

crowded legislative schedule, especially recently, to pause and remember what makes this institution unique, not only the representative government in the legislative branch of our constitutional Republic, but also those who serve herein, and those who have served.

Two nights ago, Mr. Speaker, it was my honor to welcome back to Capitol Hill one of my constituents, Betty Rhodes, the widow of our former Republican leader, John J. Rhodes, who passed away now two summers ago next month.

And as I was honored to be the Congressman for former Congressman Rhodes and certainly honored that his widow, Betty, remains one of my constituents, it is also important to reflect on another Member of Congress who called the Fifth District of Arizona home, and who recently passed on. His name, Joseph Karth.

He came to this institution being elected in the year of my birth, 1958, and served until 1977, representing the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Minnesota.

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I stand to remember Joe not having a real personal relationship with him, but having this bond that we are among a comparatively few Americans who have been given the honor and privilege of serving in this constitutional office as a United States Representative.

Perhaps the best expression of what this honor means came earlier in our history from the man who served as the sixth President of the United States, John Quincy Adams. Many of us remember that, but few remember the fact that following his time as President, former President Adams ran for and was elected to the United States House of Representatives. And when he was elected to this body from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, former President, Congressman-elect John Quincy Adams said, "There is no greater honor than serving in the people's House."

And though Joe Karth came to this Chamber on the other side of the aisle, and though I am sure there would be many points of disagreement, as we survey the opportunities in America, as we perhaps typify different philosophies and different practices, there is this common bond that everyone honored to serve here understands. There is no higher honor than being elected to serve in the people's House.

Joe Karth did it remarkably well for the people of the Fourth District of Minnesota. He succeeded a man who served in the other body, Eugene McCarthy, who went on to run for the Presidency of the United States. But Joe Karth was more concerned during his 18 years of service in the people's House with getting his job done for his constituents.

Journalists remember that he was the kind of Congressman who would roll up his sleeves, the kind of Con-

gressman who had intense interest in his constituents. And if there might be a problem with a Social Security check arriving late or not arriving at all, or if there might be a dispute about a veteran's disability, Joe Karth was the type of Congressman who would step in to make sure his constituents were represented.

Mr. Speaker, I would maintain that is a great lesson for all of us, regardless of political philosophy or partisan designation, that to truly represent the people, we have to listen to the people and respond. By that measure of service, Joe Karth was indeed an exceptional Member of this body.

History will record that it was Joe Karth, an avid outdoorsman, who introduced and had passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. His love of golf brought him to Arizona, and that is where he lived, and that is where he passed away earlier this summer.

To his family, to his many friends, to the people of Minnesota and to his neighbors in Arizona, we say we remember Joe Karth, and we salute him for his lifetime of service.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PRICE of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PAUL addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

STORY OF MIKHAIL KHODORKOVSKY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I shall not take near 60 minutes, but I intend to yield the vast majority of this time back to the Chair so the Chair can recognize my friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE). I appreciate the leadership accommodating me so I can tell to the Members the story, the unfortunate story, of Mikhail Khodorkovsky and the state of affairs in the Russian Federation today.

Since June of 1987, when President Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate and urged Mikhail Gorbachev to "Tear down this wall," through glasnost and perestroika, through monetary reform and trade, the United States has taken an approach towards active engagement toward democratic reform in Russia.

As cochairman of the Russia Democracy Group, I am committed to seeing these efforts continue. Today the U.S. looks to Russia as a partner in this changing world. At the same time, the responsibility lies on our shoulders to hold our Russian counterparts accountable as they move towards democracy. Recent events in Russia such as the consolidation of power by the Kremlin, restrictions on the media, and the government seizure of private companies, have raised concerns over the path Russia is taking to freedom.

One recent incident in particular draws to mind memories of Russia under the Soviet Union, not the free and democratic society we had hoped it would become. Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who is pictured here to my left, was CEO of the YUKOS Oil Company, the largest company in Russia. In October of 2003, he was arrested at gunpoint and tried for a multitude of politically motivated charges. The trial, if you can call it that, was completed on May 31 of this year, and Mr. Khodorkovsky was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

Recently I, along with many Members of Congress, had the opportunity to meet with one of Mr. Khodorkovsky's business partners, Leonid Nevzlin. Mr. Nevzlin, now living in Israel, has also been charged by the Russian courts for his connection to YUKOS.

While in the United States, Mr. Nevzlin spoke before the U.S. Helsinki Commission and confirmed what many of us feared. Russia is quickly moving away from democracy rather than embracing it.

Mikhail Khodorkovsky's account of the trial and the deterioration of law in Russia is a compelling story that needs to be heard. Following his sentencing, Mr. Khodorkovsky wrote his thoughts from his prison cell as he awaited his departure for the Siberian prison camps. I believe it is important today that I read his profoundly eloquent statement in its entirety.

"Despite obvious lack of evidence of my guilt and a mass of evidence that I was not involved in any crimes whatsoever, the court has decided to send me to the camps.

"I do not intend to harshly criticize the esteemed judge, Irina Kolesnikova. I can imagine what sort of pressure she was under from the initiators of the Khodorkovsky case while she was preparing the verdict. Scores of government functionaries, or just plain self-interested intermediaries, were ready to bring any amount of money to the court to make sure I was sent to Siberia.

"When it comes right down to it, Kolesnikova is not the problem. The

problem is that the judiciary in Russia has turned completely into a mindless appendage, a blunt weapon of the executive. Actually, not so much of the executive branch of power as of several economic groups with criminal ties. Millions of our fellow citizens have seen today that despite our country's top leadership's statements about the need to strengthen due process, there is nothing to pin our hopes on for now. This is a shame and a stain on our country, and it is a misfortune.

"I do not admit guilt, and consider that my innocence has been proven. This is why I will appeal the sentence handed down to me today. For me, it is a fundamental matter of principal to obtain truth and justice in my Motherland.

"I know that the sentence in the criminal case against me was ultimately decided in the Kremlin. Some people in the President's entourage insisted that only an acquittal could bring back society's trust in the government, while others insisted that I be locked up for a long time in order to deprive me of the will to live, to be free, and to fight.

"I want to say thank you for the former, and bring attention to the latter that they have not won.

"They will never be capable of understanding that freedom is an internal state of a person. It is precisely those who wish me ill, the ones who have dreams at night of a Khodorkovsky rabidly thirsting for vengeance, who are doomed to spend the rest of their lives trembling over the stolen assets of YUKOS.

"It is they who are profoundly unfree and will never be free. It is their pitiful existence that is the true prison.

"I, on the other hand, have the full right to say whatever I think and to act as I deem necessary without needing to get my plans approved by any overseers. And this is why my living space from now on is the territory of freedom. The captives are those who remain slaves of the system, who have to grovel, to lie, and to debase others in order to preserve their incomes and their dubious status in this obscene society.

"I will engage in civic activities; I plan to create several philanthropic organizations, for example a foundation to support Russian poetry and one for Russian philosophy, as well as a Union for Aid to Russian Prisoners. I remain an active participant in the programs of Open Russia. I will soon be holding an extramural press conference at which I will discuss the highest-priority steps. This will be the first press conference from jail in post-Soviet history.

"While I no longer have significant personal assets, there are many people willing to provide financial support for my programs because of their association with my name?

"I want to say a big thank you to everyone who gathered here today inside and outside the courthouse, and to ev-

erybody who supported me over the preceding year and a half. You are the decent and valiant people of Russia. I solemnly state that you can always count on me. Even though I do not have big money anymore, we can accomplish a great deal together.

"I would like to say a separate word of thanks to those tens of thousands of ordinary inhabitants of Russia, from every corner of our country, who have supported me with their letters. My time in jail has shown me yet again that the Russia people are not mindless beasts of burden, as certain ideologists close to those in power assert. No, they are a righteous and noble people.

"I will work together with those who want and are able to speak openly about our country, about our people, and about our common present and future. I will fight for freedom, for mine, for Platon Lebedev's, for that of my other friends, and for that of all Russia. And particularly for that of the next generations, those to whom our country will belong in only a few years."

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Khodorkovsky concludes his letter with these profound paragraphs:

"For them, my fate must become a lesson and an example.

"Thank you to my family. They have been and remain my support, now and always. It may take many years, but I will walk out from the barbed wire and will return home. I have never been as sure of anything as I am of this.

"Even though years of prison await me, I am still experiencing a great sense of relief. My life is now a clean slate; there is nothing extraneous, accidental, or superficial in it anymore. I see my future as bright, and the air of tomorrow's Russia as pure.

"I have lost my place in the oligarchs' clique. But I have gained a huge number of true and loyal friends.

"I have regained a sense of my country. I am now together with my people, and now, we shall overcome together as well.

"Do not despair. Truth always wins out sooner or later."

Thus ends the statement of Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Mr. Speaker, as Russia's participation in the international community increases, it is imperative that the United States works to ensure that this country continues toward democracy for the people of Russia and for the entire world.

Rest assured that Mikhail Khodorkovsky is right. In the end truth will win out, as will freedom.

I thank the leadership and the Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION DANGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for the remainder of the hour.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, for the last few weeks I have been discussing the ongoing problem of illegal immigration into the United States; and have mentioned numerous ills of this lack of a policy and how it affects the United States and citizens here; how we are expending exorbitant amounts of money to fund the actions of illegals, and Americans pay for it.

Besides the cost of illegal immigration, the effect of our homeland security is detrimental to the safety of our country, and we need to have a plan and a plan that makes sense, has common sense, and that works.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CULBERSON) as much time as he wishes to consume on this issue of immigration and one of the novel ideas he has come up with to help solve this problem.

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I am proud to have the gentleman with me as co-author of legislation we have filed with 44 other Members of the House to use the mechanisms the Founding Fathers left us in the Constitution to help defend this country against the threat of terrorists who the FBI Director has confirmed in sworn testimony that suspected terrorists and individuals from countries with known al Qaeda connections are entering the United States illegally, using false Hispanic identities, a subject the gentleman is talking about here today, to make sure we accurately identify people entering the U.S.

Federal law enforcement authorities have now confirmed what we have known, and that is these individuals are trying to sneak into the U.S., crossing our southern border, hiding among the tremendous wave of illegal immigration entering this country, and the Federal Government simply does not have the manpower or resources to protect our international borders.

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In a very real sense, 9/11 deputized every American, but not every American can serve in our Armed Forces or join the FBI or the CIA and fight on the front in the war on terror. So the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) and I, and 45 other Members of Congress, have filed legislation invoking congressional power under the Constitution to authorize all eligible American citizens who have no criminal record, no history of mental illness to serve in a genuine militia force for the sole purpose of protecting our borders.

The Border Protection Corps would serve truly as a neighborhood watch border patrol. These individuals who would serve under the direct control of our State Governors in those border States along the border would be trained, equipped, and serve under the direction of the Governor in cooperation with local and State law enforcement authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress this. These individuals would indeed be