

and around the world celebrate their independence from the former Soviet Union. Sadly, they will also be mourning the victims of the September 11th attack on our country. Armenia's early response to the attack was to assist American staff in ensuring the security of the U.S. Embassy in Yerevan. President Kocharian joined other world leaders in expressing both his solidarity with America and his shock and sorrow in a letter sent to President Bush. I would like to ask unanimous consent to submit President Kocharian's letter to President Bush for the record.

Since its independence, democratic nations have welcomed Armenia into the family. I am proud that this Congress has consistently voted to provide humanitarian economic development assistance to help Armenia preserve democracy and the institutions of civil society and to continue its transition to a free market economy.

The United States has a fundamental national interest in bringing about stability in the strategically located Caucasus region and in supporting those emerging nations like Armenia that share our values. Given the horrific events of September 11th, it becomes even more important to ensure that the countries in the Caucasus move forward together—economically and politically. We must redouble our efforts to ensure that the tensions in the region subside and that the long-standing differences that divide the countries of the region are resolved. Winners and losers in the Caucasus will only foster greater insecurity and instability at a time when we need to bring everyone together to combat terrorism. I have been encouraged by Armenia's ongoing attempts to reach out to its neighbors—Turkey and Azerbaijan—in a constructive manner.

Mr. Speaker, the story of the Armenian people is an unforgettable story of triumph over adversity and tragedy. Earlier in this century, in one of history's most horrible crimes against humanity, 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children were slaughtered by the Ottoman Turkish Empire. We must continue to remind the world that this genocide is an historic fact—despite the efforts of so-called "revisionists," many of them funded by the Turkish government, to deny the truth—and to make sure that our nation, the world community, and especially the Turkish nation come to terms with and appropriately commemorate this historic fact.

Mr. Speaker, it was the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 that allowed the Armenian people to re-establish a state and a nation, to create a society where their language, culture, religion and other institutions would prosper. The people of Armenia have endeavored to build a free and proud nation, based on the principles of democracy and a market economy.

The tiny, landlocked Republic of Armenia is surrounded by hostile neighbors, who have imposed blockades halting the delivery of basic necessities and greatly hindering economic development. Despite the dual blockades, Armenia continues to implement economic and democratic reforms. During the first six months of this year, Armenia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by 6.4 percent over last year's level. And during the last year, both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have publicly noted Armenia's economic progress.

Despite this progress, I would like to say that the economic reality of daily life for the

people of the Republic of Armenia continues to be extremely hard.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we mark future Independence Days of the Republic of Armenia, we can look back with pride on building peace and prosperity in the entire Trans-Caucasus region, so that the people of Armenia and their neighbors can enjoy a stable and hopeful future. I hope that the Republics of Turkey and Azerbaijan will respond positively to Armenia's repeated offers to normalize relations. Specifically, I hope that Turkey will allow for the exchange of diplomats and allow the free flow of goods and people across the borders. And I hope that, with the active participation of the United States, we will resolve the Nagorno Karabagh conflict, in a manner that guarantees the security and self-determination of the people of Karabagh.

Finally, I wish the Armenian people well on the occasion of their independence day, and, more important, in their ongoing effort to establish good relations with its neighbors and build a vibrant democracy so that their children may prosper in the homeland of their ancestors.

PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA,
Yerevan, 11 September 2001.

His Excellency GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT, I have learned with utter shock the news about the terrorist attacks on The World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon building in Washington, which resulted in human loss and massive destruction. The evil of terrorism has shown its ugly face and should be confronted with determination and resolve. Armenia joins the world in condemning this most deplorable and inhuman act of violence. On behalf of the people of Armenia and myself personally, I express our most heartfelt condolences to the people of America and to the bereaved families. We share your grief and wish you strength and patience.

ROBERT KOCHARIAN.

A TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WILLIE RAY JOHNSON AND COLONEL ROGER FISHER HALL, JR.

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to two of North Carolina's finest gentlemen, Brigadier General Willie Ray Johnson and Colonel Roger Fisher Hall, Jr., on their service to and retirement from the North Carolina National Guard.

Theodore Roosevelt, our Nation's 25th president and a member of the National Guard, once said, "It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man crumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; . . . who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who . . . knows in the end the triumph of high achievement." For a combined 68 years, General Johnson and Colonel Hall have

been in the arena as part of our Nation's military force and our State's emergency response and community support. And they have served us well.

Since joining the Guard at age 17, General Johnson has served in a variety of assignments and been awarded many decorations. From Supply Officer to Platoon Leader to Maintenance Battalion Commander to Deputy Adjutant General, Ray has served his State and country with distinction and devotion. This service has led to many awards including the Bronze Star Medal, National Defense Service Award, the Kuwait Liberation Medal, and the North Carolina Meritorious Unit Citation. In addition to his National Guard service, General Johnson has been an integral part of civic activities in Sampson County including president of the Roseboro Area Economic Development Commission, member of the Sampson County Shrine Club and a member of the Trustee Board of Sampson Regional Medical Center.

Enlisting in the Guard just prior to his 20th birthday, Colonel Hall has also served in several capacities and received numerous decorations. From Transportation Officer to Motor Officer to Headquarters Commandant to Commander, Colonel Hall has served with character and commitment. His work has been honored by receipt of the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal. Colonel Hall is a member of the Board of Directors of BB&T Bank, has been named Business Person of the Year in Hope Mills, has served as past president of the Cumberland County Democratic Party, and serves me well as Executive Vice-Chairman of the Seventh Congressional District Military & Veterans Affairs Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the North Carolina National Guard is one of the most respected and reliable guard forces in the world. General Johnson and Colonel Hall have been an integral part of their success, and on behalf of the citizens of southeastern North Carolina, I thank them for the service they have given to our State and Nation. May God's strength, peace, and joy be with both of them always.

MEMORIAL TO MS. GALE CINCOTTA

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in these times of stress, as we unite and come together as a Nation, we look for leadership and for example to those who have preached unity, who have practiced organization—the bringing together of the diverse people of America for the common good.

Mr. Speaker, last month we lost a great American who spent her life bringing people together for the common good. She did not aspire to public office or great power. She eschewed financial reward. She never left her community.

Mr. Speaker, Gale Cincotta was born in 1929 and grew up in on Chicago's Westside. Gale Cincotta's experiences as a wife, as a mother, as a Westside resident led her to a career as an advocate for the interests of her neighbors, and for common folk everywhere; as

she was once quoted in the Chicago Sun Times, "I got mad and stayed mad."

But her anger was never channeled into destruction. When Gale got mad she got her neighbors together to make things right. And she was very, very, good at making things right.

Gale Cincotta recognized early on that the key to people's advocacy was organization and she became an outstanding community organizer, empowering people to seek redress of grievances and proactively shape public policy to advance community interests.

Housing was a recurring and central issue for Gale's attention and she led

Ms. Cincotta played a key role in the passage of federal legislation including Home Mortgage Disclosure and the Community Reinvestment Act.

Her drive for empowerment and organization over time grew and evolved into a national organization known as the National Training and Information Center.

Mr. Speaker, during her lifetime, Gale was recognized for her advocacy with many honors and positions including a seat on the City of Chicago Commission on Women, a Chicago Commission on Human Rights Award and a "Woman of the Year" award from Ms. magazine.

But these awards only served to deepen her commitment to the community.

Mr. Speaker, we deeply mourn the passing of a tireless crusader for people's empowerment, Gale Cincotta.

We will miss her, we will miss her energy, we will miss her guidance. But we are resolved to carry on. That would be what Gale expected from us. That is what this great American experiment in democracy is all about. That is what we are resolved to do.

HONORING THE PARTICIPANTS OF LEADERSHIP 2001

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, as some of my colleagues in this body know, before I was elected to Congress I was an instructor and later executive director of Colorado's Outward Bound School. While Outward Bound gave me unparalleled opportunities to satisfy a passion for mountain climbing and other experiences in the outdoors, I believe my participation and involvement in Outward Bound may have been most rewarding for me because it began a life-long interest in the question of how we work to fully develop human potential and in the dynamics of leadership.

The credo of Outward Bound is that every human being has the inner potential to become a leader. This potential can be unlocked in many ways, whether it is facing a 14,000 foot mountain climb, beginning a trek across miles of desert and wilderness, working with a group of inner city school children, building a shelter for those who are homeless, or comforting a person in need.

How leadership is awakened is less important than acknowledging the diversity of ways in which each one of us faces deep challenge, whether it is physical, emotional or as part of a collaborative venture with others.

Earlier this year, a group of Coloradans came together to celebrate the individual and collective challenge of leadership in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. These Coloradans were participants in an exhaustive and comprehensive national initiative called "Leadership Challenge 2001: Connecting, Communicating, Collaborating" sponsored by the Lundy Foundation, in partnership with the Gill Foundation and 40 other non-profit and corporate supporters.

Over the course of three years, 41 participants spent 56 days in intensive training sessions, addressing fundamental issues of trust, race, socioeconomic status, diversity and other challenges in building collaborative leadership within the LGBT community.

By vigorously addressing their own individual and communal issues, the participants in this innovative leadership training project also enhanced the potential of Colorado's LGBT community to address the needs and concerns of a much broader community, namely, the community we call "America."

As an enthusiast of leadership theory, I am very pleased to bring this initiative to the attention of my colleagues in this body, and to commend the project coordinators and the 32 participants who graduated from this program.

Their commitment and perseverance is admirable, and worthy of acknowledgement.

Please join me in recognizing their achievement today.

LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 2001 ADMINISTRATION

Victor Dukay, Ph.D.—Project Director and President of the Lundy Foundation;

Harry Hollingsworth, M.A.—Assistant Project Director;

Carl Larson, Ph.D.—Curriculum Development/Faculty;

Dora Lodwick, Ph.D.—Evaluator;

Allan Wallis, Ph.D.—Evaluator.

LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE 2001 GRADUATING

PARTICIPANTS

Dave Anderson, Suzanne Banning, Joe Barrows, Jeff Basinger, Janet Corlett, Ashara Ekundayo, Robert Espinosa, Yvette Freeman, Lisha Gallegos, Peter Gross, Danielle Haraburda, Kevin Jones, Richard Jung, Matt Keefauver, Christopher Leach, Marielle Oetjen, Matt Patrick, Katherine Pease, Dean Prina, Lorenzo Ramirez, Kathy Rank, Roy Rosa, Debra Rose, Nori Rost, Becky Rudolph, Nick Sarchet, Tina Scardina, Dominick Sekich, Mike Smith, Darrell Watson, Tim Wilson, and Jennifer Woodard.

NEED TO REBUILD OUR ECONOMY

HON. ROY BLUNT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 21, 2001

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, as brave firemen, police construction workers and other citizens continue to clear away the physical rubble of destroyed buildings, we also are surveying the damage done to our economy.

It is not too soon to begin plans to rebuild the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. It is also not too soon to begin thinking about what we can do to rebuild our economy.

World trade is an essential part in the engine of our economy, but a part that hasn't been working fully. The United States has been excluded from too many agreements in the past years because we couldn't move fast enough. It's time to make a change.

I urge my colleagues to read the following article from the September 9, 2001 issue of the Springfield News Leader by United States Trade Ambassador Robert Zoellick.

STATE NEEDS OPEN MARKETS TO PROSPER

It's critical for Congress to give President Bush a fast-track authority on trade pacts.

On a recent trip to the Springfield area, I visited the headquarters of five local companies engaged in foreign trade at the invitation of Congressman Roy Blunt, a legislative leader and partner. The performance of businesses such as Leggett & Platt, King Press and the Loren Cook Co. reinforced my belief that trade and open markets are critical to the economic well-being of America's manufacturers and farmers.

President Bush has been pressing to open markets to help U.S. businesses and families. Yet, this effort has been hampered because the president lacks U.S. Trade Promotion Authority that must be granted by Congress. This authority to negotiate market-opening agreements subject to an up-or-down vote by Congress expired in 1994.

Consider the following: There are 130 free-trade agreements worldwide; the United States is a party to only two. There are 30 free-trade agreements in the Western Hemisphere; the United States is a party to only one. The European Union has 27 special bilateral trade agreements, with 15 more in progress—Mexico has forged ahead with eight agreements, with 32 countries.

So what is the loss to the United States? Consider the story of Caterpillar Inc. with just one country: Chile. Caterpillar's motor graders made for export to Chile face nearly \$15,000 in tariffs. When Caterpillar manufacturers motor graders in Brazil for export to Chile, the tariff is just \$3,700. And when Caterpillar's competitors produce a similar (but not as good) product in Canada, it can be exported to Chile free of tariffs because of the Canada-Chile free-trade agreement.

But if we are going to correct problems such as that one and open markets around the world, President Bush and I need Congress to enact U.S. Trade Promotion Authority this autumn. This trade authority will help us launch a new round of global trade negotiations in November. And this new round is critical if we are going to reduce the world's trade barriers to an array of U.S. products.

Some people want to turn back the clock on trade, embracing isolationism and protectionism at a time of global interdependence. During my Springfield trip, I saw the region's companies appreciate that open markets create job opportunities in Missouri and throughout the United States.

Today, exports support 152,000 jobs in Missouri—in industries such as chemicals, agriculture and industrial machinery. More than 75,000 of Missouri's manufacturing jobs are tied to exports, as are more than 16,000 of the state's agriculture jobs. These dry numbers mean new jobs and improved prospects for companies and families throughout the Springfield region.

I toured the Paul Mueller Co., where exports—to countries ranging from Canada and Mexico to Japan and Brazil—accounted for 19 percent of its total sales last year, up approximately 42 percent since 1995. International Dehydrated Foods in Monett was Missouri's Agriculture Exporter of the Year in 1998 and has customers throughout Latin America and Asia.

Missouri's farmers, manufacturers and consumers need open markets to prosper. The Bush administration is committed to working with the Congress and our trading partners to clear the way. We have a historic opportunity to make free trade a defining feature of the 21st century. It is an opportunity and indeed necessity that America cannot afford to miss.