

must insist that Saddam Hussein provide unconditional access to his weapons of mass destruction. But facing clear evidence or peril, the United States cannot wait for the final proof that Saddam Hussein can unleash terror and destruction. We have a duty now to prevent this from being accomplished.

Importantly, this resolution contains a preamble setting out important milestones in the recent Iraqi defiance of international law and other matters relating to the United States response to it and to the realities of our global war on terrorism. The resolution also affirms the importance of working in concert with other nations, gives preference to diplomacy over a military solution, and focuses attention where it should be on disarming Saddam Hussein. It also signals our Nation's seriousness of purpose and its willingness to use force, which may yet persuade Iraq to meet its international obligations. I firmly believe that this is the best way to persuade members of the UN Security Council and others in the international community to join us in bringing pressure on Iraq or, if required, in using armed force against it to eliminate these biological and chemical weapons.

Moreover, this resolution seeks to assure we will not be diverted from the war on terrorism and provides for the ongoing and constitutional role of Congress to declare war. I agree with the President that confronting the threat posed by Iraq is crucial to winning the war on terror. However, we must not lose sight that there are many other urgent threats that already represent a "clear and present danger," such as the growing number of al Qaeda terrorist cells in Yemen, the Philippines and Indonesia.

I am pleased that the congressional leadership and the executive branch have been able to work together to negotiate a joint resolution that appears to have strong bipartisan and bicameral support. I would have preferred that the resolution include the Biden-Lugar language that I believe would have further limited the scope to removing weapons of mass destruction and possibly ensuring greater international support for our objectives. That is why I supported an amendment offered by Representatives JIM DAVIS, BOB MENENDEZ and BEN CARDIN to require the President to report back to Congress on the "grave" danger posed by Iraq before triggering military force. Unfortunately, however, this amendment was rejected by the Committee on Rules and will not be considered by the full House.

Still, Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a product of good-faith efforts on the part of Congress and the Administration to unite the Nation in response to the Iraqi threat, and I will vote for it. This sends an important signal to the American public and the international community that we support this mission and that our troops will have every resource they require to defend our freedom, diminish the threat of terrorism, and achieve broad worldwide support. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution and pray for the rapid return of our brave men and women in uniform, should they be deployed, to their homes and families.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DR. KARL SCHWENK

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Dr. Karl Schwenk is a professional teacher of science at Tuscarawas Valley High School; and

Whereas, Dr. Schwenk has been selected to receive a Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities by the Ohio Academy of Science in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and the Ohio Department of Education; and

Whereas, Dr. Schwenk should be commended for reaching this milestone, for his devotion to his students, and for his ongoing efforts to extend science education opportunities beyond the classroom;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Dr. Karl Schwenk for his outstanding accomplishment.

STS-112 ORBITER ATLANTIS SHUTTLE LAUNCH

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women currently in space aboard the STS-112 Orbiter Atlantis, especially, my constituent Dr. Sandra Magnus. Sandy was born and raised in Belleville, Illinois where she attended Central Junior High School and Belleville West High School. She developed an interest in the space program and in becoming an astronaut while attending Central Junior High School. At the urging of one of her teachers, Mr. Corky Helms, Sandy was encouraged to study the space program—and her dream became a reality.

Dr. Magnus was selected by NASA for the astronaut program in April 1996 and reported to the Johnson Space Center in August 1996. After intensive training and evaluation, she is qualified for flight assignment as a mission specialist.

I had the distinct privilege of accompanying the Administrator of NASA, Mr. Sean O'Keefe, to the Kennedy Space Center for Sandy's first launch on October 7, 2002. While at the Kennedy Space Center, I had the pleasure of visiting with Sandy's parents, Dick and Rose Hall, Corky and Vicki Helms, Bob and Joyce Dintelman, and many of Sandy's friends and family, to watch this memorable day.

Sandy and five fellow shuttle crew members are currently at the International Space Station (ISS). She serves as the flight engineer and has the challenging job of operating the robotic arm that is employed for the installation of a 15-ton truss that is part of the payload and the transportation of the spacewalkers as they conduct their connections of power, data cables and other external hardware to the truss itself. This truss is the second of 11 such truss structures that will ultimately expand the ISS to the length of a football field and increase the power through the addition of new photovoltaic modules and

solar arrays. This mission is extremely important to further our understanding of space and brings us closer to achieving our goal of completing the ISS.

Mr. Speaker, we are fortunate to have qualified people, like Sandy, in the space program. The crew's impressive level of achievement and accomplishment is a milestone for the space program and serves as proof to young people that dreams really do come true. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of all the men and women involved in the success of the mission of STS-112, especially Dr. Sandra Magnus and the crew.

ON PURSUING DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES IN U.S.-KAZAKHSTAN RELATIONS

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, as our nation continues to build international partnerships in the war against terrorism, it is important to remind ourselves and the world of the values of democracy and free expression represented by the United States of America.

In the war against terrorism, we have significantly increased levels of communication and cooperation with nations across the globe. No truer is this the case than in the newly independent states of Central Asia. These oil rich nations can be vital allies in eliminating the international terrorist threat. Nevertheless, we must not sacrifice our values in their courtship.

One example clarifies my point. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev rules with increasing dictatorial force on his populace. His family owns the only legally authorized media outlet in the country. The underground press are sought out and, in noted instances, brutalized. Opposition leaders such as Akezhan Kazhegeldin and others are banned from the country thereby preventing any true opposition party. President Nazarbayev has not honored his commitment to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to allow constitutional rights of assembly, speech and representation for the people of Kazakhstan. A federal grand jury in New York is investigating serious allegations of bribery by oil interests resulting in the Swiss government freezing President Nazarbayev's and his family's secret Swiss bank accounts at the request of the U.S. Department of Justice. These are but a few examples.

Mr. Speaker, the United States continues to put millions of dollars into our ally, Kazakhstan. However, one must ask what the average Kazakh citizen thinks of U.S. support during this time of tyranny. A recent editorial in *The Economist* suggested a frightening answer: "Where people conclude—as some already have—that America and its allies care about nothing except oil revenues and military bases, the West can come to seem the source of their travails, and they become easy converts to extremism." (I ask unanimous consent that the complete editorial be placed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.)

I am concerned for our long term relationship with the people of Kazakhstan and ask the Administration to pressure the Nazarbayev regime towards a return to democracy. Our

global war against terrorism demands that we work with many governments willing to help. In building these partnerships, it is our moral duty and in our national interest to advance democratic principles.

[From the Economist, May 4, 2002]

STOPPING THE ROT—USING WESTERN
INFLUENCE IN CENTRAL ASIA

CENTRAL ASIA: DEMOCRACY AND THE SPORT OF
GEOPOLITICS

On HIS tour this week of Central Asia, Donald Rumsfeld, America's defense secretary, thanked the region's leaders warmly for their contribution to the war in Afghanistan. They had opened up their roads, railways, air corridors and military bases. And they had been only too happy to help. The Taliban and the armed Islamists they spawned had menaced each one of these fragile new states. Yet fostering new military relationships, important as these are, should not be the only aim of western policy. Development and better government are needed too.

Kazakhstan, for example, looks set to become one of the world's top oil producers. Yet evidence from other places suggests that oil money can badly distort an economy as it travels the short distance between western buyers and the offshore bank accounts of cynical rulers. Outsiders can help guard against that danger by keeping up pressure in these former outposts of Soviet rule for more open societies, where the strains of wrenching change can be absorbed by a healthy degree of press freedom and political debate.

Instead, in Kazakhstan and in Kirgizstan, the two most committed until recently to market economics and multi-party democracy, there have been arbitrary arrests and a crackdown on the independent media. Meanwhile Uzbekistan, which aspires to be the regional cop, has always had an authoritarian tinge. No bad thing, some outsiders would say, when there are unruly borders to guard and a real threat from Islamist extremists. But leaders in all three places have clearly taken their new-found strategic importance as an opportunity to turn the screws on dissenters.

Meanwhile Tajikistan and Turkmenistan offer cautionary tales of the trouble that could infect the whole area if the outside world turns a blind eye. For most of its first decade of independence, Tajikistan was mired in a drug-fueled civil war that still has disastrous effects: Tajiks play a key role in transporting Afghan heroin to Europe. In Turkmenistan, a sterile personality cult has fostered poverty and human-rights abuses; the country at one point flirted with the Taliban, and has failed to exploit or market its huge gas reserves effectively.

Tempting as it might sometimes seem for western governments to shrug off Central Asia's creeping, authoritarianism as a price worth paying in the bigger geopolitical and financial game, that would be short-sighted—for pragmatic reasons as well as for moral ones. Tyrannies with unhappy subjects are unlikely to be reliable economic or strategic partners. Where people conclude—as some already have—that America and its allies care about nothing except oil revenues and military bases, the West can come to seem the source of their travails, and they become easy converts to extremism. Once anti-western sentiment has taken hold, it can then be cynically exploited by local despots (even those with cosy relationships with the West) to distract attention from their own misdeeds.

What can western governments do? They cannot turn the Region's leaders into paragons of democracy. Heavy-handed pressure,

applied to tough rulers still jealous of their newly-won independence, can be counter-productive.

Western governments would do better to give a helping hand to those courageous individuals who are working to keep the flame of independent thought flickering. Often the best deliverers of such help are not embassies or visiting politicians, but non-governmental agencies. Tiny amounts of money—a printing press here, an internet-linked computer there—can make the difference between survival or extinction for a local party or lobby group.

ENCOURAGEMENT WHERE IT COUNTS

To advocates of cold realism in foreign policy, such concerns may smack of sentimentalism. As long as Central Asia's rulers open their airfields to western military planes and their oilfields to western corporations, does it matter very much if they lock up their rivals or use electrodes on their dissidents?

Such arguments were once used to justify America's unconditional support for the monarchy in Iran. When opposition there finally burst into the open, it was not inspired by western models but was driven by anti-western rage. These days technology makes it even harder to maintain repressive regimes and stamp down dissent. Ideas cross frontiers more easily, no matter how hard tyrants try to prevent this. Another good reason for western governments not to collude with creeping authoritarianism in Central Asia, but to use their influence to stop the rot.

TRIBUTE TO MAX AND OLGA
VENZOR ON THEIR 50TH WED-
DING ANNIVERSARY

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the sacrament of marriage by paying tribute to two of my constituents who will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary over the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend. Margarito and Olga Venzor have been dedicated to each other for fifty years and we should all be inspired to know that marriage, in this day and age, is very much alive and well. They were married in 1952 and never looked back.

Max and Olga have been examples to their community, church, and family. They have been examples of love, dedication, and sacrifice. They are the parents to eight wonderful and beautiful children: Danny, David, Lionel, Lilly, Rose, Chris, Becky and Bertie. They also have and cherish 17 grandchildren. I won't even attempt to name them. I also hear that they will be adding another grandchild to their *familia* in the Spring. Max and Olga are also blessed to have two great grandchildren. As a new grandfather myself, and also coming from a large family, I know what a blessing it is and a true gift from God to be surrounded by loved ones.

One of the things that has remained constant over the past 50 years, has been the love and dedication that has been felt and shown between Max and Olga. Even when times got tough, as they often did, they were able to keep their marriage strong and their commitment to each other and their children

solid. They sacrificed of themselves for each other and truly lived up to their marriage vows. They sacrificed to make sure that their kids and each other were educated, and clothed, and fed, and happy, and nourished, and safe, and loved. These things, in the grand scheme of things, are the most important successes in life. They have shared life's joys and tragedies together and have been with each other through each other's accomplishments, trials and tribulations. They have shared each other's aspirations, disappointments, fears, and challenges. They have literally grown up together and have beautifully grown old with one another. What a wonderful, spiritual blessing.

I think the place where Max and Olga find themselves as they approach their 50th Wedding Anniversary, is the place and the situation where we all want to be and what so many married couples aspire to achieve. Fifty years of marriage! One of the keys to their success has been keeping God at the center of their marriage, relationship, and family. God is truly the glue that holds the sacred institution of marriage together and Max and Olga are witness to this fact. I know that the Catholic Church continues to be a central and important part of their lives. In fact, for many years, they have served as Eucharistic lay ministers to the family of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, in El Paso, Texas.

When it really comes down to it, there is no greater accomplishment in life than to have loved fully, your spouse, your children, your God, and your country. Max and Olga have certainly done just that and I applaud them on their 50th Wedding Anniversary. I wish them great happiness, peace, and joy in the upcoming years.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
JOHN E. PLATT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of John E. Platt, who passed away September 24, 2002. John Platt was born on July 11, 1920, in Eastern Ohio. Mr. Platt was a devoted family man. He and his wife, Margeret Esther Morse, raised 5 children and were the proud grandparents of 19 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Mr. Platt served our country as a member of both the Navy and the Air Force. For his service as a World War II and Korean War veteran, we owe him a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. Following retirement from the armed forces, Mr. Platt generously gave of his time teaching high school history and serving as Principal in the Carrollton Exempted School District. His devotion to the community was impeccable, being a dedicated patriot through his 25 year membership in the VFW and Voice of Democracy Program, as well as his work for the Lions International, POW-MIA's, and the American Legion. He was also involved throughout his life with the Chestnut Ridge United Methodist Church.

Mr. Platt will certainly be remembered by all those who knew him for his personal sacrifices of time and energy to family, friends, and community. His understanding and caring shown