

the glorious Cuban War of Independence in 1895, and the day in 1996 when two civilian aircraft carrying four members of the Brothers to the Rescue organization were shot down over international waters by the Cuban dictatorship's fighter jets. The 24 February Movement desires, and struggles for, freedom in Cuba.

According to reports, Mr. García Roldán has been imprisoned since April 16, 2004 and, after a sham trial, sentenced to 4 years in the totalitarian gulag. In the U.S. Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices—2005, it is reported "On February 19, a 'reeducation specialist' forced political prisoner Fidel García Roldán into a cell, pushed him against the wall, then hit him repeatedly in the head."

That same report details the abhorrent conditions in the gulag:

Prison conditions continued to be harsh and life threatening. Conditions in detention facilities also were harsh. Prison authorities frequently beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, particularly those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Prisoners sometimes were held in "punishment cells," which usually were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi-dark conditions, no available water, and only a hole for a toilet.

Mr. García Roldán, despite being imprisoned, despite facing even more severe maltreatment in the inhuman gulag, continues to advocate for liberty. Mr. García Roldán is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, we must speak out and act against this abominable disregard for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom just 90 miles from our shore. It is categorically unacceptable that men and women who demand freedom from tyranny are locked in dungeons and abused by totalitarian monsters. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Fidel García Roldán and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

ENDORSEMENT OF PROFESSOR JEFFREY LEIGH SEDGWICK

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this statement be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the appropriate place:

"On Tuesday the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a hearing on the nomination of Professor Jeffrey Leigh Sedgwick to head the Bureau of Justice Statistics. For over 24 years Professor Sedgwick has taught students at the University of Massachusetts the intricacies of the American Political System. Throughout the course of his established career he has also spread his expertise to other educational institutions, such as Smith College in Massachusetts and the University of Virginia. It is time now for Professor Sedgwick to loan his knowl-

edge and experience to the Federal Government as the head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"Professor Sedgwick has devoted much of his career to the study and interpretation of criminal justice and through the years he has developed a strong sense of our Nation's criminal justice system. His in-depth research has led to a number of books, articles and editorials offering insight into crime and punishment in the United States. These qualifications give Professor Sedgwick a solid foundation for taking over the responsibilities of the head of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

"This would not be Professor Sedgwick's first experience in the Federal Government. In 1984 he served as the Deputy Director for Data Analysis within the Bureau of Justice Statistics. In this position he gained a familiarity for the work that this bureau does and moved on to a career of studying crime and justice. Professor Sedgwick is indisputably qualified to take over operations at the Bureau of Justice Statistics and I urge my colleagues in the Senate to confirm him for this post."

HONORING GREATER BETHEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN OVERTOWN FOR 110 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Greater Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (BAME) as it celebrates its 110th Anniversary on Sunday, March 12, 2006 in the Overtown community of Miami-Dade County, Florida. This important milestone is truly a testament to the leadership of the church and the commitment of the faithful and the church's theme reflects it: "Greater Bethel AME: A Beacon of Light Shining Bright for 110 Years."

I commend the entire Greater Bethel AME family, including the Senior Pastor, Reverend Milton Broomfield and Ms. Barbara Brown, the Chairperson, on this wonderful occasion. It is the thorough exercise of faith that we are emboldened by God's Blessed Assurance spoken through the Prophet Isaiah (Chapter 58, Verses 9–11): ". . . You shall call, and the Lord will answer. For if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, then light shall rise for you in the darkness . . . and the Lord will guide you always."

Greater Bethel AME Church symbolizes an unshakable monument that has manifested and continues to manifest our community's faith in God. The longevity of this landmark church—not only through its members' genuine caring of one another, but also through the outreach efforts of its services and good works for those it has been privileged to serve—is truly remarkable. Despite the pain and agony that our community suffered in the midst of many years of disenfranchisement and misrepresentation, Greater Bethel AME Church stood out as a beacon of Hope and a citadel of Truth by which God has called our community to respond to the mandate of Christian stewardship.

It is with this spirit that I recognize this historic Church on its 110th Anniversary, defined

by determination and courage throughout its ministry. We are grateful for what Greater Bethel AME Church symbolizes for all of us, even as we look forward to the challenges of the future.

PRESENTATION OF THE TOUCHSTONE AWARD TO RICHARD J. KURTZ

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my good friend, Richard J. Kurtz, as he receives the prestigious Touchstone Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center in Englewood, New Jersey. This award is bestowed by the Medical Center to an individual who exemplifies the premier standard for philanthropic endeavors.

Richard Kurtz, the founder of the Kamson Corporation in Englewood Cliffs, is a prominent real estate investor, developer, philanthropist, and a good friend to so many. The leadership and unwavering dedication shown by Richard to community service, humanitarian values and charitable causes is well-known, both in northern New Jersey and throughout the Nation.

Richard actively serves on many boards including the Jewish Community Center (JCC) on the Palisades, the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center, and he serves as chairman of the Englewood Hospital and Medical Center Foundation. He has also given his enthusiastic and generous support to the Boy Scouts of America, Cresskill Athletic Boosters, Walk for Awareness: Our Fight Against Breast Cancer, Quest Autism Foundation and the Jewish Home at Rockleigh. Richard has given generously to his alma mater, the University of Miami, and the Katrina relief efforts. His service to these distinguished boards and causes embodies his belief in and commitment to compassion and caring for others.

Richard's devotion to his wife, Patti, his children and their spouses, Pamela Kurtz, Sharon and Jeff Kurtz, and Kimberly and Joseph Spadaccini, and six grandchildren is a reflection of this dedicated family man and community leader. Richard is an extraordinary individual, and he is very deserving of the renowned honor embodied by the Touchstone Award. I am pleased to extend my congratulations to my good friend Richard Kurtz and his family on this wonderful occasion.

USA PATRIOT ACT ADDITIONAL REAUTHORIZING AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, one of the most important responsibilities for Congress after the September 11 terrorist attacks is to balance the needs of law enforcement to have effective tools to combat terrorism with the civil liberties and civil rights of Americans.

I am pleased that the Senate bill strengthens the civil liberties protections of the PATRIOT Act, and provides for increased judicial oversight of the Justice Department as it uses these powers.

The bill before us enacts a number of much-needed procedural changes that will enhance judicial oversight of Section 215 orders. Under current law, the recipient of a Section 215 order lacks an explicit statutory right to petition the FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) court to modify or set aside either the production order or the non-disclosure requirement. The conference report provides that recipients have an explicit right to challenge the legality of the Section 215 order in certain FISA courts. This bill further expands the individual's right to challenge the government assertion that a business records search must remain secret.

The legislation also reforms the FBI process used to issue National Security Letters (NSL). Unlike current law, the conference report explicitly permits recipients of NSLs to consult with an attorney to challenge the letter in court. This bill further strengthens individual rights by allowing the recipient of an NSL to consult with an attorney in secret, and does not require the recipient to disclose the name of the attorney to the FBI.

Finally, this bill provides that public, academic, or research libraries that offer Internet access or other electronic research tools are not considered to be electronic communication services, and therefore are not subject to search by an NSL.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS AND THE INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS EX- PANSION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2006

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a revised bill to designate as wilderness most of the lands within the Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado.

Since introduction of my previous bill (H.R. 3193), I have heard from a number of local communities and other interests on the western side of the park regarding some issues and accommodations they would like to see reflected in the bill. The bill I am introducing today reflects that input.

This legislation will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding well over 200,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System. The bill is similar to one previously introduced by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs, and one I introduced in the 107th and 108th Congresses. Those bills in turn were based on similar measures earlier proposed, including some by former Senator Bill Armstrong and others.

Over a number of years my predecessor and I have worked with the National Park Service and others to refine the boundaries of the areas proposed for wilderness designation and consulted closely with many interested parties in Colorado, including local officials and both the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the St. Vrain & Left

Hand Ditch Water Conservancy District. These consultations provided the basis for many of the provisions of the bill I am introducing today, particularly regarding the status of existing water facilities.

Unlike these previous bills, the new bill includes designation as wilderness of more than 700 acres in the Twin Sisters area south of Estes Park. These lands were acquired by the United States and made part of the park after submission to Congress of the original wilderness recommendation for the park in the 1970s, and so were not included in that recommendation. They are lands of a wilderness character and their designation will not conflict with any current uses.

Since I introduced the earlier bill in this Congress, the communities bordering the park have been considering this wilderness proposal. The communities and local governments along the eastern side of the Park have expressed support for this proposal, including the Town of Estes Park and Larimer County.

On the west side, the Town of Grand Lake and Grand County requested that about 650 acres inward from the Park boundary around the Town be omitted from the wilderness designation in order to allow the Park to respond to potential forest fire threats. The revised bill reflects this change.

In addition, the Town of Grand Lake, Grand County and the Headwaters Trails Alliance (a group composed of local communities in Grand County that seeks to establish opportunities for mountain biking) requested that an additional non-wilderness area remain along the western park boundary, running south along Lake Granby from the Town to the park's southern boundary. This request was made to allow the National Park Service to retain the option of authorizing construction of a possible future mountain bike route within this part of the park.

The revised bill introduced today responds to that request by omitting from wilderness an area, called the East Shore Trail Area, in this part of the park. However, it provides that the area will become wilderness 25 years after enactment unless a bicycle trail has been constructed before then.

During the discussions of the previous version of the bill, it was suggested that the existing Indian Peaks Wilderness Area (within the Arapaho National Forest) should be expanded.

The new bill adopts that suggestion by inclusion of a new section that would expand the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area by 1,000 acres in the area south of the park and north of Lake Granby. The lands involved are currently managed as part of the Arapaho National Recreation Area, which accordingly would be reduced by about 1,000 acres.

In addition, this section of the revised bill would amend the original Indian Peaks Wilderness Act to reflect this additional acreage as well as the 2,232-acre Ranch Creek Addition and the 963-acre Fourth of July Addition to the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area that were made in the James Peak Wilderness and Protection Area Act in 2001. These changes will be reflected by a new official map for both areas which will establish the precise location of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area boundary north of Lake Granby and the corresponding boundary change to the Arapaho National Recreation Area.

Finally, a new section has been added to authorize the park to lease a property called

the Leiffer Property. This 11-acre property was donated to the National Park Service in 1977, under terms requiring it to be retained by the Park Service. It is an isolated tract outside the boundaries of the park and has two buildings, including a house that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park Service would like to have the option of leasing the tract, but their leasing authority is limited to "property administered . . . as part of the National Park System," and this property does not qualify because it is neither within nor contiguous to the park's boundaries. The new section would allow the Park Service to lease the property as if it were located inside or contiguous to the park.

The wilderness designation for the park will cover some 94 percent of the park, including Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammelled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of the Park are included in the wilderness that would be designated by this bill.

The features of these lands and waters that make Rocky Mountain National Park a true gem in our national parks system also make it an outstanding wilderness candidate.

The wilderness boundaries will assure continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services. In addition, specific provisions are included to assure that there will be no adverse effects on continue use of existing water facilities.

This bill is based on National Park Service recommendations, prepared more than 25 years ago and presented to Congress by President Richard Nixon. It seems to me that, in that time, there has been sufficient study, consideration, and refinement of those recommendations so that Congress can proceed with this legislation. I believe that this bill constitutes a fair and complete proposal, sufficiently providing for the legitimate needs of the public at large and all interested groups, and deserves to be enacted.

It took more than a decade before the Colorado delegation and the Congress were finally able, in 1993, to pass a statewide national forest wilderness bill. Since then, action has been completed on bills designating wilderness in the Spanish Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest as well as in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Gunnison Gorge, the Black Ridge portion of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, and the James Peak area of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests.

We now need to continue making progress regarding wilderness designations for deserving lands, including other public lands in our state that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. And the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt with in the bill I am introducing today.

All Coloradans know that the question of possible impacts on water rights can be a primary point of contention in Congressional debates over designating wilderness areas. So,