

Helsinki Commission, Members of the House and Senate, the Department of State, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and other international institutions repeatedly have raised this case and urged President Kuchma and the Ukrainian Government to undertake a speedy, serious, open and transparent investigation into the Gongadze murder case.

Back in December of 2000, I urged Ukrainian authorities to resolve this grave matter in a timely and just manner before the case further tarnished their credibility in dealing with fundamental human rights. Last July, a number of us were present at the Paris OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting, where Gongadze's widow Myroslava accepted the OSCE PA Prize for Journalism and Democracy on his behalf. A resolution adopted by the OSCE PA in Paris expressed dismay "that the criminal investigation into the murder of journalist Heorhiy Gongadze has been obstructed by authorities and has not been carried out in accordance with the rule of law."

Last month, Ukrainian authorities blocked FBI experts from examining evidence gathered during the initial investigation. The Bureau had been invited by Ukrainian authorities to advise and assist in the investigation of the case and earlier had participated in identifying Gongadze's remains. Over the last year, Ukrainian prosecutors routinely cited their request for assistance from the FBI as evidence that they were working diligently to solve the murder.

According to a statement released by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv, the four FBI experts were told that Ukrainian law prohibits prosecutors from releasing any information to them. They were "unable to discuss any aspects of the case, share evidence or conduct a joint site inspection. Because of this, the FBI team could not provide suggestions that might help Ukrainian law enforcement authorities advance the investigation of the murder of Mr. Gongadze." This lack of cooperation after promises to accept the U. S. technical assistance—is an indication of bad faith on the part of the Ukrainian authorities.

This is only the latest example which seriously questions the Ukrainian authorities' commitment to resolving this case and has led many to conclude that the Procurator General's office is hampering the investigation into Gongadze's death. Particularly telling was the Procurator's initially casting doubt on the results of a DNA test reported in February 2001, which determined with a 99.6 percent probability that the body exhumed from a shallow grave in Tarashcha was, indeed, that of Gongadze. The Procurator General, Mykhaylo Potebenko, who recently announced he would resign to become a Member of Parliament from the Communist Party, has also been uncooperative with Gongadze's widow and mother, even after the court gave them status that legally permitted them access to details of the investigation. An assessment of the case last year by Freimut Duve, the OSCE Representative on Freedom of Media, found that the investigation into Gongadze's disappearance has been "extremely unprofessional." It is high time for the Ukrainian authorities to mount a serious, transparent investigation into this case as well as the cases of other murdered journalists.

Since 1998, 11 journalists have been killed in Ukraine and 48 severely injured in unexplained attacks, according to Reporters With-

out Borders. Over the last year, several international bodies have called on Ukrainian authorities to launch a fresh investigation into the disappearance and death of Mr. Gongadze and other journalists and to allow for an independent investigation or to set up a new independent commission of inquiry comprised of international investigators. I also hope that the newly elected Ukrainian parliament will take aggressive action in encouraging governmental accountability for solving the murder and bringing the perpetrators to justice.

Mr. Speaker, on March 31, Ukraine held parliamentary elections. Despite governmental interference in the campaign and abuse of state resources, the Ukrainian electorate showed a strong independent streak with a strong pro-democratic, pro-European orientation. A substantial portion of the Ukrainian people clearly want change—they want to live in a country where democracy and human rights are honored and where the rule of law prevails.

The United States remains committed to encouraging these yearnings. The U. S. Government is the largest bilateral donor in Ukraine, and American companies still are the largest investors in Ukraine. We are deeply engaged with Ukraine in military and security issues, educational exchanges, small business, agriculture, energy, and the development of civil society. American engagement with Ukraine is a testament to the importance that we attach to U.S.—Ukraine relations. However, the level of U.S. engagement is increasingly being questioned, in part because of the obstructionist actions of the authorities concerning the Gongadze case, the curtailing of media freedoms, the persistent debilitating problem of corruption and, most recently, troubling allegations that President Kuchma may have authorized the clandestine sale of the Kolchuga radar system to Iraq in violation of L.J.N. sanctions.

Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I once again urge in the strongest possible terms Ukrainian authorities to take seriously the concerns regarding the circumstances that led to the Gongadze murder and the subsequent investigation. His widow, young children, and mother deserve better. The Ukrainian people deserve better.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY STEPANIAN,
WALTER McNAMARA, LARRY
JAKUBOWICZ, AND MARTY GAN-
NON, FIREFIGHTERS FROM CLIN-
TON, MASSACHUSETTS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Harry Stepanian, Walter McNamara, Larry Jakubowicz, and Marty Gannon, firefighters from the town of Clinton, Massachusetts who have announced their retirement after many years of dedicated service.

These men put their lives on the line every day to protect the citizens of Clinton. Because of their efforts through the years, many lives and a great deal of property have been saved, whether it was from entering a burning building or performing as an Emergency Medical Technician.

The town of Clinton is very fortunate to have an outstanding fire department. As we all know—and as the tragedies of September 11th reminded us—the job of a firefighter is not an easy one. It takes a special person to perform the duties required of firefighters. That duty involves risking their lives every day. Through the years, these men and their colleagues have performed admirably. Their community is grateful for their work, and so am I.

It is a pleasure to recognize these outstanding men, and I know the entire House joins me in extending our best wishes to them and to their families for a happy and healthy retirement.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LEVORIS
ROY, A GREAT EDUCATOR

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding career of Mr. Levoris Roy, who is retiring this year after 35 years of distinguished service as a teacher and principal. Stretching over 4 decades, Mr. Roy's entire career has provided insight, courage and direction to the young citizens of South East Texas.

Mr. Roy is currently serving as Principal of Vincent Middle School, Beaumont Texas. His leadership and ability to achieve has greatly benefitted his school, teachers, students and all of the Beaumont community.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Levoris Roy's career is ripe with countless examples of selfless hard work and extraordinary accomplishment in service to our great Nation. His contributions to Southeast Texas are immeasurable. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Levoris Roy and his family a pleasurable and well-deserved retirement.

Congratulations, Mr. Roy, on a job well done.

TRIBUTE TO WILKERSON CHAPEL
AND ITS ANNIVERSARY OF 140
YEARS OF SERVICE TO COLLINS-
VILLE, ILLINOIS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Wilkerson Chapel and the anniversary of its 140 years of service to the community Collinsville, Illinois.

The people of the Wilkerson Chapel are truly good Samaritans. They have spent 140 years preaching the word of Christ to Collinsville and surrounding areas and participating in other good works.

To such people as John A. Gregg and his congregation, the good deeds themselves are their own best rewards. Yet, on this special day, I think it is appropriate that they are recognized for their efforts. They are good Christians and good Americans, and remind us all of the compassion and energy that makes this country great.

To the people of the Wilkerson Chapel, thank you for all your good works over almost

the last century and a half; and may God grant you the opportunity to continue doing His work for many years into the future.

**DONNELLY HEAD START IN
DONNELLY, IDAHO**

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the Donnelly Head Start in Donnelly, Idaho. Recently, the Donnelly Head Start was chosen as the Small Site Idaho State Champion in "Read With Me: The 2002 Reading is Fundamental Community Reading Challenge." In March, the Children at this site met personal reading goals, shared stories with other children and adults, visited the library, wrote book reviews and shared other literacy activities with members of the Donnelly Idaho Community.

As breakthroughs continue being made in the medical, science, and technology fields it becomes increasingly important for America's youth to be well educated so they may build upon the successes and learn from the failures of previous generations. Literacy will always be the foundation of education that propels achievement. Organizations like Head Start and Reading is Fundamental have proved successful in providing children with an opportunity to get an advantage in learning. But without the commitment of students and dedication of educators, like those at the Donnelly, Idaho Head Start, these efforts and the efforts of Congress to fund education will be lost.

Again, I offer my congratulations to the students and educators at Donnelly, Idaho Head Start and reaffirm my commitment to providing Idahoans, and all American's with the very best educational opportunities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. DeMINT. Mr. Speaker, on April 30, 2002 I was unavoidably detained and was not present for 3 roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted 'aye' on roll call vote #117, 'nay' on roll call vote #118, and 'aye' on roll call vote #119.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF DEPUTY
DAVID WILLIAM MARCH (1969-2002)**

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deputy David William March of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department who was tragically killed in the line of duty on Monday, April 29, 2002.

Deputy March, a resident of Saugus, California, lost his life while making a routine traf-

fic violation stop in Irwindale, California. A seven-year veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, he was honored to become part of this esteemed agency. His tenacity and dedication became trademark qualities for which he was known.

Deputy March will be remembered as a kind, gentle man who was compassionate to all creatures. He would regularly bring home stray dogs to his wife of five years, Teresa, and his stepdaughter, Kayla. His mother, Barbara, remembers her son as a caring man who always defended the little guy. Deputy March's colleagues recall him as an honest, hard-working man who loved his job. Deputy March will be deeply missed by his family, including his father, John, his brother, James, and his sister, Erin, as well as his friends and coworkers.

I am saddened by the loss of such a fine member of our community and wish his family and loved ones my deepest sympathy by acknowledging him today. Let us remember Deputy David William March as a loving husband, father, son, brother, and hero.

**THE TIME TO DEPUTIZE HAS
ARRIVED**

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the April 26, 2002, editorial from the Norfolk Daily News entitled "Good reason to cooperate."

Mr. Speaker, Section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to enter into a written agreement with local and state law enforcement agencies for the purpose of permitting qualified state and local law enforcement officers to carry out the functions of an immigration office. (This section is also known as the "Latham provision" in honor of our colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LATHAM), who introduced the provision as an amendment to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA) of 1996. These activities would include the investigation, apprehension, detention, and transportation of aliens in the United States.

In areas where there are too few INS resources to effectively confront the problem of illegal immigration, it would seem logical and extremely beneficial for the U.S. Attorney General to enforce Section 287 of the INA.

Unfortunately, the previous Attorney General never took that logical step.

This editorial (and certainly this Member) commends the current Attorney General for indicating that he is willing to revisit the issue. Indeed, deputizing state and local law enforcement officials would provide much needed support to the limited resources available for enforcement of immigration laws in this country's interior.

[From the Norfolk Daily News, Apr. 26, 2002]

GOOD REASON TO COOPERATE

Critics of the U.S. Justice Department are quick to condemn any real or perceived lack of federal cooperation with state or local law enforcement authorities. A different attitude is evident when federal authorities themselves seek cooperation.

It was evident in the special federal effort to get assistance in questioning—not arresting—several thousands of individuals who it was thought might be helpful in tracking members of the terrorist network believed responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks on America. That could involve unjust "profiling," it was alleged—as if the law conferred the special privilege to visitors, legal or not, of refusing to cooperate with legitimate law enforcers.

A new controversy arises, with criticism from similar sources, because the attorney general hopes to be able to deputize state and local law enforcers to help deal with the flood of illegal immigrants.

There are good reasons for seeking such cooperation. One is that some immigrants have been involved in crime—here and elsewhere. Local authorities necessarily have to deal with it. They help law enforcement in their own jurisdictions by seeing that illegal aliens are turned over to immigration officers.

Another reason is that despite the porous borders and larger numbers of both legal and illegal immigrants, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has not been staffed to deal with the flood.

It needs help, obvious from the fact that there are estimated to be some 8 million people in America without valid papers, living and often working here illegally. The numbers of INS agents available for internal enforcement are not sufficient for the task.

It is no favor to the millions of legal immigrants America invites to be soft on enforcement. For the illegals to be treated equally rewards noncompliance with the law.

"Softness" becomes a blatant error when it prompts acceptance of the idea that it is improper to ask for help which local police departments, sheriffs and deputies could provide in enforcing laws.

**SALUTE TO WOMEN OF LAKE
COUNTY**

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 2, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to announce that the Barbara Holder Consulting Services will be hosting a Salute to Women of Lake County, on Friday, May 3, 2002, at the Horseshoe Casino, Lakeview Room in Hammond, Indiana. Ten outstanding women from Northwest Indiana will be honored at this notable event for their dedication and hard work. A portion of the proceeds from this event will benefit the Minority Organ Tissue and Transplant Education Program (M.O.T.T.E.P.) and Project Research, a teen pregnancy prevention education program for teens ages 12-17.

Mrs. Holder, owner of Barbara Holder Consulting Services, a woman-owned business with offices in Gary and Chicago, specializes in creating community outreach programs, as well as monitoring and evaluating compliance with federal, state, and local EEO/Affirmative Action laws. She had the vision a year ago to honor the many faceless and nameless women who work tirelessly everyday but are never recognized publicly for the contributions they make in their respective fields. With the assistance of the planning committee members representing several academic, private, public, and social entities, this first annual and well-deserved salute to the women of Lake County became a reality.