

Whereas, Michael Zvolensky has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Michael Zvolensky must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award;

Therefore, I join with Troop 358 and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Michael Zvolensky as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

100TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. HELEN
SNELL CHEEL

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the 100th birthday of Mrs. Helen Snell Cheel of Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ. Mrs. Cheel is the daughter of the late Honorable Bertrand H. Snell, minority leader of the House of Representatives from 1931–1938 and Congressman for 24 years from the 31st District of New York. Mrs. Cheel is also the great aunt of my Connecticut staff member, Elizabeth J. Buell.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cheel is a remarkable, independent woman. Her friendships, keen intellect, sense of humor, infectious laugh, unwavering generosity and ability to live in the present have served her well for 100 years. At a time when few women attended college, Mrs. Cheel earned a B.S. in Music Education from Columbia University. She married the late Harold W. Cheel, an engineer, successful architect and developer of Cheelcroft in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Cheel has been recognized on many occasions for her lifelong philanthropic endeavors and her community service. She has been a standard-bearer, true friend and proud supporter of Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY, the Emma Willard School in Troy, NY, and the Valley Hospital in Ridge-wood, NJ. She has served on the boards of many local and regional organizations and institutions. I wish to recognize Mrs. Cheel and congratulate her on her 100th birthday.

ALAMEDA CORRIDOR REPAYS
FEDERAL LOAN AHEAD OF
SCHEDULE

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, last Thursday, the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTH) paid, in full, the balance of the federal loan that financed construction of improved access for cargo container traffic from the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach. I congratulate the Authority for retiring this debt 28 years ahead of schedule.

Approved by Congress as part of the 1997 Transportation Appropriations Act, the loan provided crucial support for the \$2.4 billion construction project. Together, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach comprise the largest port complex in the United States, han-

dling more than 40 percent of the Nation's imports. Last year, for example, the Port of Los Angeles, which I represent in part, handled more than 7.1 million cargo containers a 17½-percent increase over the previous year.

Moving these containers safely and efficiently from both ports to points east is a Herculean task. The Alameda Corridor, which opened in April 2002 on time and within budget, comprises railroad and highway improvements and, in particular, a 20-mile grade-separated rail line that relieves congestion and mitigates the impact of cargo container movement on neighboring communities.

Financing of the Alameda Corridor would not have succeeded if it were not for the persuasive bipartisan efforts of the entire Los Angeles congressional delegation. On many occasions, I joined then-Representative Steve Horn, who represented the Port of Long Beach, Representatives JERRY LEWIS and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD and the late-Representative Julian Dixon, key members of the appropriations committee, and my colleagues JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD and DAVID DRIER, in pressing for enactment of the federal loan at key points in the legislative process.

I also want to praise Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta for his leadership as Secretary and as both the chairman and ranking member of the House Public and Transportation Committee during his tenure in the House. His unfailing support of this project has not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

Mr. Speaker, with cargo volume forecasted to dramatically increase as a result of the worldwide economic recovery, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are poised to take advantage of increased trade from the Pacific Rim. The Alameda Corridor project demonstrated the constructive roles both the federal and local governments can play in meeting the needs of expensive, complex but nonetheless important projects for moving containers to markets overseas and elsewhere. Indeed, plans are already underway to extend the Corridor eastward—a plan I strongly support and which will further enhance the economy of southern California and the Nation.

My congratulations to the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, and to all the individuals and local officials who supported this project, for a job well done.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
DANIEL THOMPSON, POET LAUREATE OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Daniel Thompson, Poet Laureate of Cuyahoga County, OH. Daniel Thompson passed away last week after a 2-year battle with cancer. Through his words as a poet and his deeds as a tireless advocate for the homeless, the hungry, and people on the streets, Daniel Thompson set an example for his community.

Daniel's public readings were held as often in jazz clubs, junkyards, and jailhouses as they were in bookstores, cafes, and other ordinary venues. His poetry, often humorous and

playful, conveyed messages about our times and inspired our thoughts and actions. He was a frequent contributor to the "Homeless Grapevine," Cleveland's monthly street newspaper sold by homeless vendors. His poem, "A New Beatitude," was published in the March–April 2004 issue of the Grapevine:

Walking to starlight

In a dark season:

I hear a new beatitude, America

Listen

Blessed are the homeless

For they shall inherit the street

The sidewalks, the bushes

The cold, cold ground

Whatever falls from heaven

Pennies of rain, of snow

Any spare change of weather

Day-old manna

The donut and the hole

The donut, the hole in the sock

In the sole of the shoe

And in the cold, cold ground

And O I almost forgot, America

This, too, from you

The cold eye of the stranger . . .

But it was not just Daniel's words, but also his deeds that will be missed. He frequently brought food and water to Cleveland's homeless and he petitioned city and county officials to install public drinking fountains for people living on the streets. He marched with Martin Luther King in Chicago and as a freedom rider in the deep south in the early 1960s where he was targeted by an angry mob in North Carolina in 1961.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honor and remembrance of Daniel Thompson. Like other poets hailing from Cleveland such as Langston Hughes, Hart Crane, and d.a. levy, Daniel has a place in our community's literary history. And as a citizen, Daniel Thompson will long be remembered for his advocacy, sympathy, and soul. But his presence on Cleveland's streets will be sorely missed.

HONORING THE AMERICAN LUNG
ASSOCIATION ON ITS 100 YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the American Lung Association on the occasion of its 100th year anniversary. Over the past century, the American Lung Association has played a vital role in protecting public health and shaping public policy in this country and worldwide. We all live in a safer and healthier world thanks to the diligent efforts of the American Lung Association and its many staff and volunteers.

The American Lung Association developed the Nation's very first public health campaign, and it has been on the forefront of public health ever since. I have had the great privilege of working closely with representatives of the American Lung Association for more than 20 years, and I have seen first hand their role in shaping national policy to improve public health. As the former chair of the Health and Environment Subcommittee, I frequently heard testimony from American Lung Association witnesses who provided important information regarding a wide range of health issues—ranging from the devastating health effects of

tobacco to the importance of curbing asthma to the fight for clean air.

For more than 40 years, the American Lung Association has been the leader in the battle against tobacco-related lung disease. The association played a critical role in the shaping of the 1990s settlement between the tobacco industry and the states. When the industry proposed a weak settlement with state attorneys general in 1997, the American Lung Association stepped forward to oppose granting immunity to the tobacco companies. That courageous stand made way for the development of an improved settlement that had a real effect on tobacco control efforts.

The American Lung Association has brought an important public health perspective to the fight against air pollution. In the 1990s, the association led the battle for tougher ozone and particulate standards under the Clean Air Act. And more recently, over the past 3 years, the American Lung Association has focused attention on challenging EPA plans to weaken Clean Air Act requirements. These efforts to preserve and strengthen the Clean Air Act have enabled all Americans to breathe more freely.

From tobacco control to air pollution prevention to asthma research to continuing efforts to eradicate tuberculosis, the American Lung Association has made key contributions to this country. It is my pleasure to salute the association on its anniversary and ask my colleagues to join with me. We all owe the association a debt of gratitude for its work, and I look forward to seeing what it can achieve in the century to come.

BATTLE ROYAL

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post recently published a very interesting and revealing story by Peter Baker that describes how the authoritarian government of Uzbekistan has allowed a personal family dispute with an American citizen from New Jersey to spill over into the realms of international diplomacy. The problem has gotten so bad that the government of Uzbekistan is now abusing one of the most important international institutions used to fight crime and apprehend terrorists—the Interpol Red Notice system.

Mr. Mansur Maqsudi is an American citizen who lives in New Jersey. Shortly after Mr. Maqsudi asked his wife Gulnora Karimova—who happens to be the daughter of Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov—for a divorce in July of 2002, she left their home in New Jersey to Uzbekistan and illegally brought along their two young children (both of whom are American citizens). In defiance of a U.S. custody order and a U.S. arrest warrant against Ms. Karimova, Mr. Maqsudi has been denied the right to visit his children for more than 2½ years.

The vendetta waged by the Government of Uzbekistan against this American citizen has grown into far more than a mere child-custody dispute. Three of Mansur's family relatives in Uzbekistan were—and still are—imprisoned on nebulous charges. Despite their eligibility for a

general amnesty, they remain in captivity. Twenty-four other relatives were deported from Uzbekistan at gunpoint in the middle of the night in the dead of winter into a war zone in Afghanistan.

Then his family's businesses in Tashkent were expropriated and seized without just compensation (or any compensation in some cases). Flimsy criminal charges were then filed against him, his brother, and his father (all of whom are American citizens). Most outside observers of Uzbek politics, including the U.S. State Department in testimony before Congress, have concluded that these charges were political and not supported with valid evidence.

The Uzbek government then placed all three U.S. citizens on the Interpol Red Notice list. Fortunately, the U.S. Government has studied these cases and decided not to act on any of them because the evidence was so weak. However, when any of those listed travels abroad, they are subjected to the risk of arrest and even possible extradition to Uzbekistan. Instead of focusing law enforcement efforts on apprehending real criminals and terrorists, the bogus Red Notices issued by Uzbekistan are now diverting scarce police attention towards the furtherance of a personal family feud.

This is an outrage, Mr. Speaker. I urge the Executive Branch of our Government to make it clear to Uzbek President Karimov that his country's status as an ally in the War against Terror does not give him carte blanche to totally disregard the 2002 bilateral agreement between the United States and Uzbekistan and abuse the rights of American citizens.

The Interpol Red Notice system is a critical element in the War on Terrorism. And yet here, the Government of Uzbekistan is pulling at the loose threads which make up the fabric of an entire international system that has worked well for years. The end result of Uzbekistan's actions will cause more governments around the world to question the legitimacy of other countries' Red Notice submissions. Countries will now have to decide which arrest warrants to obey, and which warrants to ignore. To the extent that member countries fill the system with garbage warrants that are purely political and violate Article 3 of the Interpol Constitution, it undermines the respect and reciprocity that are at the very heart of Interpol's effectiveness. Interpol is far too important in the fight against drug traffickers, terrorists, and criminals to allow it to be undermined by autocratic regimes who want to harass their political and personal enemies around the world.

I believe the issues at stake in this family dispute go way beyond child custody and divorce. The very heart of a major international institution that is vital to the War on Terrorism is being openly challenged. Nations that flagrantly violate Article 3 of the Interpol Constitution—like Uzbekistan is doing in this particular case—need to pay some kind of diplomatic penalty for doing so. If countries can undermine Interpol at will and without penalty, reproach, or criticism, what is to prevent the system from being flooded with political Red Notices issued by repressive regimes against their enemies? How do we avoid nations refusing to honor each others' requests?

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 13, 2004]

BATTLE ROYAL—THE DAUGHTER OF UZBEKISTAN'S PRESIDENT TOOK HER CHILDREN AND RAN, OPENING A CUSTODY WAR THAT HAS ENTANGLED TWO NEW ALLIES

(By Peter Baker)

MOSCOW.—The day she left for good, she packed up her things and decamped from their New Jersey home with her two children, two nannies, two bodyguards and a driver.

On a table she left a note for her husband. She mentioned an old movie playing on cable—"The War of the Roses," the 1989 dark comedy featuring Michael Douglas and Kathleen Turner as hate-driven spouses whose divorce turns into an orgy of revenge. She jotted down the time the show would air and pointedly suggested he watch.

Whether that was prophecy or threat, a war soon broke out. It turns out that divorcing Gulnora Karimova, known as "the Uzbek princess," is no simple matter. Her father is Islam Karimov, president of Uzbekistan and autocrat nonpareil, who rules over a repressive Central Asian country where prisoners have been boiled alive. He also happens to be a key ally in America's war on terrorism.

Karimova took the kids in 2001 and has been ducking an arrest warrant issued by a New Jersey judge ever since, hiding out in Moscow, where she knows officials won't cross her father. As for her husband, Mansur Maqsudi, an Afghan American businessman, he has learned the price of crossing his powerful father-in-law. Since Maqsudi and his wife split up, the Uzbek government has effectively taken away his Coca-Cola bottling plant, imprisoned three of his relatives and deported 24 more of them at gunpoint to war-torn Afghanistan.

"She said if I do divorce her she was going to destroy my family, destroy my business and make sure I could never see my kids," Maqsudi, 37, says by telephone from New Jersey. "And if you look at it, that's exactly what happened."

Karimova, 31, offers the mirror-opposite interpretation. She only stayed with Maqsudi so long, she says, because she feared he would use a breakup against her family politically. "He said that it would be a huge scandal and all this would come to your father and his name would be abused," she says. "I never want to disappoint my father."

This tabloid drama threatens to complicate U.S. relations with its important new friend in a volatile region. The State Department, Justice Department, Internal Revenue Service, Interpol and various courts, embassies and congressional committees have all been drawn into the fray. Teams of American lobbyists have been recruited to fight the ground war. As New Jersey Superior Court Judge Deanne M. Wilson said at a court hearing last year, "This is not just a garden-variety custody case."

The allegations fly back and forth—kidnapping, tax evasion, forgery, smuggling, embezzlement, blackmail, money laundering and fraud. She accuses him of illegally selling Saddam Hussein's oil. He accuses her of shipping Uzbek girls to prostitution rings in Dubai. She describes him as a moralistic Muslim who once warned her she would burn in Hell for wearing a bikini. He depicts her as a spoiled rich girl who partied until the middle of the night, stumbling home drunk.

"It was a simple question of divorce," she says, in a considerable understatement, "but it was politicized from the very beginning."

NO FAIRY-TALE ROMANCE

She slips into the restaurant, statuesque and fashion-model thin, wearing boots a bit too stylish for the Russian snow and a skirt