

bronze with a time of 12.76 seconds in the final. With her Athens repeat this year, Melissa became the only two-time American medalist in the 100 meter hurdles.

In the last couple of years Melissa has fought through serious adversity, including nagging injuries and personal tragedy. However, through unyielding determination and support from her loved ones, she never gave up. In the race where Melissa captured her second Olympic medal, she exemplified her never quit attitude. Melissa collided with two hurdles but continued to fight on. In fact, she addressed these hardships and gave us insight to her strong character by saying, "Mental strength got me through there and got me a bronze medal again this year."

Mr. Speaker, while I have only touched on a fraction of her accomplishments, I proudly join her friends, family, and teammates in congratulating Melissa's outstanding athletic achievements. I wish Melissa continued success both on and off the track, and would also like to congratulate her on the forthcoming marriage to fiancé Josephus Howard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEE ELWOOD
GILLIS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Lee Elwood Gillis and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as the District 63 representative to the Colorado House of Representatives. A representative since 1981, Lee is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Lee was born in Texas and graduated with a bachelor's degree in business from West Texas State University before going on to serve in the Texas National Guard and the U.S. Army Rangers. He is a member of the National Federation of Independent Business and Director of the Heritage Savings and Loan from 1977 to the present. Lee began his public service career in 1980, when he was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives and subsequently reelected in 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, and 1990. Serving the people of Baca, Bent, and Otero County in District 63, Lee has long been an advocate of lowering property taxes on agricultural land, and establish an economic development office in Southeast Colorado. He served on the Game, Fish & Parks, Education, Appropriations, House Services, and Joint Budget Committees during his legislative career.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Lee Elwood Gillis has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as a State Representative. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Lee, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

CALLING FOR THE SUSPENSION
OF SUDAN'S MEMBERSHIP ON
THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON HUMAN RIGHTS

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 137.

The human rights violations in Darfur are reaching a crisis point. Since the beginning of the conflict in early 2003, more than 30,000 innocent civilians have been murdered, more than 400 villages have been destroyed, and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced from their homes.

Tragically, the situation in Darfur has escalated from a rebellion by local militias into a full-scale ethnic cleansing campaign. The government in Khartoum has met this crisis with deliberate neglect at best, and direct support at worst. Congress rightly called this brutal and systematic slaughter a "genocide" in a resolution passed on July 22.

On July 30th, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution calling upon the Sudanese government to immediately fulfill its obligations to facilitate humanitarian relief, take steps to disarm the Janjaweed militias, and cooperate with an independent investigation of human rights violations in Darfur. However, it is time for the international community to make its authority felt through actions, not just words.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights binds member nations together in a pact to uphold universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Government of Sudan has broken this pledge and must be held accountable for its crime against humanity. I therefore urge Congress to call for the immediate suspension of Sudan from the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and pass Senate Concurrent Resolution 137.

IN HONOR OF DR. TREENA
LIVINGSTON ARINZEH

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Treena Livingston Arinze for her outstanding work in the field of stem cell research. On September 9, 2003, President Bush presented her with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

Dedicated to researching stem cells, Dr. Arinze has made revolutionary findings that may lead to procedures that help people recover from a variety of diseases, spinal cord injuries, and bone and cartilage damage. Dr. Arinze has earned the respect of her colleagues and established herself as a scientist by publishing influential papers in the *Journal of Biomedical Materials Research* and the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*.

The Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers is the highest honor a

young researcher can receive. Since 1996, the White House has acknowledged the achievements of such talented professionals. Each year, eight federal agencies nominate promising researchers and the winners receive up to five years of funding for their future work. The sole recipient from New Jersey, Dr. Arinze received a \$400,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

Born and raised in Jersey City, Dr. Arinze is currently a professor of biomedical engineering at the New Jersey Institute of Technology in Newark. In addition to her research projects, Dr. Arinze devotes her time to developing new undergraduate and graduate programs in tissue engineering, as well as creating community outreach programs for high school students in New Jersey and New York.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Treena Livingston Arinze, a trailblazer in the field of stem cell research. I applaud her for her exceptional achievements. New Jersey and our nation will greatly benefit from her groundbreaking work.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CARL
BLED SOE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Carl Bledsoe and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as the Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives. A state representative since 1973, Carl is a dedicated public servant and leader in his community and I am honored to recognize his service before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

A resident of Aroya, Colorado, Carl graduated from Kit Carson High School in 1941 and served in the U.S. Army Air Corp from 1942 to 1945. He later earned a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry from Colorado State University. Carl began his impressive thirty-two year public service career in 1958 as secretary of the Lincoln County Stockmen's Association. He served 12 years on the Kit Carson Board of Education, including two years as President. Carl was the President of Cheyenne County Farm Bureau from 1962 to 1964, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association in 1967. He has also served as a member of various organizations like the National Western Stock Show Association, the Colorado Housing Inc, Board, the Colorado State Board of Veterinary Medicine and the Colorado State Fiscal Policy Committee.

Carl was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1972 becoming the third member of his family to serve in the Colorado General Assembly. During his seventeen years as a legislator, Carl chaired the House Committee on Finance, the Legislative Audit Committee, the Western Region of the Council of State Governments, and was the vice-chairman of the International Trade Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures and most recently Speaker of the House for the last five years. During his seventeen years of service he received many awards such as the Outstanding Rural Legislator of the Year, and the American Legislative Exchange Conference's Outstanding State Legislator award.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Speaker Bledsoe has ceaselessly dedicated his time and efforts to serving his country and the people of Colorado as the Speaker of the House in the Colorado House of Representatives. I am honored to bring his hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Carl, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

**FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMEN'S
MONITORING DELEGATION TO
UKRAINE JULY REPORT—EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY**

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am submitting the following article for the RECORD.

Significant irregularities and improprieties have been found in the on-going presidential campaign in Ukraine by an election monitoring delegation of former Members of Congress in the Kharkiv, Poltava, and Sumy oblasts.

Five former U.S. Congressmen—John Conlan (R-AZ), Arlen Erdahl (R-MN), Jack Hightower (D-TX), Gregory Laughlin (R-TX), Andrew Maguire (D-NJ), and Tom Sawyer (D-OH)—traveled to Ukraine on July 25–31, 2004 to monitor presidential election campaign activities in the region. The communities visited were: Kupiansk, Merefa, and Vovchansk in the Kharkiv oblast; Chutove, Dykanka and Karlivka in the Poltava oblast; and Lebedyn, Okhtyrka and Trostianets in the Sumy oblast. These former congressmen were registered by the Central Election Commission (CEC) of Ukraine and accorded all the rights and privileges provided to foreign observers by Ukraine's law on presidential elections.

Ukraine is a signatory of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and therefore welcomes international observers to help secure a free and fair election. The congressmen's election monitoring activities included meetings with representatives of the main political parties, Ukrainian government officials, Central Election Committee, and U.S. officials in Kyiv. In the regions, the congressmen met with local government officials, representatives of NGOs, political parties, the media, and citizens, who shared their views and experiences of the political process in their respective communities.

**KEY FINDINGS OF THE FIRST DELEGATION TO
THE KHARKIV, POLTAVA, AND SUMY OBLASTS**

Generally, in the communities visited, local officials were very cooperative and generously shared their time and opinions with the delegation. Local officials provided space for meetings and assisted in extending invitations to representatives of political parties, media, and NGOs to meet with the delegation. The delegation does note, however, that there were occasions when opposition parties were not informed of the meetings and, thus, were denied an opportunity to express their views and have their respective cases heard.

In conversations with participants in the meetings attended and in conversations with ordinary Ukrainian citizens, the delegation was appalled to find that an overwhelming number do not expect the outcome of the election to be fairly decided. Those that hold this view often reply that the outcome has

already been determined and that the vote count will support that determination. Independent polls verify that around 70 percent of the population believes this. That reinforces the view that every effort must be made by observers to ensure that the vote count is accurate and fair.

While the delegation cannot investigate the allegations made, it does note with deep concern the repeated allegations of the systematic use of the government's administrative resources to bring pressure upon voters to support the candidate endorsed by government authorities. These reports are too numerous, consistent, and from too many different locations to be set aside; in fact they appear to the delegation to constitute a pattern of officially sanctioned political activity by government employees that is in violation of Ukraine's law on presidential elections.

The delegation is very concerned about these reports and appeals to the Ukrainian government to ensure that all local government officials strictly adhere to the law. Allegations include: threats regarding loss of jobs predominate; police preventing buses and automobiles from traveling to opposition rallies; forcing government workers, teachers, and hospital workers to sign petitions for pro-government candidate, Viktor Yanukovych; forcing regional councils to pass resolutions in support of Yanukovych; teachers and agricultural workers given quotas to collect signatures for Yanukovych, under threat to lose vacation time or jobs; students pressured to distribute Yanukovych literature; even patients have been threatened with discharge from hospitals and denial of medical services if they fail to sign and pledge to vote for Yanukovych.

In every community the delegation visited, they were greeted with hope and anticipation of a brighter tomorrow. They welcomed contact with the wider world and were anxious to host foreign visitors to show off their country and its potential. They deserve an opportunity to go to the polls and freely express their views and to be secure in the knowledge that all their votes are counted accurately in accordance with the law of Ukraine.

The delegation is a fact-finding mission and will report its findings to Ukraine's Central Election Commission, the U.S. Government, European governments, international organizations and the public through release to the mass media. The delegation does not support any candidate or political party and is only interested in helping ensure that the presidential election is free and fair.

Programming is organized by the U.S.–Ukraine Foundation (USUF), in partnership with the U.S. Association of Former Members of Congress (USAFMC) and is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The Foundation's second delegation traveled in August to the Cherkasy, Kyiv, and Kirovohrad oblasts and also included parliamentarians from Spain and the Netherlands. The third delegation, comprised of congressmen and a former member of the German Bundestag, traveled to the Kherson region during the week of September 19–25, 2004 to observe election campaign activities in the Kherson, Mykolayiv, and Zaporizhzhya oblasts.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHELLE
LAWRENCE**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Michelle Lawrence and thank her for her exceptional contributions to her community and the State of Colorado as a Jefferson County Commissioner. A two term commissioner, Michelle is a dedicated public servant and leader in her community, and I am honored to recognize her accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation today.

Michelle is a Colorado native who has lived most of her life in Jefferson County. She is the co-owner of a Jefferson county business that had been in her family for over 48 years. Michelle served in the Colorado legislature from 1990 to 1994, and is a former member of the board of directors of the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. She has been active in several local community organizations such as the Arvada Historical Society and the Arvada center for the Arts & Humanities and as a member of the Jeffco Transportation Task Force.

After leaving the General Assembly, Michelle continued her exemplary public service record by serving as a Jefferson County commissioner. Currently she is the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the Law Enforcement Authority Board. She also represents the county on the Rocky Flats Coalition of Local Governments and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District Board. Michelle has been appointed as an alternate to the Denver Regional Council of Governments, the Jefferson Economic Council, and most recently the Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Michelle Lawrence has ceaselessly dedicated her time and efforts to serving her country and the people of Colorado as a Commissioner for Jefferson County. I am honored to bring her hard work and commitment to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation today. Thank you for all your service, Michelle, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.

**HONORING THE BROOKSVILLE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM
(BERT)**

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 23, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the members of the Brooksville Emergency Response Team, also known as BERT.

In the wake of Hurricane Charley's devastating visit to Florida, these remarkable individuals answered the call of duty. On the morning of August 14, 2004 at 6:45 a.m. these BERT operatives sprung into action and began to rebuild areas of the Fifth Congressional District left in shambles. Because of their efforts, the communities of Poinciana, Calooso, Lake Village, Lake Wales, Bascon,