

this capacity since May 2004 and he will soon be accepting command of the 6th Marine Regiment at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Through his assignment as the Marine Corps Liaison Officer to the House, Colonel Simcock has been an invaluable link between Members of Congress and the Marine Corps. He has coordinated and accompanied congressional delegations to places such as Iraq and Afghanistan, organized and contributed to meetings between Members of Congress and key leaders of the Marine Corps, and worked to ensure that Members are kept fully informed of the programs vital to the Corps' operability.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I have worked directly with Colonel Simcock on many Committee-related issues. We have come to rely on his candid illustrations and knowledge of the Marine Corps and, over the last two years, Colonel Simcock has been an important part of our efforts to identify the priorities and address the challenges facing the Corps.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the Marine Corps have been called to action and tasked with confronting unconventional adversaries in the operational theaters of the global war on terrorism. In Iraq, they are fighting courageously and continue to provide developing security forces with quality instruction and training. However, as the Marines have adjusted and developed new tactics to successfully combat the Iraqi insurgency, Congress has responded by ensuring these brave men and women have the operating and protective equipment necessary to accomplish their mission. In doing so, we have utilized the insight of Colonel Simcock and his ability to open effective communication channels between Congress and the Marine Corps.

Colonel Simcock is greatly respected as an officer and leader who possesses a deep and abiding passion for what it means to be a Marine: unquestionable devotion to duty; impeccable integrity; and sound character. His efforts will have a long lasting impression on the Marine Corps and I know he will serve the 6th Marine Regiment with the same level of dedication and selflessness he demonstrated while serving this House.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest sense of appreciation that I salute Colonel Simcock for his tireless work and outstanding leadership on such important issues and I wish both him and his wife, Mary, continued success in their future endeavors.

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MOSCOW HEL- SINKI GROUP

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, 17 years ago, my dear friend and colleague, Rep. FRANK WOLF, and I traveled to the Soviet Union, to visit the notorious Perm Labor Camp No. 37, located in the shadows of the Ural Mountains. There were three camps in the Perm labor camp complex that had been set up specifically in 1972 for political prisoners and others whom Moscow considered "especially dangerous." Fortunately, by the time of

our visit many of the incarcerated had been released and by 1991 the camp had emptied out completely in the closing chapter of the USSR. As Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I can vividly recall that glimpse into life in the Soviet GULag, both a memorable and sobering experience.

I mention that trip because Friday of this week, May 12, will mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Moscow Helsinki Group, a leading human rights organization devoted to monitoring the Kremlin's adherence to the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. The Helsinki Final Act was signed by the United States, Canada and thirty-three European countries, including the Soviet Union. While much of this document was focused on military security, economics and trade, there were important provisions on human rights and humanitarian issues, such as freedom of conscience and family reunification, which the Soviet Government and the other signatories promised to uphold.

At a May 12, 1976, Moscow press conference organized by Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the Moscow Helsinki Group announced that it would collect information and publish reports on implementation of the Helsinki Accords by the Soviet Government. The initiator of this effort was Dr. Yuri Orlov, a physicist who had already been repressed by the Kremlin and the KGB for his human rights activism. Orlov was joined by ten other founding members; with time others joined in the group.

As might be expected, the Soviet Government did not welcome this initiative. Members were threatened by the KGB, imprisoned, exiled or forced to emigrate. The Soviet press went into full-scale attack mode, accusing the Moscow Helsinki Group of being subversive and charging that some members were on the payroll of foreign intelligence services. I might mention that a thinly veiled version of this canard against the group was recently resurrected by a representative of the KGB's successor, the FSB, on national television.

Arrests of members of the Moscow Group began within a year of its founding. In 1978, Dr. Orlov himself was sentenced to 7 years labor camp and 5 years internal exile. In 1986, he was brought back to Moscow, put on a plane and deported to the United States in exchange for a Soviet spy. Other Moscow Helsinki Group members found themselves at the notorious Perm Labor Camp complex that I mentioned earlier. For his criticism of the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Dr. Sakharov was exiled to the closed city of Gorky beginning in January 1980. His wife and Moscow Helsinki Group member, Dr. Elena Bonner, joined him there in 1984 after having been convicted of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." Founding member Anatoly Marchenko died while on a hunger strike at Chistopol Prison in December 1986.

By the end of 1982, less than 7 years after the group's founding, it appeared that the KGB and the Soviet Government had triumphed over the small band of idealists who pressed their leaders to live up to the promises made at Helsinki. With only three members at liberty and those under intense KGB pressure, the Moscow Helsinki Group was forced to suspend its activities. By 1986, only one member of the group, Naum Meiman, continued to meet with foreign visitors and Western correspondents. Meiman's wife, Irina, died of

brain cancer after waiting years for Soviet authorities to give her permission to leave the Soviet Union for specialized treatment abroad, a reminder of the personal costs to human rights activists and their families under a cruel regime.

But the Helsinki spirit lived on. In the West, supporters and sympathizers demonstrated on behalf of imprisoned Helsinki Monitors. The cases of imprisoned or exiled Helsinki Monitors were often raised at diplomatic meetings between the United States and the Soviet authorities. In the Soviet Union itself, enlightened leaders began to understand that repressive governments may squelch the voices of dissenters for a time, but their message will be heard by other means.

And on February 14, 1987, less than 5 years after the Moscow Helsinki group was forced to suspend its activities, a small item in "Izvestiya" announced the possibility of certain prisoners being released from labor camp. It was the beginning of the end for the repressive Soviet system.

In July 1989, the Moscow Helsinki Group was reestablished by several long-time human rights activists: Larisa Bogoraz, Sergey Kovalev, Viatcheslav Bakhtin, Alexey Smirnov, Lev Timofeev, and Boris Zolotukhin. Today, Ludmilla Alexeyeva, who had been exiled to the United States by Soviet authorities for her earlier work, now chairs this respected organization.

Mr. Speaker, 30 years after its founding and 15 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the re-established Moscow Helsinki Group remains active in speaking out in defense of human rights, civil society, and rule of law in Russia. I congratulate the members of the Moscow Helsinki Group for their achievements in the past and pledge my support for their vital ongoing work.

RECOGNIZING JARED GOEDE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to recognize Jared Goede of Kansas City, Missouri. Jared will be honored with the Billy Mitchell Award and Second Lieutenant Bars as a member of the Platte Valley Civil Air Patrol. He has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol since 2004 and has been involved in the color guard since 2005.

As a member of the community, Jared has been active in 4-H, the North Kansas City High School Scholar Bowl Team, the American Heartland Theatre, and his church. Additionally, he has pursued many academic activities outside of his regular schoolwork. He has studied at Truman State University's Joseph Baldwin Academy for Eminent Young Scholars, studied hydrodynamics at a Westminster College summer camp, and participated in the Students in Academically Gifted Education program through the North Kansas City School District.

Jared has already enlisted into the United States Army Reserves as a Civil Affairs Specialist. Upon graduating from North Kansas City High School in May of 2006, Jared will enter boot camp in June of 2006 and then defer his active duty status until he completes

his college studies. He has been accepted to Missouri Western State University and plans to major in History and participate in the Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing Jared Goede, an outstanding student from Kansas City, Missouri. His commitment to the community and desire to serve his country should be commended. I would like to express my gratitude to him for his achievements and I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
DEBORAH J. ALMY ON HER AP-
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY
ACADEMY AT WEST POINT

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Deborah J. Almy of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York.

Deborah's offer of appointment poises her to attend the United States Military Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer.

Deborah brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of West Point cadets. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Deborah has attained a grade point average which places her near the top of her class. While a gifted athlete, Deborah has maintained the highest standards of excellence in her academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Deborah has been a member of the Honor Roll, the High School Choir and has earned awards and accolades as a scholar and an athlete.

Outside the classroom, Deborah has distinguished herself as an excellent student-athlete by earning letters in both varsity soccer and basketball. She has also remained involved in her community by serving as a teacher's aide and as a volunteer for her Church's nursery. I have no doubt that Deborah will employ the lessons of her student leadership as she excels among the leaders at West Point.

Deborah's dedication and service to the community and her peers has proven her ability to excel among the leaders at West Point. I have no doubt that Deborah will take the lessons of her student leadership with her to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Deborah J. Almy on her appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Deborah will do very well during her career at West Point and I ask my colleagues to

join me in wishing her well as she begins her service to the nation.

SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY
FOR EVERY PORT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4954) to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 4954, the SAFE Port Act, and I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for their work on this bill, as well as my colleagues from California Mr. LUNGREN, Ms. HARMAN, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ.

As a member of the Port Security Caucus and as an original co-sponsor of this legislation I have been consistently fighting for a massive increase in funding and focus to secure our Nation's ports.

The fact of the matter is that over the last 4 years we have done far too little to secure our Nation's ports.

Since 2002 we have barely spent \$700 million on port security grants throughout the country even though our ports have already identified and applied for over \$3.8 billion worth of security improvements and even though the Coast Guard estimates that at least \$5.4 billion is needed through 2010.

Instead of spending \$320 billion to mislead us into a war in Iraq, the administration could have hired nearly 5 million inspectors to ensure that all cargo that enters our country is inspected.

This year this administration has even proposed to roll all critical infrastructure security grants into one pool, forcing ports, rail and other critical infrastructure to compete for scarce security dollars. That just doesn't make any sense.

The SAFE Port Act rejects the administration's wrongheaded proposal and increases the authorization for port security funding to \$400 million per year.

Although this bill does make a number of very good steps in the right direction to secure our ports, I am disappointed that it does not go far enough to screen foreign cargo before it enters U.S. ports.

If we had adopted the Markey-Nadler amendment requiring 100 percent container scanning prior to shipment from foreign ports, we could have ensured that any potential threat would be identified and dealt with before it entered the United States.

If even one incident occurs that compromises a single container of a known shipper, our current screening system will fall apart. Mr. Chairman, I believe that 100 percent screening is our only option because in this day and age we cannot afford the risk of even one incident.

But we haven't even been given the option to vote on the Markey-Nadler amendment.

I'm also disappointed that the bill does not contain enough funding for the Coast Guard's deepwater program, or the radiation portal

monitoring program that was first successfully launched at the Port of Oakland in my district last year.

We can and we must increase funding for both these programs and provide a comprehensive and integrated approach to port security that includes 100 percent screening. Until we do so, our job remains unfinished.

RECOGNIZING ASIAN PACIFIC
AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 9, 2006

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and I rise to proudly recognize and honor over 78,000 Asian Pacific Americans who live in my 7th Congressional District in Washington State. They are the largest minority group in my district, embracing over 13 percent of the population. They are Japanese, Asian Indian, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Cambodian, Laotian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Pacific Islanders, as well as other Asian American cultures. Their contributions have helped to make Seattle a richly textured weave of cultures and people. We all benefit as a result.

Beginning in the late 19th century, Asian Americans immigrated to the United States to work hard and make a better life for themselves and their families. Many faced prejudice, racial injustice, and discrimination, but these new immigrants believed in America, and they made our Nation stronger by fighting for American values like equality. As our Nation again debates the importance and role of immigration in the early 21st Century, we should consider the contributions that Asian-Americans have made, and continue to make, to our Nation, becoming leaders in public and social service, business and industry.

In Seattle, I am proud to have introduced the legislation that renamed a United States Courthouse as the William Kenzo Nakamura United States Courthouse in honor of a Japanese American who was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his courage under fire in World War II. Mr. Nakamura made the ultimate sacrifice in service to the country he loved, an honor made more poignant by the fact that William and his family were forcibly relocated to a federal internment camp at the beginning of the war.

Today, we proudly celebrate Asian Pacific American culture and heritage, from the Vietnamese Tet in Seattle Lunar New Year celebration to other local cultural festivals. We also honor Asian Pacific Americans by preserving the ethnic heritage of our citizens. Places like the Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Seattle Asian Art Museum, the Filipino American National Historical Society, and Densho: The Japanese American Legacy Project keep us in touch with the roots of our neighbors.

Our pride in and recognition of many Asian American role models has earned Washington State a global awareness. Just last month Chinese President Hu Jintao chose Seattle for his inaugural visit to the United States as head of state, touring a Boeing plant and Microsoft headquarters and noting the "good cooperative relations" between China and Washington