

The existing rail would be available for use within weeks of an agreement between Armenia, Turkey, and Georgia. Furthermore, the Armenian people are willing to forego using the rail until normal relations with Turkey are established. Mr. Speaker, although normal relations may still take some time, there is no reason to further shut Armenia out of the equation.

Moreover, the building of this railroad also highlights the ongoing struggle between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Known by all, Azerbaijan's main goal is to strangle Armenia into submission of Nagorno-Karabakh. This railroad does just that.

The United States and other countries around the world, including Turkey, need to allow these two countries to agree upon a solution regarding Nagorno-Karabakh. It is necessary that third parties remain neutral. The proposed railroad not only stunts the diplomatic progress between Armenia, Turkey and Azerbaijan, it unnecessarily blocks Armenia's economic and political progress.

I encourage my colleagues to look at the facts of this situation. The existing rail link would be available essentially as soon as possible and it would take a minimal amount of funding in order to get it usable again. Whereas, a new rail link would take months if not years to build, and would cost an estimated \$400–\$800 million. There should be no question as to which plan the United States supports.

PRAIRIE HORIZONS TRAIL
OFFICIALLY OPENS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the groups and individuals who made the Prairie Horizons Trail a reality for South-eastern Colorado. It has been an extremely long process, but the hard work has come to fruition with the official opening of the Prairie Horizons Trail. This trail is a part of the Trans-America Bicycle Trail.

This trail crosses the United States from Yorktown, VA to Astoria, OR and it passes through the beautiful Eastern Plains of Colorado's 4th Congressional District, with more than 100 miles of Highway 96.

Eastern Colorado communities and counties have come together to work on a plan for the trail corridor in the region, which has been named the Prairie Horizons Trail.

On July 1, 2005 Joy Lujan with the National Parks Service and Janet Frederick, Executive Director for the Kiowa County Economic Development Foundation, were met in Sugar City, Ordway, Crowley, and Olney Springs by county commissioners, mayors and community activists as the Prairie Horizons trail was officially opened.

Lujan and Frederick presented business owners with commemorative "Cyclists Welcome" signs and spoke briefly about the new brochures about the trail.

I am proud to represent Crowley County Commissioners Dwight Gardner and Matt Heimerich along with Sugar City Councilwoman Eleanor Neiffert, Ordway Mayor Nancy Moore, Wendy Pettit with the Colorado De-

partment of Transportation, Crowley County School Superintendent John McCleary, Olney Springs Mayor Deb DeVore, and the many other citizens who assisted in making this project possible. This is a wonderful addition to the Eastern Plains and to the communities in which this trail passes. It is my great honor to recognize the opening of the Prairie Horizons Trail.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION
FOR THE LIFE OF MRS. IRENE
LOCKETT

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this communication is forwarded on behalf of the constituents of Congressional District Three and myself as we pay tribute to the life of Irene Lockett.

We are all deeply and profoundly saddened by the loss of this gentle and loving spirit. Irene was a true believer in God and family. She encouraged us to be our very best in all we do, at all times. Throughout her life, her loving spirit was unshakeable, her will undaunted, her stature in the church she loved and in the community she cherished remained strong and led Pat, her daughter, and my sister, to pledge her life to public service. She was the wife of Walter Lockett, mother of Pat Lockett-Felder, a member of the Jacksonville, Florida City Council, a grandmother, a great-grandmother and a Matriarch to all, family and friends alike. She absorbed our fears and our tears with her gentle embrace. When I think of Irene Lockett, I am reminded of the words of Paul in the Book of 2nd Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith".

Though our hearts ache, our tears of pain are mixed with loving memories of her smile, her touch, and that gleam in her eyes telling each of us how much she loved us, even when words would not flow. She kept her promise—to love us, nurture us, guide us, and in her own way, she prepared us for this day. Weep not in mournful pain, shed tears of joy for Irene—no more pain, no more hurt—rest now in the arms of the Father who welcomes her home and whispers gently, "well done my child".

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SOLIDARITY
MOVEMENT IN POLAND

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 18, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Res. 328, and I rise on behalf of the more than 111,000 of my constituents who are of Polish descent to recognize the 25th anniversary of the workers' strikes in Poland in 1980. These strikes pressured the government to recognize the Soli-

arity Trade Union and, eventually, to enact fundamental changes in the government in Poland. It is my privilege to join with Poland, friends of Poland and people of Polish descent around the world in honoring this historic date.

The summer of 1980 was a turbulent time in Poland. Soviet domination resulted not only in political oppression but in deep economic crisis. In response to these conditions, workers were striking in several cities across the country. In 1979, the visit by Pope John II added to the hope and desire of all Polish people for change and demonstrated the possibility of mass independent movements.

The Independent and Self-Governing Solidarity Trade Union was established as a result of the Gdansk Accords signed on August 31, 1980 between striking workers and the communist government. In this agreement the government conceded to striking workers' requests and allowed them to form free trade unions, independent from the government and communist party, an unprecedented situation under the Iron Curtain.

By signing the accords the communist government hoped to appease workers while entrenching their power. To the government's great disappointment, the Solidarity Trade Union grew rapidly. By 1981, Solidarity boasted an unparalleled membership of nearly 10 million workers or more than a half of the Polish labor force and almost one third of the entire population. Employees from all sectors of economy and positions joined en masse, including workers, professionals, intellectuals, students and members of political opposition. The Solidarity Trade Union became a huge social and political movement, representing the Polish nation's aspirations for freedom, democracy and better living conditions after more than thirty-five years of communism and Soviet control.

However, the road to freedom was not easy. Seeing how popular and powerful the union was becoming, the communist government of Poland imposed Martial Law in 1981, followed by persecution, imprisonment and forced emigration of many Solidarity members, including Lech Walesa. Nonetheless, the banned Solidarity Trade Union kept aggravating both within Poland and abroad with the instrumental support of Pope John Paul II.

In 1989, the will of millions prevailed: the communist government gave in and held talks with the Solidarity Trade Union. These "round table negotiations" resulted in free elections to the National Assembly, won almost completely by candidates supported by the Solidarity Trade Union. Subsequently, the noncommunist prime minister was elected later that year, and in 1990, Lech Walesa, a former worker-electrician and the leader of the Solidarity Trade Union who had been instrumental in workers' strikes of 1980 and in the Gdansk Accords, became the first elected president of the newly non-communist Poland. Communism was peacefully overthrown.

Within a year, following the Polish example, the regimes in the Czech Republic, Hungary and East Germany had fallen. By 1991, communism was overthrown throughout Europe thanks to the inspiration of the Solidarity Trade Union.

With its long and rich history and traditions, Poland regained its rightful place among free and independent nations, first as a contributing partner in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, and last year, as a full member of the European Union. Today, Poland

continues to be our staunch ally and steadfast friend in Europe in our fight against terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my 111,000 Polish American constituents, I am honored to recognize this important anniversary and honor the events in Poland 25 years ago that helped restore freedom and democracy in Poland and throughout Europe.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ELMER M. EVANS

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Elmer M. Evans on his retirement from Wyeth Pharmaceuticals. Mr. Evans' 24 years of contributions to the success of Wyeth has been recognized by many.

Mr. Evans began his climb up the Wyeth ladder as a Medical Sales Representative scouting Philadelphia as his territory. During his career, Elmer has been promoted nine times, each with increased responsibility. In July 2003, Elmer was appointed to the position of Executive Product Director. In this position, Elmer directed the global marketing strategy for one of the company's specialty products. During his career, Elmer has received numerous awards for sales performance and leadership including the company's coveted Gold Cup and President's Golden Circle Awards, given only to the top 5 percent and 1 percent of sales personnel respectively.

Mr. Evans has been married to his college sweetheart, formerly Tanya M. Allen, for 20 years. Elmer and Tanya are the proud parents of two boys, Darren, 15, and Colin, 13.

Through Mr. Evans's hard work and dedication to his career and family, he retires with many great accomplishments. In recognition of his years of service to Wyeth, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues rise to congratulate him on his retirement.

RANGEL FELLOWS

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share an important and exciting program with my colleagues today. The Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program was initiated from my desire that the State Department's Diplomatic Corps abroad would reflect the rich diversity represented by its people at home. The program presents young adults from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to learn, participate, and become a part of the United States' diplomatic relations.

The Honorable Gentleman from New York, Mr. SERRANO, has provided immeasurable support and commitment to this program and was of extraordinary service in commencing the program in 2001. I want to again thank him for his valuable contributions to the program.

Earlier this week, I met with the ten extremely talented Rangel Fellows who are enrolled in various graduate programs across the

country with a focus on international relations and related academic programs. It was tremendously rewarding to speak to and hear from these extraordinarily intelligent, enthusiastic, well-prepared, and committed young people; many of whom have already completed Overseas State Department Summer Internships through the program. These ten fellows are currently serving in the congressional offices of Representatives ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA (Fellows Melanie Bonner and Natalie Waugh), HAROLD E. FORD, Jr. (Fellow Rachel Hawkins), BARBARA LEE (Fellow Fonta Gilliam), ROBERT MENENDEZ (Fellow Breanna Green), GREGORY MEEKS (Fellow Zainab Zaid), DONALD M. PAYNE (Fellow Jared Yancey), JOSÉ E. SERRANO (Fellow David Lewis), as well as my own office (Fellow Andrea Corey). Fellow Candace Bates is completing an internship at the State Department's Bureau of Political-Military Affairs.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and friends for the invaluable experiences that they are providing and for personally hosting a Rangel Fellow in their offices. The experiences to be obtained in here in the House of Representatives will provide insight that is a special and unique part of this program. This Capitol Hill exposure and experience will be particularly useful as they enter the State Department as junior Foreign Service Officers. Thank you for the wonderful opportunities that you are providing this summer.

It is with gratitude that I also thank Representatives BERKLEY, CHRISTENSEN, CONYERS, HYDE, KILPATRICK, MENENDEZ, MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and SERRANO for hosting fellows last year, the inaugural session of the 2004 Rangel Fellows Congressional Program.

I am extremely proud that there are currently 22 Rangel Fellows enrolled in graduate schools across the country, with a current intake of ten graduate students per year. Nine of these students are serving in internships in U.S. embassies in locations around the world, including Pretoria, Luanda, Nairobi, Maseru, Dakar, Vientiane, Tegucigalpa, and Singapore. The diverse body of fellows includes Afro-Americans, Cambodian-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans, and Caucasian Americans and draws on a variety of backgrounds and experiences.

Earlier this month, I was extremely grateful and proud to be greeted in Singapore by two Rangel Fellows, Chelsa Wheeler who was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Singapore and Christen Rhodes, who was assigned to Vientiane. I met and chatted with these two amazing young women while I was awaiting the report from the Olympics Site Selection Committee.

This program is a successful collaboration between the Congress, the State Department, and Howard University, which administers the program with a cross-section of colleges and universities across the country. Former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell introduced the program on May 17, 2002 at a State Department ceremony and most recently, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice expressed her profound support for continuing and expanding this initiative.

Although the program has several components, the two key components are the Fellows Program and the Summer Enrichment Program, SEP, a six-week program designed to expose students to foreign affairs careers

and stimulate stronger interest in the Foreign Service. Approximately thirty students participate in the SEP each year and earn nine semester hours upon successful completion. Since 2003, over 53 undergraduate students have participated in the SEP, with a number being motivated to apply for Graduate Rangel Fellowships.

In the last 2 years, the components of the Rangel Program were reviewed and evaluated by the State Department and were found to satisfy the stringent requirements for inclusion in the Department's prestigious Diplomacy Fellows Program. This milestone achievement has included the program in the distinguished ranks of such programs as the Presidential Management Interns, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Boren, Fascell, and Pickering Fellows Programs. As a result, fellows who successfully complete the Rangel Program and the State Department requirements will automatically receive employment offers and appointments to the Foreign Service.

I am extremely proud of this program and its contributions to this country. Not only does it expose youth from various backgrounds and experiences to the importance and significance of international relations, it creates the opportunity to diversify our diplomatic corps and to assist in their employment and service to our country. We cannot afford to overlook or underutilize any of our valuable human resources here. In America, diversity is our strength. We have so much to offer in sharing our experience and creating a harmonious society. With our Nation's growing international involvement, there could be no better time than now to attract the very best, the brightest, and the most diverse talent available to represent the American people and champion our interests in every corner of the globe.

I submit the following article from today's Roll Call on the program and the Fellows' recent visit to my office. It was indeed an honor to meet this talented group of America's future.

FELLOWSHIP FOSTERS DIVERSITY: RANGEL FELLOWSHIP FOCUSES ON FOREIGN SERVICE

Since 2003, Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-N.Y.) has been the impetus behind a program at Howard University designed to increase diversity in the State Department Foreign Service.

"Ever since I've been in Congress," Rangel explained in an interview, "the absence of minorities in our embassies and official offices has been astounding." Every time he brought it up to a Secretary of State, however, he was told that the problem was lack of interest in the minority community.

"They said the kids couldn't pass the test, and that kids weren't interested," Rangel said. "Everyone of them would have a meeting with me talking about change, and then leave office."

That cycle changed with Madeleine Albright, President Bill Clinton's (D) final Secretary of State.

"She agreed that she would entertain a proposal, so I went to my first administrative assistant, Patrick Swygert, who had become president of Howard University." Along with former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a member of Howard's Board of Trustees,

Swygert drafted a proposal to create the Rangel Fellowship.

The fellowship, which pays students \$28,000 a year to cover tuition and room and board, requires participants get a two-year master's