

line of defense against threats and we owe them our gratitude. However, they need our federal assistance in carrying out their duties.

I urge all of my colleagues in Congress to work with me to pass the SAFE Border Act quickly into law.

## EROSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to voice my concern about continuing serious violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Kazakhstan, including substantial noncompliance with their Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democratization and the holding of free and fair elections.

Kazakhstan has been a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) since 1992 and has freely accepted all OSCE commitments, including those concerning human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. Kazakhstan has affirmed that every individual has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, expression, association, peaceful assembly and movement, freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention, torture, or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and if charged with an offense the right to a fair and public trial. And, Kazakhstan has committed itself to build, consolidate, and strengthen democracy as the only system of government, and is obligated to hold free elections at reasonable intervals, to respect the right of citizens to seek political or public office without discrimination, to respect the right of individuals and groups to establish in full freedom their own political parties, and to allow parties and individuals wishing to participate in the electoral process access to the media on a nondiscriminatory basis.

Nevertheless, President Nursultan Nazarbaev dissolved parliament in 1993 and again in 1995, when he also annulled scheduled Presidential elections. He has also refused to register opposition parties, and has exited opposition figures and forced members of the media out of the country. On January 10, 1999, President Nazarbaev was reelected in snap Presidential elections from which a leading challenger was excluded for having addressed an unregistered organization, "For Free Elections," and the OSCE assessed the election as falling far short of international standards. Finally, on June 22, 2000, the Kazakhstan parliament approved draft legislation designed to give President Nazarbaev various powers and privileges for the rest of his life.

In March of this year, President Nazarbayev imprisoned two of his leading political rivals, Msrs. Mukhtar Ablyazov and Mr. Aymzhan Zhakiyanov, and former Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin remains in exile. Additionally, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan recently admitted that more than one billion dollars of Kazakh public monies had been transferred to off-shore bank accounts in President Nazarbayev's name.

President Nazarbayev's family owns and controls all major media outlets in Kazakhstan including television, radio and newspapers. The independent media in Kazakhstan, which used to be fairly free, has been pressured, co-opted, or crushed, leaving few outlets for the expression of independent or opposition views, thus limiting the press's ability to criticize or comment on the President's campaign to remain in office indefinitely or on high-level corruption.

I urge this Administration to make a more concerted and stronger effort to raise with President Nazarbayev at every opportunity, the concern about serious violations of human rights, including noncompliance with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) commitments on democracy and rule of law. Kazakhstan needs to come into compliance with OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, specifically the holding of free and fair elections that do not exclude genuine challengers, to permit independent and opposition parties and candidates to participate on an equal basis with representation in election commissions at all levels, and to allow domestic nongovernmental and political party observers, as well as international observers.

I also encourage the Administration to raise with the governments of other OSCE participating states the possible implications for OSCE participation of any participating state in the region that engages in clear, gross, and uncorrected violations of its OSCE commitments on human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. To that end, Voice of America and Radio Liberty should expand broadcasting to Central Asia especially into Kazakhstan, as needed, with a focus on assuring that the peoples of the region have access to unbiased news and programs that support respect for human rights and the establishment of democracy and the rule of law.

## ON THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JO ANN SHAPIRO

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, permit me to pay tribute to an individual who has dedicated her life to helping others. Jon Ann Shapiro has been a civic leader for most of her adult life and has lived her life by the axiom "Help people. Help those without a voice. Help those who no one else would have the compassion to assist." Honored Tuesday in New York Newsday's Queens Profile for her work with the local chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Kiwanis Club and other community and political organizations, she has helped improve the quality of life of my constituents in the Rockaways, Broad Channel, Howard Beach and Ozone Park. Last year, as chairwoman of the annual Relay for Life event, she helped raise \$70,000 for cancer research. In her capacity as chief of staff to Assemblywoman Pheffer, she has further dedicated herself to serving the community, and helping constituents in need of assistance. I rise today to thank Jo Ann and congratulate her for her many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to submit for the RECORD Tuesday's New York Newsday's

Queens Profile which further details Jo Ann's many contributions to our community.

[From New York Newsday, May 21, 2002]

NEWSDAY QUEENS PROFILE—JO ANN SHAPIRO  
(Sheila McKenna)

Role—Chief of staff for Assemblywoman Audrey Pheffer (D-Rockaway Beach); chairwoman for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, June 8-9 at Beach Channel High School; past president of Kiwanis Club of Rockaway; member of St. Rose of Lima R.C. Church in Rockaway Beach.

Biography—42; native of Plainview, L.I., graduate of SUNY-Old Westbury, changed careers from a paraprofessional for the Board of Education to work for Pheffer, a longtime friend, in 1987; single and has lived in a co-op in Rockaway Beach two years.

Impact—"Ultimately, the goal of the event is to raise money, but it is secondary to what we accomplish in terms of bringing a community together. Relay for Life is really a celebration of those who are currently battling cancer—those who have been successful in their fight against cancer—and in recognition and remembrance of those who have not been successful."

Current Focus—"Relay for Life is an overnight event, and we ask that participants give up one night of sleep. Cancer is a disease that never sleeps, and we ask that for one night, people join us, and if they can't do that, they join us for as much as they want. It's kind of an outdoor pajama party, people bring tents and camp. It's a big sleepover party with games, music, entertainment, scavenger hunt, we even have movies at midnight. This is our second annual event in Rockaway—last year, we raised \$70,000."

Why She's Involved—"American Cancer Society's goal is to eliminate cancer as a health care concern for the people of the United States. How could I not be a part of something like that? For information, call 1-800-ACS-2345."

## TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE RUPP

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 2002*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Dr. George Rupp, who is retiring on May 31 after 9 years of service as the 18th president of Columbia University.

Under Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's long history as one of the nation's leading institutions of higher learning has been successfully extended into the 21st century. Columbia has thrived over the past decade. The accomplishments of its scholars and researchers have soared, as has its endowment. So, too, have the numbers of applicants to its college and many graduate and professional programs. The Columbia community is one of the greatest concentrations of talent and energy in the country, and helps keep New York at the center of the world's intellectual life.

Dr. Rupp's legacy will be measured, above all, by the University's significant and lasting impact on the community around it. Not once has he thought that his responsibilities stopped at the gates to campus. During Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's remarkable pool of talent and energy has been increasingly directed to the duties of good citizenship.

Dr. Rupp has been a particularly forceful and innovative supporter of the University's efforts to address the disparities in opportunity

afflicting the areas around it. The University has actively worked to foster economic growth in its neighborhood and has leveraged millions of dollars for community services. It has proven to be an engine of high-tech growth and innovation, translating the scientific advances of its researchers into scores of valuable technologies and a number of start-up firms within New York. Importantly, it has opened the first biomedical research and development park in New York City, a facility which is a keystone to the future of the biomedical enterprise in the region.

Columbia's impact on the economic life of the City extends far beyond high technology. The third largest employer in the City, Columbia became the first non-profit in New York to institutionalize hiring goals on its major construction projects for minorities, women and local residents of the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone, UMEZ. Under Dr. Rupp, Columbia actively encouraged the purchase of goods and services from local vendors by the University, its faculty and staff. The University also created a program to offer "forgivable" loans to employees as incentives for homebuying within the Empowerment Zone.

Under Dr. Rupp's leadership, Columbia's relationship with the Empowerment Zone epitomized the University's partnership with the Upper Manhattan community. Empowerment Zone residents are assisted in obtaining jobs at the University through the Morningside Heights Area Alliance's Job Connections program. Dr. Rupp has encouraged all of the University's divisions and departments to provide technological support for local projects and oversaw the establishment of the Urban Technical Assistance Program to provide urban planning assistance to community groups in northern Manhattan. Columbia policy experts played a leading role in the UMEZ's initial proposal and later development, and have continued to provide ongoing technical support to what has emerged as a powerful example of the success of public-private partnerships.

Dr. Rupp has worked tirelessly to make Columbia a good neighbor, involving the community in University decisions that impact them, and encouraging consultation with the community on the design of new University construction projects, on and off campus. In recent years, the University has enhanced its support of the community in other ways, increasing its sponsorship of neighborhood sports teams, and making available space in university facilities for use by community groups and elected officials. The University has strengthened its links to public schools in the area through a number of initiatives, including faculty development and training programs to prepare teachers for certification examinations.

The number of the University's neighbors that have been helped through its service programs has also greatly increased under Dr. Rupp, who has directed the creation of a wide array of initiatives to benefit Morningside Heights, Harlem and Washington Heights.

Columbia now administers academic, professional and service programs that assist thousands of Upper Manhattan residents, school children and businesses. Hundreds of adults have had their skills and employment potential enhanced through a range of educational programs, including computer training, and GED and ESL classes. Thousands of needy individuals and families have been provided with hot meals. And, under the "Power

Lunch" program, neighborhood elementary school students are paired with Columbia students for mentoring and reading.

Dr. Rupp's tenure at Columbia was characterized by its sensitivity, spirit of cooperation and commitment to the growth and well-being of the Upper Manhattan community. An ordained Presbyterian minister and a religious scholar, Dr. Rupp has helped create a climate of service, on and off campus, for its students, faculty and staff that was recognized and appreciated by the community. His tenure will serve as a model for the future. He will be deeply missed, and I wish him all the best.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3448,  
PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND  
BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS  
AND RESPONSE ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 2002*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide a further explanation of various provisions of H.R. 3448, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act of 2002.

TITLE I

Title I of the Act addresses planning, preparation, prevention, and response to acts of bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. As such, many of the programs will have a dual use. They will benefit the fight against terrorism and at the same time support our basic public health infrastructure. The bill will provide needed resources needed by first responders such as hospitals, health care personnel, public health systems, and others. The basic structure for providing these resources is through grants to eligible entities.

One grant program will provide funds to eligible entities including states, political subdivisions of states or consortia of two or more such subdivisions. Another grant program will provide resources to eligible entities consisting of hospitals, clinics, health centers, or primary care facilities and various combinations of states or political subdivisions of states. The conference agreement is a compromise between distinctly different approaches in the Senate and House bills, plus a need to coordinate with the Administration's existing grant programs so that resources that will flow to states and first responders in FY 2002 and FY 2003 are not delayed, diminished, or denied.

In basic terms, the grants are based on a bioterrorism preparedness and response plan that is supposed to include public input and that include criteria for evaluation of the performance of entities that receive funds to assure that they meet benchmarks in the plan. In sum, the bill is designed to provide flexibility and accountability with respect to the use of funds.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) also has flexibility in designating priorities for use of grant funds. Currently the priority is on bioterrorism or acute outbreaks of infectious disease, then other public health threats and emergencies. The priorities provide accountability and the Secretary's ability to modify these priorities allows flexibility in matching scarce resources to needs that vary around the country.

A hallmark of the agreement is its emphasis on planning and coordination among various federal agencies and in turn federal coordination with state of local entities. Another key feature throughout is the use of advisory committees and other means of utilizing public and private sector expertise.

One of the most important federal agencies with responsibility for fighting bioterrorism is the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The agreement acknowledges CDC's essential role in defending against and combating public health threats. It will provide resources for secure and modern facilities, and expanded and improved capabilities related to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

In addition to grants, the agreement authorizes a variety of specific activities. These include education of health care personnel with respect to recognition and identification of potential bioweapons, for care of victims, and to recognize the special needs of children and other vulnerable populations. The bill also authorizes resources for the purpose of education and training in any category of health professions for which there is a shortage that the Secretary determines should be alleviated in order to prepare or respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.

The bill also directs research on antimicrobial resistance and other issues with respect to priority pathogens. The bill provides for limited Medicare and Medicaid waivers in appropriate circumstances, basically when providers respond to an emergency.

Another key feature of Title I is the Strategic National Stockpile. This consists of drugs, devices, vaccines, and other products the Secretary determines to be appropriate and practicable, taking into account other sources, to provide for the emergency health security of the United States. Specific reference to the needs of children and other vulnerable populations is included.

The bill also accelerates research and approval of priority countermeasures, establishes a process for evaluation of new and emerging technologies regarding bioterrorist attack, and strengthens programs to address health issues associated with nuclear facilities.

TITLE II

Title II of the Act addresses select agents or hazardous biomaterials and the rules applicable to person with access to them. This provision addresses an area of great concern by increasing accountability for the storage and use of deadly materials and with respect to who has access to them.

Title II requires that all persons, including state and local governmental entities and universities, that have access to select agents and toxins, undergo a screening review to determine if they are restricted persons under the PATRIOT USA Act or are suspected of being a terrorist, being affiliated with a terrorist organization, or are a foreign agent of a country attempting to covertly obtain information.

The screening process is not expected to encompass the complex investigation that would occur prior to issuance of a security clearance, but to be similar to the check for prospective gun owners in its use of electronic databases. It will be carried out by the Department of Justice and limited to using appropriate electronic databases available to the government for this purpose to determine if the persons or individuals being screened are