

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE  
TOM DAVIS ON THE OCCASION  
OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of the Honorable THOMAS M. DAVIS for his service to the people of Virginia and the United States House of Representatives. Congressman DAVIS has represented the 11th Congressional District of the state of Virginia for the past 13 years.

Born in Minot, North Dakota, TOM moved to Fairfax County, Virginia, at an early age. He graduated from the United States Capitol Page School as president of his class and went on to Amherst College where he graduated with a degree in political science. TOM earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Virginia and attended Officer Candidate School, serving on active duty in the U.S. Army. He spent eight years serving in the Virginia National Guard and the U.S. Army Reserve.

Before his election to Congress, TOM became the chief elected official of Fairfax County, Virginia, the nation's 11th most populous municipality with the second largest county budget in the United States. While serving as the chairman of the board of supervisors, Fairfax County was recognized as the best financially managed county in the Nation.

Upon his election to the United States House of Representatives in 1995, TOM was put in control of the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on the District of Columbia, marking the first time a freshman had been appointed as a chairman in over 40 years.

TOM is well known for his advocacy on behalf of federal employees and contractors as well as his support of students in the District of Columbia. He was the integral force behind the passage of the D.C. College Access Act, allowing high school graduates in the District to attend public colleges in Maryland and Virginia at in-state tuition rates.

TOM is also known as a strong supporter of political and ethics reform in the House, while still fighting for issues most important to Virginia's 11th District. He was instrumental in gaining funding for the construction of the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge, designed to ease chronic gridlock in northern Virginia. He has also been an ardent supporter for advancements in information technology, which is critical to northern Virginia's high tech community.

In addition to serving as the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee from 1998 to 2002 and chairing the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee during the 108th Congress, TOM's crusade against government waste concentrated on monitoring federal contracts of large dollar amounts.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a dedicated leader and friend to many in this body. I know his family, his wife, Jeannemarie Devolites; his three children; his four stepchildren; and his many friends and colleagues join me in praising his accomplishments and extending thanks for his service over the years on behalf of the com-

monwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

TOM will surely enjoy the well deserved time he now has to spend with his family and loved ones. I wish him the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE BRUCE  
McCANDLESS COLORADO STATE  
VETERANS NURSING HOME

**HON. DOUG LAMBORN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent accomplishments of the Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home. This superior performing facility is the recipient of the highly coveted American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living's (AHCA/NCAL) Quality Award and is the Nation's first state veterans nursing home accepted into the Eden Alternative Registry. The Eden Alternative Registry is a grass roots non-profit organization whose core value centers on a holistic belief of quality care and empowerment of the aging.

For over 32 years, the Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home has been providing 24-hour, skilled nursing care to veterans and their families, and I am proud to commend them on their well-deserved achievements. Their superiority is exhibited not only by being one of four long-term care facility award recipients in Colorado, but as one of only 312 long-term care facilities in the United States to have qualified for the AHCA/NCAL Step I award.

These prestigious accomplishments exemplify the Bruce McCandless Colorado State Veterans Nursing Home's commitment to providing the very best of care to some of our Nation's finest—our veterans. Their continuous strive to meet the needs of their residents clearly demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous quality improvement and I am pleased to have this facility within both my district and the great state of Colorado.

THE DAILY 45: A LONELY DEATH  
IN SAN FRANCISCO

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. Far too often, while our culture is caught up in the exciting history of our nation's political season right now or the blessed peace that some of us enjoy from living life to its fullest, there are dozens of people, each and every day, who lose their life abruptly and in silence at the hands of a gun-wielding assailant.

Such was the case, last night, on the streets of San Francisco. Twenty-four-year old Donovan Mumphy, of Pinole, just outside of San Francisco, was shot and killed by an unknown assailant in the parking lot of an apartment

complex. Witnesses said Mumphy was approached by someone who demanded cash and fled after the shooting.

I extend my condolences to Mr. Mumphy's family and continue to pray for an end to this senseless violence. Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say 'enough is enough, stop the killing.'

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR  
DEMOCRACY IN KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today before you to draw attention to an issue which concerns our continued efforts to establish democratic principles around the world. The recent conflict between Russia and Georgia has highlighted the acute need for the U.S. to maintain and strengthen its resolve to support and strengthen the former Soviet Republic countries.

Kazakhstan is among these countries and it is an important partner in many ways. Kazakhstan is a key energy-producing ally where a large number of U.S. corporations are doing business as part of the global effort to meet our domestic energy needs.

While I certainly appreciate that Kazakhstan has worked closely with the U.S. on matters of nonproliferation, I have become increasingly concerned by reports indicating that Kazakhstan's governmental system lacks the basic rights of democracy: elections are neither free or fair; political opposition faces physical danger; there are few independent media outlets; the wide-scale corruption which has begun to affect major U.S. companies doing business in Kazakhstan; and, there is no respect for human rights, religious freedom, freedom of speech or economic liberalization.

Last year's election in Kazakhstan was far from democratic. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev's reelection in 2005 with 91 percent of the vote prompted widespread complaints of vote fraud. The Nur-Otan party which supports President Nazarbayev won all 98 contested seats in the country's parliamentary election last August. Pledges to institute overhauls have failed to move forward according to recent reports by the U.S. Department of State and Freedom House.

In fact, a number of opposition parties have decided to boycott Kazakhstan's upcoming Senate elections with one of the opposition parties stating that "we do not intend to give a veneer of 'competition' to a forthcoming farce and to become a pseudo democratic entourage".

As part of an agreement that allows Kazakhstan to ascend to the Chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), a multilateral organization devoted to European Security, Kazakhstan pledged to implement an opposition party law and other reform measures by the end of this year. To date, little has been achieved and opposition parties assert that they are not consulted with on formulating an opposition party law.

I applaud my distinguished colleagues Chairman ALCEE HASTINGS of Florida and Co-

Chairman Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland for holding a hearing hosted by the Helsinki Commission on July 22, 2008, titled "Promises to Keep: Kazakhstan's 2010 OSCE Chairmanship". In maintaining the Commission's monitoring duties, the hearing focused on allegations of corruption, human rights abuses and religious intolerance in Kazakhstan. This was the second in a series of hearings during which my colleagues questioned the selection of Kazakhstan as the next leader of the OSCE and its commitment to reform measures. Kazakhstan's Chairmanship has been a controversial issue as many human rights groups and lawmakers have cited a poor human rights record and lack of democratic reform in Kazakhstan. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher testified that political and economic overhauls are needed in Kazakhstan, adding "That is the only way to get away from corruption".

A month prior to this hearing, Chairman HASTINGS and Co-Chairman CARDIN led a bipartisan delegation to Kazakhstan in order to attend the OSCE's 17th Annual Session, which took place in Astana, Kazakhstan's capital city. Additionally, Members of the delegation met with President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Prime Minister Karim Masimov and Secretary of State Kanat Saudabayev.

Clearly Members of the Commission remain concerned not only by the promises made to establish democratic reform by year's end, but also by "very serious allegations" of corruption in the oil-rich nation which could further complicate its relations with the U.S. and the West, as well as human rights abuses, human trafficking, freedom of religion, freedom of the press and rigged elections. When democracy fails that spills over into every other walk of life and the people of Kazakhstan are the ones who suffer.

I know my colleagues in the U.S. Congress share my concern and I encourage our collective support of the Helsinki Commission in calling on the government of Kazakhstan to uphold its commitment to establish democratic reforms as it has promised to do.

#### TRIBUTE TO HILLCREST ORCHARD

### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my pride in an exceptional family agricultural operation that is celebrating 100 years of quality, excellence, and responsible citizenship: the Parsons family and their Hillcrest Orchard in the heart of the Rogue Valley in southern Oregon. The Rogue Valley is known worldwide for its natural scenic beauty, its productive land, its ideal climate, and its coveted outdoor lifestyle. Hillcrest Orchard is in harmony with, and takes its inspiration from, the unique attributes of the Rogue Valley.

Hillcrest Orchard has been proudly operated by the Parsons family since its founding on July 13, 1908 by Reginald H Parsons and Maude Bemis Parsons. One of the oldest continuously-owned family orchards in the Rogue Valley, Hillcrest has long grown some of the region's finest fruit and produce. Four genera-

tions have worked tirelessly to maintain a high standard of quality and to operate always in ways responsible to the environment. Philanthropy and service to the community have been hallmarks of the Parsons family throughout Hillcrest's 100 year history.

Eleven grandchildren of Reginald and Maude are shareholders of Hillcrest: John Day, Hugh Brady, Judson Parsons, George Parsons, Reg Parsons, Geoffrey Tootell, Nancy McDonald, Diana Parsons, Natalie Oliver, Alice Petrich, and Cynthia Parsons. Currently, a fourth generation is involved in Hillcrest and the plan is for members of that generation to assume active management and further the well-established tradition of excellence and service.

As you can imagine, Madam Speaker, over the last 100 years, there have been many challenges in conducting successful orchard operations, but the Parsons family never let economic or natural disasters deter them. During the Depression and World War II, the family retained their employees and kept the fruit trees in healthy condition. By 1938, Reginald Parsons had gradually removed all of the apple trees and replaced them with pears, since the latter were more profitable. As the older pear trees declined in production, workers replaced them with new stock. Today, some of the orchard's earliest pear trees remain standing, producing Hillcrest's famous "century pears."

Not only has the Parsons family preserved their rich agricultural legacy, but also, through their stewardship, 11 buildings on the property of Hillcrest Orchard are now listed in the National Register of Historic Places. My colleagues, I have spent much time at Hillcrest Orchard and I can attest that it is truly a jewel in a very beautiful part of the country. It is a beautiful and welcoming place to visit, and their products are second to none. Hillcrest Orchard today remains very true to its century-old proud heritage of quality and innovation. What was once on the outskirts of Medford, Oregon is now surrounded by residential and commercial development, yet Hillcrest continues to operate in environmentally sound ways that makes it a model neighbor to the community. Hillcrest Orchard is dedicated to conserving the land for the health of the community and for future generations.

The most recent development at Hillcrest is the award-winning Roxy Ann Winery, featuring a charming tasting room, well-groomed grounds, musical entertainment, and social events. The planting of Hillcrest's vineyard began in 1997 with Merlot and Cabernet grapes. Hillcrest has expanded its selection of varietals along with acreage. Currently, 14 commercial varieties are grown at Roxy Ann's vineyards, including Bordeaux and Rhone grapes that flourish in the Rogue River Valley's warm climate and have thrived in similar climates and soils in Europe for hundreds of years. Local shallow clay soils help the vines concentrate the flavors in the fruit rather than producing huge vines. The viticulture and wine-making team at Roxy Ann is constantly evaluating varieties suited to this unique site.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, I take great pride in the last century of the Parsons family dedication to excellence at Hillcrest Orchard, and I ask you to join me in congratulating them for this significant feat and wishing

them well as they enter their second century of exemplary business and service to the Rogue Valley. They have the tradition and the family dedication to make the next 100 years even more productive than the last. The Parsons family represents what is great about American agriculture and American families, and they will continue to give their customers and their community the very best.

#### TRIBUTE TO ALAN LOESSY

### HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and mark the retirement of Alan Loessy from the Letterkenny Army Depot in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Alan Loessy began his 33 year long career in public service as a field representative in Franklin County for Congressman BUD SHUSTER. His exemplary work for the people of the 9th Congressional District made him a perfect candidate to join the outstanding team at the Letterkenny Army Depot and in May 1989 he joined the Letterkenny staff as a personnel management specialist.

In his capacity at Letterkenny, Mr. Loessy worked on behalf of the thousands of employees entering or departing civil service from Letterkenny and its many tenant activities. It was a job that required dedication, extreme patience, and a complete understanding of the Depot's position in the family of Department of Defense facilities as the installation downsized. Alan's support to those many individuals during the transition will long be remembered.

In July 1995 Alan was assigned as a public affairs specialist and became the Letterkenny Public Affairs Officer. He worked to convey the message of the contributions the men and women of Letterkenny made to the defense of the nation. He was the public face of the depot to the media and worked cooperatively with print and television reporters to leave a positive and lasting impression of the good work being done inside the depot fence line.

In 2002 Mr. Loessy was one of the founding members of Opportunity 05, a local group that helped build the case for Letterkenny's continued growth under 2005 Base Realignment and Closing round. The success of that effort was celebrated by many but none more so than Alan who played a key role behind the scenes.

Throughout his long career, Alan Loessy personified dedication, commitment and excellence to the people employed by Letterkenny and the corps of civilian employees in the Department of Defense. I know first hand how hard he worked with my own staff to promote the mission of the Letterkenny Army Depot. While Alan will be missed by everyone, his retirement brings new opportunities for him to follow. I along with the entire Shuster family wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors and congratulate Alan Loessy for a job well done.