

6th annual Ensure the Legacy Banquet to pay tribute to the following men and women of the Arabic community that have significantly contributed to Genesee County.

The Council has chosen John Henry as "Community Leader of the Year." Mr. Henry is the Executive Director of the Flint Institute of Arts and was the driving force behind "The Arab Influence" project. He has worked for the last two years on the exhibit that involved fifteen institutions and was designed to safeguard Arabic history and promote understanding. This exhibit has educated thousands about the contributions of the Arab world to art, science, literature, and religion. Through exhibitions like the "Khalil Gibran: Images of a Poet" and "The Arts of Islam: The Word of God, The Works of Man" many Americans have been exposed to the interweaving of art into the everyday life of the Arabic world.

Fay Joseph was chosen as the "Community Volunteer of the Year." Fay has donated her time, energy, and money to the causes she believes in. The list of organizations benefiting from her largesse is extensive. Honored by many groups for her work, Fay exemplifies the commitment that pervades the Arab community in Genesee County. Never content to accept the status quo, Fay is always looking for ways to make her hometown a better place. Going quietly about her work, Fay portrays the positive image of Arab-Americans.

Dr. Farouk Obeid is being honored as the "Physician of the Year." He is the Director of Trauma, and Surgical Care at Hurley Medical Center in Flint in addition to being Head of Trauma and Critical Care at Henry Ford Hospital. Originally from Syria, Dr. Obeid came to this country to complete a residency in General Surgery and a fellowship in Vascular Surgery. He is the president of the American Arab Syrian Culture Society of Greater Detroit and has devoted countless hours to numerous nonprofit groups. He has contributed to several surgical textbooks and works as a professor of Surgery at Michigan State University, associate professor of Surgery at Case Western Reserve University and clinical professor of Surgery at Michigan State University.

In their promotion of education, the American Arab Heritage Council offers an annual scholarship to a student achieving high academic standards. This year's recipient is Candi Rishmawi a student of medical technology at the University of Michigan-Flint.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating these four individuals. I would like to commend them and the American Arab Heritage Council for their hard work this past year. Through their efforts Americans can come together in peace and understanding and our society is enhanced.

TRIBUTE TO BRAD ANDERSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an American hero. Deputy Brad Anderson, a member of the St. Louis County Sheriff's Department, died on Labor Day, September 2, 2002, while answering a call in rural northeastern Minnesota. Deputy Anderson, of Aurora, Minnesota, was tragically

killed in the line of duty when his squad car collided with another vehicle. He leaves behind his wife Gale and two sons, Kyle and Conrad.

Deputy Anderson's co-workers described their fallen colleague as "tenacious" and "extremely dedicated." If you were the victim of a crime, Deputy Anderson was the type of law enforcement professional that you wanted to have working on your case. He was thorough and never quit on any of his investigations, and he came to work every day with the belief that he was protecting and serving the public.

Deputy Anderson shared a deep concern for the children of the community, and he dedicated himself to keeping them safe. Many a young person is alive today because Deputy Anderson took the time and made the effort to take action when he saw that they were in trouble and needed guidance. I know that there are many parents who are grateful for his dedicated and timely actions.

In addition to his duties as a deputy sheriff, Brad Anderson taught firearms safety courses to students of all ages. He was also a member of the Iron Range Disaster Committee and spent many dedicated hours working with fire departments, ambulance services and public safety organizations. Those whom he worked with always appreciated his experience and skills. His knowledge in handling large-scale emergency situations will be greatly missed.

Deputy Anderson was dedicated to his country and its armed services. He was extremely proud of his service in the U.S. Air Force and later the U.S. Air Force Reserve. He was honored to be an American and an American Veteran.

Northeastern Minnesota has indeed lost a true professional with the death of Deputy Sheriff Brad Anderson. Our region will profoundly miss this dedicated hero.

SUPPORTING UKRAINIAN JOURNALISTS AGAINST OPPRESSION OF FREE SPEECH

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of restoring free speech in Ukraine. Democratic societies should cherish freedom of speech, not fear it. Current efforts in Ukraine to suppress this fundamental human right undermine every other human liberty for the Ukrainian people, and thus, must not continue. I call upon our friends in the Ukrainian Verkhovna Rada, and Ukraine's government leaders to defend the human rights of Ukrainian citizens, and to ensure Ukrainian journalists are permitted to report news truthfully and accurately, free from fear of harassment, molestation, imprisonment and physical harm.

The chairman of the Rada's Committee on Freedom of Speech and Information, Mykola Tomenko, last month, said guidelines on covering politics were routinely being sent to media chiefs. He told a press conference he had received such a document from a TV channel head who indicated he receives such a document every week from the president's administration.

Blatant incidents of media censorship in Ukraine are increasingly indicating an orches-

trated campaign to control information and news of public interest. These events cast grave doubts upon the sustainability of Ukraine's development as a democratic society, and upon the government's commitment to the constitutional rights of its citizens. This increased oppression on Ukrainian media has precipitated the formation of a journalist's union, organized to fight political censorship. I commend these journalists for their courageous defense of democracy and human freedom.

On September 24, 2002, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe held a roundtable discussion focusing on Ukraine's current media regulations and whether they adhere to Western standards. Ukrainian parliamentarians, government officials, media professionals, international experts and diplomats took part in discussions. The OSCE representative on freedom of the media pointed out that Ukraine's law on the procedure of coverage by mass media on state authorities and local self-government "raises very serious doubts about [Ukraine's] compliance with international human rights standards on freedom of expression."

On October 3rd, 2002, journalists participating in the roundtable signed the "Manifesto of Ukraine Journalists on Political Censorship." The proclamation reads as follows:

MANIFESTO OF UKRAINE JOURNALISTS ON POLITICAL CENSORSHIP

We, the journalists of Ukraine, fully realizing the unique role of a truthful word for development and consolidation of our Motherland, realizing our personal responsibility as journalists for giving unbiased information, understanding that fear will impede some of our colleagues to sign the Manifesto, proclaim:

(1) Political censorship does exist in Ukraine and it is realized through orders or upon consent of the Power in regard to television and radio programs, articles in newspapers through illegal pressure of all kind on journalists and individual mass media that try to highlight social and political life in the country.

(2) Political censorship humiliates journalists and people of Ukraine.

(3) Political censorship is illegal: while exerting political censorship the Power attempts to restrict constitutional right of citizens for freedom of speech, which is stipulated in the Constitution of Ukraine, laws of Ukraine, international legal documents ratified by Ukraine and hence binding on its territory. It is worth stressing that the right for freedom of speech is an integral right of Ukraine citizens. Thus, it is a harsh violation of one of the most important fundamental principles of the Constitution of Ukraine. The fact that with the flagrant examples of political censorship in Ukraine no one has been brought to trial we retain as scoffing the Law and the rights of Ukraine citizens.

(4) We, the journalists of Ukraine, identify ourselves with resistance of our colleagues and greet the tendency when along with intensification of political censorship in Ukraine journalists shift from protests of individuals to mass joint actions.

(5) We, the journalists of Ukraine, proclaim our readiness to an all-Ukraine strike for whose preparation and for preparation of other joint actions of journalists in support of their colleagues the initiative group is being established.

(6) We, the journalists of Ukraine, will look for every means to support our colleagues

dismissed from their jobs or persecuted because of their adherence to objective journalism.

October 3, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, on February 22, 2001 I participated, as part of a Congressional Delegation, in a roundtable discussion in Kyiv, Ukraine with several Ukrainian journalists. The consensus was a sad commentary on the state of censorship in Ukraine even then. The reporters were in agreement: There is no free press in Ukraine. I have since had the chance to meet with several more Ukrainian journalists throughout Ukraine and can tell the House that each report I received described differing levels of intimidation, censorship, and control by Ukraine's central authorities. I have documented some of these interviews on my official web site: www.house.gov/schaffer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues in the House of Representatives to support foreign assistance programs and non-government organizations that promote independent mass media in developing countries such as Ukraine. Additionally, I urge the administration of Ukraine to complete investigation of the murders of Heorhiy Gongadze and other journalists, and to offer protection from physical violence and legislative mechanisms to defend them. I furthermore urge Ukrainian investigators to fully utilize the expertise of our Federal Bureau of Investigation as promised by President Leonid Kuchma during a meeting with the Congressional Delegation on February 22, 2001.

Finally, I encourage Ukrainian journalists to persist in their relentless pursuit of the truth. Their professionalism, courage, and if necessary, their personal sacrifice, are the essential elements in securing authentic liberty for their countrymen and delivering Ukraine to a righteous state of serene democracy.

**ON THE RETIREMENT OF COL.
ROBERT G. HICKS, USA, AFTER
30 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE TO THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA**

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding career of Col. Robert G. Hicks who is currently the Executive Director for Public Health, Safety, and Security for the Defense Commissary Agency at Fort Lee, Virginia.

Colonel Hicks will retire after 30 years of distinguished service in the U.S. Army and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his selfless service to the Army and to the United States of America.

Colonel Hicks was born in Beverly, Massachusetts on May 18, 1949, and earned a Bachelors of Science Degree from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. He received a four-year Army ROTC scholarship and later received his commission as a Second Lieutenant in June 1971 as a Distinguished Military Graduate. In 1975, he received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia, and a Masters in Food Technology from Texas A&M University in June 1989.

During his long and distinguished career Colonel Hicks has enjoyed assignments in Omaha, Nebraska, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, The Hague, The Netherlands, The AMEDD Academy of Health Sciences in San Antonio, Texas, and as Commander of the 64th Medical Detachment in Landstuhl, Germany.

Colonel Hicks' military education includes the AMEDD Officer Advance Course and the Command and General Staff College. Additionally, Colonel Hicks is Board Certified in Veterinary Preventive Medicine, and a recipient of The Army Surgeon General's "A" Proficiency Designator and the AMEDD Order of Military Medical Merit.

Colonel Hicks' other military awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Medal.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and Colonel Hicks' many friends and family in saluting this distinguished officer's lifetime of service. Colonel Hicks is the very embodiment of patriotism and it is fitting that the House of Representatives honors him on this day.

OUR LADY OF PEACE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4757, the Our Lady of Peace Act. I'd like to thank my colleagues for their hard work on this legislation.

This legislation will be a huge step forward for the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). It will provide grants to states for building databases related to NICS, enhancing state capabilities to utilize the system, improving final disposition of criminal records, and supplying mental health records, court-ordered domestic restraining orders and records of domestic violence misdemeanors.

This information will then be able to be transmitted by the states to NICS, ensuring that criminals and others who should not have access to weapons will not be able to purchase them. This strengthening of the background check system will save lives, and protect the ability of law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms.

H.R. 4757 would also require federal agencies to annually provide the FBI with information on regarding individuals who are not permitted to purchase firearms, increasing the accuracy of these background checks and further protecting, our communities.

The bill addresses legitimate concerns about the privacy of mental health records transmitted to NICS. It instructs the Department of Justice to work with states and local law enforcement on regulations for the protection of any mental health information sent to the system. I urge the department to implement the strongest possible privacy protection, so as to prevent the accidental release of this information.

Finally, the most important provision of this bill is the prohibition of the imposition of a

"gun tax" by charging fees for gun purchases through NICS. The Second Amendment provides us with the right to keep and bear arms, so the burden is on us to protect that right—without taxes, delays, or waiting periods for gun purchases by law-abiding buyers.

Again, I support this legislation, and urge our colleagues in the Senate to act quickly on this bill.

**TAIWANESE CELEBRATION OF ITS
91ST NATIONAL DAY**

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2002, the people of Taiwan celebrated their 91st National Day. I would like to take this opportunity to extend to them my best wishes on this joyous occasion.

The people of Taiwan should be very proud of their achievements as their nation celebrates its rich history dating back to Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his launch against the Ching Dynasty in 1911.

As the 7th largest market for U.S. exports with total trade at \$51.5 billion in 2001, Taiwan is a significant trading partner and of great importance to our nation. After joining the world stage as an observer-nation of the World Trade Organization this past January, the Taiwanese and U.S. governments may now trade more equitably and form new alliances as the 21st Century evolves.

Taiwan distinguishes itself not only in the practice of international trade with other nations but also in its assistance in fighting terrorism. Taiwanese airports and seaports have tightened their security measures to protect citizens of all nations in its efforts in combating terrorism. The country also stands with the United States on safeguarding human rights and international cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this great day be one of many for the Taiwanese people. As Taiwan celebrates its national day, I look forward to a further strengthening of the bonds that unite our two nations—a relationship built on our love of and commitment to freedom.

**SUPPORT FOR VALUE OF HUMAN
LIFE AMENDMENT,
KUCINICH
AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5120**

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, the Office of Management and Budget has been choosing ideology over economics when making decisions about environmental, health and safety regulations.

An ideology that devalues future generations and the environment.

An ideology that seriously distorts the benefits of public protection.

An ideology that says a 15 year-old who dies from a car crash is worth protecting more than a 15 year-old who dies from cancer following exposure at birth to a carcinogen.

OMB is forcing EPA, FDA, DOT and all other federal agencies to underestimate the