

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE MOSCOW HEL-
SINKI GROUP**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, I note that tomorrow marks one of the major events in the struggle for human rights around the globe. Thirty years ago a courageous band of human rights defenders in the Soviet Union founded the "Moscow Helsinki Group," dedicated to monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, an historic agreement containing important provisions on human rights.

When General Secretary Brezhnev signed the Helsinki Final Act, or the Helsinki Accords, on August 1, 1975 on behalf of the USSR, Soviet officials believed that they had gained an important foreign policy victory. Indeed, there were some provisions that Soviet diplomats had sought assiduously during the negotiations among the thirty-five nations of Europe and the United States and Canada. However, the West, for its part, had insisted on certain provisions in the area of human rights and humanitarian affairs, including the right of citizens "to know their rights and to act upon them."

With this commitment in mind, Professor Yuri Orlov, a Soviet physicist who had been involved in the defense of human rights in the Soviet Union previously, called upon several of his similarly-minded colleagues to join together in an organization to press publicly for implementation of the Helsinki Accords in their country.

Eleven brave individuals answered the call, and on May 12, 1976, at a press conference called by famed human rights campaigner and peace activist Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the creation of the "Public Group to Assist in the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act," or as it became later known, the "Moscow Helsinki Group" was announced.

The Moscow Helsinki Group committed itself to collecting information about implementation of the Helsinki Accords in the Soviet Union and publishing reports on their findings. During the first six years of its activity, they produced almost two hundred specific reports, as well as other announcements and appeals. More activists joined with the passing months. Similar Helsinki monitoring groups were established elsewhere in the USSR, including in Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia and Armenia. Other groups focused on specific human rights issues such as psychiatric abuse or religious liberty joined the movement. The Moscow Group became an important source of information for individuals and groups seeking assistance in the area of human rights.

Naturally, the Soviet leadership rejected such "assistance" and undertook to suppress the Moscow Helsinki Group. Members were fired from their jobs, "persuaded" to emigrate, castigated in the press, and subjected to KGB searches and interrogations. When such reprisals proved mostly ineffective, members were charged with political crimes and given lengthy sentences in labor camps of the Soviet Gulag, usually with an additional term of

"internal exile," forced resettlement, typically somewhere in Siberia or the Soviet Far East.

Ten years after the founding of the Moscow Helsinki Group, 14 members had been sentenced to a total of 69 years in labor camp or prison, and 50 years internal exile. Anatoly Marchenko, a founding member and veteran dissident, died during a hunger strike at Chistopol Prison in December 1986. By 1982, the Moscow Helsinki Group had been forced to suspend its activities in the face of intense KGB repression.

But while Moscow had rid itself of some troublesome dissidents, the spirit of Helsinki was not so easily quashed. Ludmilla Alekseyeva, an exiled member of the group, testified in the U.S. Congress in October 1985 that "for victims of human rights abuses in the Eastern bloc, Helsinki remains the main source of hope . . . and a rallying point in their struggle for freedom and peace." Just a little over 4 years after she spoke those words, the Berlin Wall fell.

The Moscow Helsinki Group was re-established in 1989. Reinvigorated through the work of new and veteran members, it is one of the most respected human rights organizations in the Russian Federation today. Alexeyeva, who returned to Russia in the early 1990s, following the demise of the Soviet Union, serves as chair of the group.

Mr. Speaker, we would do well to heed the wise words of Andrei Sakharov when he noted, "The whole point of the Helsinki Accords is mutual monitoring, not mutual evasion of difficult problems." A key to the ultimate success of the Helsinki Process has been the involvement of civil society—courageous human rights defenders like those who established the Moscow Group—willing to speak out on behalf of others. I remain deeply concerned over human rights trends in Russia, especially the adoption of regressive laws affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

I join my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission in congratulating the Moscow Helsinki Group on the occasion of its 30th anniversary of dedicated service in the defense of fundamental freedoms and liberty.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS J. PARK
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas J. Park, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas J. Park for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CALI-
FORNIA STATE SENATOR ED
DAVIS**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor the memory of Ed Davis, a former California State Senator and Los Angeles Chief of Police. He was a remarkable man who was a monumental presence on the Los Angeles and California political scene. Senator Davis passed away on April 22, 2006 in San Luis Obispo, CA at the age of 89.

Born Edward Michael Davis on November 15, 1916 in Los Angeles, he graduated from John C. Fremont High School and enlisted in the United States Navy where he became a decorated officer. He later received his Masters in Public Administration from USC. Always a proud alumnus, he often sported a maroon blazer and gold pants, USC's famous colors, on the State Senate floor.

Joining the Los Angeles Police Department in 1940, Ed first walked a beat in downtown Los Angeles with the late Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Rising up through the ranks, he was a director of the police and fire union and later a trusted top aide to legendary Chief William Parker. Ed served as Los Angeles Chief of Police from 1969 until 1978 where he was known as a popular firebrand who pushed law and order during times of turbulence.

Chief Davis proved popular with not only with the people of Los Angeles, but also with weary Americans who were looking for tough leadership during uncertain times. During the same period, his officers' morale was at an all-time high. He became a national figure as a tough law and order proponent quelling student protests during the Vietnam War, opposing the Black Panthers, and taking a strident stance against the epidemic of hijacking in the early 1970's.

In 1974, the entire nation watched as the Chief's force had a climatic shootout with the Symbionese Liberation Army who had kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst. Several leaders of the gang died in a fiery blaze at the conclusion of the confrontation.

Chief Davis implemented historic reforms at the LAPD and left a legacy of influence in law enforcement. His innovations include creating the Neighborhood Watch concept to bring residents together, and instituting community policing. While crime rose by 55 percent across the Nation during his tenure as Chief, crime actually decreased by 1 percent in Los Angeles. His influence still exists in the LAPD, and programs that the Chief invented are at the heart of every police organization worldwide. The City of Los Angeles honored him by naming the newest and most elaborate of the three LAPD training centers "The Ed Davis Emergency Vehicle Operations Center & Tactics/Firearms Training Center" in 1998.

A respected member of the academic community, Chief Davis lecturing at USC and Cal State Los Angeles as an adjunct professor of police administration and management for 18 years. He was the author of Staff One, a leading police management textbook.

Prior to his appointment as Chief, he served for many years as a law enforcement advocate working with the California Legislature in

Sacramento. Among his many outstanding contributions is the landmark Peace Officer's Standards and Training Act of 1959, which set minimum police standards for California.

After retiring as Police Chief in 1978, he set his sights on the California Governor's mansion. Running in the Republican gubernatorial primary, the Chief came in second to Attorney General Evelle Younger in a four-man race, which included State Senator Ken Maddy and San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson.

Chief Davis returned to the political arena in 1980 after winning the State Senate election for the 19th Senate District. He represented Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley, the North San Fernando Valley and the Santa Clarita Valley.

Overwhelmingly re-elected to a second Senate term in 1984, Senator Davis again set his sights on higher office. He entered the 1986 U.S. Senate race against longtime incumbent Alan Cranston. His slogan, "One Tough Cop, and One Great Senator," recalled his glory days as Chief.

The Republican race was upended when one of Senator Davis' opponents was indicted for allegedly offering him \$100,000 if he dropped out of the race. The courts ultimately threw out the indictment, but the scuffle derailed the Senator's campaign and helped Congressman Ed Zschau win the nomination.

Davis turned his energy and attention back to Sacramento, winning praise as a reasoned Vice-Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Often called central casting's choice as a senator, the white-haired gentleman was easily reelected to a third term to the State Senate in 1988.

Known by his friends as a man of great charm and graciousness, Senator Davis celebrated 50 years of public service with a gala dinner in 1991. Highlights of the evening included recorded tributes from comedian Bob Hope and former Presidents Ronald Reagan and Richard Nixon. Looking forward to a peaceful retirement, Senator Davis and his wife, Bobbie, moved north to Morro Bay, California in 1992.

Senator Davis is survived by his wife, Bobbie, his children Michael Davis, Christine Coey and Mary Ellen Burde and step-children Fred, Michael, and Kylvie as well as several beloved grandchildren.

HONORING ROBERT ROGERS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Robert Rogers upon his retirement as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Educational Employees Credit Union, after almost 30 years of service in the credit union industry.

His retirement concludes a phenomenal career in the credit union business, starting as a Texas State Examiner in 1977. Rogers later held executive-level positions at Hughes Employees Credit Union, Houston Area Teacher's Credit Union, and the University of Arkansas Credit Union. He also served as Deputy Commissioner for the State of Texas in 1988 and was named Commissioner three years later. In 1995 Rogers moved to Fort Worth to act as President and CEO of EECU.

Rogers has been an active leader with many credit-union related affiliates on the local, state, and national level. He is a former Director for the National Association of Community Credit Unions, and is on the Board of Directors for Town North Bank. Other noteworthy accomplishments include founding the Texas Credit Union Legislative Coalition, and being appointed to the Texas Credit Union League's Board of Trustees.

Rogers has been an advocate for credit unions and members throughout his career. He has always sought to provide vital financial services for the underserved and ensured that the voices of credit unions and their members were heard in the political arena. I thank him for his years of dedication to Texas families. I wish him well in his retirement; his presence will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING BENJAMIN F. SANDERSON FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Benjamin F. Sanderson, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Benjamin has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Benjamin has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Benjamin F. Sanderson for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ACT

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, Sunday is Mother's Day. In honor of all of our Mothers, I rise today to urge all my colleagues to push for passage of the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act (H.R. 2231) this year.

One out of eight women in the United States will develop breast cancer at some point in her lifetime. It afflicts our mothers, our daughters, our sisters, our wives. It currently afflicts three million women—including one million women who do not yet know they have breast cancer. In New York alone, there is expected to be 14,400 new cases in 2006 and over 2,700 deaths due to breast cancer.

The human toll of this disease is staggering. All women are at risk of getting breast cancer. In some way, breast cancer will directly or indirectly affect you or someone you know. Breast cancer takes a life every 14 minutes. Another woman will receive a life altering diagnosis of breast cancer every 3 minutes.

Passing the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act would help get to the bottom of what causes breast cancer and how to prevent it.

H.R. 2231 authorizes \$30 million a year for five years to establish these multi-institutional, multidisciplinary centers. The centers would include institutions with different areas of expertise working together to look at different aspects of the same issue.

This bill creates a new mechanism for environmental health research, and provide a unique process by which up to 8 research centers are developed to study environmental factors and their impact on breast cancer. Modeled after the DOD Breast Cancer Research Program, which has been so successful, it would include consumer advocates in the peer review and programmatic review process.

This Federal commitment is critical for the overall, national strategy and the long-term research investments needed to discover the environmental causes of breast cancer, so that we can prevent it, treat it more effectively, and cure it.

It is generally believed that the environment plays some role in the development of breast cancer, but the extent of that role is not understood. More research needs to be done to determine the impact of the environment on breast cancer, which has been understudied in the past.

Less than 30 percent of breast cancers are explained by known risk factors; however, there is little consensus in the scientific community on how the environment impacts breast cancer. Studies have explored the effect of isolated environmental factors such as diet, pesticides, and electromagnetic fields, but in most cases there is no conclusive evidence. Furthermore, there are many other factors that are suspected to play a role but have not been fully studied. These could provide valuable in understanding the causes of breast cancer and could lead to prevention strategies.

We must all work together to find a cure for breast cancer. As we work to achieve that goal, we must continue to create comprehensive programs to study the disease, increase awareness and ensure early detection takes place. We must make a commitment to women who have or will be affected by breast cancer. I am proud to support efforts that will help so many of our sisters, daughters, wives and mothers.

INTRODUCTION OF STRATEGIC REFINERY RESERVE

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 2006

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join my colleague from Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, in introducing legislation to expand the nation's refinery capacity by establishing a federal Strategic Refinery Reserve (SRR), which will deliver refined petroleum products to the commercial market during supply emergencies.

The legislation that Congressman DINGELL and I are introducing builds upon the success of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve by taking