

for student behavior and learning have been manifested in mandatory daily homework, advocacy of parents for school uniforms, and family support enabling Elvira to become a pioneer school for the well-known violence prevention program known as PeaceBuilders.

The examples of commitment and dedication at Elvira Elementary School are numerous. That is why I am so proud of this school and its principal, my friend Mary Jane Santos. Thanks to her commitment and the dedication and work of parents, community and staff, Elvira Elementary School is continually elevating student achievement and moving toward its vision of creating learning environments that empower all students to reach their full potential. For these reasons, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Elvira Elementary School.

A TRIBUTE TO GABRIEL EREM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Gabriel Erem, the publisher of Lifestyles magazine, upon his being selected as the inaugural recipient of the prestigious "Jerusalem Award" by the UJA-Federation of New York. This is in recognition of his thirty years of community involvement and for donating his time and resources to numerous charitable causes. The award will be presented on June 18th, 2001 in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Erem has lived the quintessential American dream. He was born in Hungary among the ruins of WWII to Holocaust survivors Rabbi Akiva Eichler and Borbala Frank. After winning a national writing contest in 1964, Gabriel caught the attention of the Communist party and was eventually persecuted by them for his writings. Fearing for his safety he escaped to Israel, where he attended Tel Aviv University and later worked as a freelance journalist for several major newspapers. After Mr. Erem arrived in North America he founded a publishing company and has risen to the top of the publishing profession.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to managing a successful magazine, Gabriel Erem serves on a number of humanitarian and charitable boards both in the United States and abroad. He is the Co-Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl organization and has worked on the establishment of the Endowment for Democracy School in Budapest, Hungary. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Israel Bonds organization, and serves on the Supervisory Boards of Bar Ilan University, Rambam Medical Center, Boys Town of Jerusalem and The Center of the Cantorial Arts. Mr. Erem is also a Member Emeritus on the council that bestows the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Awards on behalf of the Shaarei Zedek Medical Center of Jerusalem and is an advisor to the College of Tish where the new Torah Study Center was named after his late father, Rabbi Akiva Eichler.

Mr. Erem is an advisor to New York University Law School, Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, and the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation in Toronto. Mr. Erem's commitment to edu-

cating people about the Holocaust led him to join Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. He is also an associate member of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and is a member of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy. Gabriel Erem has been married for 29 years to his wife, Susan, and they are the parents of two lovely children.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem's Lifestyles magazine was established to salute Jewish contributions in all areas of life. Over the past thirty years, the magazine has published profiles of extraordinary human beings ranging from Nobel Laureates, to giants of the art world, and individuals who have excelled in their various fields. Under Mr. Erem's leadership Lifestyles has established itself as a respected voice of integrity and continues to spotlight numerous and various humanitarian causes in each issue.

Mr. Speaker, Gabriel Erem, a child of Holocaust survivors, is being honored for his passionate commitment to teaching Jewish history and culture and preserving the Jewish legacy to the world. He has made numerous contributions to Holocaust education in our country, including the dedication of several issues of his magazine to teaching future generations about the lessons of the Holocaust. He is a man of outstanding commitment and accomplishment in the noblest of pursuits, who continues to contribute to culture, education, ethnic understanding, and the spreading of democratic and free market principles. Through his vast commitment to preserving and nurturing Jewish communal life, both in the United States and Canada, Gabriel Erem has made a tremendous and enduring gift to the education of future generations about Jewish history and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me paying tribute Gabriel Erem for his contributions to our society and applaud him on receiving the UJA-Federation of New York's first annual Jerusalem Award.

OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS FIRST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the following graduating high school students from the First Congressional District of New Mexico have been awarded the Congressional Certificate of Merit. These students have excelled during their academic careers and proven themselves to be exceptional students and leaders with their scholastic achievements, community service, and participation in school and civic activities. It is my pleasure to be able to recognize these outstanding students for their accomplishments. Their parents, their teachers, their classmates, the people of New Mexico and I are proud of them.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT AWARD WINNERS 2001

Jayne Chino, Career Enrichment Center
Julio Dominguez, Rio Grande High School
Tomas Jason Garcia, Menaul High School
Lynda Griego, Evening High School
Margery Martha Gullick, Valley High School
Emiliano Herrera III, St. Pius High School

Sara K. Keller, Temple Baptist Academy
Adriana Kennedy, Freedom High School
Kristin Mitchell, Manzano High School
Christina Cook, Estancia High School
Renee Nicole Eden, Hope Christian School
Sarah Burrows Gonzales, Albuquerque High School

Eric Grossman, Albuquerque Academy
Joel L. Gurule, Evangel Christian Academy
Matthew Jones, Cibola High School
Kristin N. Kelly, Sandia Preparatory School
Matt Long, Eldorado High School
Anthony Montoya, Los Lunas High School
Jessie Montoya, School on Wheels
Bianca Pullen, Del Norte High School
Francisco Romero, Mountainair High School
Basil Jerome Steele Jr., Sandia High School
Megha Narayan, La Cueva High School
Amanda Rogers, Moriarty High School
Diva Sanchez, New Futures High School

IN HONOR OF DAVID L. CHERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of David L. Cherry, a member of the New York Police Department. Mr. Cherry graduated from St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn in May 2001. He earned distinguished honors at graduation, including his selection as a member of the Delta Gamma Sigma Honor Society.

David L. Cherry is a distinguished police officer. He began his career in law enforcement in 1984 when he joined the New York City Transit Police Department. David was promoted to Detective 3rd grade in 1990. He has received numerous medals for distinguished police duty.

David has always and continues to display his impressive athletic talent. In his senior year of high school, he was voted outstanding male athlete. He received a track scholarship to Essex County Community College in Newark, New Jersey, where he was named a National Junior College All-American Track Team. His track successes extended beyond his days in college. He was also a member of three National Relay Championships representing the B.O.H.A.A. Track Club of Brooklyn. He also won two more championships while representing the Westchester Puma Track Club.

David uses his athletic gift to the benefit of others. He represents the New York City Police Department at the annual New York State Police Olympic Games. He has been undefeated in the 100 and 200-meter races for the past 17 years.

David's passion for the past 15 years has been working as a volunteer track coach for the Boys and Girls High School Track Team. He shares with the youth his day-to-day activities and experiences with the New York Police Department. He has taken time out of his busy schedule of work, school, and coaching to set aside time to personally counsel many athletes. The personal attention that David brings to his team shows his devotion to his community. He has helped many athletes earn full athletic scholarships to many outstanding universities. Upon retirement from the New York City Police Department, David hopes to volunteer full time for the community.

Mr. Speaker, David L. Cherry devotes his life to serving his community through being a

distinguished office, athlete, and mentor. While doing all this, he has managed to go back to school and earn a degree. For this outstanding service to his community, he is indeed worthy of receiving our recognition today. I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the Connecticut Federation of Educational and Professional Employees, AFT, AFL-CIO in paying tribute to their president of twenty-two years, and my dear friend, George C. Springer as he celebrates the occasion of his retirement. His outstanding leadership and unparalleled dedication has made a difference in the lives of thousands of families across Connecticut.

I have always held a firm belief in the importance of education and a deep respect for the individuals who dedicate their lives to ensuring that our children—our most precious resource—are given a strong foundation on which to build their futures. As a twenty year veteran of the New Britain, Connecticut school system, George made it his personal mission to help our students learn and grow—touching the lives of thousands of students.

During his tenure in the New Britain school system, George also served as an officer and negotiator for the New Britain Federation of Teachers, Local 871. Twenty-two years ago, he was elected to the position of state federation president. As the state president, George has been a tireless advocate for his membership and their families. I have often said that we are fortunate to live in a country that allows its workers to engage in efforts to better employee standards and benefits. George has been a true leader for teachers across the state, providing a strong voice on their behalf.

George set a unique tone for this organization, extending their mission beyond the fight for better wages, better work environments, and more comprehensive health benefits. He has led the effort of the Connecticut chapter to become more involved with the larger issues of how to improve our schools—for teachers and for students. Though we will miss him in the long battle ahead, George's leadership and outspoken advocacy on behalf of our public school system will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

In addition to his many professional contributions, George has also been involved with a variety of social service organizations in the community. The John E. Rodgers African-American Cultural Center, New Britain Boys Club, Amistad America, Inc., Coalition to End Child Poverty, and the New Britain Foundation for Public Giving are just a portion of those organizations who have benefitted from his hard work and contagious enthusiasm.

It is my great honor to rise today to join his wife, Gerri, their four children, ten grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as the many family, friends, and colleagues who have gathered this evening to extend my deepest thanks and appreciation to George C.

Springer for his outstanding contributions to the State of Connecticut and all of our communities. He will certainly be missed but never forgotten.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RUSSIAN
DEMOCRACY ACT—H.R. 2121

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce HR 2121, the Russia Democracy Act—legislation designed to enhance our democracy, good governance and anti-corruption efforts in order to strengthen civil society and independent media in Russia. Without a viable civil society, Russia cannot achieve true economic prosperity—nor will it cease to be a potential security threat to the United States.

The Freedom Support Act, signed into law in 1992 by the former President Bush, focused on eliminating the threat to U.S. national security from political instability and “loose nukes” in Russia, and was therefore primarily a government-to-government program. This effort succeeded in significantly reducing this security threat, and consistently won bipartisan support and funding in Congress.

The Russia Democracy Act expands upon U.S. initiatives that have proven successful in Russia. Among other things, it provides further support for local democratic governments through the Regional Investment Initiative; expands training for Russian journalists in investigative techniques designed to ferret out corruption; and it broadens successful U.S.-Russia cultural exchanges, such as those sponsored by the Library of Congress.

The Russia Democracy Act also launches a number of new initiatives to take advantage of new developments in Russian society over the past decade. It harnesses new information technologies to provide Internet access to Russian citizens, independent media and NGOs. It builds upon successful business education programs to establish new “American Centers” at Russian universities to share public policy, rule of law and civics experience and expertise. And it taps the growing network of local, independent media outlets to spread democratic principles through Radio Liberty and Voice of America.

By targeting assistance to Russian civil society at the grassroots level, and by staying ahead of the development curve, the Russia Democracy Act represents a bold new effort to support agents of democratic change in Russia.

Having laid the groundwork of democracy over the past decade, the Russian people must now develop the civil society and a genuine democratic culture to sustain it. Russia is no longer starting from ground zero. For the first time in their democratic institutions are in place, and civil society is taking shape thousand year history, the Russian people felt empowered to make their own decisions about matters that concern them. Millions of Russians have been able to travel freely outside their country. A myriad of citizens groups and NGOs exist, including parent-teacher associations, legal defense organizations, environmental interest groups, small business associations, societies for the protection of soldier conscripts, and many others.

On the other hand, Russia's government no longer embraces Western assistance as a matter of national pride—even if this cuts across Russia's national interests. For instance, just last month, President Putin rejected a World Bank loan that would have helped address Russia's growing tuberculosis crisis. Under these circumstances, we must look for more creative and targeted engagement with Russia's civil society and local authorities, rather than limiting our contacts to Russia's central government.

Russia is in the mid-stream of this transformation with much unfinished business—economic and structural reforms, eradication of corruption, arresting capital flight, reforming the military, rationalizing relations between the federal center and the regions, and countless others. Rather than preserving newly acquired democratic freedom, the current leadership in Moscow appears bent on its reversal. In an effort to implement economic reforms and reassert Russian national interests on the world stage, Putin is consolidating state power at the expense of Russian civil society. He condones the abuse of government power to quash internal dissent and silence criticism of his regime. The raid and hostile government takeover of Russia's most important independent newspaper, magazine and television outlets, and last week's prevention of a human rights leader Sergei Grigoryants from boarding a flight bound for Washington where he was to attend a conference on Russia are sad examples of this trend.

The Congress has a responsibility to aid the President in cultivating Russian civil society. Historically, America's lawmakers have played a central role in this effort. The Jackson-Vanik amendment of the 1970's, for instance, linked economics and human rights, and effectively undermined Soviet Communism and hastened the arrival of Russian democracy. The Congress must again rise to the occasion.

In the final analysis, a democratic Russia, respecting human rights and observing international norms of peaceful behavior, is squarely in U.S. national security interests. Millions of Russians want to be part of the West culturally, politically, and in many other senses. These forces need to be strengthened. In my judgement the Russian Democracy Act is an incredibly prudent investment on the part of the United States to bolster whatever democratic forces there are in Russia. This is a critically important piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues in Congress to support it.

GRADUATION ADDRESS AT US
ARMY WAR COLLEGE

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege to give the commencement address at the US Army War College on June 9, 2001. It was a terrific honor. My speech to that group is set forth as follows:

MILITARY HISTORY AND THE BATTLEFIELD OF
THE FUTURE

A couple of years ago, I prepared an article with the assistance of the Congressional Research Service entitled, “Learning on the