

As a result of the current law, the National Park Service is severely limited in acquiring lands to trade with the DHH and has not been able to acquire land within Kapaemahu.

The DHH has recently advised that it is not limited to accepting surplus federal property only within the State of Hawaii. As a result, the Congress should immediately move to amend PL 96-565, and allow the federal government to finally acquire precious lands within Kapaemahu National Historical Park. I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this bill.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY OF
GLENDALE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the City of Glendale's 50th Anniversary. I am indeed gratified to have the privilege of representing this outstanding community in the United States Congress. The City of Glendale was incorporated on May 22, 1952 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary on May 18, 2002.

The City of Glendale has grown from a rest stop and watering hole on the major stagecoach route along the Cherry Creek Trail in the 1800s, and has become a city with a rich tradition of hospitality, vitality and amenities for residents and visitors alike; and

It has become a true "urban village," with an ethnically diverse population of 4,527 residents whose heritage's are celebrated as part of Glendale's annual National Night Out festivities; and

Glendale has also become a prominent business center, with approximately 12,000 people employed by the more than 300 businesses occupying nearly 2.2 million square feet of office space in this conveniently located community.

The City of Glendale's 41-member Police Department and 29-member Fire Department safeguard the health and safety of residents, visitors and those employed in the City. Its Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining 35 acres of parks and open space, 6.9 miles of City streets, as well as 25 miles of sidewalk, 1.3 miles of trail, and two bridges spanning Cherry Creek, and operating the City's water treatment facility.

Glendale also offers a variety of recreational activities in two community recreation centers and in conjunction with the Cherry Creek School Districts, sponsors a Head Start program and kindergarten enrichment program at Glendale's Agnes Riddle Education Center.

The Education Center also houses a Computer Lab where residents of all ages learn the latest computer software in free classes taught in both English and Russian. The City of Glendale, in conjunction with the Cherry Creek School District, also offers a free after-school tutoring/homework help program at the Glendale Community Center during the school year.

The Glendale Public Library is well known to the Russian community throughout the metro area, for its comprehensive collection of English and Russian books, newspapers, magazines, videos and other materials, as

well as English as a Second Language classes and citizenship classes.

Mr. Speaker, Glendale residents continue to enjoy the benefits of being part of a vibrant, cosmopolitan community and I am pleased to have the opportunity to salute Glendale on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NURSING
HOME STAFFING IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 2002

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Nursing Home Staffing Improvement Act of 2002.

In March of this year, HHS provided Congress with the results of a decade-long study on staffing in our nation's nursing homes. HHS researchers concluded that 90% of nursing homes have staffing levels that are too low to provide adequate care. The researchers also identified specific minimum staffing levels that would substantially improve the quality of care received by nursing home residents.

The Bush Administration has chosen not to implement these much needed minimum staffing levels, even going so far as to limit public distribution of the study. In order to ensure that this important research is not ignored, the Nursing Home Staffing Improvement Act of 2002 would establish the minimum nurse staffing levels identified by HHS researchers.

The bill requires that nursing-homes comply with HHS-identified staffing levels for registered nurses, licensed nurses, and certified nurse aides. These staffing levels would require that all nursing home residents receive between 4.1 and 4.85 hours of nursing care each day. The bill increases resources to nursing homes to comply with these staffing levels by reinstating the Boren Amendment and increasing the federal Medicaid match to states for payment of health care services by 1.5%.

There is an urgent need for this bill right now, as demonstrated by the findings of the HHS study and investigative reports issued by the minority staff of the Government Reform Committee. At the request of House members, the Government Reform Committee minority staff has written over 25 reports on nursing home conditions around the country. These reports have found that large numbers of nursing homes are being cited for violations of federal standards relating to pressure sores, preventable accidents, improper medical care, malnutrition, dehydration, and abuse. These reports also have found a clear relationship between more staffing and better care.

The Bush Administration claims that more research is necessary before we can establish minimum staffing standards. We have already had a decade of research from some of the foremost experts in the field. Now is the time for action.

We in Congress have a responsibility to do all we can to protect our nation's seniors. They helped our generation when we needed their help. And now it's our turn—and our obligation—to provide them with the highest quality of care.

ERIE OTTERS WIN THE ONTARIO
HOCKEY LEAGUE TITLE

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the Erie Otters hockey team for their recent triumph over the Barrie Colts in the Ontario Hockey League Championship Series.

On Friday, May 10, Erie center Sean Courtney snapped the series-clinching shot off a Colts defenseman to give the Otters a 2-1 win 14 minutes into the overtime period. The Otters, coached by Dave McQueen, pulled off their first OHL championship by "crushing the Colts" 4 games to 1. Erie's own league-ending playoff scorer, center Corey Pecker, opened the scoring with his 25th goal of the playoffs early in the first period. The Colts, struggling to stay alive in the championship series, tied the game late in the first. The game remained tied until Courtney's clutch game winner in OT. Otters' captain Brad Boyes was later named the OHL playoffs' Wayne Gretzky 99 Most Valuable Player.

The Otters arrived in my hometown of Erie in 1996, and have since featured some of the most dynamic young hockey players in the world. The Ontario Hockey League has produced world superstars like Mario Lemieux, Joe Sakic, Ron Francis, Scott Stevens and Patrick Roy. Friday's win marks the first time that the Otters have won the highly-regarded OHL championship and gives the young Otters an opportunity to battle for the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup. The Memorial Cup is an 84-year-old "final four" tournament that crowns the year's best Junior hockey team in North America. The Otters, combining a steely work ethic and spectacular skill, should be a dominant force at the Memorial Cup tournament. The tournament begins May 18th in Guelph, Ontario. I would like to conclude by congratulating Erie's hockey heroes and by wishing them the best of luck in their quest for the Memorial Cup trophy.

HONORING THE MILPITAS ROTARY
CLUB FOR 50 YEARS OF EXEM-
PLARY SERVICE TO THE COMMU-
NITY

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize The Milpitas Rotary Club on its 50th anniversary. For 50 years now, members of the Milpitas Rotary Club have committed themselves to serving the community, the country, and the world.

The Rotary Club is a major force in the community and significantly improves the lives of children and families in Milpitas by sponsoring Interact Clubs at Milpitas and Calaveras Hills High Schools, granting both academic and technical scholarships, holding community events, and sending high school students to a week-long summer youth leadership training camp.

The Milpitas Rotary Club's tradition of service began with its chartering on June 24,

1952, at a dinner in St. John's Church Hall. Charter officers included President Joseph Gagliardo, Vice President Irving Crabb, Secretary William Barleson, Treasurer Thomas Cardoza, Sergeant-at-Arms Ray Madruga, and Charter Board Members Sal Cracolice, Ben Rodgers, and Clarence Smith.

For years, the club held its meetings on Mondays at noon at the Cozy Kitchen on Main Street in Milpitas. In the 1980's, the Big Yellow House and Calamity Jane's were the meeting sites, until the Holiday Inn Hotel, now the Crowne Plaza Hotel, became the club's home.

An active member of Rotary District 5170, which consists of 55 clubs in Alameda, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties, the Milpitas Rotary Club's former president, Denny Weisgerber, served as District governor in 1999-2000.

I am proud to recognize the Milpitas Rotary Club on its 50th anniversary. I am confident this club will continue to improve our community, as well as the country and the world, for years to come.

KAZAKHSTAN IS THE STRONGEST U.S. ALLY IN CENTRAL ASIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Kazakhstan, the largest country in Central Asia, is a relatively new friend of the United States, but they have become staunch allies with strong economic and political ties to America. They work side by side with us in the war against the terrorists, and their commitment to democracy is part of the fiber of their society.

Kazakhstan has been helpful in many ways during the recent fighting in Afghanistan, and today is looking at this neighbor's future.

When the guns fall silent in Afghanistan, the rebuilding of that nation must already be well underway. The Afghans have lost many years of what should have been a civil society. The twin curses of war and famine have spread throughout their land. Now it is time for their neighbors and friends to help rebuild Afghanistan and bring the country fully into the community of nations. A politically stable Afghanistan will not harbor terrorists and will emerge as a partner in the increasingly critical Central Asian region.

Kazakhstan recently played host to the U.S. Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld, who met with the Kazakh President, Nursultan Nazarbayev. During the joint press conference Secretary Rumsfeld noted, "We are partners in the global war on terrorism, and we discussed the situation in Afghanistan as well as our common interest in an independent, economically healthy, and secure Afghanistan."

Kazakhstan, with its developing society and emphasis on democracy, is an ideal source of the help the Afghans so badly need. Kazakhstan can be a model for an emerging society and stable economy in Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan has already been providing humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people. Three thousand tons of grain have already made the journey from Astana to Kabul. The U.N. World Food Program has also signed contracts for 100,000 tons of grain at prices well below world market prices. Beyond this,

the government of Kazakhstan is building a database of individuals who have special skills needed for the rebuilding of Afghanistan and have volunteered to help. You might call it a "Central Asian Peace Corps." Ironically, many of these volunteers have personal experience in Afghanistan where they served as unwilling draftees in the Soviet Army.

These activities, at both the government and the individual volunteer level speak volumes about the similarities between Americans and Kazakhs. Both respond quickly to a neighbor's need.

The pluralistic society being sought for Afghanistan is one that Americans will feel comfortable with. The people of Kazakhstan already enjoy a free and open society where religion and the will to succeed are prerogatives of the individual. In Kazakhstan, debate is enlivened by the presence of 17 political parties, 1,600 newspapers and broadcast entities and more than 130 ethnic groups. All have their own points of view and are not timid about voicing them. Kazakhstan is a Muslim-majority country, but, while synagogues are being attacked in Western Europe, they are being built in Kazakhstan. New houses of worship are also being built in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan itself is a country of enormous economic potential and good relations between Washington and Astana are ever more important.

With predicted oil reserves of 100 billion barrels or more, Kazakhstan will play a key role in easing America's dependence on current energy sources. The availability of Kazakh oil will help stabilize world markets and keep domestic prices in check.

Thousands of Americans go to work every day in Kazakhstan. Most work in the energy sector, but Americans have also become a common site in the towns and villages of the country. We work well with the people of Kazakhstan, and many friendships have been established. A shared value system is a good basis for friendships.

I welcome the recent decision of the U.S. Department of Commerce to grant Kazakhstan the market-economy-country status, a well-deserved recognition of their achievements in reforming their economy and moving away from the Communist past. The next step in this direction should be the repeal of the outdated Jackson-Vanik amendment in relation to Kazakhstan and I call on my colleagues to support the appropriate resolution.

President Nazarbayev, in his recent State of the Nation Address, spoke of the need to continue "pragmatic policies" in all areas. The question of revitalizing the farms of Kazakhstan has been a subject of much debate and was a major topic for the President. The debate over farm policies would probably sound familiar to many Americans. In the foreign affairs area the President noted, "Kazakhstan has managed (over the first decade of independence) to build good stable relationships with all the nations without harming its own strategic interests."

Kazakhstan's firm commitment to the ideal of democracy was also a major topic in President Nazarbayev's speech. He said, "democracy is our deliberate choice for development and we all must work to strengthen this process. We will move step by step, preserving values of our culture founded in mutual assistance, tolerance, cooperation, and mutual respect between the peoples of different ethnic background."

As he closed his speech, President Nazarbayev foresaw closer ties with the United States and even greater emphasis on the development of democratic ideals and the civil society.

We must support Kazakhstan for many reasons. Heading the list are our shared ideals of democracy, a better life for all peoples and the uprooting of terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Kazakhstan is the hope for political stability and prosperity in Central Asia.

RECOGNITION OF FRIEDREICH'S ATAXIA AWARENESS DAY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day, which is recognized each year on the third Saturday in May.

Friedreich's ataxia is a life-shortening neurological disorder that is usually diagnosed in childhood. It causes muscle weakness and loss of coordination in the arms and legs; impairment of vision, hearing and speech; scoliosis, diabetes; and a life-threatening heart condition. Most patients need a wheelchair full-time by their twenties. Life expectancy is reduced to early adulthood. There is currently no effective treatment or cure for Friedrich's ataxia.

Although there is no treatment or cure available, Friedrich's ataxia patients and families have more and more reason for real hope. An extraordinary explosion of research findings has followed the identification of the Friedrich's ataxia gene in 1996. Since that discovery, research scientists have learned a great deal about the disorder. We now know what defects in the gene cause the disease, what protein the gene is supposed to produce, what that protein is supposed to accomplish, and why a shortage of the protein results in the cell death that leads to the disease symptoms. Investigators are increasingly optimistic that they are drawing closer to understanding more fully the causes of Friedrich's ataxia and to developing effective treatments.

At the National Institutes of Health and around the world, clinical trials for Friedrich's ataxia are being conducted on drugs that hold real promise. Intensifying cooperation among organizations supporting the research and the multidisciplinary efforts of thousands of scientists and health care professionals provide powerful evidence of the growing hope and determination to conquer Friedrich's ataxia. There is a growing conviction that treatments can and will be developed for this disease and that the resulting insights will be broadly applicable across a wide range of neurological disorders.

On the third Saturday of May, events will be held across our country to increase public awareness of Friedrich's ataxia and to raise funds to support the research that promises treatments for this disease. I applaud the Friedrich's Ataxia Research Alliance (FARA) for its contributions to these efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing May 18, 2002, as Friedrich's Ataxia Awareness Day to show our concern for all those families affected by this disorder and to express our