

hearings or briefings covering Greece, Russia, Serbia, Kosovo, and Romania, as well as the OSCE process.

Members of the Commission have also sent several letters to Greek leaders in recent years addressing longstanding human rights concerns in the Hellenic Republic, including those affecting the Romani community. These expressions of concern have specifically addressed forced evacuations of Roma from numerous villages, the abusive application of the use of national identity cards issued to Roma, the inability of Roma children to have access to schools on a nondiscriminatory basis and other matters of blatant racial discrimination.

This newly released report on Roma clearly indicates that the Greek Government has failed to properly address many of these ongoing concerns. At a June 2002 Commission hearing on Greece, in fact, I raised the specter of an intensified campaign targeting Roma to obtain land for use as venues for the 2004 Olympics. This campaign is well documented in this report.

Notwithstanding the assertions of Greek officials at the Commission hearing that "everything is done (concerning the relocation) in consultation with, and with the consent of, the Roma involved," numerous non-governmental organizations have raised such issues with Athens. Greek human rights activists have stepped forward.

As an original signatory to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, Greece has accepted numerous commitments pertaining to the treatment of Roma and joined in condemning discrimination against Roma, a provision found in the 1999 Istanbul OSCE Summit Document. Regrettably, the Greek Government has failed to fulfill these commitments, as documented in the new ERRC/GHM report on Roma in Greece.

The ERRC and GHM conducted intensive field missions that revealed several patterns of human rights abuse against Roma in Greece: cruel and inhuman or degrading treatment of Roma in housing; police violence against Roma; exclusion of Roma from the educational system; and, barriers to access to health care and other social support services for Roma.

Based on the facts in this report and the discussions I have had over the years in my leadership capacity with the Helsinki Commission, I urge the Government of Greece to take corrective measures, without delay, along the lines recommended by the ERRC and the GHM:

1. Facilitate access to Greek citizenship for those Roma residing in Greece who are stateless and provide the necessary legal documents, such as identity cards, to all Roma.
2. Use all appropriate means to guarantee protection against forced evictions outside the rule of law and without due process.
3. Bring to justice public officials and private individuals responsible for forced evictions of Roma in breach of Greek law.
4. Carry out thorough and timely investigations into all alleged instances of police abuse.
5. Undertake effective measures to ensure that local authorities register all persons factually residing in a given municipality, without regard to ethnicity.
6. Ensure that Romani schoolchildren have equal access to education in a desegregated school environment.
7. Without delay, adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation, as called for in the 1999 OSCE Istanbul Summit Document.

8. Conduct public information campaigns on human rights and remedies available to victims of human rights abuse, and distribute in both the Greek and Romani languages.

9. Conduct comprehensive human rights and anti-racism training for national and local administrators, members of the police force, and the judiciary.

10. At the highest levels, speak out against racial discrimination against Roma and others, and make clear that racism will not be tolerated.

The Helsinki Commission will continue to monitor the situation of Roma in the Hellenic Republic with the aim of encouraging the Government of Greece to implement commitments it has agreed to within the framework of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Commission will also work to ensure that the plight of Roma in Greece is raised at the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting to be held this Fall in Warsaw.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHAD  
MOORING AND DOUG JONES

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise before you today to honor Doug Jones and Chad Mooring, two brave paramedics from Pueblo, Colorado. Their lives and service are supreme examples of dedication to, and self-sacrifice for, their fellow citizens. It gives me great pleasure to recognize them before this Congress and this nation.

Chad has served the people of Pueblo as a firefighter and paramedic for many years. His life of service is all the more remarkable because he suffers from kidney failure and must undergo frequent dialysis. Were it not for the compassion and bravery of his friend Doug, who plans to donate one of his kidneys to Chad, Colorado might very well lose a firefighter and friend. Instead, seeing his friend in need, Doug offered to undergo surgery in order to help a fellow hero. Men like Chad and Doug inspire us all to face hardship with dignity and strength.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize the uncommon heroism and sacrifice of these two men. They exemplify friendship, commitment and selflessness. They have shown steadfast loyalty and dedication to each other and to their community. Undoubtedly, the many people who have benefited from their public service realized this fact long ago. This nation is a better place because of men like Doug Jones and Chad Mooring, and I am proud they are Coloradans and proud to represent them in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY COMBEST

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHRNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. BOEHRNER. Mr. Speaker, I join with my House colleagues of the past and present and especially those with whom I have served on the House Agriculture Committee, to extend

my best wishes to LARRY COMBEST as he embarks on a new direction in life after serving the people of Texas' 19th District with distinction and honor for 18 years.

Over the course of our 12½ years together on the House Agriculture Committee, I enjoyed the relationship we were able to build and the spirit with which we pursued the best policy for rural America and for America's farmers and ranchers.

There can be no doubt that LARRY has been a strong voice in Congress and a consistent advocate for our nation's agriculture community. I congratulate my friend LARRY on all of his accomplishments here in Congress and I know that all his friends and House colleagues will sorely miss him.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY LUKENBILL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the public service and personal commitment of Nancy Lukenbill to the Monterey County government of the State of California. She joined the Monterey County workforce on October 6, 1969 as staff clerk in the Office of the Monterey County Clerk where she began a career of service that lasted 34 years. She has provided the County with dedicated and reliable work, characteristics in line with the quality of her person. Her poise and helpfulness moved her quickly up the ranks and she became the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors of Monterey County in January of 1976, a position she has held until her recent retirement.

Nancy's attention to detail and extraordinary intelligence make her a treasure trove of Monterey County stories over the last 34 years. She starred in my County Supervisor TV commercial, displaying her on-camera hair-dos that attest to her stylish and tremendous personality. Her office was a place of comfort for Supervisors and county employees, and never letting her personal politics intrude, Nancy's discretion around politicians made her stand out as the resource for impartial information. She was the pulse, the heartbeat of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors because supervisors would come and go, including yours truly, but for 27 years, Nancy was the rock. She was the go-to person if you needed something done. Everybody knows she makes the County function, and the County has been fortunate to have her for so long.

Instrumental in bringing the 21st Century and the Internet to the Board's office, Nancy constantly appealed to her wholehearted conviction that local citizens have the untouchable right to access the business of their County electeds. However, with all of the technological advancement, she never lost touch with the County scribe's necessary skills from when she first signed up for the job. She always took shorthand notes of County meetings despite the presence of videotapes and tape-recorders. This makes her one for the ages.

The County has enjoyed her loyalty and her impeccable work for almost 34 years, and she will be sorely missed. On behalf of this House, I want to commend Nancy Lukenbill on her commitment to the people of Monterey County

and her commitment to public's right to access their government. Monterey County is a far better government because of her service. I join all the Supervisors she served under in wishing her husband Larry, her son Lance and her grandchildren a great new life together and thanking her for making the job of Clerk of the Board an exemplary one.

TRIBUTE TO RUSSELL LARSON

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I have the distinct honor to stand before this Congress today and honor an individual who knows the meaning of sacrifice, duty, and honor. In 1942 Russell Larson was a 17-year-old high school junior with a lot to look forward to. He was a young man who loved his country, a country that had recently been forced into World War II. Motivated by his deep sense of patriotism, Russell quit school, joined the Navy, and spent the next six years in service to his nation.

When Russell came home from the war, he married his beloved Marie and eventually settled down as a splicer for the phone company, a job he held for 31 years. Today Russell and Marie are the proud parents of two children and three grandchildren. They live in Grand Junction, Colorado, where they are retired and enjoy bowling, traveling, and staying fit. Despite all of their blessings, there is one thing that has eluded Russell—the diploma he sacrificed in the service of his country.

Russell gave up the chance to graduate from high school 50 years ago when he entered our armed forces—or so he thought. This week, at the age of 77, Russell Larson will march in ceremonies at Fruita Monument High School to receive his high school diploma. Thanks to a law recently passed by the state of Colorado, Russell and his fellow veterans who left high school early in the service of their nation can now receive their high school diploma.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Russell Larson and commend him for his service to his country. He and the other heroes of "the greatest generation" defeated totalitarianism and fascism, ensuring the freedom of all Americans. Russell left the simple pleasures of being a high school student for the serious work of defending this great nation. It gives me great pleasure to honor Russell and offer my congratulations on his graduation. We will always be grateful for his service.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS  
COMMISSION'S TRIENNIAL REVIEW

**HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the telecommunications sector of the economy has taken a real battering. Market caps are a fraction of what they were 2 or 3 years ago. Companies such as Lucent continue to lay off employees and cut back operations. Even the

large telephone companies have taken significant hits in the market and laid off thousands.

The Federal Communications Commission had an opportunity to give these companies a boost. In its Triennial Review decision, it could have eliminated some regulations that have stifled investment and created uncertainty.

Unfortunately they did not, and to make matters worse, here we are 3 months later and we still have not seen the FCC's final order. The telecom sector continues to languish under burdensome outdated regulations.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital to our nation's economy that we promote policies that will encourage investment and create jobs and reviving the telecom sector is an important part of rejuvenating the nation's economy.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RALPH W.  
THOMPSON III

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ralph W. Thompson III for his ongoing contributions to the Monterey Peninsula in my Central California district. On May 19th, 2003, the Monterey County Bar Association will honor Mr. Thompson with the Chief Justice Phil Gibson award. The award is named in honor of the late California Supreme Court Chief Justice and Carmel neighbor of my parents, Phil Gibson. Chief Justice Gibson served from 1939 to 1964 and was known for his comprehensive reorganization of the California court system and for his lonely stance against the internment of Japanese-American citizens during WWII. The award recognizes service in the legal profession that follows in the tradition of integrity and innovation set by Chief Justice Gibson.

Mr. Thompson has practiced law in Monterey, California, for many years. He is a graduate of Loma Linda University and California Western School of Law. He also holds a California teaching credential. His professional career has included stints with the U.S. Treasury Department, the Monterey County District Attorney's Office, and various teaching positions with Monterey Peninsula College, Golden Gate University, and the University of California. But the bedrock of Mr. Thompson's career has been his stellar legal practice helping the people of Monterey County.

Mr. Thompson enjoys the very highest reputation amongst his peers. He is known for his high ethical standards, fair client representation, and universal courtesy. He is also an innovator in his field, having founded one of the leading mediation and arbitration practices in Central California. He has served in numerous professional leadership positions, including president of the Monterey County Trial Lawyers Association, the Monterey County Bar Association, and a member of the Consumer Attorneys of California Board of Governors.

Beyond the professional achievements, Mr. Thompson has been a leader in the community. He has served in leadership roles with Legal Services for Seniors, the American Cancer Society of Monterey, the Monterey Bay Center for the Arts, Rotary, and the Pacific Grove Unified School District. The totality of this service, both professional and public, war-

rants the recognition of the Gibson award as well as this House.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to inform this body today of a truly exceptional hospital from my district. Community Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado has recently been recognized in the 100 Top Hospitals Study for its consistent quality of care and efficient operations. The study noted that if other hospitals gave the same quality care as Community Hospital and the others on this list, about 66,000 lives could be saved every year. At the same time, healthcare costs would decrease by about \$8.9 billion.

Community Hospital has also recently won four "Patient First Awards" for its leadership in the healthcare community. These areas—inpatient services, ambulatory surgery, outpatient tests and treatment, and emergency services—are indicative of the overall high quality of care that patients receive at Community Hospital. Although this great facility won "Patient First Awards" for a hospital of its size, its inpatient services were ranked first overall for hospitals in the survey, regardless of size.

Mr. Speaker, no matter how you measure it, Community Hospital sets a standard of excellence. The hospital is a vital part of the Grand Junction Community, and I am truly honored to recognize such an outstanding healthcare provider and its outstanding team of dedicated employees here today.

TRIBUTE TO EAST HIGH SCHOOL  
TEAM IN THE WE THE PEOPLE:  
THE CITIZEN AND THE CONSTITUTION  
2003 NATIONAL  
FINALS

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 19, 2003*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, on April 26–28 2003, more than 1200 students from across the United States visited Washington, D.C. to compete in the national finals of the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program, the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Administered by the Center for Civic Education, the We the People program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education by an Act of Congress.

I am proud to announce that the class from East High School in Denver, representing the State of Colorado won the Mountain/Plains Regions award at the finals. This award is presented to the school in each of five geographic regions with the highest cumulative score during the first two days of the national finals. These outstanding students competed against 48 other classes from throughout the nation and demonstrated a remarkable understanding of the fundamental ideals and values of America constitutional government. These