

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

support and encouragement for their efforts to achieve treatments and a cure.

INTRODUCING THE "AMATEUR
RADIO EMERGENCY COMMUNICA-
TIONS CONSISTENCY ACT"

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act," a bill that seeks to ensure the continued viability of a volunteer public safety resource which has been instrumental in providing our nation emergency communications services during times of disaster and crisis. I am pleased that the gentleman from Oregon, Representative WALDEN, and the gentleman from Texas, Representative SESSIONS are co-sponsors of this bipartisan legislation. Radio amateurs, more commonly known as "ham" operators, provide emergency communications when regular channels are disrupted or disabled. These federally licensed volunteers operate at their own expense in aiding government and private relief agencies. State and local governments, as well as disaster relief agencies, could not possibly afford to replace the services that radio amateurs dependably provide for free. For the hundreds of thousands of amateur radio licensees, there is a growing challenge to their ability to provide these public services.

Developed communities, such as retirement communities and planned unit subdivisions, are an increasingly popular housing option throughout the country that provide a wide range of convenient housing choices. Unfortunately, the governance of these communities has led to inconsistent and at times burdensome regulations on amateur radio operators, making it extremely difficult for these operators to continue providing their valuable services. The legislation I am introducing today will simply ensure consistent application of these regulations.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act is based upon a 1985 ruling by the Federal Communications Commission, which stated that homeowners, seeking to install some form of antenna on their own property, must work with state and local land use officials to determine the most appropriate size antenna. Good faith negotiations ensure that amateur radio operator's technical needs are met, while preserving the aesthetics and interests of a neighborhood.

Under current law, the FCC does not apply this policy consistently. Its policy applies to States and localities, but fails to address situations affecting private land use groups. My bill addresses this issue, and provides amateur radio licensees with the ability to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with homeowners' associations, just as they do now with public land-use regulators.

Amateur radio operators provide an invaluable service to our nation, ensuring communication services during emergencies. We must support the efforts of the 650,000 federally licensed amateurs around the country in earnest. The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act will help to protect the vital function of Amateur Radio as an

emergency communications and public safety resource, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in supporting this legislation.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
PRINCIPAL PATRICIA GEISTER
FROM MOREAU CATHOLIC HIGH
SCHOOL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patricia Geister on the day of her retirement as Principal of the Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward, California.

For 16 years, Patricia Geister has served the Moreau Catholic High School as principal. Her dedication to excellence in education is evident in the visionary improvements that have resulted from her years as school principal.

By improving student programs, updating facilities, making institutional changes, and enhancing the faculty, Patricia Geister assured every student at Moreau a top-quality education.

During her tenure, the Ivaldi Student Center was completed; the availability of technology and other educational resources to students, faculty and staff was increased; and a safe campus environment was maintained. The number of Advanced Placement courses offered at the school increased from 4 to 14, the college preparatory curriculum was revamped and class size was reduced. A collegiate-style, alternate day schedule was introduced, providing students with an early introduction to collegiate life, and a competitive edge when applying to colleges.

Patricia Geister introduced a student support system to the administration, which tasks assistant principals and counselors with making sure that every student need is fulfilled and nurtured. In 1987, she implemented the school's mission statement, and over the years she has furthered the relationship between Moreau Catholic and the Brothers of Holy Cross, and strengthened the school's relationship with its Catholic elementary schools.

During her tenure, the school received maximum accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1988, 1994, and 2000. In 2000, Patricia Geister implemented the school's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results.

I am honored to join the colleagues of Patricia Geister in commending her for her many years of dedicated service to the Moreau Catholic High School. Her commitment to excellence in education is truly an inspiration to all.

CRYSTAL APPLE AWARD

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend seven dedicated teachers from Northwest Indiana have been voted outstanding educators by their peers for

the 2001-2002 school year. These individuals, Joyce Abbott, Laura Marzotto, Danny Chapman, Carole Selund, Patricia Premetz, Ben Geesa and Kay Harness will be presented with the Crystal Apple Award at a reception sponsored by the Indiana State Teachers Association. This event will take place at the Andorra Restaurant and Banquets in Schererville, Indiana, on Wednesday, May 15, 2002.

Joyce Abbott, from the Crown Point Community School Corporation, has taught music for 17 years at Solon Robinson Elementary School. The love and passion that Joyce has for music, both personally and professionally, is demonstrated through the creativity and enthusiasm that she projects, in order to inspire not only the students, but also the teachers at Solon Robinson Elementary School.

Laura Marzotto has only been with the Hanover Community School Corporation for three years, but she is a great addition to Hanover Central High School. When Laura first came to Hanover Central as a teacher in the Business Department, a marketing program was nonexistent. Yet as a result of her tireless efforts, a marketing track has been initiated, a program through which students can take a variety of marketing courses. Additionally, students are able to receive college credit through Ivy Tech State College after successfully completing required proficiencies.

A dedicated science teacher in the School Town of Highland for more than 30 years, Danny Chapman is a role model, an inspiration to his students, and an outstanding professional. Dan is a wonderful caring teacher who frequently offers a wide variety of activities and learning experiences to supplement the curriculum. The most notable, and perhaps most challenging experience, includes a three day/two night field trip to the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center in Porter, Indiana. Here, students were involved in science-based activities for three days. Since 1994, Dan has served as co-sponsor for the Science Olympiad Team at Highland High School. Additionally, he is the Science Teacher for the Adult Education program for GED classes at Highland, a position he has held since 1996.

A professional educator for thirty-six years in the Lake Central School Corporation, Carole Selund is a valuable asset. Carole has taught both Spanish and English to freshmen and sophomores at Lake Central High School. Since Carole is conscientious about having her students meet the standards expected of them, she returned to college to earn a Master's degree in Reading and created the first curriculum in the Lake Central School Corporation to address individual reading problems in the student population. In addition, Carole is very active in the School Corporation. She has co-chaired a number of committees for the Performance Based Accreditation Committee and served on the North Central Accreditation Committee.

Twenty-three years ago, Patricia Premetz was hired to teach honors Geometry at Munster High School. She is described by her peers as an outstanding professional and dedicated teacher. For the past three and one-half years, Patricia has been the Department Chairperson and is now teaching honors PreCalculus. Her enthusiasm for the subject matter, as well as her teaching style, has withstood the test of time. Patricia makes learning an enjoyable experience, for she blends her