

rushed to the scene in a demonstration of extraordinary courage and sacrifice. We met adversity with resolve. We answered terror with strength. We responded to evil with good. We defeated hatred with tolerance.

Your assembling here today sends a powerful message to the people of the world, to our allies and to our enemies. Inspired by the strength, perseverance and compassion of our heroes and the people across America, our unity and our resolve has only grown stronger. We will remember. We will rebuild. And we will move forward with the unity and confidence of a free people.

Our sadness from the images of destruction and our memories of those we lost on September 11th will forever be embedded in our minds. Yet when we look back on that fateful day, we will look back not just in sadness, but also with pride, in the actions of New Yorkers and of Americans across this great land, who stepped forward in our cities in our nation's hour of adversity.

And to President Bush, and to this united Congress, you stepped forward for New York and for America, helping families and helping this city to recover, to rebuild and to reclaim its destiny.

You came to ground zero. You saw the destruction. And like so many other Americans, you responded and did your part. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I'd like to say thank you. (Applause)

Freedom is our legacy and our inalienable right as citizens of this great nation. It is our heritage. It is our birthright that was established here by the first Congress 212 years ago, and then reaffirmed today by this Congress 212 years later. Your presence here today means a great deal to all Americans, but especially to New Yorkers. It shows we have not forgotten, nor will future generations of America forget.

A century from now, they will know that the terrorists failed. They will know that in the face of destruction—we faced destruction with determination. We turned despair into hope. And we turned tragedy into triumph. We are united in our fight against terror. And in our defense of freedom, we are vigilant, we are strong, we are New Yorkers, we are Americans. Thank you. God bless New York. And God bless the United States of America. Thank you. (Applause)

Mayor Bloomberg: Fourteen days after September 11th, New York's newspaper, The Daily News, first proposed New York's hosting of a joint congressional session. It wrote that such a session would be a symbol, quote, "of unity, strength and resolve such as the world has never seen." Now I would like to introduce the earliest governmental champion of that idea, the dean of New York's congressional delegation, Charlie Rangel. (Applause)

CONGRATULATING THE ARCADIA, CALIFORNIA ROTARY CLUB ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2002

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, it is with pleasure and pride that I call upon my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in extending congratulations to the Arcadia, California Rotary Club on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary. The members of the club have truly lived up to their motto, "Service Above Self." and I am proud to have this opportunity to express appreciation for

myself and the residents of the 28th Congressional District of California for the many benefits that our community has derived from their good works. Indeed, the members of the Arcadia Rotary Club have been a model of excellence as to what a few can do for the benefit of all.

The members of the Arcadia Rotary Club go about their volunteer activities quietly, without fanfare, and their accomplishments are oftentimes not given the full recognition that they so richly deserve. I am, therefore, happy to make these remarks a part of the public record.

Chartered on October 27, 1927, the Arcadia Rotary Club began their first organized effort in the community by working with crippled children. They later pioneered the establishment of Arcadia Methodist Hospital of Southern California and remain strong supporters of this hospital today. The Club sponsored a Boy Scout Troop in 1929 and formed a student loan fund for needy students who wanted to complete their education. Many students needed help to stay in school during the Depression. They also established a scholarship fund to encourage high school students to complete their education. Members constructed Youth Huts on the playgrounds of several local schools—donating both dollars and labor.

While I cannot list all the ways in which the members of the Arcadia Rotary Club have served others over the years, I can list a few: The Club has helped build an orphanage in Mexico, and constructed many buildings at Camp Trask, the Boy Scout facility in the mountains above Monrovia, California. They have donated money for a water well in Africa. The Club honors outstanding middle school and high school students in the Arcadia Unified School District. The Arcadia Rotary Club donated money to rebuild a school in France shortly after World War II. They have run a Junior Achievement program at the Alternative High School in Arcadia that was named the outstanding Junior Achievement Program in Southern California for the year 1995. Each year, the Arcadia Rotary Club sponsors and serves a luncheon for the senior citizens of Arcadia. Over the years, they have planted trees and shrubbery at the L.A. County Arboretum. The Club has been a generous contributor to Rotary International's program to eradicate polio throughout the world.

Arcadia Rotary Club will continue to serve the community in many of the same ways and look for new opportunities to be of service to others for decades to come.

TRIBUTE TO TATYANA VELIKANOVA

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 31, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, there are certain times in our lives when we do well to pause, reflect upon, and honor those outstanding persons who have fought, at great personal sacrifice, to make a real difference in the never-ending struggle around the world for basic human rights. Now is one of those special times for sure.

On September 21 of this year one of the greatest heroines in the long fight against the

horrible human terrors of the Soviet Union died in Moscow after a battle with cancer at age seventy. Tatyana Velikanova was a leading champion of the Soviet-era dissident movement. She was described by Andrei Sakharov, the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize winner, as an "embodiment of the . . . purity and strength of the Soviet human rights movement."

Andrei Sakharov lauded Ms. Velikanova in a statement written during his own banishment from Moscow for her dedication to the cause of the oppressed, regardless of whether she agreed with their views. "Her only consideration was whether someone had suffered injustice," he wrote.

"She was a symbol of the human rights movement," said Sergei Kovalyov in an Associated Press story about her death. Kovalyov, a prominent dissident who worked alongside Ms. Velikanova, described her as "absolutely reliable, a crystally honest person." Kovalyov regards Andrei Sakharov and Tatyana Velikanova as the brightest representatives of the Soviet human rights movement.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the amazing life of Tatyana Velikanova. Freedom-loving people everywhere join us in honoring her life, her commitment, her courage, her dedication and her long struggle to tell the world the truth about the unbelievable human rights abuses perpetrated throughout the Soviet Union for so many long years including those in the country of my heritage, Ukraine.

Marjorie Farquharson, a writer on human rights issues, wrote in a recent article published by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. "The death on 21 September this year of Tatyana Velikanova, the editor of 'Khronika tekushchykh sobytiy' ('A Chronicle of Current Events'), draws a line under the most remarkable publishing venture of the Soviet era."

Tatyana Velikanova was arrested in 1979 on charges of "anti-Soviet propaganda," and received a nine-year sentence, serving four years in prison camp before being exiled to a desolate part of Kazakhstan.

Mr. Speaker, according to Mr. E. Morgan William, a personal friend of mine and an expert on Eastern European affairs, "all those around the world today who love and support the cause of human rights and basic human freedom owe a debt to Tatyana Velikanova. Her life and the cause she fought for must not be forgotten." Mr. Williams' personal appreciation of Velikanova has motivated him to articulate the magnitude of her legacy on a mass scale. In fact, these very remarks are inspired by his passion for liberty and his devotion to Velikanova's cause for human dignity.

Williams is right to suggest the conflict is ongoing and the champions of freedom continue where Velikanova's efforts have ended. "The fight for basic human rights still goes on today," Williams told me. "We must step up the long struggle against those who crush the human spirit and deny people their basic human rights."

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me now in offering the prayers and supplications of a thankful nation to the Almighty God of our country for life and works of His servant, Tatyana Velikanova. May her soul and all souls of the faithfully departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in eternal peace.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I hereby submit for the RECORD, three published accounts of Tatyana Velikanova's life. This submission is particularly important because of the constrained

press that still exist throughout the former Soviet Union. Even today, those whose freedom was advanced by the sacrifice of Velikanova are least likely to be exposed to stories like these that document her courage.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 17, 2002]

TATYANA VELIKANOVA, SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST, DIES AT AGE 70

(By Sophia Kishkovsky)

MOSCOW, Oct. 14.—Tatyana M. Velikanova, a Soviet human rights activist who was a leading editor of the most important samizdat journal of human rights abuses and spent nearly nine years in prison camp and exile, died of cancer on Sept. 19. She was 70 and lived in Moscow.

Ms. Velikanova, a mathematician by profession, became a dissident in 1968, when she went to Red Square with her husband, Konstantin Babitsky, who was one of only seven people to demonstrate openly against the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia that crushed the Prague Spring reforms.

Mr. Babitsky was arrested and banished for several years to the far north of Russia. The next year, Ms. Velikanova helped found the Initiative Group for the Defense of Human Rights in the U.S.S.R., and became the backbone of the Chronicle of Current Events, a samizdat news bulletin, after the arrest of its founder, Natalya Gorbanevskaya. The chronicle was the main uncensored source of information about the dissident movement around the Soviet Union during the rule of Leonid I. Brezhnev.

At a time when photocopying machines were rare and kept literally under lock and key in Soviet offices, the compilers of the chronicle gathered information and then produced multiple copies by typing through layers of carbon paper.

The chronicle was written in a dry, telegraphic style, and defended all repressed groups, from Pentecostal believers to Jewish refuseniks, Russian Orthodox priests, Georgian nationalists, deported Crimean Tatars, and intellectuals and religious believers in the Baltic republics.

Ms. Velikanova herself was an observant Orthodox Christian.

She was arrested in 1979 on charges of "anti-Soviet propaganda," and a report in the Chronicle around that time detailed official questioning of her sister about her ties to the West, as well as the interrogator's relaying his prisoner's request for a Bible and photographs of her grandchildren.

Ms. Velikanova received a nine-year sentence, serving four years in prison camp and then being exiled to a desolate part of Kazakhstan.

In a statement written during his own banishment from Moscow to the city of Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod), Andrei D. Sakharov lauded Ms. Velikanova for her dedication to the cause of the oppressed, regardless of whether she agreed with their views. "Her only consideration was whether someone had suffered injustice," he wrote.

During the reforms of Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Ms. Velikanova was allowed to return to Moscow before her nine-year term was fully served. In her final years, she lived out of the public eye, teaching math and Russian language and literature at a Moscow school until just months before her death.

She is survived by three children, Natalie Babitsky of France, Fyodor Babitsky of Moscow and Yulia Keidan of Italy; 13 grandchildren; two brothers, Andrew Velihan of Northport, N.Y., and Kirill Velikanov of Moscow; and two sisters, Yekaterina Velikanova of Moscow and Mary Velihan Grigorenko of New York City.

[From the Boston Globe, Oct. 18, 2002]

TATYANA VELIKANOVA, LEADING SOVIET-ERA DISSIDENT, DIES AT AGE 70

MOSCOW.—Tatyana Velikanova, a leading member of the Soviet-era dissident movement who was arrested and jailed for chronicling human rights abuses by the authorities, has died in Moscow of cancer. She was 70.

"She was a symbol of the human rights movement," Sergei Kovalyov, a prominent dissident also persecuted by the authorities, said yesterday. Ms. Velikanova, a mathematician, first defied the authorities in 1968, when she appeared in Red Square with her husband and six other people to protest the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. After her husband, Konstantin Babitsky, was arrested, Ms. Velikanova became an active participant in the dissident movement.

In 1969, Ms. Velikanova helped found the Initiative Group for the Defense of Human Rights and later played a leading role in publishing the Chronicle of Current Events, a samizdat, or self-published bulletin reporting human rights abuses by the authorities and news about the dissident movement. The Chronicle was the cornerstone of the dissident movement for many years.

"She was absolutely reliable, a crystalline honest person," said Kovalyov, who worked on the Chronicle alongside Ms. Velikanova until his arrest in 1974. "For me, [Andrei] Sakharov and Velikanova were the brightest representatives of the Soviet human rights movement."

Sakharov, who won the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize for his human rights activities, once hailed Ms. Velikanova as an "embodiment of the . . . purity and strength of the Soviet Union's human rights movement."

Following years of harassment by the authorities, Ms. Velikanova was arrested in 1979 and sentenced to four years in a prison camp and five years of exile in the steppes of western Kazakhstan. She was pardoned by the government in 1987 as part of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, but she refused to return to Moscow for another half-year.

For the past decade, Ms. Velikanova taught in Moscow.

[From Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Oct. 16, 2002]

HONORING A SAMIZDAT PIONEER—THE AMAZING LIFE OF TATYANA VELIKANOVA

(By Marjorie Farquharson)

The death on 21 September this year of Tatyana Velikanova, the editor of "Khronika tekushchikh sobytii" ("A Chronicle of Current Events"), draws a line under the most remarkable publishing venture of the Soviet era.

Although it concentrated on reporting the here-and-now, "Khronika" actually reached far into the future. Some of the issues it highlighted have not been resolved even today.

"Khronika" gave an uncensored account of what was going on in the Soviet Union, and thus prefigured the events of the late 1980s that so surprised the world in a way that "Izvestiya" never could. Before then-Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev launched his policy of "glasnost" in the late 1980s, you could scour the official press in vain for indications of nationalism in Georgia or Ukraine. By contrast, the pages of "Khronika" traced the lives of some individuals who later became the first to head their republics as independent states, and others who became Nobel laureates or members of the new Russian government.

"Khronika" was the only samizdat journal devoted to human rights issues (Article 19 of

the UN civil rights covenant was its masthead) throughout the Soviet Union and it ran for 14 years—longer than almost any other. It began as a brief record of what happened to the seven people who demonstrated in Red Square against the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, among them Velikanova's husband Konstantin Babitskii. By the time the authorities finally suppressed the publication in 1983, it had regular rubrics on emigration, religion, nationalities, psychiatry, prisoners, and the media.

Compared with the websites available now, the legal fragments in "Khronika" look like shards of ancient pottery. In the chronicle's day through, Soviet readers had no right to see the laws that governed them, and what was not expressly permitted was wisest assumed forbidden. "Khronika" published whatever secret decrees came its way, some with enormous implications for human rights—such as instructions of forcible psychiatric confinement from 1972, residency restrictions on ex-offenders, and rules on prison punishments. It was not until the USSR had collapsed that the new 1991 Russian Constitution included the idea that laws must be accessible to the public if they are to be legal.

Journalists in democracies have a duty to impart information, not merely the right to do so, according to international standards accepted by Russia in 1998 and by those other ex-Soviet republics that have been accepted into the Council of Europe. "Khronika" chose to write in that same spirit 34 years ago, but under the constraints of Soviet censorship. An early issue advises: "Our journal is by no means illegal, but the peculiar notion of freedom of information that has been bred over many years in Soviet institutions prevents us from putting a return address on the back page. If you want the public to know what is going on in the country, give you information to the person who gave you 'Khronika,' and they will pass it on to the person who gave it to them. Only don't try to follow the trail to the end or people will take you for an informer."

In 1979 that trail led to Velikanova and her arrest, but by then it had evidently become a long and intricate one. (Soon afterward a Pentecostalist living 11 time zones away in the Pacific town of Nakhodka was questioned about Velikanova's case.) Well-versed in political trials, Velikanova took no part in the investigation of her own case, refused a defense lawyer, and did not appeal against her nine-year sentence in 1980 for "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda"—her only response to the verdict being "The farce is over." She served four years in a Mordovian labor camp, then was exiled to a camel station in Kazakhstan where she worked as a bookkeeper. The first information about women political prisoners and their conditions emerged when she was in Mordovia.

"Khronika" did not anticipate the explosion in information technology that has ripped through the world since 1990, carrying the Russian Federation with it. The chroniclers were caught in an era when Soviet typewriters were identifiable by their registration numbers, photocopiers did not exist, and no one had dreamt of a fax or electronic mail. Velikanova took enormous risks as editor of "Khronika." Apart from the constant danger of arrest, there were the problems of protecting sources, distributing material to trusted people and guarding against fake information supplied by the KGB to discredit the journal. Contributors too took risks. How did they know the journal would represent them fairly? And protect their identity when needed?

The continual growth in the chronicle's depth and scope is a counterpoint to Velikanova's own integrity and skill. From

the first issue to the last, the same neutral and unassuming voice speaks through its pages—a voice that must have been very close to her own.

“Khronika” foreshadowed many changes, but two causes it espoused have not been resolved. The Meskhetians and the Crimean Tartars, who were expelled from their homes by Stalin during World War II still struggle for full civil rights. The Tartars feature in the chronicle’s earliest issues. Their leader,

Mustafa Dzhemilev, was a member of the Initiative Group for the Defense of Human Rights set up by Velikanova and her fellow “Khronika” founder Sergei Kovalev and Tatyana Khodorovich in 1969.

Until she was sacked from the Academy of Sciences in 1977 and began work as a cleaner in a children’s hospital, Velikanova engaged in mathematical research. After her release in 1987, she united her two great loves and became a mathematics teacher in a Moscow

school, where she still worked at the time of her death at 71. She was shy in public, and in the 1990s never became known as a magnet for the foreign media and financiers. A complete set of her edited works survives her, however. “A Chronicle of Current Events” is available in Russian on the website of the human rights group Memorial (<http://www.memo.ru>) and in English from Amnesty International.