

positive impact it has on the young men and women who choose to participate. Every year, Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate enough to have the opportunity to meet with the cadets and cadre of Guam's Junior ROTC units here in Washington. They make their annual journey each Fall to visit our Nation's capital city and learn about the legislative process. I have witnessed first-hand their remarkable growth and enjoy engaging in dialogue with them about their educational experiences.

Mr. Speaker, it is with these thoughts in mind and in proud recognition of their accomplishments, that I offer a whole-hearted congratulations to the young men and women of Guam's U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program. Their accomplishments and efforts are to be lauded and appropriately acknowledged. I am honored to have been invited to speak at their upcoming Military Ball this Saturday, the 17th of March. I accepted their invitation without hesitation and look forward to personally meeting each one of the cadets and cadre to share in celebration of their success.

These distinguished cadets deserve our praise, our thanks, and our continued support. May the Junior ROTC Program continue to motivate young people to be better citizens. Mr. Speaker, I commend the Junior ROTC cadets and cadre on Guam. We on Guam are proud of their achievement. They have set the example for other units throughout the Nation to emulate. I urge them to keep up the good work and always remember the values instilled and skills acquired through participation in this invaluable program.

TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the American Chemical Society and its more than 163,000 members on their remarkable achievements in chemistry throughout history. ACS was founded 125 years ago. In 1937, Congress charged ACS with advancing the chemical sciences and to promote research, education, and high standards of professional ethics. ACS members have played key roles in expanding the frontiers of knowledge, advancing medicine and industry, and creating products—from aspirin to the Hula Hoop.

Advances in the sciences have given us limitless possibilities to increase our knowledge, to share new discoveries, and to make life better for people across our country and around the world. Chemistry contributes to the safety and quality of our food, the fuel-efficiency of our cars, the speed of our computers, and the effectiveness of our medicines and vaccines. Those achievements wouldn't be possible without the vision and innovation of scientists and engineers.

We must do a better job teaching our children science and mathematics and motivating them to choose careers in these fields. The workforce of the future must be ready to tackle the complex challenges of an increasingly global society. ACS members are passionate about their mission to help educate Americans

in science and technology and introduce everyone—young and old—to the wonders of scientific discovery.

The members of ACS, the world's largest scientific society, will continue to be in the forefront of research and development and science education in a challenging new century. America will benefit from their new discoveries and advances in technology. I join Americans and all people across the globe in celebrating the extraordinary accomplishments of the American Chemical Society and its members on its 125th anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF LA TRIBUNA NEWSPAPER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a truly special occasion, the 39th anniversary of La Tribuna newspaper. This momentous event in my state's journalism community will be recognized at a gala banquet to be held Friday, March 16, 2001.

In 1962, large numbers of Hispanic immigrants began relocating to New Jersey. At that time, few newspapers were being published in their native language. La Tribuna was one of the first news sources committed to keeping the Spanish-speaking community in touch with its government and the rest of the world.

For thirty-nine years, La Tribuna has shone light on daily events affecting the Hispanic community. Part of the foundation of the United States Constitution is freedom of the press. La Tribuna brings this ideal to life for the Hispanic community on a weekly basis through the paper's commitment to truth and fairness. Whenever and wherever news happens, La Tribuna is at the forefront of articulating events in a concise, non-nonsense manner.

Under the direction of publisher and editor Ruth Molenaar, La Tribuna has grown to be a well-respected member of New Jersey's news community. The people of my District, and New Jersey, are fortunate to have Ms. Molenaar and her staff, including Lionel Rodriguez, providing fair and accurate news coverage. They have been a reliable voice for the Hispanic community for almost two generations.

In recognition of the impact La Tribuna has had on the community, the City of Newark will name a street after the newspaper. The corner of Ferry Street and Niagara Street will be named La Tribuna Street.

It is an honor to have La Tribuna operating in my District. Its efforts have helped our nation's Hispanic community to blossom and flourish. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this remarkable organization for all it has done for the Hispanic community.

CELEBRATING CAMP FIRE BOYS AND GIRLS' ABSOLUTELY IN- CREDIBLE KID DAY

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the birthday of the Camp Fire Boys and Girls' Absolutely Incredible Kid Day. Each year, on the third Thursday in March, the day is set aside to help adults communicate better with kids. As part of the celebration, adults are encouraged to send letters of love and appreciation to young people in their lives to show them how much they mean to them. Now in its fifth year, more than 450 million people have been touched by Absolutely Incredible Kid Day.

Absolutely Incredible Kid Day can make a positive impact that will last a lifetime. The campaign has received the critical acclaim of child and family care experts, award winning authors, noted psychologists, and adults and kids everywhere. Celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Jim Carrey and Cindy Crawford have also given their support to Absolutely Incredible Kid Day.

In my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan the Campfire Boys and Girls West Michigan Council has put an enormous amount of time and effort into this celebration. In addition to having adults write letters to kids they know, the organization is also encouraging adults to write letters for distribution to at-risk youths throughout Grand Rapids. The Council has also organized an extensive public awareness program complete with posters, stickers and stationary to spread the word about this special and important day. I applaud them for making this day a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues, moms and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, mentors and other adults alike take time out of their day today to let a young person know how much they appreciate them. Let them know you care and help make a positive difference in their lives today and everyday by writing a letter of love and support. You'll be glad you did and so will the reader of the letter!

CENTRAL ASIAN REPRESSION AND MISMANAGEMENT ARE THE PROBLEM NOT THE SOLUTION TO COMBATING ISLAMIC EXTRE- MISM

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, those of us who follow events in Central Asia are alarmed by the growing influence of Islamic extremism in Central Asia. As my colleagues are aware, an Islamic insurgency has taken root in the Fergana valley area where the borders of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan meet. Reports indicate that this insurgency is being supported and fueled by the fiercely Islamic Taliban in Afghanistan.

So far, Kazakhstan has not been directly affected by this insurgency. However, because

of its oil and mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is the crown jewel of the region and is thus another likely target of Islamic extremist groups. Kazakhstan's democratically challenged regime has taken note of the alarming developments in its neighbors to the south and has taken steps to strengthen its defenses. That's the good news. The bad news, however, is that President Nursultan Nazarbayev has apparently stepped up his repression, and it has been reported that he is plundering his oil and mineral rich country by siphoning hundreds of millions of dollars into foreign bank accounts. As a result, President Nazarbayev is said to be the eighth richest person in the world.

The people of Kazakhstan are not as blind. They can easily see that they inhabit a rich country, and they are justifiably beginning to ask why so little of their country's great wealth seems to be trickling down to them. The people are also not blind to sham elections, the stifling of press freedom, and the jailing of opposition leaders that have come to characterize the country's political life. I have been told that more and more people in Kazakhstan are losing hope, and are more willing to give Islamic extremists groups, who claim that they will eliminate the corruption of the current regime, a chance to govern.

In the March 3 issue of the Economist, there is an excellent article on Kazakhstan's security situation. At the end of the article, the author states "Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots." I wholeheartedly agree with this premise, and I ask that the full text of the Economist article appear immediately after my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, some people in Washington may be tempted to urge U.S. support for the Nazarbayev regime because it claims to be a bulwark of defense against Islamic extremism. But according to the information that I have been receiving, it is the Nazarbayev regime itself that will likely fuel the growth of Islamic extremism. Democracy, a free press, and respect for human rights are the keys to protecting a country like Kazakhstan from the influence of Islamic extremists groups. The United States must stand with regimes in Central Asia who share these key democratic values, not those regimes and leaders who subvert them.

[From the Economist, Mar. 3, 2001]

IN DEFENCE

When the Soviet Union broke up ten years ago, the leaders of Central Asia's newly independent states felt safe from possible attacks on their region. Their main concern was to promote order, economic reform and the assertion of power for themselves and their families. They were jolted out of their complacency by bomb blasts in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in February 1999 and an attack by Islamic militants in Kirgizstan in August. Last year Islamists again attacked both countries.

Although Kazakhstan was not directly affected by these attacks, they have alerted the country to look to its defenses. President Nursultan Nazarbaev has set about making Kazakhstan's armed forces capable of dealing with what he believes are the main threats to the state; terrorism as a result of religious extremism, and organized crime.

He is strengthening defences in the south, in the mountainous border regions from

which an Islamic incursion might come. He wants his soldiers to be more mobile. Sniper groups are being formed. Villagers with local knowledge of the terrain are being recruited as guides. The country's defence budget has been more than doubled this year to \$171m, or 1% of GDP. Soldiers' pay is to go up by 30-40%.

One difficulty is the Kazakhstan's borders were not clearly defined in Soviet times, so it is difficult to decide what is a "border incursion". Kazakhstan has 14,000 km (8,750 miles) of borders with neighboring states. It has agreed on its border with China, but it is still negotiating with Russia, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Bulat Sultanov, of Kazakhstan's Institute of Strategic Studies, worries that "our border troops cannot carry out any operations because there is no legal basis for them."

Last year, Uzbek border guards entered southern Kazakhstan and claimed a stretch of land. Since then, there have been several brushes between Uzbeks and Kazakhs, mostly villagers unclear about which country they are living in. All this is a distraction from the task of making the south of Kazakhstan more secure.

Then there is Afghanistan. Although Kazakhstan is not a direct neighbour, the fiercely Islamic Taliban who control most of Afghanistan are a worry to all of Central Asia. They are believed to provide training for extremists, among them the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which wants to set up a caliphate in the Fergana valley, where Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan meet. The IMU was said to be behind the attacks in Kirgizstan and Uzbekistan in the past two years and is thought to be preparing another assault before long.

Most of Kazakhstan's military equipment dates back to the Soviet period. Replacing, say, old helicopters used in the border areas will be expensive, but necessary. In January a Mi-8 helicopter crashed in the south, injuring the defence minister, Sat Tokpakbaev, who was aboard. Another helicopter crashed near the Chinese border two weeks ago, killing six people.

Kazakhstan will receive arms from Russia worth \$20m this year as part of its annual payment for the use of a space-rocket site at Baikonur. It is due to receive over \$4m from the United States to improve border security. The government might also consider some nonmilitary measures. Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots.

RECOGNIZING MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND GOING TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Monmouth University Hawks men's basketball team who won the Northeast Conference basketball title recently with a 67-64 victory over St. Francis of New York. Mr. Speaker, this victory rounds out a "Cinderella" season that saw the Hawks reclaim the top spot in the Northeast Conference

and earns them an automatic bid to the "big dance."

The 12th Congressional District of New Jersey has a proud tradition of sending teams into battle during March madness. This is Monmouth University's second NCAA tournament bid. As the field begins to fill out I salute the courage and determination of the Monmouth Hawks and wish them great success and a full dance card.

Men's Basketball 2000-01 Roster

Listed by number, position, height, weight, class, hometown, and highschool/college, as follows:

- 4 Rahsaan Johnson, G, 6'-0", 195, Jr., Washington, D.C., Gonzaga/Allegheny College.
 - 5 Tom Kaplan, G, 6'-4", 190, Fr., Tel Aviv, Israel, Elitzur Rishon Le Zion.
 - 10 Jason Kray, G, 6'-5", 215, Fr., Point Pleasant, N.J., Christian Brothers Academy.
 - 11 Steve Birdgemohan, F, 6'-8", 225, Jr., North Brunswick, N.J., North Brunswick.
 - 12 Phil Bonczewski, F, 6'-8", 220, Fr., Plymouth, Pa., Wyoming Valley West.
 - 13 Cameron Milton, G, 6'-3", 185, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa., Franklin Learning Center.
 - 20 Demitry Courtney, G, 6'-1", 165, Sr., Trenton, N.J., Notre Dame.
 - 21 Jay Dooley, F, 6'-6", 210, So., Rumson, N.J., Rumson-Fair Haven.
 - 24 Gerry Crosby, F, 6'-5", 205, Sr., Twinsburg, Ohio, R.B. Chamberlin/Monroe CC.
 - 25 Kevin Owens, C, 6'-10", 225, So., Haddonfield, N.J., Camden Catholic.
 - 33 Nick Barnes, C, 6'-9", 260, Fr., Mount Airy, MD., The Newport School.
 - 45 Russ Anderson, F, 6'-7", 210, So., Chester, N.Y., Don Bosco Prep.
- Head Coach Dave Calloway.
Assistant Coach Mark Calzonetti.
Assistant Coach Ron Kray.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE VOSSMEYER

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my esteemed colleague from Missouri's 3rd District, the Democratic Leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, to honor a loyal friend, devoted father, remarkable public servant, and esteemed political and civic leader whose love of life will live on in the memory of all those lives he touched. Steve Vossmeier died March 9, just five days before his 57th birthday. Citizens of the City of St. Louis, his beloved Central West End neighborhood, and the Great State of Missouri mourn his passing.

Steve loved the law and he loved people. He was a popular political figure who used his wit and humor to cajole and prevail upon others to accept his point of view. He was a force to be reckoned with because he researched the situation thoroughly, asked tough questions of opponents, and loved to galvanize those of like mind around a challenge then execute a winning strategy. His love of sports, particularly Cardinals baseball, was legendary and shared enthusiastically with family and friends. An invitation to partake of Steve's culinary skills was a treasured occasion that brought the best minds together around his table and provoked conversations which extended well into the night.