

Maqsudi's 85-year-old grandmother, an Uzbek citizen. The relatives, nearly all women and children, were driven 13 hours to the Afghan border and dumped on the other side.

"They said, 'None of you will live in this country. This is our country,'" Maqsudi says.

Karimova denies any involvement and says that officials may have simply taken advantage of the moment because Maqsudi's family had long flouted passport requirements. "Most of his relatives—and there were a lot of them—did not have proper papers," she says. If it were her choice, she added, "I could have deported them later. I would have been much more sophisticated."

Both of the estranged spouses went to court. An Uzbek judge granted Karimova a divorce, while a New Jersey jurist granted one to Maqsudi. Maqsudi faces arrest if he sets foot in Uzbekistan and Karimova if she sets foot in the United States. Since both warrants are filed with Interpol, neither can safely travel to Europe. "A civilized divorce," Danny DeVito's character says in "The War of the Roses," "is a contradiction in terms."

THE LARGER RELATIONSHIP

In recent months, both sides in the Uzbek divorce war have enlisted lobbyists and lawmakers in Washington to hurl charges and deflect countercharges. Karimova's camp accuses Maqsudi's firms of import-export shenanigans and various illegal practices. The most sensational allegation is that Maqsudi family companies snipped oil from Iraq while Saddam Hussein was in charge.

One key witness for Karimova, however, was former Maqsudi employee Farhod Inogambayev, who has since fled Uzbekistan and recanted his statements. "Everything was lies," he says now in an interview from New Jersey.

After her separation from her husband, Karimova sent for him, Inogambayev says, and told him, "Forget about Mansur. Now let's do business together." Afraid for his family, he says, he went to work for her. She sent over men to have him swear out affidavits against her estranged husband. "I blindly signed, I blindly typed whatever they said. I just wanted them to leave me."

Not only does Inogambayev now disavow the charges, he also alleges that Karimova siphoned tens of millions of dollars out of Uzbekistan through various channels, including her own Citibank account. And he claims that she took over a tourism firm that arranges visas for Uzbek travelers and used it to control the flow of Uzbek prostitutes to Dubai.

Karimova dismisses the allegations, calling them "more than crazy and more than stupid," and contends that Inogambayev only "says that for money."

Maqsudi's Washington lobbyists, led by Richard A. Zimmer, a Republican former congressman from New Jersey, have gained some traction. Rep. Shelley Berkley (D-Nev.) raised the Interpol arrest warrant against Maqsudi during an October hearing, calling it "an abuse of power by the Uzbek president." In February, Rep. Christopher Smith (R-N.J.) asked Secretary of State Colin Powell to look into the prostitution allegations, saying, "We ought to be following it up very rigorously."

On the other side, Rep. Curt Weldon (R-Pa.) has taken up Karimova's cause, requesting that Attorney General John Ashcroft investigate allegations made against Maqsudi in Uzbekistan.

Asked about the case in private, uncomfortable U.S. officials decline to say much. For the record, they call it "an international child abduction case" and say they have told

Tashkent "that these issues are unnecessary irritants in the U.S.-Uzbek relationship," according to a written State Department response to congressional inquiries last year.

Uzbek officials appear no more eager to talk about it. "It's a very complicated issue, and I think we should be very sensitive in touching this very delicate issue," Foreign Minister Sadyk Safayev said in an interview in Tashkent last fall. The two countries' relationship has burdens enough. The United States wants to keep the military base it opened in Uzbekistan after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Yet under increasing pressure from human rights groups, the Bush administration warned recently that it may cut off financial aid if Karimov's record does not improve.

It's possible the question may ultimately fall to his daughter. Analysts in Tashkent suspect that the 66-year-old president is ill and speculate that Karimova is positioning herself to succeed him. Others assume she is setting herself up in business with assets abroad in case the family has to flee.

Maqsudi believes that his ex-wife has the ambition to try to take over the country. "She's tasted power and what power can bring in Uzbekistan," he says. "At times I would say to her, when we would have arguments, 'You're drunk with your father's power.' They don't want to relinquish or give up the power they have."

WILLIAM T. ROBINSON III HONORED BY THE GREATER CINCINNATI REGION OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE AT ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS DINNER

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a friend and effective community leader, William T. Robinson III, who will be honored for his distinguished service to our community by the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ) at its 60th Anniversary Awards Dinner on May 27, 2004.

Bill has been a dedicated community volunteer for more than thirty years. He has served NCCJ as Board Member, Treasurer, Co-Chair and is currently Board Member Emeritus. He has also taken a leadership role in his profession as President of the Kentucky Bar Association; founding Chair of the Kentucky IOLTA Fund; President of the Kentucky Bar Foundation; and Co-Founder and President of the Salmon P. Chase College of Law American Inn of Court.

At the national level, Bill's service is exceptional. He is currently Treasurer-Elect of the American Bar Association (ABA). Previously, Bill has been Chair of the ABA's Finance Committee, and a Member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors. He has also served as State Delegate to the ABA Nominating Committee; President of the National Caucus of State Bar Associations; Member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Bar Presidents; and Chairman of the ABA's Standing Committee on Bar Activities and Services and the ABA's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse. He is an invited Fellow of the International Society

of Barristers; a Fellow of the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers; and a Sustaining Member of the American Bar Foundation.

Bill has been critically involved in our region's growth and economic development. Currently, he serves as Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport and Chair of its Finance Committee. He co-founded the Metropolitan Growth Alliance of Greater Cincinnati, and serves as Vice Chair for Economic Development for the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Chair of the Partnership for Greater Cincinnati, and a Founding Board Member and Secretary/Treasurer of the Tri-County Economic Development Commission.

Bill's community involvement also includes service as Advisory Trustee of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center; and a board member of the Cincinnati Institute of Fine Arts; the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra; the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts; and Mount St. Joseph College.

His previous awards are impressive: the Cincinnati Jewish Committee's Judge Learned Hand Human Relations Award; the Greater Cincinnati Foundation's Jacob E. Davis Volunteer Leadership Award; the Cincinnati Bar Association's Themis Award; and the Governor's Economic Development Award for Kentucky.

Bill is Member-In-Charge of the Greater Cincinnati offices of Greenebaum Doll & McDonald PLLC. He and his wife, Joan, have two sons and one granddaughter.

All of us in Greater Cincinnati thank Bill for his untiring dedication to our area, and congratulate him on receiving this honor from an organization where he has played an important leadership role.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF 2004 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP WINNER RENEE ELIZABETH BURDICK, OF BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Renee Elizabeth Burdick, winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is given to young adults who have demonstrated their true commitment to playing an important role in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Renee is being honored for demonstrating the same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Renee is an exceptional student at Harper Creek High School. Aside from her perfect 4.0 grade point average, she possesses an outstanding record of achievement in high school. She is a member of the National Honor Society and Youth Engaged in Service. Renee also excels in several mediums of art, including pottery.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to join her many admirers in extending our highest praise and congratulations to

Renee Elizabeth Burdick for her selection as winner of the 2004 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor not only recognizes her efforts, but represents a testament to the parents, teachers, and other individuals whose personal interest, strong support, and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, we extend our most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO TRI-COUNTY HEAD
START DIRECTOR ORION FLOWERS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Tri-County Head Start Director Orion Flowers, who is approaching the end of a long and distinguished career of public service. A dedicated and committed individual, Orion has served the communities and children of southwest Michigan for over 30 years. Through his leadership as Director, Orion helped the program grow from serving 100 to 1026 children.

Since becoming Head Start Director in 1970, Orion devotedly and selflessly committed himself to the betterment of countless families. Orion is widely known for his extensive charity and dedication to local individuals and the community as a whole. He spent a career devoted to improving the lives of the citizens of southwest Michigan, and the area is forever in his debt. There is no question that Orion's dedication and contributions to the Tri-County will be missed.

One example of Orion's diligent work occurred in the early 1970's, when he initiated a program whereby children would come to a Mobile Unit for classes. In conjunction with that, a Home Based program began where a Home Visitor would go into a family's home to assist parents in teaching their children an array of subjects and concerns. Remarkably the Mobile Unit and Home Based concepts are still in use today.

Many words come to mind as one reflects upon Orion Flower's public service to our community. He is selfless, generous, giving, caring, humble . . . the list goes on. Our community is in debt to Orion Flowers for his continued public service since 1970. I wish him and his family all the best in retirement. Orion's contributions to our community have been many, and we are all better off because of his service. He will be truly missed by the folks in southwest Michigan.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISH-
MENTS OF MR. J.J. AMARO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. J.J. Amaro, a great friend who has distinguished himself as a civil and community leader. As a member of the San Antonio Water System Board of Trustees since 1994, Mr. Amaro has provided our local

water supply company and the San Antonio community with outstanding service and dedication. He has been the voice of many who for too many years had no voice.

During Mr. Amaro's decade of tenure, the San Antonio Water System has enjoyed an unparalleled period of innovation and has become a model for water systems across the country while maintaining low water rates for consumers. Mr. Amaro and the board created a 50-year master plan that was approved in 1998 to provide for San Antonio's steeply growing population. Importantly, he has worked with the board to bring water resources to people and neighborhoods long overlooked in our city's history.

By implementing new technologies, the San Antonio Water System has developed premier water recycling programs as well as an aquifer storage and recovery system to protect this precious resource. In addition, he has helped SAWS protect the Edwards Aquifer—the principal source of our drinking water—by implementing regulations and purchasing 9,000 acres within the recharge zone. In recognition of these improvements, this utility has earned numerous awards for environmental excellence, quality engineering designs, and public education programs.

While the San Antonio Water System has benefited immensely from Mr. Amaro's expertise, other organizations have also been fortunate to have his generous assistance. Mr. Amaro serves as a board member for the St. Peter/St. Joseph Children's Home and the United Negro College Fund.

On May 12, 2004, colleagues, friends and family will gather together to recognize J.J. Amaro's leadership and numerous hours of community service on behalf of the people of San Antonio. It is a pleasure to recognize and thank Mr. Amaro for his many contributions and public service. I ask the Members of the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this gentleman on his retirement from the San Antonio Water System Board of Trustees and wish Mr. J.J. Amaro and his family all the best on this special day.

HONORING BRUNO BETTEGA FOR
HIS 50 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER
FIREFIGHTER SERVICE.

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who's selfless and tireless dedication has been a tremendous service to the community where he lives.

Bruno Bettega has dedicated fifty years of his life as a volunteer firefighter for the Northvale Volunteer Fire Department in Northvale, NJ. Even more amazingly, at age 92, Bruno still plays an active role in the department and is their oldest active member.

During Mr. Bettega's half-century of service he has participated in numerous supportive roles. Bruno is also a member of the Northvale Fire Department Exempt Fireman's Association.

Volunteer fire departments perform a sometimes thankless, but absolutely imperative service to the communities they protect. The

lives of our family and friends are in their hands and they do a truly commendable job keeping each and everyone of us safe.

Bruno Bettega should be regarded as nothing less than a hero to his community. I urge all my colleagues to join with me in celebrating his achievements and thanking him for all that he has done.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG
REIMPORTATION IS UNAVOIDABLE

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to submit, for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, an editorial from the Omaha World-Herald edition of May 6, 2004, which recognizes that prescription drug reimportation is inevitable. Clearly, American consumers should not be forced to pay the world's highest prices for the medicines they need. We must open the drug markets so Americans can obtain the prescription drugs they need when they need them most and at affordable prices. This Member commends this editorial to his colleagues.

“YES” TO DRUGS FROM CANADA

The Bush administration has adamantly resisted allowing Americans to legally import substantially cheaper prescription drugs from foreign countries. Therefore, a top official's apparent capitulation on Tuesday was a surprise.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson, long a chief player in barring entrance to lower-cost medicines from Canada and elsewhere, said Tuesday that legalizing imports was inevitable. Congress will almost certainly pass legislation this year, he said. What's more, he will advise President Bush to sign it.

“Inevitable” is a good word; a recent Associated Press poll showed that two-thirds of the people surveyed wanted the government to make it easier to get cheaper drugs from foreign countries. Many already do: An estimated 2 million American senior citizens have illegally purchased U.S.-made drugs from Canadian pharmacies.

In Canada, drugs can cost less than half what they do in this country. This is because drug manufacturers load all research and similar costs onto U.S. buyers. Other governments, by contrast, regulate drug prices.

Thompson, backed by President Bush, most congressional Republicans and the pharmaceutical industry, has staunchly resisted importation. He has maintained that the safety of drugs that have been out of American hands can't be assured.

In accepting reality, though, Thompson bristled with caution. Legalizing foreign imports will be expensive, Thompson said—his department will have to increase inspections of foreign pharmaceutical plants and of the drugs as they enter this country, negating some of the savings consumers might expect.

Then, too, the Congressional Budget Office predicted minimal savings for consumers. The limited availability of drugs for import, added insurance costs and similar economic factors would mean savings of only about \$40 billion over 10 years, or 1 percent, the federal agency suggested.

In addition, several drug companies have already acted to shut down supplies to Canadian pharmacies that resell to U.S. customers. That kind of marketing tactic could