

Congressional District in the medical community and has demonstrated exemplary service in its cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's annual charity gala, the Asian-American Medical Association will present Mr. Feisal Istrabadi with the Crystal Globe award. Feisal is a resident of Valparaiso, Indiana. He was born in Iraq and he has spent almost 16 years as an Attorney in Valparaiso. Feisal was recently chosen as Iraq's interim ambassador to the United Nations. He was nominated in January 2004 by the President of the Iraqi Governing Council. In June 2004 he was renominated, and he was then appointed by the President of Iraq. Feisal returned to Iraq within the past two years at the request of the government, to help rebuild the country. He helped write the interim constitution that is now in place and he also helped author the interim bill of rights. I am honored to commend Feisal for his commitment and dedication to the well being of those who seek his knowledge and leadership. His efforts and hard work are worthy of the highest recognition.

Although Feisal's career consumes much of his time, Feisal has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife, Juliet have two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian-American Medical Society and Feisal Istrabadi for their outstanding contributions. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 10218—NOVEMBER 17, 2004

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218. For the past decade my district has been fortunate to be home to these veterans who served in World War II, Desert Storm and conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Iraq.

The service of these veterans did not end with their tour of duty. V.F.W. Post 10218 continues to serve our community in El Monte and South El Monte. Under the leadership of their commander, Mr. Michael Felix, a decorated former Army Sergeant who served in Vietnam, I expect the V.F.W. Post 10218 will continue to be a great asset to our community.

I wish to offer the V.F.W. Post 10218 my sincerest congratulations on their 10th anniversary. This country and the community are deeply indebted to them for the service they have performed both at home and abroad.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN SAINT ON RECEIPT OF THE MOBILE CIVITAN CLUB'S MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. John Saint, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mitchell Corporation in Mobile, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by the Mobile Civitan Club with its 56th Mobilian of the Year Award.

A native of Sand Mountain, Alabama, and a veteran of the Vietnam War, John Saint has been actively involved in the life of the Mobile community for many years. The Mitchell Company is one of the leading real estate and development companies in the southern United States, and its official work in the community is matched by its dedication to the families of Mobile and their needs. Under the guidance and inspiration of John Saint, the company has become one of the leaders in the area of charitable giving in south Alabama.

Each year, the Mitchell Company sponsors a "Giving Tree" fundraiser, in which area students contribute hand-made Christmas ornaments to decorate a tree in the company's offices. For each ornament received, the company makes a contribution to charity, and the success of this program has been tremendous. Under John Saint's leadership, the company in 2003 donated over \$18,000 to Saint Mary's Home, a facility in Mobile that provides temporary shelter and residential treatment for abused and neglected children. Additionally, Mobile County schools which participated in the "Giving Tree" program received \$20,500 in donations. All told, the "Giving Tree" program has over the years contributed a total of \$70,000 to Saint Mary's Home and \$113,500 to area public, private, and parochial schools.

Along with the "Giving Tree" program, the Mitchell Company provides free meals at Camp Smile, a summer program for adults with disabilities, and Camp Rap-A-Hope, a summer program for children battling cancer. The company also makes its corporate jet available to transport cancer patients to their chemotherapy appointments in states outside of Alabama and serves as the corporate sponsor for the Lady's Professional Golf Association.

The Civitan Club received numerous worthy nominations for men and women from throughout Mobile who in their own way also make significant contributions to their friends and neighbors on a daily basis. I am certain it is difficult to make the final selection for the Mobilian of the Year Award, but as in the past, this year's winner has shown a level of community support and charitable giving in the Mobile area which is, in my opinion, unmatched anywhere else in the state. John Saint gives as much as he does to his community, and inspires many other friends and coworkers to do likewise, simply because he says such a spirit of generosity comes naturally to him. There are hundreds of families in Mobile, Alabama, whose lives are richer because of his natural desire to support his fellow man.

Along with his many family, friends, and colleagues, both in Mobile and throughout the

State of Alabama, I wish to extend to Mr. John Saint my warmest congratulations on the receipt of the Mobile Civitan Club's Mobilian of the Year Award.

THE CASE OF MIKHAIL TREPASHKIN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there is reason to fear for the fate of rule of law in Russia. I want to present one relevant example.

Mikhail Trepashkin, an attorney and former Federal Security Service, FSB, officer was arrested on October 24, 2003, a week before he was scheduled to represent in legal proceedings the relatives of one of the victims of a terrorist attack in Moscow. Mr. Trepashkin's American client is Tatyana Morozova of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In September 1999, Ms. Morozova's mother was killed and her sister barely survived the bombing of an apartment house in Moscow. Officially, the crime was blamed on Chechen separatists, but Mr. Trepashkin was expected to present the findings of his investigation which suggested involvement of elements of the FSB in the 1999 apartment bombings in Moscow as well as an aborted attempted bombing in the city of Ryazan.

Mr. Trepashkin had been a consultant to the public commission set up by prominent human rights activist and former Duma Deputy Sergei Kovalev to investigate the 1999 bombings. The Kovalev commission asked many unpleasant questions but got precious few answers from the authorities. Meanwhile, in the course of his investigation Trepashkin discovered evidence that didn't track with the official version of the bombing incidents. This included events in Ryazan, where a bomb in an apartment basement was discovered by local police and safely detonated hours before it was due to explode. The two suspects in that case were released after presenting FSB identification documents. The whole incident was later declared a "readiness exercise" by Russian authorities.

Several months later, the co-chairman of the Kovalev Commission, Duma Deputy Sergei Yushenkov, was assassinated in front of his home. Four persons were convicted of the murder. Another member of the Commission died of food poisoning in a hospital, another was severely beaten by thugs, and two members lost their seats in the Duma. The activities of the decimated commission came to an abrupt halt.

A week before the October 24, 2003 trial opened, the police just happened to pull Trepashkin over on the highway, and just happened to find a revolver in his car. Trepashkin claims the gun was planted. Three weeks later, he was put on trial and sentenced to 4 years labor camp by a closed court for allegedly divulging state secrets to a foreign journalist.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know all the details of this case, but it looks very much like Mr. Trepashkin was prosecuted in order to prevent him from releasing potentially damaging information regarding the activities of the FSB. The

U.S. State Department has commented diplomatically: "The arrest and trial of Mikhail Trepashkin raised concerns about the undue influence of the FSB and arbitrary use of the judicial system."

Today Mr. Trepashkin is held in a Volokolamsk city jail in a 130-square foot, lice-infested cell, which he shares with six other prisoners. He suffers from asthma but reportedly has been denied health care or even medicine. These arduous conditions may be retaliation for Mr. Trepashkin's filing a complaint to the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg.

It is difficult to believe that President Putin, given his KGB and FSB background, is unaware of the controversy surrounding the bombing investigations and the possibility that elements of the security services were involved. He must realize that corruption and personal vendettas within the FSB are dangerous commodities not only for the people of Russia, but for an entire civilized world that relies on the combined efforts of the intelligence community in the war against terrorism.

I urge President Putin to order a thorough and honest investigation of Mikhail Trepashkin's jailing and full cooperation with the Kovalev Commission. While the jury is still out on the 1999 bombings, persecution of those who want to find out the truth does not add to Mr. Putin's credibility among those in the West who so far have been willing to give him the benefit of the doubt.

HONORING ANNIE COX'S DEDICATION TO CANNON COUNTY'S CHILDREN

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Annie Cox for her remarkable career as an educator. Mrs. Cox has been teaching Middle Tennessee's children for an astounding 56 years. Generations of families have had the privilege of being her students.

Mrs. Cox began her extraordinary teaching career by spending a year in the Nashville Public School System. She then took a position with Cannon County Schools, where she has remained for the past 55 years. She has been honored nine times as a local Teacher of the Year. Middle Tennessee State University has inducted her into its Tennessee Teacher Hall of Fame. And three different governors have recognized her outstanding service.

While earning these accolades, Mrs. Cox has found time to coach girls' basketball for the past three decades. Her players have learned more than just on-the-court skills; they have learned character traits that last a lifetime.

The students and teachers of West Side School in Readyville, Tennessee, will honor their beloved Mrs. Cox on Sunday, November 21, with the dedication of the "Dr." Annie Cox Pavilion. The pavilion, which was funded entirely by generous donations, will serve as a gathering point for future generations of Cannon County residents.

Annie Cox's devotion to her students can inspire us all. I commend her for her unselfish service and wish her all the best in the future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PALISADE LIONS CLUB STILT WALKERS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Palisade Lions Club stilt walkers who have walked in parades all over the country, to bring attention to the Colorado peach industry and the benevolent goals of the Colorado Lions Club. Their efforts continue to distinguish the heritage of Palisade, Colorado and a statue to commemorate the walkers was recently dedicated to the town on its centennial anniversary. It is my privilege in recognizing their accomplishments before this body of Congress and this Nation.

The original five stilt walkers included Gene Taylor, Ray Denison, Bob Ames, and Hampton and Lyndon Granat. The stilts were functionally used to prune the higher sections of fruit trees, but after their first appearance in a parade in 1955 they became the symbol of the Lions Club International and the Colorado peach industry. Together the stilt walkers and their wives made their own costumes and traveled to parades in Chicago, New York City, and numerous local Colorado events, grabbing the attention of newspapers all across the country.

Mr. Speaker, the original stilt walkers of the Palisade Lions Club have since passed away, but their memory lives on in the community and the peach industry as the town of Palisade celebrates its centennial this year. I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation and recognize their unique heritage.

HONORING JO ANN SORENSEN

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and honor Jo Ann Sorensen for her exemplary public service as Clear Creek County Commissioner for almost eight years. I would also like to thank her on behalf of all Coloradans for the in-depth and diverse philanthropic work that she has contributed to the community. She has ensured that our great state remains a very special place to live and has innately displayed the qualities of a dedicated public servant.

Throughout her life, Jo Ann has demonstrated time and time again that she excels in all of her endeavors. She has served on almost every possible steering committee to represent not only Clear Creek County's interests, but also those of the I-70 corridor communities. It has been through this committee work that Jo Ann has achieved her numerous successes. Putting local and regional issues at the forefront of her agenda, she has systematically made it her cause to learn and understand the problems that plague our community. Through the wealth of knowledge that she has acquired, she has been able to help address these issues with her fellow County Commissioners, allowing her to volunteer her time for various other projects. Recently, Jo

Ann was selected to receive the prestigious Colorado Counties, Inc., CCI, Commissioner of the Year Award. This award is a true testament to Jo Ann's long and distinguished list of achievements.

Jo Ann's work spans many areas. Aside from serving as Vice Chairman of the CCI Mountain District, she has spearheaded many reforms to better the lives of Colorado citizens. Working with her colleague Clear Creek County Commissioners, Jo Ann has greatly contributed to many transportation initiatives for the I-70 Corridor Counties, while at the same time helping to revamp the Emergency Services in her area by pushing for the Reverse 911 Programs. It is this type of multi-faceted focus that has allowed Jo Ann to direct her energies into numerous projects and reforms.

But if one was to look at her many accomplishments, they would notice that her strengths reside squarely in her efforts to maintain the environment. Not only has Jo Ann testified at the Colorado Water Conservation Board on watershed development impacts, she has led the fight to protect the Beaver Brook Watershed property and participated in the establishment of the James Peak Wilderness. Her emphasis on preservation has allowed all Coloradans to enjoy the ridgeline beauty and pristine lakes that Colorado has to offer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in expressing our gratitude to Jo Ann Sorensen for her many years of public service and her contributions to the people of Colorado. I have only touched on a small fraction of Jo Ann's work, and I believe that she has displayed numerous times why she is deserving of our recognition. Although she is leaving her post as a county commissioner, I am sure, given her energy, dedication and passion for maintaining and improving the quality of life for all Coloradans that she will remain active in community issues. I wish her and her family good health and happiness for many years to come.

HONORING TECHNICIAN 5TH CLASS JUSTICE LAWSON

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Technician 5th Class Justice Lawson of the United States Army, a World War II veteran from Florida. His sister lives in Zephyrhills, Florida.

It is my pleasure to recognize Mr. Lawson for his heroism and bravery as a United States soldier who fought in the Second World War. He served in the 3rd Tank Battalion of the 10th Armored Division.

I presented Justice Lawson's sister with the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world.

In the Second World War an astounding 292,000 soldiers never came home. Their loss leaves a void in the hearts of families and in the soul of a generation. The heroism and dedication of these young men is what has made our military the greatest fighting force in the world. The courage they displayed during their service in World War II is exemplary of the American spirit. Their bravery will not be