

spacecraft is carrying some of the ashes of Clyde Tombaugh.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to express their support for the reversal of the International Astronomical Union's decision and the official reinstatement of Pluto as the ninth and outermost planet in our solar system.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATORS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. The AAMVA will be holding their 2008 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

In 1932, growth in the motor vehicle population, increasing interstate travel, and an increase in death and injuries on the highways highlighted the need for a national organization for uniform interstate laws and programs.

In response, representatives of the States, recognizing this need for uniform and reciprocal administration of motor vehicle laws, formed the American Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Subsequently in 1933 the group renamed itself the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, or AAMVA.

AAMVA has been the recognized North American authority for driver licensing and motor vehicle administration. AAMVA's U.S. and Canadian members have worked collaboratively to support and improve motor vehicle administration, safety, identification security and law enforcement.

AAMVA has served as a liaison with other levels of government and the private sector, and its development and research activities have provided guidelines for more effective public service.

AAMVA has fostered a tradition of service in the motor vehicle and law enforcement professions, providing outstanding service to the community through superb customer service initiatives, information technology, safety, and the best in public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America.

I would like to commend the many achievements of AAMVA and encourage AAMVA to continue its tradition of excellence in service to motorists through its advocacy of improving highway safety.

HONORING COMMUNITY BRIDGES OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Bridges of Santa Cruz County, which will gather to celebrate its 30th anniversary later this month. Community Bridges, a family of non-profit programs, provides otherwise unmet care to the citizens of Santa Cruz County and is a vital component of our community.

Since its inception on October 19, 1977, Community Bridges has worked to provide innovative human services to enhance our diverse community. Today the family of programs (Child and Adult Care Food Program; Child Development Programs; La Manzana Community Resources; Lift Line: Live Oak Family Resource Center. Meals on Wheels; and WIC Nutrition Program) serves nearly 30,000 Santa Cruz County community members each year.

Through its services, the group nurtures the entire life from beginning to end. Starting childhood, Community Bridges fosters a better life by providing childcare, after-school programs, and teen mentoring to ensure that children develop the skills they need to succeed in school and life. For those later in life Community Bridges helps residents maintain their dignity and independence by providing meal delivery, transportation, and literacy and language education.

With an eye on healthy living, Community Bridges combats childhood obesity and promotes community wellbeing by providing nutrition education programs, breastfeeding support for new mothers, and food reimbursements. Moreover, Community Bridges helps reduce the risk of child abuse and keeps families strong by providing parenting classes, fostering educational attainment, and connecting families to health insurance programs and other important resources.

They not only seek to address unmet human service needs in our county, but also focus on supporting existing efforts to serve the community by working with other local care providers. Community Bridges promotes civic engagement by actively seeking community input and providing leadership training opportunities for local residents. By building partnerships with local organizations they ensure the greatest efficiency and accessibility of services for Santa Cruz County residents. The broad reach and integrated structure of Community Bridges affords the agency the unique ability to swiftly identify and address community needs as they emerge.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to express appreciation for the critical role Community Bridges serves in providing a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community and helping to improve the quality of life for the children, families, and seniors in Santa Cruz County.

COURT RULINGS ON YUKOS MANAGEMENT

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, I would like to share information with my House colleagues about the application of the rule of law and free market economics in Russia. While economic growth has been positive since the 1998 financial crisis, Russia's legal and political system has regressed, threatening the development of a diverse economy based on market principles and the rule of law. The Russian government's 2003 expropriation of the YUKOS Oil Company raises concern about the stability of the economy and continues to remind us that investing in Russia is still very risky.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus Russia Working Group, I would point out that the same legal system that has undermined the civil and human rights of former YUKOS head Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev, also caused the company's downfall. In the YUKOS case, the Russian courts failed to adhere to basic principles such as private property rights protection, independent judges, due process and equal application of the law.

YUKOS, once Russia's largest oil company, was forced to declare bankruptcy in August 2006, when it could not pay claimed back taxes. After a series of auctions, YUKOS' remaining assets fell into the hands of the state-owned company, Rosneft. On November 22, 2007, Russia's Federal Tax Service announced it had completed YUKOS' bankruptcy procedure and that the company had ceased to exist as a legal entity.

In contrast to their experience in the Russian judicial system, Khodorkovsky and Lebedev have won several court rulings in other countries. The first favorable decision came in August 2006, when a Dutch court refused to give the Russian receiver of YUKOS, Eduard Rebgun, full control of its Dutch unit.

In August 2007, the Supreme Court of Switzerland ruled that the case against Khodorkovsky and Lebedev was politically motivated and refused to release bank documents to Russia in connection with the case.

Shortly afterwards, in October 2007, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Russia had violated the rights of Lebedev during his arrest and pretrial detention, and the Russian government was ordered to pay him compensation.

However, in the most recent and significant ruling on October 31, 2007, a Dutch court ruled the YUKOS receiver did not have the right to sell off the firm's foreign assets in a bankruptcy auction in August. The court nullified all actions taken in that auction. The court also ruled that YUKOS was denied a fair trial to establish how much back taxes it owed to the Russian government.

The Dutch court ruling is important because it highlights three vitally important issues: First, the ability of Russian officials to appoint their own managers to run YUKOS; second, the bankruptcy of YUKOS and the process used to achieve it; and third, the validity of the original tax claim against YUKOS.

This decision, like many others before it, raises concerns about the legitimacy of the Russian court rulings in the YUKOS case. When the European Court of Human Rights along with courts in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and other jurisdictions all reach the same conclusion, it strongly indicates that there is something very wrong in the application of the rule of law in Russia.

I want to share details of the October 31st Dutch court judgment relating to this case, and would like to submit for the RECORD the "Decision" section of that ruling.

JUDGMENT

District Court of Amsterdam, civil law division, case number/docket number: 355622/HA ZA 06-3612.

Judgment dated 31 October 2007 in the case of 1. David Andrew Godfrey, resident in London (United Kingdom); 2. Bruce Kelvern Misamore, resident in Houston, Texas (United States of America); 3. the private company with limited liability YUKOS Finance B.V., with registered seat in Amsterdam; claimants, procurator litis: Mr. R.J.

van Galen versus 1. Eduard Konstantinovich Rebgun, in his capacity of trustee in the bankruptcy of the legal entity under the law of the Russian Federation OAO YUKOS Oil Company, having chosen domicile at Rotterdam; 2. Leendert Jacob Hogerbrugge, Resident at Leiden; 3. Sergei Savelyevich Shmelkov, resident at Moscow (Russian Federation); defendants, procurator litis: Mr. P.N. van Regteren Altena.

Claimants jointly hereinafter to be called Godfrey et al. and separately Godfrey, Misamore and Yukos Finance. Defendants jointly hereinafter to be called Rebgun et al. and separately Rebgun, Hogerbrugge and Shmelkov. OAO Yukos Oil Company hereinafter to be called Yukos Oil.

THE DECISION

The District Court:

Passes a declaratory judgment that all Shareholders' Resolutions in regard to Yukos Finance, in so far as taken by Rebgun in his capacity of trustee of Yukos Oil, including but not limited to the decision to dismiss Godfrey and Misamore as directors of Yukos Finance B.V. dated 11 August 2006 and the alleged decisions to appoint Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge as directors of Yukos Finance, are null and void;

Passes a declaratory judgment that all decisions taken by Shmelkov and/or Hogerbrugge in their supposed capacity of directors of Yukos Finance B.V. are null and void;

Orders Rebgun to lend his immediate and unconditional cooperation to the reversal of the (consequences of the) Shareholders' Resolutions he made in Yukos Finance, subject to a penalty of 10,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 1,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 500,000 Euros;

Forbids Rebgun to exercise any rights with respect to the shares of Yukos Finance or to have these rights exercised, subject to a penalty of 10,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 1,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 500,000 Euros;

Orders Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge, both jointly and severally, to lend their immediate and unconditional cooperation to the reversal of the (consequences of the) managerial decisions taken in Yukos Finance, whether individually or jointly, subject to a penalty of 100,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 100,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 100,000 Euros;

Forbids Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge to exercise any rights with respect to their alleged representative authority in Yukos Finance or to have these rights exercised, subject to a penalty of 100,000 Euros for each individual violation and of 100,000 Euros for each day that such violation continues, to a maximum of 100,000 Euros;

Orders Rebgun, Shmelkov and Hogerbrugge jointly and severally to pay the procedural costs on the side of Godfrey et al., estimated up to this judgment at 332.87 Euros in disbursements and 1,808 Euros in local counsel's salary;

Orders Shmelkov to pay the costs incurred in connection with the Russian translation of the Writ of Summons, being 10,882.06 Euros;

Declares the aforementioned orders and injunctions as well as the orders to pay the procedural costs immediately enforceable;

Dismisses all other applications.

This judgment was passed by Mr. W. Tonkens-Gerkema, Mr. C.S. Naarden and Mr. A.W.H. Vink and delivered in open court on 31 October 2007.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF NEIL NOLF

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the exemplary career of Mr. Neil Nolf, a talented public servant and good friend, who is retiring at the end of the year after decades of public service at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. Since assuming his post as Public Affairs Officer in 1987, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Nolf on many issues of critical importance to the residents of the 28th Congressional District of New York, especially those that involved improving the lives of the dedicated service men and women at the Air Base. His was a life dedicated to public service and his vision and leadership will be sorely missed.

Neil Nolf's life has been driven by a deep-rooted sense of commitment to his community and service to his country. Born and raised in western New York, Mr. Nolf graduated from Buffalo State College in 1975 and began work at the Social Security Administration in Buffalo. Mr. Nolf then left his home in western New York to begin work for the FBI in Washington, DC. From there, he fortunately returned to western New York to begin a very successful career at the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station. While working full time, Mr. Nolf enlisted as a reservist with the 914th Airlift Wing in 1979, discovering and honing the unique leadership skills that have come to define his lifetime of service.

Never content with settling for the status quo, as Public Affairs Officer, Mr. Nolf has been responsible for transforming the Air Reserve Station into the efficient facility that it is today. Overseeing the construction of a new training facility, an officers and airmen quarters, a military entrance processing site, and a much needed runway extension, he was able to ensure that the 914th Airlift Wing had the critical equipment and facilities required to be one of the most successful units in the country. His leadership has also been significantly tested in recent years, with the 914th Airlift Wing being the most deployed reserve unit in the Nation since the beginning of the Iraq War in 2004.

The Air Base, its surrounding communities, and indeed the Nation as a whole, owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Nolf. His legacy will live on at the Air Base, and I look forward to seeing the Air Base continue to grow and flourish, adding much to the security and the economic viability of our Nation. I am honored today to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his service, and I wish Neil the best as he embarks on the next chapter of his storied life.

TRIBUTE TO NAPLES HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Naples High School Football Team

for winning this year's Class 3A Florida State Championship at the Citrus Bowl last week.

Trailing 10-7 against St. Augustine, the Naples High Eagles turned an errant snap into a game-winning touchdown to win the game 17-10. The win keeps the Eagles' 15-0 season record spot-free and makes it the first undefeated season in school history.

Vince Lombardi once said, ". . . You've got to play with your heart, with every fiber of your body. If you're lucky enough to find a guy with a lot of head and a lot of heart, he's never going to come off the field second."

The young men of the Eagles Football Team have proven what Coach Lombardi said, and what he meant. Any of us who have played competitive sports understands the valuable lessons of hard work, teamwork and commitment. These memories and lessons will stay with these players for the rest of their lives and are made all the sweeter by their incredible season.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to the Naples High School Football Team, their coaches, students and fans. We couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments this season.

CONGRATULATING THE FOOTHILL HIGH SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL TEAM

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Foothill High School Agriculture Team of Bakersfield, California on receiving first place in the Parliamentary Procedure Event at the 80th annual National Future Farmers of America Leadership Conference.

The team defeated competition from groups representing 45 states, receiving the country's top Ag education honors. Abigail "Abby" Ryan was also named the national Outstanding Presiding President. Winning the state title earlier this year, the students went on to capture a title at the national competition.

Foothill High team members included Abigail Ryan (President), Amber Sawyer (Secretary), Vern Clark, Amanda Shuminski, Leanne Clark, and Wes Pounds. I would also like to recognize the Foothill High Agriculture Coach Josiah Mayfield.

Undoubtedly, the Parliamentary Procedure skills developed will promise success to students in years to come. Some of these skills included the ability to run orderly meetings on agricultural issues by introducing motions, debating topics and voting, demonstrating their knowledge of the principles of democratic assembly.

It gives me great pride to honor the Foothill High Ag Team and congratulate the Principal, Brenda Lewis, the Coach, Josiah Mayfield and these outstanding Ag students for receiving this distinguished award.