

in an interesting 2001 report. As well, President Nazarbaev, stung by international criticism of his efforts to regulate speech, has rescinded a number of the 1998–2000 decrees.

This is not to say that immutable economic or social forces will bring about a full Kazakh democracy no matter what the authorities do. Countries like China, for example, have much wider Internet access and a larger middle class—but still no elections, and no substantial opposition parties.

In Kazakhstan, however, the Internet and other information sources act in combination with independent parties, muddy elections—but elections nevertheless—and what should be a parliamentary opposition. And the government has moved gradually (tortuously gradually; perhaps) towards more freedom; not less, since the country achieved independence in 1991.

The election itself raised several problems. For example, a Monday item in *The New York Times*, “Intimidation Alleged in Vote in Kazakhstan,” starts with a quote harshly condemning the elections from Dos Kushyn, who is described as “the director of the Network of Independent Monitors,” which placed 2,000 observers around the country.

This caught the attention of at least one seasoned Kazakh observer who sent me a number of pre-election clips referring to approximately 1,000 accredited election observers in the country—total, from all outside groups. How could one fellow, running an organization never mentioned before, have 2,000 observers?

It turns out that Dos Kushyn is an opposition figure and whatever 2,000 “observers” he fielded, few were accredited. This doesn’t mean their opinions should be dismissed. But neither should his complaints be taken at face value, still less as coming from a wholly disinterested group.

Most Western press quoted only Kazakh officials defending the election or putting it in context. In other words, they presented criticism from independent sources, and praise only from the government, whose motives are likely to be questioned by any skeptical reader. What they didn’t do was refer to the numerous independent observers, some cited above, who said that on balance, the election didn’t meet Western standards—but was an improvement.

The government also used voting machines, which are, indeed, a problem—especially given that the computers Kazakhstan deployed, like some of those coming into use in a number of U.S. states, left no “paper trail.” This is not a best practice. One can sympathize, however, with the government’s decision to go with expensive, high-tech systems from the West, thinking this would buy some credibility.

The United States—which in contrast to Kazakhstan is allowing a total of 20 (that’s right, 20) independent observers for its 2004 vote—should be a little reticent about raising this complaint.

Still less should U.S. policy aim at punishing the country with economic aid restraints and sanctions, as some in Congress have proposed.

Unlike other countries in what one observer has called “the scud belt,” Kazakhstan doesn’t need piles of aid (Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq) to hold votes or stay on the democratic path. It hasn’t built or tried to build nuclear weapons (Pakistan, India, China). It seems, knock on wood, to be moving the right way—as opposed to Iran, Saudi Arabia, and others.

This is said not to criticize the other countries mentioned, but to point out that the Kazakhs are building democracy quietly and by tugging their own bootstraps, and without evident imperial ambitions or terrorist-nationalist resentments.

Kazakhstan is an important potential ally to the United States, Russia, and its neighbors in the “war on terror.” It’s also a potential bulwark for the faintly democratic tide among countries with large (about 45 percent) Muslim populations. There is a prospect of a ring of democracies on the borders of China and Iran, the better to raise the heat on those undemocratic states. And large Muslim-population states—Turkey, Indonesia, the Philippines, Mongolia, and potentially Iraq and Afghanistan—serve as examples and proof that Islam need not be anti-democratic.

Thus Kazakhstan is moving in a democratic direction—too slowly, but not going the wrong way. The right response for friends of democracy is to offer encouragement. If matters reverse, it’s time for some mild sticks. Working slowly by contrast, should bring soft applause and some small carrots.

HONORING CHIEF RICHARD STEINEL, JR.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Richard Steinel, Jr., for more than 30 years of outstanding public service on the police force. He is being honored today, October 8, 2004, at a retirement party in Union City, New Jersey.

Chief Steinel began his career in 1974 as a patrolman in the Union City Police Department where he worked with the Safe and Clean Neighborhood Program. He later spent time working for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey before returning to Union City and advancing through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, and, in 1992, Captain of Police. After years of quality service as a Captain, he was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police, a position he held for the rest of his time on the force.

Earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues for his reputation for fairness, Chief Steinel was especially successful in matters concerning domestic violence enforcement and education. In addition to his police service, he was a guest lecturer at universities and was a member of the State Attorney General’s Criminal Justice Training Staff. An accomplished law enforcement officer, Chief Steinel was the first person from Union City to attend the FBI National Academy in 40 years.

Continuing a long-standing family tradition of police work, Chief Steinel joined his great-grandfather, grandfather, father (Captain Richard J. Steinel, Sr.), and uncle in their proud service to the community.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Chief Richard Steinel, Jr., for his years of dedicated public service. His strong leadership and commitment to improving law enforcement and safety has benefited the lives of the police force and the citizens of New Jersey.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN K. GOYA ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT AFTER 31 YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Stephen K. Goya for his 31 years of dedicated service with the California Department of Corrections, Parole and Community Services. Mr. Goya is an example of the hard work and a commitment to excellence shown by California’s Corrections Officers. He will be honored by the Department of Corrections on October 29, 2004 in the city of Brea, California.

Stephen K. Goya began his career as a Parole Agent I with the Department of Corrections, Parole and Community Services Division on October 10, 1977. Prior to that, he worked as a Probation Officer for the Orange County Probation Department. He was promoted to Parole Agent II/Supervisor in January 1983. He then further advanced his career with the Department of Corrections as a Parole Agent III Unit Supervisor in October 1985 and in 1987, he was promoted to Parole Administrator I. In December 1992, Mr. Goya was once again promoted to Parole Administrator II Level. In that classification, Mr. Goya functioned as the Operations Manager for the Parole Division in Sacramento as well as the Deputy Regional Administrator in Region IV Headquarters. Mr. Goya’s current classification is that of Regional Parole Administrator over Region IV. Mr. Goya was promoted to Regional Parole Administrator CEA III Level on January 20, 1998. Region IV is comprised of five different counties (Orange, San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside), 51 field units, 21 office locations and over 742 parole staff.

We rely upon our Corrections, Parole and Community Services Officers to keep our community safe and monitor those who are making their way back into society. Stephen K. Goya has worked tirelessly for over three decades to lead these Officers in their mission. His efforts have improved life in Southern California. Stephen K. Goya has earned my many thanks and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

SALUTING THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY SUN

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the San Fernando Valley (SFV) Sun, an important local newspaper in my congressional district.

On October 25, 2004, the Sun will celebrate its 100th anniversary. The Press—precursor to the Sun—was the San Fernando Valley’s first newspaper and is the oldest continually published newspaper in the Valley. Throughout its history, the publishers have been committed to serving the local needs of its readers and advertisers.

Since 1904, the Sun changed names several times and altered its size and publishing schedule, but it has always been located in the City of San Fernando, the birthplace of the Valley. Also, it has always remained dedicated to informed, thoughtful and fair coverage of the issues most relevant to the lives of the residents of the northeast SFV. As the population of the San Fernando Valley grew—and more of its readers were Spanish-speaking, the newspaper began to publish a Spanish language insert, named *El Sol*.

During the last century, the Sun has been an integral part of the history of the San Fernando Valley. In 1911, it actively advocated for San Fernando city-hood. Irrespective of the various owners, the Sun has continued the high journalism standards and moral philosophy set forth by the original owner, Herbert W. Brooks. Since 2001, the new owners—Severyn and Martha Diaz Aszkenazy—have maintained these exemplary standards. They wisely brought in Diana Martinez (formally with KFWB and LA Media) to direct the editorial content. The staff won the “Best Investigative News” Award from New California Media in 2003 and recognition of its news service to the community from the University of Southern California in 2004.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join me today in paying tribute to everyone associated with the San Fernando Sun on this important anniversary. We wish owners, management and staff of the newspaper 100 more years of success.

RECOGNIZING TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 23 million Taiwanese on their 93rd National “Double-Tenth” Day, which will take place on October 10, 2004.

On October 10, 1911, the Republican Revolution broke out and brought the end of China's Qing dynasty. Ninety-three years later Taiwan continues to prosper. It is the 15th largest economy in the world and has the 4th largest information hardware and semiconductor industries in the world.

This year Taiwan proudly rebounded from an election-eve shooting incident that resulted in a post-election dispute ongoing for several months. But, as the strong democracy it is, Taiwan resolved the situation in a peaceful manner and domestic stability remains.

Today I congratulate Taiwan and commend the Taiwanese for their commitment and dedication to the universal principles of human freedom and dignity.

HONORING MISTY DEMICHAEL

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Misty DeMichael of Newark, Ohio and commemorate her assistance and outstanding

volunteer service through the Salvation Army. Ms. DeMichael was the recipient of the first-ever Salvation Army and Dallas Cowboys National Youth Service Award presented on September 21, 2004 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Additionally, for her benevolent services, Ms. DeMichael received a \$10,000 scholarship for her college education donated by Dallas Cowboys Owner and General Manager, Jerry Jones. The service provided by Ms. DeMichael over the past 6 years that she has been volunteering has been immeasurable.

I would like to share one example of Ms. DeMichael's hard work and dedication. In 2001 Ms. DeMichael created a computer database called “The Clearing House”. The Clearing House helps to keep track of assistance given to needy families in Licking County, Ohio during the holidays so that social service agencies may distribute their aid proportionately. Ms. DeMichael continues to serve the Licking County Salvation Army while attending nearby Otterbein College, and still dedicates extra hours during the holiday season.

Once again, I would like to congratulate Ms. DeMichael for her service through the Salvation Army. Hard work, dedication, and commitment like that exhibited by Ms. DeMichael continues to give me faith that our country's future is in good hands.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PONCE DE LEON DISCOVERY OF FLORIDA QUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish a commission to plan the quincentenary commemoration of the discovery and colonization of Florida.

In 2013, our Nation will celebrate the 500th anniversary of Juan Ponce de Leon's landing on the east coast of Florida. As important an event as this is to America's history and heritage, I believe it is appropriate we commemorate this occasion. Such an event will serve to inform, educate, and remind the people of Florida, this Nation, and even the world of the importance and significance of Ponce de Leon's discovery and exploration.

Accordingly, the bill I introduce today establishes a commission composed of twelve members to plan, coordinate, and conduct the commemoration of the historic discovery of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, Florida's proud history begins with an explorer sailing through the Bahamas in 1513. As if touched by the hand of God, three ships commanded by Ponce de Leon were swept westward by winds and currents through the New Providence Channel and into the Florida Current. Historians believe Ponce de Leon landed at what is the present location of the city of St. Augustine.

Ponce de Leon's landing is significant to national and world history because it began what would become the establishment of the oldest permanent European settlement on the North American continent. St. Augustine was founded 42 years before the English colony at

Jamestown, Virginia, and 55 years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts.

As a child, I remember learning of Ponce de Leon's fascinating voyage and Florida explorations. To this day, this remarkable moment in history inspires children across our great Nation. Our young people continue to learn of Ponce de Leon's epic voyages and his quest for the ever-elusive Fountain of Youth.

Spanish heritage is still reflected in local architecture and historic resources and attractions in the center of the old part of the city. For instance, the Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, constructed between 1672 and 1695, represents the oldest remaining European fortification in the continental United States. It is prominently located on the Matanzas River directly across the road from the Spanish Quarter of St. Augustine.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the consideration given to this legislation and this important part of the United States history. All Americans should enjoy the celebration of this historical moment.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO REBECCA FRANK

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Rebecca Frank from Grand Junction, Colorado. Rebecca has dedicated her career to representing and informing the people of her county and the State of Colorado in her capacity with the Grand Junction Sentinel and the Colorado Division of Wildlife. I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing her tremendous service and achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Rebecca Frank served as the News Editor for the Grand Junction Sentinel where she has always performed her job with excellence and integrity, keeping the people of Grand Junction well informed of community, state, and world events. In 1985, she decided to expand her interests and left the paper to join the Colorado Division of Wildlife Commission in 1985. Currently she represents the Northwest District Colorado where she served as Chairwoman in 1987 and 1988. In addition to her duties, at the Division of Wildlife Commission, Rebecca has given several hours of her time to Grand Junction's business community. She has served as a member of the Mesa County Economic Development Council, the Grand Junction Planning Commission and both the Grand Junction and Mesa County Riverfront Commissions. She also served on the board the Grand Junction United Way and currently volunteers with Catholic Charities.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Rebecca Frank for her exceptional service to the people of Grand Junction and Colorado. She has dedicated her life to bettering her community, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize her today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks for your service, Rebecca, and I wish you all the best in your future endeavors.