

democracy who has worked to expose the depraved horror that is the Cuban tyranny.

Since his initial incarceration in the sub-human conditions of the tyranny's totalitarian dungeons, Dr. García Paneque's weight has dropped from a healthy 190 pounds to an emaciated 100 pounds. Since last year prison authorities at the Las Mangas Prison have not allowed Dr. García Paneque access to fresh air or sunlight.

According to his mother, Dr. García Paneque suffers from dizziness due to a serious episode of diarrhea and profuse rectal bleeding and may be suffering from a duodenal ulcer. It is reported that the bleeding is a complication related to an eating disorder known as Malabsorption Syndrome, which he developed in prison. The condition does not allow food he ingests to nourish his body.

Dr. García Paneque's health while languishing in a hellish dungeon has been a point of constant concern for some time now. In June Dr. García Paneque was diagnosed with a kidney tumor and pneumonia. As a result of the pneumonia, he suffers from pleural effusion of the right lung and constant chest colds. Yet as Dr. García Paneque's condition continues to deteriorate, his jailers have refused to allow him consultation with doctors not affiliated with the prison or even provide him adequate medical care.

Madam Speaker, this is a textbook case of how the Cuban totalitarian regime treats prisoners of conscience who dare speak the truth and call for democracy and human rights.

But this cruel and inhumane treatment is not confined to those inside the regime's gulags. Since Dr. García Paneque's arrest, his wife and four young children faced intense harassments and attacks by angry mobs on their home. They have since fled Cuba and were granted asylum in the United States. His wife says that Dr. García Paneque "takes great comfort from his Bible . . . which he reads every day." While his wife says his physical health continues to suffer, his "spiritual health is strong."

On October 24, 2007, Dr. García Paneque's wife and his daughter Shirlen were received and honored by President George W. Bush at the White House, where the President publicly called upon the regime to release Dr. García Paneque forthwith.

Even though Dr. García Paneque has endured constant physical and psychological torture at the hands of regime thugs, he continues to demand human rights and dignity for the people of Cuba. He is languishing in the squalor of the infernal gulag at the whim of a merciless tyrant, simply because he believes in freedom, truth, democracy, and human rights for the people of Cuba.

Madam Speaker, it is unconscionable that journalists and physicians like Dr. García Paneque are locked in dungeons for writing the truth. My colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Jose Luis García Paneque before his prison sentence turns into a death sentence.

# A TRIBUTE TO DAVID M. RUBENSTEIN

## HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today to honor David M. Rubenstein, Co-Founder and Managing Director of The Carlyle Group, an American private equity firm. Born and raised in Baltimore, David Rubenstein graduated from Baltimore City College and went on to graduate magna cum laude from Duke University and earn his law degree from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was an editor of the Chicago Law Review. Prior to founding The Carlyle Group, David served as the Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy during the Carter Administration.

Most recently, David has become more well-known thanks to a Sotheby's auction item he purchased in December. On December 17, 2008, with a winning bid of over \$21 million, David acquired the last copy of the Magna Carta remaining in the United States. The original Magna Carta, first signed in Britain in 1215, established the rights of the English citizens and placed checks on the power of the ruling monarch. Our own U.S. Constitution incorporates ideas and phrases almost directly from this historic document. The copy David purchased in December is a copy from 1297 when it was signed into law by the British Parliament.

Since 1985, it has been displayed at the National Archives as part of the Charters of Freedom exhibit, alongside the original Declaration of Independence, U.S. Constitution, and Bill of Rights. David has announced that the copy will continue to be housed at the National Archives in Washington, DC.

David is an active member of several Boards of Directors or Trustees, including Duke University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Chicago, Lincoln and Kennedy Centers for the Performing Arts, and the Council on Foreign Relations. David is also a member of The Business Council, the Madison Council of the Library of Congress, the Trilateral Commission and the National Advisory Committee of J.P. Morgan Chase and the Washington Economic Club, of which he is President-elect.

In addition to his extensive involvement in numerous organizations, David is also active in philanthropy. He has made significant contributions and donations to the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, Duke's Terry Stanford Institute of Public Policy, the Lincoln Center and the Johns Hopkins Medical System here in Maryland.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join with me today to honor David M. Rubenstein. His legacy as a leader in policy and finance will be matched only by his devotion to philanthropic projects. It is with great pride that I congratulate David Rubenstein on his exemplary career in business, law and government.

# SMALL BUSINESS TELEWORK PROMOTION ACT

## HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "Small Business Telework Promotion Act" to assist our Nation's small businesses in establishing successful telework programs for their employees.

Across America, numerous employers are responding to the needs of their employees and establishing telework programs. In 2000, there were an estimated 16.5 million teleworkers. By the end of 2004, there were an estimated 30 million teleworkers, representing an increase of almost 100 percent in 4 short years. Unfortunately, the majority of growth in new teleworkers comes from organizations employing over 1,500 people, while just a few years ago, most teleworkers worked for small to medium-sized organizations.

By not taking advantage of evolving technology to establish successful telework programs, some small businesses are losing out on a host of benefits that will save them money, and make them more competitive. Successful telework programs can help small business owners to retain valuable employees by allowing them to work from a remote location, such as their home or a telework center.

In addition to the cost savings realized by businesses that employ teleworkers, there are a number of related benefits to society and the employee. For example, telecommuters help reduce traffic and cut down on air pollution by staying off the roads during rush hour. Fully 80 percent of home-only teleworkers commute to work on days they are not teleworking. Telework can also give employees more time to spend with their families, and reduce stress levels by eliminating the pressure of a long commute.

The bill establishes a program in the Small Business Administration, SBA, to raise awareness about telework among small business employers and to encourage those small businesses to establish telework programs for their employees.

Additionally, an important provision in the bill directs the SBA Administrator to undertake special efforts for businesses owned by, or employing, persons with disabilities and disabled America veterans. At the end of the day, telework can provide more than just environmental benefits and improved quality of life. It can open the door to people who have been precluded from working in a traditional office setting due to physical disabilities.

Several hurdles to establishing successful telework programs could be cleared by enacting our legislation. The bill will go a long way towards educating small business owners on how they can draft guidelines to make a telework program an affordable, manageable reality and expand their own telework policies.

Here is a brief outline of the bill's provisions—

Section One—provides a short title, namely "The Small Business Telework Promotion Act".

Section Two—sets forth findings regarding the potential benefits of increasing the extent to which employees have the option of teleworking.

Section Three—directs the Small Business Administration (SBA) to carry out a program to raise awareness of telework among small businesses and to encourage them to offer telework options to their employees. This program is to include special outreach to businesses owned by or employing people with disabilities, including disabled veterans.

**RECOGNIZING JOSHUA AARON DICK FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joshua Aaron Dick, 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 374, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

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

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joshua Aaron Dick for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**EXPLANATION OF DUTY  
SUSPENSION PROCESS**

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, the government often negotiates agreements or promulgates regulations that may produce unintended consequences for certain individuals. In such instances, Congress will review the implementation of the law and try to rectify those unintended problems even if the general requirements should remain. For example, exemptions are made in transportation regulations, Government land use, and trade legislation. Such is the case with the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, which was enacted in 1989. Since then Congress has acted occasionally to reduce, suspend, or repeal duties on certain imports as a matter of economic fairness and competitiveness.

Tariffs serve not only to raise revenue for the Government, but also to benefit American business and industry and holdings. Tariffs are notoriously complicated in their effects, and the policies are very difficult to get right.

Each of the nine bills I prepared recently would either suspend or reduce the import duty on a specific chemical compound. Each bill and the chemical compound in question is publicly available and open for all to see and comment on. I believe such openness is an important part of effective Government.

By suspending the import duty on products not made domestically in the United States, Congress can remove an economic barrier

that might send production abroad—taking with it good-paying jobs—and also can help lower costs to consumers for the final products. These bills were all submitted to comply with procedures and criteria set by the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade. None of the chemical compounds is manufactured in the U.S., the value of each of the requested duty suspensions is no more than \$500,000, and their suspensions can be enforced by U.S. Customs officials. The products produced using the imported feedstocks are deemed to be desirable to produce and use in the U.S.

Introduction of the bills is just the beginning of a long process of scrutiny by the U.S. Trade Representative, U.S. International Trade Commission, and the Department of Commerce. Each one will seek information about potential domestic production, present and future imports, and will research the revenue loss associated with the suspension. Additionally, the Subcommittee on Trade will solicit public comment from all interested parties. An objection at any point throughout this process can disqualify the product for further consideration. At the end of this process, the Committee on Ways and Means will put together a miscellaneous tariff bill that includes hundreds of items that have met these rigorous criteria. I expect that temporarily suspending the duty on the nine products I have requested will help our local economy by making American manufacturers more competitive in the global marketplace.

**HONORING DR. VERNON SINGLETON OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA**

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Vernon Singleton on the occasion of a symposium of Wine Phenolic Research being held in his honor by the American Society of Enology and Viticulture.

Dr. Singleton was born in Mill City, Oregon on June 28, 1923. In 1951 he earned a PhD in Protein Biochemistry from Purdue University, where he had also received his bachelor and masters of sciences degrees. He moved to the University of California, Davis in 1958 where he would begin a long and distinguished career as one of the foremost enologists in the world.

He is perhaps best known for his groundbreaking work on wine phenolics and antioxidants. This research has opened the door for an ever expanding scope of knowledge concerning wine and its potential health benefits. He is also the author of more than 220 academic papers and many books that have become classics in the field of enology. For these contributions he has received numerous honors including twice winning the Outstanding Paper of the Year Award from the American Society for Enology and Viticulture in 1986 and 1992, the Office Internationale de la Vigne et du Vin Prize in Enology in 1998 for the best contribution to wine literature in any language for 1997–98, as well as being a life fellow of the American Institute of Chemists and a Charter member of the Phytochemical

Society of North America. He retired in 1991, but remained a professor emeritus and continued publishing for another ten very productive years.

Madam Speaker, it is fitting at this time that we honor the long career and great achievements of Dr. Vernon Singleton. His dedication as a teacher and mentor has allowed him to touch the lives of his students and peers alike, and his research continues to guide and inspire the next generation of chemists and enologists around the world to explore the truly limitless possibilities in their fields.

**THE BIPARTISAN FORMER SOVIET UNION MINORITY RELIEF ACT OF 2008**

**HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague RON KLEIN (D-FL), I am introducing bipartisan legislation to curb the rise of hate crime violence in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Acts of violence against Jews and other minorities are on the rise in the former Soviet Union. In Russia, xenophobic candidates are sweeping to power as state-sponsored hate speech incites anti-Semitism and violence. Widespread discrimination persists against religious and ethnic minorities, including Central Asians, Armenians, Roman Catholics and Evangelical Christians.

In Ukraine, neo-Nazi crimes against Jews are on the rise. Just last night, a rabbi was severely beaten on a main street in the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnepropetrovsk. The assailants have not been identified and no arrests have been reported. The key test of a democracy is tolerance for minorities—and this fledgling democracy is struggling.

In Belarus, human rights conditions continue to deteriorate. The dictator himself spouts anti-Semitic slurs through government media. The need for emergency resettlement of vulnerable communities may soon emerge.

The Former Soviet Union Minority Relief Act of 2008 would strengthen rule of law and democracy initiatives in Ukraine, undermine hate speech in Russia and Belarus through international broadcasting, and allow for emergency evacuations from Belarus or Russia if the need emerges.

When the Soviet Union fell, we thought the fight for persecuted minorities ended. Unfortunately, widespread discrimination persists against religious and ethnic minorities. The international community needs a wake up call that Jews and other minorities are under attack in the Former Soviet Union.

**HONORING HRANT DINK**

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 29, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, a little over a year ago, on January 19, 2007, Turkish-Armenian journalist Hrant Dink was murdered for reporting on the Armenian Genocide. The first anniversary of his