

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LATVIA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the mark of the 10th anniversary of Latvias' adoption of the constitutional law "On the Statehood of the Republic of Latvia".

On August 21, 1991, the Supreme Council of the Republic of Latvia took advantage of the political situation in the country and passed the law "On the Statehood of the Republic of Latvia" providing for the full restoration of Latvia's independence. This revoked the transition period set on May 4, 1990 for the de facto rejuvenation of the state power of the Republic of Latvia.

In order to commemorate the anniversary of this very significant event, the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia will host a ceremonial meeting of the Parliament on August 21, 2001. There, they will lay flowers at the Freedom monument and organize a festive concert and garden party in Jurmala.

The Republic of Latvia has always been a strong pillar of cultural heritage and exchange. Tradition and true faith drove this State to independence, and now, 10 years later, we are celebrating this important and distinguished anniversary.

Please Join me in celebrating the 10th anniversary of such a joyous occasion. The Republic of Latvia is a true stronghold for political freedom and independence.

TRIBUTE TO MARY JANE
TURNIPSEED

HON. ASA HUTCHINSON

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mary Jane Turnipseed for her outstanding service as an educator at Van Buren High School in Van Buren, Arkansas. Recently, I received a heartfelt e-mail message from one of Mrs. Turnipseed's students. This student was searching for a way to recognize his teacher because she had truly made an impact in his life. After reading his email, I think it appropriate to recognize Mrs. Turnipseed today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

For more than twenty years Mrs. Turnipseed has dedicated herself to her profession, to her school, and most of all, to her students. As a teacher, Mrs. Turnipseed has demonstrated her diligence and desire to make learning an exalting experience. Her student described her teaching by saying, "Mrs. Turnipseed combines teaching with real-life experiences in an attempt to bring history alive. Not only does she allow us to teach on some days and as-

sign hands-on projects, but also uses class discussion and physical demonstrations to allow us to not just study history, but experience it."

Mrs. Turnipseed is a remarkable teacher, but she doesn't stop at simply doing her job. Her student remarked, "Mrs. Turnipseed has been more than a teacher to me; she has been a mother, counselor, mentor, and most importantly a friend. When she finds a way to connect with a student, she uses the link to build a relationship like none other. We have formed a once in a lifetime relationship that I will never forget."

Mrs. Turnipseed represents the type of educator we, as parents, want to teach our children. In an era of drugs and violence in schools around the nation, Mrs. Turnipseed provides a calm and safe environment for her students. In her class, students can forget the pressures waiting outside in the hallway and focus on learning.

Mr. Speaker and fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing Mrs. Mary Jane Turnipseed for the truly remarkable impact she has made on the teaching profession and her students.

STATEMENT ON THE LOSS OF
MRS. KATHARINE GRAHAM

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a great lady, Katharine Graham, former chairman and CEO of the Washington Post Co., who passed away on Tuesday, July 17th, from head injuries sustained after she fell on a sidewalk in Sun Valley, Idaho. My heart goes out to Mrs. Graham's family and those who became part of her extended family.

Mrs. Graham was a gutsy pioneer. She was not intimidated by power or titles and created, with the utmost integrity, her own fulcrum to help move the world. And the world came to know she was here.

Katharine Graham found the best people and backed them to the hilt. In any controversy she always came down on the side of principle. And she did so with style, grace, and good cheer. "Think no little thoughts, do no little deeds" could have served as Katharine Graham's motto.

When faced with tragic situations in her own life that would have destroyed most others, Mrs. Graham reached deep down and discovered strength. She could have lived a carefree life, going down an easy, well-traveled road. But by the sheer force of her indomitable will and genius Katharine Graham took the road less traveled. And she made it her own.

Katharine Graham's passing saddens me in a very personal way—because she was so much a part of this town and this region. Her death leaves a void. When I say "this town"

I mean this great city, the District of Columbia, our Nation's Capital, and the Washington Region. Most of the tributes to Mrs. Graham have properly noted her immense role in our great national adventure as a country, and her key part in the stewardship of one of the greatest newspapers in American history, The Washington Post. Those tributes are fully justified, as she breathed new life into the First Amendment, without which our democratic republic would be unthinkable.

But the Katharine Graham I will always remember so vividly and personally is the Katharine Graham who loved this city and who soared above the crowd in her devotion to, and involvement in, the lifeblood of Washington, D.C.

Less than 2 years ago I had the honor of being a guest in her home upon the occasion of congressional passage of the District of Columbia Tuition Act, landmark legislation I was pleased to sponsor as Chairman of the D.C. Subcommittee. Mrs. Graham and her son, Don Graham, took a keen interest in that legislation, which has provided unprecedented educational opportunities for D.C. students. Likewise with other local issues, Mrs. Graham as publisher of The Washington Post helped to insure that there would always be a very sharp focus on the real city that lies just beyond the Monumental Core of the Nation's Capital.

So this week this town is in mourning. We grieve the passing of one of the most significant people ever to reside in our midst.

Mr. Speaker, Katharine Graham's legacy is one of unshakeable courage and enduring accomplishment. Our institutions of freedom and fairness have lost a great friend. May God grant us others who emulate the shining example of Katharine Graham.

TRIBUTE TO ELSIE RICH

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Elsie Rich. As we prepare to celebrate Elsie's one hundredth birthday, we can be inspired by a life that embraces joyful energy, thoughtful discussion, and a positive approach to overcoming obstacles.

Born Elsa Shiffman in Vienna Austria in August, 1901, Elsie was one of five children in a Jewish family that owned a textile factory. In 1932 she married Henry Reich (later Rich), and the two lived in Vienna until 1938. After hearing Hitler announce his plans to exterminate all the Jews in Europe, Elsie and Henry applied for visas to America. They left a few months after Hitler's troops invaded Austria, sending many Jews to concentration camps.

In America, the Rich family lived in New York before moving to Santa Rosa, California, in 1943. They eventually bought a ranch and became U.S. citizens. "Coming to America

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

was the best thing that ever happened to me," according to Elsie. "We should enjoy the freedom, because we need to remember that we are lucky to live in such a wonderful nation."

Since arriving in Santa Rosa, Elsie Rich has been an active member and generous financial supporter of Congregation Beth Ami and the entire Jewish community. She is a woman of active participation and strong faith who always attends weekly services. Since Henry's death in 1976, Elsie's life has also included exercise classes, reading, cooking, discussing world affairs, using public transportation, and enjoying nearby casinos. For the last two years, she has been the oldest person to attend the Sonoma County Fair. Her upbeat energy and resilience have continued to inspire those around her.

Mr. Speaker, Elsie Rich's one hundredth birthday is a fitting occasion to remember, in her words, that "life is like a river. You have to go with your best stream and pick out what's best for you." Elsie has truly exemplified that approach.

SERIOUS QUESTIONS ON STAR WARS REMAIN

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following editorial to my colleagues that ran in the July 18, 2001, edition of the Contra Costa Times, a suburban newspaper which serves my 7th Congressional district in California. The Contra Costa Times has a circulation of 185,000 readers.

This editorial emphasizes a reality that should not be overlooked; the success of the recent missile defense test does nothing to change the fundamental arguments against deployment of a national missile defense system. Call it NMD, Star Wars II, or whatever you want. It still remains a bad idea that promises to divert needed funding toward a risky gambit that will certainly worsen our relations with our international partners and our own national security.

[From the Contra Costa Times (CA), July 18, 2001]

IT IS STILL A BAD IDEA

After the U.S. Military shot down a mock intercontinental ballistic missile Saturday night as part of its missile defense plan, a Pentagon spokesman urged everyone not to get too excited about it. "We've got a long road ahead," cautioned Lt. Gen Ronald Kadish, director of the Pentagon's Missile Defense Organization.

Let us translate that for you: Kadish is saying that the Pentagon intends to spend scads more of the taxpayers' dollars on this hare-brained scheme, a plan that, despite Saturday's apparent success, is unworkable, prohibitively expensive, does incalculable damage to international relations, and threatens to bring back the Cold War.

On Saturday, a prototype interceptor fired from Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands struck and destroyed a dummy warhead 140 miles above the Pacific. It was not seduced by a round, reflective decoy balloon sent up with the target. The test cost \$100 million. Two previous tests had failed.

Military backers of the test, in a self-congratulatory mood, were slapping each other

on the back after the hit. But the truth is that this test doesn't mean much militarily. The only decoy used for the test was easily identifiable and in the highly unlikely event that an enemy nation were to attack it would use multiple decoys shaped like real warheads.

Nor should anyone take the cost lightly. The Pentagon plans 17 more of these tests in the next 18 months. At \$100 million each, you're talking serious money. In a faltering economy, the United States does not have the cash to waste.

Additionally, continued work on the missile defense system will increase international tensions. Russia already is nervous at the prospect of the United States trying to make itself into the only superpower, and has been making threatening rumbles about building up its own military. As we have said before, these tests torpedo decades of work toward undoing the danger to the planet created by the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

In any event, the tests are pointless. The so-called rogue nations that the military complex says might attack—North Korea, Iran and Iraq are usually mentioned—are not going to send a missile against the United States or its allies, because they know it would invite nuclear annihilation. The memory of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remain in the world's collective consciousness.

Finally, these war games, which have the military capering over their computers like teen-agers playing "Space Invaders," do not address the way an enemy nation, organization or individuals actually would attack the United States: with weapons they could carry into the country. How about defending us against that?

We have said it before, and there is no reason to change our position: This so-called missile defense system is a dangerous, costly exercise in foolishness.

GAMBLING ATM AND CREDIT/ DEBIT CARD REFORM ACT

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, two years ago the National Gambling Impact Study Commission released the final report from its three-year study of gambling in the United States. The Commission took on one of the most difficult and divisive issues in America today and produced an extremely thoughtful report with more than 70 recommendations for changes in gambling policy. Unfortunately, none of the Commission's recommendations requiring federal legislation have yet been enacted by Congress.

I am today reintroducing legislation to implement one of the more important recommendations of the National Gambling Impact Study Commission to help lessen the potential financial losses of compulsive gambling for individuals and families. My legislation, the "Gambling ATM and Credit/Debit Card Reform Act", amends federal law to reduce the ready availability of cash and credit for gambling by removing credit card terminals, debit card point-of-sale machines, automated transfer machines (ATMS) and other electronic cash dispensing devices from the immediate area of gambling activities.

A major finding of the Commission is that America has been transformed during the past 20 years from a nation in which legalized

gambling was localized and limited to one in which it is almost omnipresent and a major economic and entertainment activity. Some form of legalized gambling is now permitted in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Thirty-seven states officially sponsor gambling through state lotteries. Americans now spend an estimated \$650 billion a year on legalized gambling—more than they spend on movies, records, theme parks, professional sports and all other forms of entertainment combined.

The Commission also found that while legalized gambling can produce positive economic benefits for the communities in which it is introduced, it also produces significant negative consequences for millions of individuals and families—consequences such as bankruptcy, crime, divorce, abuse and even suicide. A specific concern of the Commission has been the dramatic increase in problem and pathological gambling. Studies suggest that more than 5 million Americans are pathological or problem gamblers, and that another 15 million have been identified as "at-risk" or compulsive gamblers. The rapid growth of compulsive gambling has been particularly noticeable among women and includes growing numbers of teenagers.

The Commission identified the ready availability of cash and credit in and around gambling establishments as a major factor contributing to irresponsible gambling and to problem and pathological gambling behavior. Between forty and sixty percent of all money wagered by individuals in casinos, for example, is not physically brought into gambling facilities but is obtained by gamblers after their arrival. Much of this money derives from credit markers extended by casinos, but a sizable and growing portion involves cash derived from ATM and debit cards and cash advances on credit cards.

Credit cards, debit cards and ATMs have long been used within gambling resort hotels and near other gambling facilities. But their availability and use on gambling floors for purposes of making bets or purchasing playing chips was generally prohibited. This changed in 1996 when the New Jersey Casino Control Commission approved the use of credit card point-of-sale machines at gambling tables for direct purchases of playing chips and slot tokens. The action was immediately recognized by gambling experts as one of the "most potentially dramatic changes" in gambling in decades that would result in more impulse gambling by consumers and higher revenues for casinos. Since then, ATM machines have been moved from outside casinos and other gambling establishments to locations near gambling floors. Credit and debit card point-of-sale terminals have been installed directly at gambling tables.

Allowing gamblers to use credit or debit/ATM cards directly for gambling removes one of the last remaining checks on compulsive or problem gambling—the need to walk away to find more cash to gamble. This separation helps break the excitement of the moment and permits many gamblers to walk away. Providing immediate electronic cash transfers not only feeds compulsive behavior, but makes it easier for problem gamblers to bet all their available cash, draw down their bank accounts, and then tap into the available credit lines of their credit cards as well. Financial institutions become unwitting accomplices in encouraging gamblers to bet more money than they intended and more than most can afford.