

conscription. In fact, throughout American history the draft has been opposed by Americans from across the political spectrum, from Henry David Thoreau to Barry Goldwater to Bill Bradley to Jesse Ventura. Organizations opposed to conscription range from the American Civil Liberties Union to the United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society, and from the National Taxpayers Union to the Conservative Caucus. Other major figures opposing conscription include current Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan and Nobel Laureate Milton Friedman.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand up for the long-term military interests of the United States, individual liberty, and values of the Declaration of Independence by cosponsoring my sense of Congress resolution opposing reinstatement of the military draft.

A.D. AND SHIRLEY MCGREGOR: A
GIFT OF LOVE AND GENEROSITY

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special couple, A.D. and Shirley McGregor of Spaulding Township, Michigan, as they prepare to celebrate fifty years of marriage and a loving commitment to each other and their community. They have not only shared their tremendous capacity for love and giving with their son, Allen, his wife, Nancy, and granddaughter, Nicole, but they have both literally and figuratively played Santa Claus and Mr. Claus for much of the citizenry of Saginaw County.

The list of the many volunteer organizations graced by the McGregors' efforts over the years is long and impressive, including the Michigan Avenue Baptist Church in Saginaw, the Salvation Army, various rescue missions, the Saginaw County Historical Society, CROP Walk for the Hungry, the Saginaw Fair and a host of other non-profits.

Of particular note is their involvement with Saginaw Community Hospital, where they have spent untold hours entertaining and helping patients. Elderly patients and others have derived much pleasure from the McGregors' musical interludes, with A.D. leading the sing-along and Shirley at the piano playing "God Bless America" or "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." During the Christmas holiday season, the McGregors have become synonymous with the Yuletide spirit as they have donned red coats and white-furred hats to dress as Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus for visits to area hospital and charitable events.

Those familiar with volunteer work in Saginaw can hardly remember a time when the McGregors were not involved in one or another activity. A.D. and Shirley have volunteered for various organizations since before they were married at Fordney Avenue Baptist Church in 1952. In fact, as a young girl, Shirley used to accompany her father, Elmer Hopkins, when he sang and played the organ for local organizations. Both A.D. and Shirley learned at an early age that they had a responsibility to return some of their blessings to the wider community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating A.D. and Shirley for fifty

years of marital happiness and for a lifetime of loving and giving. I am confident their kind hearted generosity will continue to know no bounds.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOE JESIK

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Joe Jesik and recognize his contributions to this nation. A resident of Pueblo, Colorado, Joe began his service as a sailor during World War II when he joined the Navy and served in the Pacific Theatre. During his tour, Joe was stationed on the light cruiser USS *Honolulu*, which was involved in numerous engagements and battles throughout the South Pacific. He was recently awarded several decorations for his service over fifty years ago, and it is my pleasure to recognize his awards and service before this body of Congress and this nation today.

The USS *Honolulu* was involved in numerous engagements throughout the war and is credited with the sinking of a Japanese cruiser, four destroyers, and four enemy aircraft. Joe's exploits and service to his country were recently brought to light by his immediate family through a surprise ceremony attended by almost two hundred relatives. At the ceremony, Joe was presented with several long overdue decorations for his service to his nation during the war. Among the decorations awarded at the ceremony are the Navy Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Navy Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, and the Philippine Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. Thanks to his loving family of twelve sons and daughters, and his dedicated wife Lucille, Joe is now properly recognized by his nation for his service to our armed forces and commitment to his nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege that I recognize Joe Jesik and his selfless sacrifice to this nation. Many men and women of his generation gave their lives long ago so that today we can enjoy the right and privilege of freedom. Joe Jesik served selflessly in a time of great need, bringing credit to himself, to his family, and a grateful nation. It is an honor to recognize the service of this veteran before this body of Congress today, as he certainly deserves the thanks of this grateful nation. Thanks Joe for your service, and good luck in your future endeavors.

HONORING ELAINE CARDONICK

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Elaine Cardonick, a devoted teacher who gave the last days of her life to her students at the Loesche Elementary School in Northeast Philadelphia. Mrs. Cardonick, despite being very ill, would not allow her class

of autistic children to be disturbed and upset by her absence. She was with her class when the tragic events of September 11th occurred, and finally went to the emergency room following the subsequent early closing of schools. Mrs. Cardonick passed away in the hospital the following day.

Elaine Cardonick began teaching in 1964 and was a special education teacher for most of her long and distinguished career. Over the course of thirty-seven years, she was an inspiration to hundreds of young children who are challenged daily to achieve their best in school and in life.

Mrs. Cardonick's actions in putting her students' welfare before her own are a shining example of what love and duty really mean. She was an inspiration to the students and faculty at the Loesche Elementary School and will be remembered as a hero.

On March 22, 2002, a plaque will be dedicated by the faculty at the Loesche Elementary School, in memory of Elaine Cardonick. Each year, the plaque will be engraved with the name of a "special" child who, despite having a disability or handicap, made every effort to achieve their best. This award was created to commemorate the courage and determination that Mrs. Cardonick exemplified throughout her career, and especially in September of 2001.

Elaine's love and kindness touched the lives of so many: her students, her colleagues, and her family. She is survived by her husband, three children, and three grandchildren. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Mrs. Elaine Cardonick and the ideals she represented and inspired in all of her students at the Loesche Elementary School in Philadelphia.

HONORING ANNE CONSIDINE FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO CYHA

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special person from my district. Special, because she embodies the characteristics of a special place. Anne Considine is an extra-ordinary person who has demonstrated how an individual can impact their corner of the world in very ordinary ways. Her corner of the world is Charlestown, Massachusetts, where she is being honored this Saturday evening for her twenty-five years of dedicated service to the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association (CYHA).

Plain and simple, Anne Considine is a "hockey mom". Long before the political pundits of the 1990's realized the power soccer moms have in impacting political change, Anne Considine was improving her community through youth hockey. Piling the children into the family car for early morning ice time is an expected duty of a hockey parent in Boston. However, twenty-five years ago in most families, and in most neighborhoods, that would have been dad's job alone. Long before women reached Olympic and World Cup glory through hockey and soccer, Anne Considine was known as someone who could tighten a mean skate. Anne's influence in her community did not stop at the rink or at the doorstep

of her home at 10 Tufts Street in the Bunker Hill Housing Projects.

Anne's dedication to the neighborhood of Charlestown is well known throughout the community. Anne's passion for hockey, however, is what allowed her to reach out to her community and her neighbors as someone whose opinions should be respected. As a CYHA coach, president and parent, there was no one more tenacious on the bench or in the boardroom. As tough a competitor as Anne could be at times, people dealing with her knew that she possessed a hockey attitude spurred from a mother's love. This was a passion not limited to just her children but was felt by all the children of Charlestown Youth Hockey. During Anne's tenure with CYHA, her guidance was available to all the athletes regardless of their ability to play or pay. Anne's leadership resulted in the initiation of the Green Team, which allows youth that can not afford the ever-escalating costs of playing hockey to realize a dream. To some of these kids just being able to take the ice as a youth is as big a hockey career to which they aspire.

Charlestown has seen many of its young hockey players move on to compete at the high school and college level. Some are fortunate enough to have enjoyed professional careers. Still others have won Olympic Gold. These exceptional athletes were no more important to Anne than those whose careers peaked at the youth level. Regardless of how far the skills developed at the Charlestown rink took these young athletes, the lessons learned from Anne Considine's wisdom and caring went with them. Rinks and neighborhoods from as far away as Chicago, St. Louis, Lake Placid, Peoria, Florida, Nashville, Cleveland, Plattsburg and Hampton Roads, to name a few, have felt the influence of one woman's love of hockey and her hometown.

Mr. Speaker, I leave here tonight proud to say that the next generation of Considine's can be found mucking it up in the corners at the Charlestown Rink. This is a tribute to Anne's lasting impact on youth hockey in Charlestown. On behalf of all the hockey players in Charlestown—past, present, and future—I want to thank Anne Considine for her years of dedication to the Charlestown Youth Hockey Association.

KYRGYZSTAN'S RELEASE OF
AZIMBEK BEKNAZAROV

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday authorities in Kyrgyzstan released Azimbek Beknazarov, a parliamentarian who had been in jail since January 5. The decision was made after disturbances in the Ak-Su District of Jalal-Abad, Mr. Beknazarov's native region in southern Kyrgyzstan. In an unprecedented outburst of violence on March 17, six people were killed and scores wounded when police opened fire on demonstrators. Mr. Beknazarov has pledged not to leave the area and his trial has been postponed indefinitely while the authorities and the public catch their breath and reassess the situation.

The incident and the events leading up to it are alarming—not only for Kyrgyzstan but for

the United States, which is now basing troops in the country and expects to be in the region for the foreseeable future. Despite attempts by some Kyrgyz officials to pin the blame on a mob of demonstrators fired up by alcohol, the real cause of the bloody riot was popular discontent with an unresponsive government reaching the boiling point.

Kyrgyz authorities have accused Mr. Beknazarov of improperly handling a murder case when he was an investigator in a district prosecutor's office years ago. In fact, it is widely believed that Beknazarov's real transgression was to suggest that Kyrgyzstan's parliament discuss the country's border agreement with China, which would transfer some territory from the tiny Central Asian state to its giant neighbor.

This is reflective of Akaev's intensified efforts to consolidate his power while cracking down on dissent and opposition. In February 2000, President Akaev rigged the parliamentary election to keep his main rival—Felix Kulov, who had served as Vice President and in other high-level positions—from winning a seat in the legislature. The observation mission of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) openly questioned the results in Kulov's district, and said the election had fallen far short of international standards. Subsequently, Kulov was arrested and could not participate in the October 2000 presidential election, in which Akaev faced no serious contenders and was easily re-elected.

Kulov is serving a 7-year jail term and now faces new criminal charges. Amnesty International considers him a political prisoner. Last December I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission which focused on the deterioration of human rights in Kyrgyzstan. Mr. Kulov's wife was able to attend the hearing and offered her perspective on the current political climate in her country.

The independent and opposition media in Kyrgyzstan have also been under severe pressure, usually in the form of libel cases which official authorities use to fine newspapers out of existence so they cannot report on corruption. In January 2002, the authorities issued Decree No. 20, which would introduce mandatory official inventory and government registration of all typographical and printing equipment, while imposing stricter controls on its imports. Decree No. 20 would also threaten U.S. Government plans to establish an independent printing press in Kyrgyzstan. Furthermore, the decree will be used against religious groups, both Muslim and Christian, by blocking their ability to produce religious material and by calling for an "auditing" of all religious communities that create publications. While the pretext of the decree is to combat "religious extremists," the decree has clear implications for religious communities out of favor with the government, as well as with opposition groups. The State Department has urged Kyrgyzstan to repeal Decree No. 20 but so far, Bishkek has stubbornly refused.

So when legislator Azimbek Beknazarov was arrested on January 5, his colleagues in parliament, members of opposition parties and human rights activists reacted strongly to the latest step in an ongoing campaign to clamp down on civil society. Since January, hundreds of people, including parliamentarians, have gone on hunger strikes to demand his release. Protests and demonstrations have continued throughout, which the police have

either ignored or roughly dispersed. The U.S. Government, the OSCE and international human rights groups have called for Beknazarov's release, but President Akaev, hiding behind the fig leaf of "executive non-interference in judicial deliberations," contends that the case must be decided by the courts. His position is an absurd pretense in a country where the courts are under state influence, especially in sensitive political cases. More to the point, this stance is simply no longer credible, considering the widespread belief that Beknazarov's imprisonment was politically motivated and the public's lack of confidence in the government's good faith.

Finally, pent-up tensions exploded two days ago, when demonstrators and police clashed, with tragic consequences. Kyrgyz officials have accused organizers of unauthorized pickets and rallies of responsibility for the violence. In an address to the nation, President Akaev described the events as "an apparent plot [in which] a group of people, including prominent politicians, staged unauthorized mass rallies simultaneously." He said the events were "another move in the targeted activities of opposition forces to destabilize the situation in the country. They have been engaged in these activities for the last few years."

Mr. Speaker, I would contend that the riots in Jalal-Abad Region were the predictable outcome of frustration and desperation. Askar Akaev, by falsifying elections and repressing freedom of expression, has made normal politics impossible in Kyrgyzstan. A long-suffering populace, which has seen its living standard plummet while corrupt officials grow rich, has signaled that enough is enough. The authorities have heard the message and now have to make a critical decision: either to try to find a common language with society or to crack down. If they choose the former, Kyrgyzstan may yet realize its promise of the early 1990s; if they choose the latter, more confrontations are likely, with unpredictable ramifications for Kyrgyzstan and its neighbors.

The United States has a real stake in the outcome. We are in Central Asia to make sure terrorists cannot use the region to plan attacks on us or recruit new members. But all the region's states are led by men determined to stay in power indefinitely. This means they cannot allow society to challenge the state, which, in turn, insures that discontented, impoverished people with no other outlets could well be attracted by radical ideologies.

We must make it plain to President Akaev that we are serious when we declare that our war on terrorism has not put democracy and human rights on the back burner. And we must insist that he implement his OSCE commitments, as well as the pledge he made in last month's bilateral Memorandum of Understanding with the United States. That document obligates Kyrgyzstan to "confirm its commitment to continue to take demonstrable measures to strengthen the development of democratic institutions and to respect basic human and civil rights, among which are freedom of speech and of the media, freedom of association and public assembly, and freedom of religion."

The events earlier this week have given us a wake-up call. We had better understand properly all its implications.