

tribute to an organization that is dedicated to serving people in need of affordable housing. The Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation serves Colorado's Bent, Crowley, and Otero counties. The corporation works to rehabilitate homes and bring neighborhoods back to life. It is for their ongoing efforts to provide safe, sanitary, and affordable housing to the residents of Colorado that I would like to recognize Tri-County here today.

The Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation was created in 1991 to provide assistance in rehabilitating low-income housing. Over the years, Tri-County has received several accolades, including the Eagle Award from Colorado Housing NOW, as well as acknowledgement from Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros.

From helping build or repair homes to answering questions regarding financing, Tri-County serves local homeowners in many ways. Tri-County serves more than homeowners, though. The corporation also owns and operates several low-income housing apartments. Tri-County remains active in community development, assisting with downtown renovations, restoration of historic train stations, and improving local senior centers. Tri-County has been a major help in securing funding for the creation of parks, libraries, nature trails, and other community services.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize an organization committed to creating and maintaining safe, sanitary, and affordable housing. Tri-County Housing & Community Development Corporation provides a needed service to a grateful community. Tri-County's work lifts not only individual people but transforms the entire community. I join with my colleagues today in honoring this dedicated and hard-working organization.

RECOGNIZING REPUBLIC OF
KAZAKHSTAN

HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of Kazakhstan for its potential to enhance our nation's energy independence and for its significant contributions in support of the United States in the War on Terror. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the strategic importance of Kazakhstan to our nation's well-being.

It is widely recognized that the United States relies greatly on imports of OPEC oil from the Middle East. This reliance is exacerbated by the present instability of that region. Mr. Speaker, if the United States is to become truly energy independent, it must seek non-OPEC alternatives for our supply of oil. Kazakhstan can—and is willing to—help greatly in this endeavor.

The Caspian region of Central Asia contains a wealth of oil reserves. Kazakhstan, in particular, shows great promise. Adding to its robust economy, over the past six years, Kazakhstan has more than doubled its production of oil from 415,000 to almost 1 million barrels per day. By 2015, Kazakhstan is expected to produce 2.5 million barrels per day. This production would place it among the top non-OPEC producers of oil in the world. However,

Kazakhstan requires foreign investment in order to improve and expand its oil and gas infrastructure so that the benefit of its significant reserves can be realized.

Importantly, Kazakhstan has taken steps to promote transparency in its financial transactions, particularly with regard to oil transactions. The government recently established the National Fund, which will be a model for openness and disclosure in the management of the country's oil revenues. The government also has pledged transparency and openness in future oil and gas contracts, and has officially endorsed the British government's Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

Kazakhstan is a young country struggling to institute meaningful democratic reforms. This has been a difficult path to travel and much work remains. Yet from the beginning, Kazakhstan's tangible progress has signaled its unwavering commitment to effect true change. Kazakhstan's desire to forge a strong energy partnership with the United States is one example. Another is Kazakhstan's support of the United States in the War on Terror.

As the center of the former Soviet Union's nuclear and biological weapons programs, Kazakhstan held considerable—and potentially dangerous—power over the world as the Soviet Union broke apart. In fact, Kazakhstan had the fourth largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world larger than Britain, France and China combined. Rather than capitulating to countries offering to pay millions of dollars to purchase these weapons, Kazakhstan's leader, Nursultan Nazarbayev, boldly chose instead to destroy the country's stockpile and position Kazakhstan as a stabilizing force in the region. Mr. President, in light of September 11, threats from North Korea, and the war and continuing operations in Iraq, Kazakhstan's courageous decision against becoming a nuclear state certainly has helped the world avoid greater threats to peace and stability.

Kazakhstan has been a leader and is the current chair of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization, which unites several nations of the region to combat terrorism, extremism, and drug trafficking. Toward that end, Kazakhstan has consistently supported the United States in the War on Terror. During the war in Iraq, Kazakhstan granted to the United States overflight rights and access to its airbase at Almaty. Kazakhstan also participates in NATO's International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan.

Kazakhstan's contributions have not gone unnoticed. During a visit to Kazakhstan in July 2003, the NATO Secretary General praised Kazakhstan for its support of the peace keeping mission in Iraq and its support for the War on Terror. Kazakhstan was the first Central Asian republic to join in the post-war reconstruction efforts. In August 2003, Kazakhstan sent 27 military personnel, including de-mining experts, engineers, and translators to Iraq.

The illustrations of Kazakhstan's tangible efforts to join the democratic world could not be more stark. Kazakhstan chose non-proliferation over possessing nuclear weapons; it chose peace and prosperity over terrorism and strife; it chose a market economy over the communist status quo; and it chose the difficult path of reform over complacency. Kazakhstan's ability to greatly enhance our energy independence, and its position alongside the United States in the War on Terror,

are but two illustrations of Kazakhstan's resolve to affect positive, longstanding change.

Kazakhstan stands out because it possesses great potential and is supported by a powerful commitment toward democracy. Considerable work remains, and the United States must lend its support to ensure that Kazakhstan continues down the path toward democratization. I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the Republic of Kazakhstan on its positive steps forward.

NORTH STAR CHARTER SCHOOL

HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the work and purpose of the North Star Charter School in Eagle, Idaho. This public school was founded by volunteers—parents with a vision of virtue, citizenship and leadership not only for their own children but also for their community and our nation.

I recently had the honor of visiting the North Star Charter School at its new building, not far from my ranch in Idaho. About 270 students joined with 20 excellent faculty members and a similar number of involved, caring parents as we unveiled a painting of George Washington at prayer. That painting now is displayed prominently near the school's main entrance. It is a stirring image of the first and greatest of our Founding Fathers, and it provides a fitting reminder of the kind of values that the North Star Charter School has made the foundation of its curriculum and educational environment.

The school for kindergarteners through eighth-graders, led by Board of Directors Chairman Gale Pooley and Principal Nancy Smith, has established as its mission the development of virtuous citizen leaders. The lives and work of our Founding Fathers are the historical guideposts of that journey.

Even the school's name provides a constant reminder that its goals are unwavering and steadfast, like the North Star itself—an eternal beacon trusted by navigators searching for new lands, or simply making their way home.

I couldn't hope to say it any better than the school's own mission statement: "The North Star Charter School will endeavor to develop each student into a leader that can be trusted to serve the interests of his family, community, profession and nation with the strength of character and the depth of knowledge to stand for the time-honored principles and ideals of a free and open society."

Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to represent the school, its students and the families that find such great value in the timeless lessons of our nation's birth.

TRIBUTE TO MS. RITA BALIAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a woman who exemplifies the idea of the humanitarian

activist, my good friend, Ms. Rita Balian. Rita is an extraordinary person who gives significant time and personal resources to see that the rate of cancer in the Country of Armenia is significantly reduced.

Rita is the founder and current president of the Armenian American Wellness Center (AAWC). The Center has provided mammography screening to over 40,000 women and has been credited with saving the lives of nearly 1,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer in Armenia. Started in April 1997 and originally called the Armenian American Mammography University Center (AAMUC), Rita has worked tirelessly to expand the Center to serve an ever increasing clientele. Before Rita established the Wellness Center in Armenia, not a single mammogram had been performed in the entire country. Instead, women discovered breast through obvious pain and a woman's only treatment option was complete mastectomy.

Along with her commitment to the Wellness Center, Rita was closely involved in the rebuilding of Armenia in the aftermath of the devastating 1988 earthquake. During this time, she worked with the Mayor of Alexandria, VA to establish a sister-city program with Alexandria and the Armenian town of Gyumri. She has also worked with her husband Vartkess to promote their passion for education throughout the country.

Despite her generosity and dedication to her causes, Rita seeks no recognition for her work. However, other groups and organizations have seen fit to commend her giving spirit. Last year, she was honored by the United States Agency for International Development's "Outstanding Citizen" award for her work with the Wellness Center. Today, she is the sole recipient of the "Cancer Advocacy Award" as part of the Washington Hospital Center's Spirit of Life Awards Celebration.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join the Washington Hospital Center, USAID, and the patients of the Armenian American Wellness Center and recognize the extraordinary efforts of Rita Balian. It is with great pleasure that I speak about her accomplishments today.

TRIBUTE TO MYRON "MIKE"
GENOVA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a great citizen from my district. Myron "Mike" Genova of Grand Junction, Colorado recently passed away at the age of sixty-one. As his family and friends mourn Mike's passing, I would like to pay tribute to his memory here today.

Mike was born in San Jose, California in 1942, but later moved with his family to Grand Junction, where he graduated high school and attended Mesa College. Mike and his wife, Doralyn, settled in the community and raised three wonderful sons. Throughout his life, Mike was a dedicated and hard-working man, devoting thirty-seven years to his job dealing with high pressure natural gas for Public Serv-

ice/Xcel Energy. Mike was a National Hot Rod Association and NASCAR racing enthusiast. In his youth, he raced competitively, and remained a devoted race fan throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Genova had a tremendous zeal for life. He was devoted to his family and committed to his work. Everyone who knew Mike liked and respected him. He will be greatly missed, and his legacy will certainly continue to live on. I am honored to join with my colleagues in remembering the life of Mike Genova here today.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE BENJAMIN
H. ZIMMERMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Professor Benjamin H. Zimmerman of the University of Kansas, who died on September 4th.

Ben Zimmerman was a well known community activist and human rights leader in the city of Lawrence, Kansas, throughout his career with the University of Kansas, where he served as a professor of social welfare for 13 years and was a resident for 25 years. In addition to being active in local, partisan politics, Ben Zimmerman actively supported the causes of civil rights based on race, gender and sexual orientation, child development, equality of economic opportunity, and broader public participation in the electoral process.

Mr. Speaker, I am placing into the RECORD the obituary for Professor Zimmerman that was carried by the Lawrence Journal-World, as well as an article detailing a few of his many achievements supporting greater social justice in Lawrence, Kansas. All who knew him will continue to be inspired by Ben Zimmerman's devotion to serving his fellow Kansans, and many who never met him will benefit from his energetic, tireless work to expand human rights and individual opportunities for all.

[From the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World,
Sept. 7, 2003]

BENJAMIN HYMAN ZIMMERMAN

Memorial services for Benjamin Hyman Zimmerman, 85, Lawrence, are pending and will be announced by Warren-McElwain Mortuary. Private inurnment will be in Pioneer Cemetery.

Mr. Zimmerman died Thursday, Sept. 4, 2003, in Venice, Calif.

He was born April 25, 1918, in Syracuse, N.Y., the son of Max and Esther S. (Rudevitsky) Zimmerman.

He was valedictorian of his high school class in Syracuse. He received a bachelor of arts degree from Syracuse University in 1940 and was Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi and magna cum laude. After serving in the U.S. Army in World War II, he continued his education in anthropology at Columbia University and received honors as a Gilder Fellow and Social Science Research Fellow. He then did fieldwork in Brazil in anthropology, working toward a doctorate degree.

Mr. Zimmerman served on the staff advising or teaching at several universities, including City College of New York, Columbia University, University of Illinois and Yale University. He had been a research director for United Way, executive director for the Mayor's Commission for Youth Inc. and ex-

ecutive director of Crusade for Opportunity Inc., all in the Syracuse area. He also worked on national programs including the Office of Economic Opportunity Community Action Program as chief of program planning and the Day Care and Child Development Council of America.

He joined Kansas University as an associate professor in 1972 in the school of social welfare, where he worked until he became associate professor emeritus in 1984.

A resident of Lawrence for more than 25 years, Mr. Zimmerman was chairman of the Discrimination Hearing Board and faculty adviser for Gay Services of Kansas. He also helped found the Day Care Coalition of Lawrence and Douglas County, Lawrence Alliance, Freedom Coalition, Douglas County AIDS Project, Simply Equal and Lawrence-Topeka P-FLAG. He also served on the boards of the NAACP, Freedom Coalition and League of Women Voters and co-chaired a committee that monitored the changes in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Survivors include a daughter, Anne Zimmerman, Sherman Oaks, Calif., and his partner, David Scheuer, Lawrence.

The family suggests memorials be held until an organization is chosen.

E-mail condolences may be sent at www.warrenmcelwain.com, subject: Zimmerman.

[From the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World,
Sept. 7, 2003]

LONGTIME ACTIVIST DIES AT 85

(By Tim Carpenter)

Ben Zimmerman lived to the age of 85, but never lost the passion of youth when it came to community activism.

"He was quite amazing," said Lynne Green, who, with Zimmerman, co-chaired a campaign to amend the city of Lawrence's discrimination policy. "He had the fire in his belly and the energy of a very young committed activist. He was never an old man."

Zimmerman, a former associate professor of social welfare at Kansas University and longtime Lawrence resident, died Thursday in Venice, Calif.

His fingerprints are on a long list of organizations and projects designed to bring fairness to the lives of unprotected people, said Ann Weick, dean of social welfare at KU.

"He contributed so much to this community in terms of issues of justice and equality," Green said. "He was an eloquent advocate for vulnerable groups and was really a leader in our faculty during the time he was there in focusing attention of the community on pressing issues of the day."

In Lawrence, Zimmerman helped found the Day Care Coalition of Lawrence and Douglas County, Lawrence Alliance, Freedom Coalition, Douglas County AIDS Project, Simply Equal and Lawrence-Topeka P-FLAG.

He was on the boards of the NAACP, Freedom Coalition and League of Women Voters.

Zimmerman was active in social welfare activities in Syracuse, N.Y., before joining the KU faculty in 1972.

It was Zimmerman's role in the mid-1990s campaign to add the words "sexual orientation" to the city's anti-discrimination ordinance that sticks in the memories of many people in Lawrence. He was co-chair with Green of Simply Equal, a coalition of more than 1,000 people that pressed for the change.

In 1995 the City Commission agreed, making Lawrence the first city in Kansas to protect homosexuals from discrimination in housing, employment or public accommodations.

At that time, Zimmerman proclaimed: "Lawrence will not tolerate bigotry."

Mike Silverman, chair of the Freedom Coalition, said Zimmerman was a terrific leader.