Cleveland, Ohio. A Cleveland native, Jane has covered the rock 'n' roll scene since September 15, 1964.

Born in Mt Sinai Hospital April 30, 1919, Jane graduated from Lakewood high school in the Class of 1937. After which she attended the University of Michigan where she studied English & Speech and received a teacher's certificate she admits to never having used. During World War II, Jane served in the Navy