

Prokhorenko, and the courageous Siege veteran essayist Daniil Granin served as the gracious hosts of our visit. Each host sincerely conveyed warm Russian hospitality in one of the world's most beautiful cities.

Additionally, the professional staff of the U.S. Consulate at St. Petersburg including the U.S. Marine contingent was very helpful. Acting Consul General Karen Malzahn with her staff have a proven record of enthusiasm and continues to represent America at its best.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MRS.
LANCIE M. THOMAS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor her and pay tribute to her memory. Mrs. Lencie B. Thomas was a devoted family woman and a pioneer in the Alabama publishing community.

A native of Beatrice, Alabama, Mrs. Thomas attended the Monroe County Training School, Tuskegee University, and Alabama State University, and following her education she worked for many years as a home economics teacher in the Tuscaloosa County school system. Upon leaving the teaching profession, she began to assist her husband, the late Frank Thomas, with the building of several newspapers throughout the state of Alabama. These included the Selma (Alabama) Citizen, the Alabama Citizen in Tuscaloosa, and the Mobile Weekly Review. The Weekly Review, started in 1943, had its named changed to the Beacon in 1954 and has continued operations to the present day. During her long newspaper career, Mrs. Thomas worked in a variety of positions in the family's newspaper business, including those of vice president, secretary, and treasurer. She eventually became the editor and publisher of the Beacon and continued in that position until her retirement as publisher emeritus in 1997.

Even with her numerous professional obligations, Mrs. Thomas also found time to involve herself in several Mobile community organizations and other causes which had an impact on the local, state, and federal levels. Beginning in the 1940s, she was involved in voter registration efforts throughout Alabama and became involved in numerous political, social, and religious organizations throughout the United States. She was instrumental in the formation of Mobile's Hillsdale Presbyterian Church and served as one of that parish's founding elders, as well as devoting significant time to attending to the needs of the congregation, both young and old alike. Mrs. Thomas served as the vice president of the Presbyterian Woman of South Alabama and was in 1988 selected to represent south Alabama at the Bicentennial Celebration of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

She was also a member of the Alabama Press Association, the National Newspaper Publishers Association, the Greater Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, the Advertising Federation of Greater Mobile, the South Alabama Region Planning Committee, the Mobile Mental Health Center, the Drug and Alcohol Council, and the Better Business Bureau.

Notwithstanding her significant professional accomplishments, Mrs. Thomas was also recognized on numerous occasions for her impact on her community and on the African-American population in Alabama and across the country. She was honored by the Alabama Press Association for lifetime achievement, and in 1974 was honored by the National Council of Negro Women for her professional accomplishments. Additionally, the NAACP recognized her efforts nationally in 1998, and she is the first African-American to be inducted into Auburn University's Hall of Honor. She has also been recognized by the City of Mobile, the Mobile County Commission, and such organizations as the Drug Education Council, the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, and the National Newspaper Publishers Association.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Throughout her life, Lencie Thomas set a standard of excellence in the newspaper business second to none. More importantly, however, she set a standard of excellence in her achievements specifically on behalf of the American-American community, but also for the entire City of Mobile, her State, and her Nation. She will be deeply missed by her family—her daughter, Cleretta Thomas Blackmon, her stepdaughter, Audrey Thomas, her siblings, Alberta B. Ford, Robert Black, Ruth B. Jefferson, Jency B. Mitchell, Alexander Black, Bennye B. Reasor, and Rufus Black, and her grandchildren—as well as the countless friends she leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

IN MEMORY OF LEO HACKNEY

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to celebrate the life of a great East Texan and my good friend, Leo Hackney, who passed away on February 22 at the age of 85. Leo was one of the giants in Greenville, Texas, where he devoted his life to serving the citizens of his beloved community.

Leo served as Mayor of Greenville three times and as Mayor Pro-Tem and Council Member. He was chairman of the Greenville Board of Development and president of the Chamber of Commerce. He served as tri-captain for Greenville's Sesquicentennial Celebration that established the Audie Murphy Statue for the city. He served as a member of the Greenville Independent School District, Greenville Hospital, YMCA, U.S. Savings Bond Board, Citizens for Growing Greenville, Greenville Majors Baseball Team Club and Junior Chamber of Commerce. He headed the March of Dimes Drive and United Way Fund, the drive to build a Sports Complex for the City, and served as president of the Hunt County Development Council. He was one of the organizers of Colonial Bank and operated it for several years. Earlier in his career, he joined KGVV radio station, beginning in sales and reporting and working up to general manager and eventually president. He later became president of sister FM station KIKT and built the first cable television system in Greenville.

Leo's many accomplishments could fill volumes, and his influence in Greenville and Hunt County will be felt for years to come. In recognition of his significant contributions, the Greenville Herald Banner named Leo Outstanding Young Man in 1958, and he received the Greenville Worthy Citizen of the Year award in 1975. The street leading up to the Sports Complex was named Leo Hackney Boulevard in his honor.

Leo also served his Nation with distinction during World War II. He graduated in the top three percent of Naval Midshipman School and served as Captain of the ship that escorted General Douglas McArthur in the Philippines. He retired as Captain from the U.S. Navy after 27 years of service.

For 20 years Leo served on the committee to nominate youth to military academies for my predecessor, Congressman RAY ROBERTS, and continued to serve for another 20 years on my committee to recommend academy appointments. He served with distinction and was my trusted adviser and good friend.

Leo also was devoted to his family—his wife, Dava, daughters and sons-in-law Susan and Jim Rath of Houston and Sharon and Joe Leonard of Greenville, brother Bill Hackney of Cibola and six grandchildren. He was a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather who supported and encouraged his family, and he leaves behind a legacy of kindness and accomplishments that will endure for generations.

Leo excelled in all that he did at every stage of his life. He was never satisfied to be only a member or supporter. He was a leader, and when he wasn't leading, he made others better leaders through his example and encouragement. Leo was never simply a friend—he was a best friend to so many. The City of Greenville and our Nation are enriched by the life of this esteemed citizen. Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in honor and memory of this wonderful man, great American and my good friend—Leo Hackney.

THE INTRODUCTION OF "TIM
FAGAN'S LAW"

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will make our Nation's prescription drugs safer by making it harder for counterfeit drugs to enter the distribution system and increasing penalties for those who try.

In 2002, a teenage constituent of mine, named Tim Fagan, learned first hand about the problem of counterfeit drugs in this country. He was recovering from a liver transplant, and was taking the drug Epogen, in order to fight his related anemia. His parents bought the Epogen from the local branch of reputable, nationwide pharmacy. In order to help her son, his mother dutifully injected the Epogen into his arm. After waking up in pain many nights in a row and not knowing why, the family received a telephone call. The Epogen that his mother had been injecting to help her son recover from a liver transplant was counterfeit.

It is imperative that Congress does everything they can to ensure this never happens again. The Epogen that Tim had taken was

the equivalent of a three-dollar bill. The medicine should have gone into the dumpster outside of the drug store, and not on the drug store shelf.

Tim is not the only victim of counterfeit drugs.

Counterfeit prescription drugs are becoming an increasingly severe problem in the United States. In the past three years, Lipitor, Procrit, Epogen, and Serostim have been recalled due to a prevalence of counterfeits. According to the Pharmaceutical Security Institute, the value of counterfeit, seized and diverted drugs in the United States was almost \$200 million in 2003, seven times more than 2002. The World Health Organization has stated that worldwide, the counterfeit drug industry was worth about \$32 billion in 2003.

Counterfeit drugs may contain inactive substances like water or saline. They may also be re-labeled to show they have a higher dosage than what is actually in the vial, which leads patients to take much less medicine than is required. They may also contain wrong ingredients or contaminants. Since people taking these counterfeited drugs are already sick, it is harder for fakes to be detected. Victims of counterfeiting may believe that they are just not getting better or the worsened symptoms are an effect of their illness and not counterfeited drugs.

There are many opportunities for counterfeiters to enter the American pharmaceutical distribution system. New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer recently subpoenaed the three largest wholesalers, AmeriSourceBergen, McKesson, and Cardinal Health. However, there are about 12 large regional wholesalers and an estimated 6,500 smaller drug wholesalers.

More than half of all drugs go through this series of middlemen. The drugs go from the manufacturer to a large wholesaler, then through a number of smaller wholesalers, until finally making it to the local pharmacy. With prescription drugs repeatedly changing hands and the prospect of high profits, counterfeiters have the ability and the motive to interject these fake drugs into America's prescription drug distribution system.

My legislation aims to make it more difficult for counterfeiters to infiltrate the system. My bill calls for an audit trail of everyone's hands the drugs have been in, from manufacturer to pharmacy. It calls for the utilization of the best anti-counterfeiting technologies. It gives the FDA authority to recall drugs that may have been tampered with. It authorizes funds for spotchecking and education. Finally, it increases the criminal penalties for counterfeiters, including up to life in jail.

It is my hope that this Congress will address the issue of counterfeiting, and I am looking forward to working on a bipartisan basis to enact this legislation.

YOM HAATZMAUT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Israel as it celebrates the 57th anniversary of Yom HaAtzmaut, Independence Day. The Jewish nation rose from the ashes of

World War II, and became a symbol of the survival of the Jewish people. Despite the genocidal actions of the Nazis, Jewish survivors of the Holocaust emigrated to Israel and dedicated themselves to transforming this desert region into a thriving nation.

Israel has never known a day of true peace. On May 14, 1948, the 5th of Iyar in the Hebrew calendar, the British Mandate expired and Israel declared its independence. That evening, the United States recognized the new nation. Less than 24 hours later, the regular armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq invaded Israel, forcing the fledgling state to fight for its survival. The War of Independence endured intermittently over the course of 15 months and claimed over 6,000 Israeli lives (nearly one percent of the country's Jewish population at the time). Since that time, Israel has fought to defend itself over and over again, in the 1956 War, the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, the Lebanon War and most recently, against two intifadas.

Reviled by its neighbors, Israel has nonetheless succeeded in becoming a vibrant democracy with one of the strongest economies in the Middle East. While it began as a poor agricultural nation, Israel has recently become a leader in technology research and development. Indeed, Israel's standard of living rivals that of any Western nation.

Mr. Speaker, on this day of Yom HaAtzmaut, I would like to recall the words spoken by Levi Eshkol, Prime Minister of Israel, at the end of the Six Day War: "We saw clearly that this is no mere ingathering of the exiles, but a new yet ancient nation, a united nation, which has been tempered in the furnace of one Israel, forged out of all our tribes and the remnants of scattered communities they, their sons and daughters. A nation has come into being which is ready for any effort or sacrifice in order to achieve its goals."

Mr. Speaker, I salute the people of Israel as they celebrate the 57th anniversary of the founding of their nation, and hope to join them in celebrating many more years of independence.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
POLICE WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 12, 2005

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our fallen heroes and to offer my heartfelt thanks to our brave men and women in blue.

Yesterday, sadly, was an eerily familiar day. Once again, fighter jets circled the bright blue sky and alarms echoed throughout the halls of Congress. As my colleagues and I rushed off the House floor, a police officer exclaimed, "This is not a test! Run!"

Mr. Speaker, there was fear in the officer's eyes, but there was bravery in her voice. This was the moment for which she had trained, and she was determined to shepherd us to safety. I thanked God, once again, for the commitment, courage and competence of the Capitol Police.

Mr. Speaker, it is all too fitting that this week is National Police Week. When an unidentified aircraft entered restricted air space yesterday,

Members of Congress witnessed the efficiency and fearlessness of our police force first-hand. But it should not take an emergency for us to recognize those who risk their lives for our protection. It should not take a tragedy for us to say thank you.

Mr. Speaker, 415 names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this week. I'd like to speak to you about one of the names that will be written on the Memorial, a name that many from my hometown of Baltimore hold in our hearts.

Almost exactly a year ago, Officer Brian D. Winder was killed in the line of duty as he responded to a 911 call. He was only 36. Mr. Speaker, you need only read the postings on Officer Winder's memorial website to know how much he meant to his wife, children, and fellow officers. In fact, if I may, I would like to read the posting written by Officer Winder's partner, LeTanye.

Hey B., today starts a tough time for me and a lot of others who miss you. I have that task of making sure that your family makes it through all of the ceremonies that are upcoming in honor of Police Memorial Week. There have been so many times, recently, that I just wanted to give up being a peace officer because it has gotten so much more dangerous for us on the streets. The department is falling apart one by one. These are things that you and I spent countless times discussing. But now you are gone and it's hard. My sister was attacked the other day by an unknown male and I told myself that I had to continue this job. I have to continue to see that my family and yours are safe. I know that you would want me to do so. I just ask that you stay by my side and help me continue the fight, even when I feel that I can't do it anymore.

Mr. Speaker, LeTanye has reason to feel lonely and overwhelmed. The President, and yes, this Congress, have abandoned her. The President's budget slashed billions of dollars from essential law enforcement programs like COPS, a program that had added thousands of police officers to our most dangerous neighborhoods. Now law enforcement officers like LeTanye will have to shoulder even more of the burden of our collective safety.

So, I ask you, how many more partners will LeTanye lose as a result of these cutbacks? Deep cuts to the COPS, Byrne grants and HIDTA programs endanger their lives and hinder their ability to protect our communities. How can we say to her, we know it's hard, and it's going to get harder because we aren't willing to give you the support you need? How can we look Capitol Police Officers in the face, knowing they are willing to give their lives for our protection, while we pass legislation that endangers theirs.

Mr. Speaker, we should honor all of our law enforcement officers by giving them the resources they need to do their jobs well and safely. We must do more than etch one more name onto a memorial wall. We must speak truth to power by etching a legacy of respect, gratitude and priority funding into our fiscal policies for our nation's law enforcement forces.

Thank you. I yield back the balance of my time.