

would eliminate the visa lottery program. The House Immigration Subcommittee has held a hearing on the proposal, and we should continue efforts to move it promptly through the legislative process.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 467, a bill that declares genocide in Darfur, Sudan and I commend its sponsor for introducing it.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, genocide occurred in Rwanda. In a little over three months, 800,000 people had died and 2 million more had fled their homes while the U.S. and other nations stood by and watched, later promising that it would never let such a crime happen again.

Today, we have the opportunity to live up to our promise. We have the opportunity to perform our role as a contracting party in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. We have the opportunity to prevent the continuation of the brutal murders that have already taken place in Darfur, Sudan. 30,000 civilians have already been murdered, 130,000 more have fled to neighboring Chad, and around 1,000,000 more have been forced into refugee camps.

If we do not act immediately, the death toll will continue to rise. Estimates say that within the next several months, the death toll could rise to 300,000 people or more. We cannot stand by, watch, and once again promise that we will never let such atrocities occur. We have the opportunity to support H. Con. Res. 467, thereby declaring genocide in Sudan and urging the President to act immediately to alleviate this terrible situation.

Mr. Speaker, we must act immediately. I ask that we unite and support H. Con. Res. 467 to end the furtherance of these atrocious crimes against humanity.

WARSAW UPRISING 60TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, on August 1, 1944, the greatest armed uprising by underground Europe against the German occupant began in Warsaw. The Warsaw Uprising lasted for 63 days and cost the lives of about 250,000 people. These two months of heroic combat serve as a symbol of courage, chivalry, the price of independence, but also of the harsh reality of world politics.

The Uprising was started by the Polish underground Home Army, which at the beginning of August had only about 20,000 poorly equipped soldiers, but over time managed to actively involve over 400,000 men, women and children. It was largely thanks to young

Polish Boy Scouts that messages between fighting insurgents were spread, medications were delivered and symbols of independence were painted on walls of buildings to show the people—and the Nazis—that Poland was fighting and would not bow to the overwhelming force of German troops, tanks, airplanes and artillery. Even German war correspondents noted that the intensity and difficulty of combat in Warsaw could only be compared to the street battles of Stalingrad, which greatly attributed to the fall of the Germans on the eastern front. The United States recognized the valiance of the Polish insurgents by officially proclaiming them military combatants on August 30, 1944.

Although a quarter million people died in the Uprising and the city was leveled to the ground on Hitler's orders, which showed the world how high a price Poland was prepared to pay for its freedom, the Poles did not gain full independence until 1989, 45 years after the Uprising's end.

The Soviet dictator, Josef Stalin, had a vision of a communist Polish state with a vassal government long before the Warsaw Uprising started. During the conference in Teheran in 1943, Stalin managed to convince the United States and Great Britain to shift Poland's borders west, thus reassuring his strong position and the authority to make practically unilateral decisions about the future of Central & Eastern Europe. In July 1944, the Red Army was within fifty kilometers from Poland's capital, but though their primary objective was to crash the Wehrmacht, they did not mean to liberate Poland, but to install a quasi-Polish government that had already been prepared in Moscow to rule in compliance with Soviet principles and under Stalin's supervision. The Home Army was seen as a perilous force, as it sought independence, therefore the communist propaganda renounced the Home Army led uprising as a "reckless and irresponsible adventure" to which the Soviet government could not lend its support. In fact, soon after the collapse of the Uprising most of Home Army officers and many soldiers were prosecuted and sentenced for treason. Ironically, had the home Army's commanders decided not to rise against the occupant, they would no doubt have been accused of collaboration with the Nazis and of cowardice. Having made the tragic decision to take arms against the oppressor that not long before had controlled most of Europe, the leaders of the Uprising had every right to expect support from their western allies. And they did receive it.

Airplanes flew from Italy across half of Europe delivering arms and other provisions to the insurgents, sustaining heavy casualties, but were not allowed to land on the Soviet side of the front. Not until September 18, 1944, two and a half weeks before the collapse of the Uprising, were over one hundred B-17 American flying fortresses able to appear above Warsaw to drop arms, medications and other provisions and then land on the Soviet side of the front. Unfortunately, it was already too late, as the areas of Warsaw in the hands of the Home Army had significantly diminished when compared with the first half of August, making it possible for the Poles to collect less than one-third of the dropped cargo.

The Soviets entered eastern Warsaw lying on the right bank of the Vistula River in the middle of September, but did not move into the center of the city, where the insurgents

were still fighting, having decided to wait until those who were willing to sacrifice their lives for Poland's independence have perished.

On August 1, sixty years will have passed since the outbreak of the bloodiest battle in over 1000 years of Polish history and one of the most heroic combats in the Second World War. Rarely has the price of freedom and independence been so high and the fate of those who paid it so tragic. For fifteen years now Poland has been a free country, a member of NATO for five years and since May, a member of the European Union. Its successful transition from an oppressive regime to a peaceful democracy proves the determination of Poles to be a free nation. Such courageous events as the Warsaw Uprising show that it is freedom they deserve. They surely earned it.

HONORING RICK HOYT UPON RETIREMENT FROM FAYETTEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Fayetteville's Chief of Police Rick Hoyt, who will be retiring from the department at the end of the month.

A graduate of the Fayetteville school system and the University of Arkansas, Rick joined his hometown police force in 1976. His second day on the job was almost his last as a drunk driver hit him while he was directing traffic. He was thrown 69 feet by the impact and spent several weeks in a full body cast in the hospital. Initially, nobody was sure whether or not he would survive. Rick surprised everyone when he was back on the beat in less than 3 months, a testament to his strong spirit and desire to serve the public.

His dedication to protecting and serving the people of Fayetteville led to a series of promotions within the department. In 2002, he was named Interim Police Chief while the city of Fayetteville conducted a nationwide search to find a permanent chief. Within a matter of months, that search was called off and Rick was given the job. As Mayor Dan Coody put it at the time, "We are so satisfied with Chief Hoyt that I don't think we could have done any better."

For the next 2 years, Rick did a tremendous job leading the Fayetteville Police Department. My constituents and I are extremely grateful for service over the 28 years that he worked for the Fayetteville Police Department. I ask my colleagues to join with me today in thanking Rick for his service and wishing him all the best as he enters into a new phase in his life.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL RULE OF LAW CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chairman BILL YOUNG and Chairman JIM KOLBE for including the International

Rule of Law Center at the University of Richmond as a program that will be actively considered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. This is an important step forward in our effort to enhance fair and judicial systems internationally.

Today, one of the most pressing needs in emerging democracies is to educate leaders who administer justice in the traditions of due process, transparency, accountability, consistency, and judicial independence. Only with an understanding of such values can leaders within a society go forward to create stable and sustainable justice systems that are critical to democracy.

With the aim of international stability in mind, it is in our national interest to foster a crosscultural exchange and understanding of the importance of law. The International Rule of Law Center at the University of Richmond will play a constructive role in accomplishing this goal by supporting the education of future judges in emerging democracies.

The International Rule of Law Center will educate approximately 20 foreign students in a 1-year program that culminates with the students earning a master of laws degree. The program will include many practical field experiences and trips, in addition to a curriculum that focuses on judicial administration, constitutional law, the theory of a sound and fair system of justice, and elements of international law.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Chairman BILL YOUNG and Chairman JIM KOLBE for their efforts, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

URGING GOVERNMENT OF
BELARUS TO ENSURE DEMO-
CRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND
FAIR ELECTION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member rises in support of H. Res. 652, which calls on the government of Belarus to ensure that Parliamentary elections which will take place in Belarus in October of this year are democratic, transparent and fair.

Thirteen years after the fall of communism, Belarus remains one of the few nations in Europe where the transition to democracy has not taken sufficient root.

The current political leadership continues to rule in an authoritarian manner and its government continues to crack down on those individuals and organizations who are trying to help build support for democracy and democratic institutions.

Unlike the situation in Ukraine, the government in Belarus has thus far not given any clear indication that it is committed to free and fair elections. However, in a recent meeting with the Ambassador from Belarus, this Member was led to believe that the government's position on the elections could be positive. The Ambassador gave assurances that the government would enforce the election codes and would allow all political parties to have representatives on the electoral commissions which oversee the implementation of the elec-

tions. He also indicated that Belarus would cooperate with the OSCE and would allow international observers.

At a hearing the Europe Subcommittee held in March on Belarus, this Member mentioned that Speaker DENNIS HASTERT and this Member met with the leaders of the Belarus opposition, collectively known as the Coalition Five-Plus, to discuss the elections and their vision for a democratic future for Belarus. This group of political parties has united in a common platform in an attempt to bring democracy and respectability back to the Belarus Parliament. Unfortunately, members of the opposition political parties and participants in political demonstrations continue to be subjected to increased harassment, surveillance by government agents, arrests, and physical abuse.

For these reasons, it is important that the United States Government, including this Congress, continue to emphatically express our strong support for free, fair and transparent elections and more definitive progress toward establishing a functioning democracy in Belarus.

In Europe, the situation in Belarus understandably seems to be of equal concern. The OSCE, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe have all expressed deep concerns over Belarus and its forthcoming elections. In fact, this Member is informed that the Chair of the Belarus Working Group of the OSCE PA recently visited Minsk for additional discussions on the elections.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 652 emphasizes that if Belarus is ever to become more integrated into the community of democratic nations, it must work toward the establishment of a genuinely democratic political system in which the freedom of association and assembly are guaranteed. It also must be a fact that political candidates from the opposition will be free from political harassment and intimidation as they campaign for office and in which the media is free to act independently, free from government control or intimidation. Finally there must be a system in which elections and the electoral process are open, transparent and fair if Belarus wishes to be included in the community of democratic nations.

The parliamentary elections this fall will be a litmus test for President Lukashenko's commitment to democracy and the direction he intends to take Belarus in the future.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 652 rather precisely explains the concerns and recommendations of the United States House of Representatives.

I urge the adoption of the resolution.

REMEMBERING H.J. "BUBBA"
SHANDS, JR.

HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. TURNER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on June 19, 2004, the City of Lufkin and the state of Texas lost a friend with the passing of "Bubba" Shands, Jr. Bubba was an invaluable member of the community in Lufkin for many years, and he will be sorely missed.

The Lufkin Daily News recently called Bubba a "a Lufkin icon" and "East Texas' fa-

vorite son." I think those are two fitting names for Bubba, but I also think there are many more that we could add to that list: husband, father, grandfather, brother, athlete, patriot, leader, believer, and always, great friend to all.

Hilliard Judge "Bubba" Shands was born on November 18, 1926 in Lufkin, Texas. He grew up as a highly accomplished student-athlete, first at Lufkin High School and then at the University of Texas.

Bubba began working in the banking industry in 1958, and continued working in that industry until 1991. He was a bank executive for First Bank & Trust (formerly Republic Bank) for many years, and he also served on the boards of several other financial institutions, such as First Bank of Conroe, Angelina Savings Bank, and Balcones Resources in Austin.

Bubba always realized the importance of community service and was involved with many volunteer and civic organizations throughout his life. He worked diligently towards the creation of Angelina County Airport and the Salvation Army's Adult Day Center in Lufkin, and he was also deeply active in the movement to fund and create Angelina College. He served on the board of the United Way of Angelina County, the Angelina College Board of Trustees, the Lufkin Rotary Club, and he was an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Lufkin.

We pray for God's comforting spirit to be with his wife, Ann; his sister, Mary; his daughter Becky; his son, Jay; and his five grandchildren, Matt, Hill, Rob, Richie, Annie and Hunter.

Today, we honor the memory of a great East Texan, Hilliard Judge "Bubba" Shands, and we ask that we may all celebrate and enjoy life the same way Bubba did for each of his 77 years on this Earth.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF
COPPER CREEK RECORDS

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I recognize the 25th Anniversary of Copper Creek Records. Copper Creek Records was formed in October of 1978 when recordings were made to introduce an up-and-coming bluegrass band known as the Johnson Mountain Boys, a group that went on to become festival and concert headliners as well as pioneers in the resurgence of traditional forms of bluegrass music.

Early in the label's career, documenting the history of bluegrass and old-time music was of paramount importance. The company documented such events as live concerts, field recordings, and vintage radio shows by legendary artists such as the Stanley Brothers and the Carter Family, as well as Reno & Smiley. A number of these releases were cited by the Library of Congress for their packaging, content, and historical value.

Coupled with historic preservation, Copper Creek has been active in developing new, up-and-coming talent as well as providing an outlet to musically deserving artists who fly just under the "mainstream radar." Most recently, the label has been active in licensing vintage