

HONORING MR. BRIAN ABRAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Brian Abram. Mr. Abram served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 6.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Abram served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Abram is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

HONORING NIC FIORE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nic Fiore. Mr. Fiore passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at the age of 88. A celebration and tribute to the life of Mr. Fiore and his wife, Midge, will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at the Curry Village Pavilion in Yosemite Valley.

Mr. Nic Fiore was born on December 1, 1920, in Montreal, Canada. He was one of 12 children. After serving in the Canadian Army during World War II, he abandoned his dream of becoming a championship European bike racer and taught skiing in the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal. In 1947, Mr. Fiore was recruited by Luggi Foeger, then ski school director at Badger Pass. He drove into Yosemite Valley for the first time on December 8, 1947.

Mr. Fiore originally planned on staying only 4 months at the Badger Pass ski area. One ski season became the next and he became more involved in various operations of the park. While teaching skiing in the winter, he worked in the hotels in the park over the summers, including serving as maître d' of the Ahwahnee Hotel and managing the Glacier Point Lodge and the Wawona Hotel. In 1956, Mr. Fiore was named director of the Badger Pass Ski School, and in 1963 he also began managing Yosemite's five High Sierra camps in the wilderness back country. Mr. Fiore served as the director of the Yosemite's Ski and Snowboard School at Badger Pass ski area for 45 years before assuming the role of "ski ambassador" in 2001.

Early in Mr. Fiore's career, he became concerned with the integrity of ski instructors. In the late 1940s, he joined the newly formed California Ski Instructors Association. Through the organization, he advocated for the creation of a national ski instructors association to promote the quality and consistency of instruc-

tors. In 1961, the Professional Ski Instructors of America was founded. Mr. Fiore remained vigilant in pushing the national organization to maintain high standards for the certification process of ski instructors. He served as executive director of the western division of the Professional Ski Instructors of America for nearly 30 years. For his tremendous service to Badger Pass Mr. Fiore has received various honors, including the prestigious Charlie Proctor Award in 1986 from the Sierra Chapter of the North American Ski Journalist Association.

While well into his 80s, Mr. Fiore skied nearly every day and taught occasional lessons during the 2003–2004 season. It is estimated that in his 50 years with Badger Pass, Mr. Fiore taught 100,000 guests how to ski. In 2004 Mr. Fiore underwent heart surgery and in May 2009 suffered from a stroke. Mr. Fiore was preceded in death by his wife, Midge. He is survived by his two daughters, Cindy and Nicole, as well as eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Nic Fiore. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

KAZAKHSTAN'S VISION OF A MORE EFFECTIVE OSCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kazakhstan's new role as chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE. The decision by the OSCE participating states to appoint Kazakhstan as its chair for 2010 marks the first time that a former Soviet state will take on this leadership role. The decision was not without controversy, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts made over the past two decades to establish democracy and a market economy. I look forward to full implementation of the promises of reform made by Kazakhstan at the 2007 OSCE Madrid Ministerial. In a January 2010 video address, President Nazarbayev told the OSCE Permanent Council that, "Kazakhstan as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship is firmly committed to the fundamental principles and values of the OSCE." I welcome and applaud this statement as well as Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's Permanent Council statement that, "further steps in the area of democratization in Kazakhstan will be fully in line with the goals and tasks that we have set ourselves during our Chairmanship."

This month, Kazakhstan Secretary of State-Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev has officially assumed his role as chairman-in-office of the OSCE and I believe he will dedicate his efforts toward realizing Kazakhstan's vision and goals for the OSCE this year. I know Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's objective is to make the organization even more valid, useful, and effective. I commend Kazakhstan's effective preparation for the chairmanship, and welcome the deepening cooperation between Kazakhstan and the U.S. to make the chairmanship a success.

On January 14, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev outlined his country's plan for executing Kazakhstan's strategic vision. In

light of increased threats to international security, including illicit drug trafficking and terrorism, Kazakhstan will focus on preventing conflicts that result in tragedy and disaster. It is important that the United States support these efforts. I also support Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's intention to continue to focus on the OSCE's human dimension.

One area of focus for Kazakhstan as chairmanship of the OSCE will be to address issues pertinent to the developing situation in Afghanistan. In fact, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev has stated that a principal goal is to help the Afghan people leave behind their militaristic world and develop a lasting peaceful and productive society. To achieve this Kazakhstan has donated \$50 million to a new program which will provide vocational training to 1,000 Afghans at Kazakh universities. Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev also intends to develop cooperative projects that strengthen the border and improve law enforcement practices, and I support increasing OSCE involvement in this regard.

Beyond the global peril of Afghanistan is the issue of nuclear disarmament. As a former Soviet state, Kazakhstan should be applauded for its decision to eradicate its inherited nuclear arsenal and for its example and leadership in nuclear nonproliferation. With the mantle of OSCE leadership, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev will work with the OSCE to achieve increased global security.

I commend Kazakhstan for prioritizing the fight against the deplorable and growing concern of human trafficking, particularly that of children. Trafficking has become a major international concern that warrants the attention and cooperation of the OSCE states to develop effective solutions to eliminate such practices.

Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev has also expressed the need for increased tolerance and equality, especially with regard to religion, race, and gender. Various conferences and meetings are already in place to discuss the implementation of previous decisions concerning these areas. I plan to attend at least one of the conferences. And I will encourage colleagues to attend as well.

Finally, as many of my colleagues would agree, energy security remains a critical global concern. Kazakhstan, with its significant oil, gas and mining potential, plays a key role as a reliable energy supplier. The past two years has seen significant challenges to energy supply and distribution in the OSCE region and there is much that the OSCE could be doing to help mediate differences and encourage greater transparency in this area. I am confident that Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev will bring to bear his country's experience and expertise in energy issues to create greater capacity for energy security both politically and institutionally in the OSCE.

I look forward to helping and following the progress of the OSCE under the leadership of Kazakhstan.

The priorities outlined by Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev demonstrate the challenges ahead for the OSCE. I wish Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev and the entire Republic of Kazakhstan well as the OSCE chairmanship. It is my hope that by the close of 2010, we will see Kazakhstan's OSCE leadership manifested through positive outcomes.

U.S. OFFICIAL ON COMMENCEMENT OF
KAZAKHSTAN'S OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP

(By Robert O. Blake, Jr., Jan. 20, 2010)

As Kazakhstan begins to serve as the Chairman-In-Office of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe this year, it is charting a course for a bright and promising future.

It is a future in which the United States and Kazakhstan together seek peace, security, economic development and prosperity. We seek democratic values and human rights that unite free nations in trust and in respect. We seek a region in which relations are good between neighbors, between Russia and China and Afghanistan and all others in the region and of course with the United States.

Kazakhstan has been a leader in international security since its earliest days of independence. After the end of the Cold War, the world applauded as Kazakhstan renounced its nuclear weapons, closed the nuclear test site at Semipalatinsk, and freely transferred over half a ton of weapons-grade uranium to secure sites outside the country under Project Sapphire.

This past December, we marked the sixteenth anniversary of the landmark Cooperative Threat Reduction Program in Kazakhstan and we continue to work in partnership with Kazakhstan to advance our common non-proliferation goals. In April President Obama will welcome President Nazarbayev and other world leaders to the Global Nuclear Security Summit he will host.

Since its independence, Kazakhstan has also set an example in the region with economic reforms that have attracted investment and created jobs. The Government of Kazakhstan is also making wise choices to develop multiple energy export routes and to diversify its economy to ensure that its vast oil wealth can become a source for social mobility, not social stagnation.

As Kazakhstan's economy continues to recover from the global economic downturn, it should again be an engine for growth within Central Asia. Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan would benefit immensely from Kazakhstan's investment and energy supplies to stimulate growth and create jobs.

And Afghanistan needs the full partnership of Kazakhstan to overcome the destitution that extremists, warlords, and civil war have compounded over several decades. Kazakhstan is providing vital logistical support to the International Security Assistance Force through the Northern Distribution Network. We welcome Astana's decision to invest in Afghanistan's next generation of leaders by generously allocating \$50 million to fund scholarships for a thousand Afghan students to study in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan's OSCE Chairmanship is highly symbolic. The OSCE had long prided itself for stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Now, for the very first time, a major international organization is headed by a new country east of Vienna. It is a recognition that the OSCE draws its strength not only from Europe and the United States, but also from Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the Balkans.

The challenges facing the OSCE and the international community are real but our strength comes from facing those challenges collectively and with a common purpose. The United States looks forward to working with Kazakhstan this year to meet these challenges and achieve the goal of modernizing and strengthening the OSCE, for the benefit of all participating States.

Kazakhstan has successfully navigated the early stages of statehood. It has achieved a position of leadership on international secu-

rity and economic development. And now, Kazakhstan, as the OSCE Chairman-in-Office has an unprecedented opportunity to lead Central Asia towards a future of democracy and to advance its own reform agenda to unleash the creative energy of its people.

With continued reform, Kazakhstan can become the nexus of Eurasia in the 21st century, the point where all roads cross. For thousands of years, along the ancient Silk Road, the communities of Central Asia facilitated the global exchange of ideas, and trade, and culture. In the process, they made historic contributions to our collective human heritage.

Today, as Kazakhstan assumes the OSCE mantle, it is poised and ready to break a fresh path for a new Silk Road, a great cross-roads of reform linking the provinces of northern Russia to the ports of South Asia, the republics of Western Europe to the democracies of East Asia.

A strong and prosperous and democratic Kazakhstan can energize the global transmission of learning, trade and freedom across the steppes of Central Asia. Kazakhstan has a glorious past and can seize a hopeful future. The United States will continue to be Kazakhstan's steadfast partner.

HONORING MR. CHRISTOPHER
PENFOLD

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Christopher Penfold. Mr. Penfold served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Town of Dunkirk Town Justice.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Penfold served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Penfold is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO PROHIBIT ARTICLE III TRIAL
FOR 9/11 MASTERMIND KHALID
SHEIK MOHAMMED AND CO-CON-
SPIRATORS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing bipartisan legislation with Sen. LINDSEY GRAHAM to prohibit the use of Department of Justice funds for a civilian trial for Khalid Sheik Mohammed—9/11 mastermind and murderer of journalist Daniel Pearl—and four other co-conspirators in any community in the U.S. I feel this legislation is critically needed in light of the attorney general's dangerous

mismanagement of this trial. This legislation is similar to an amendment I offered to fiscal year 2010 appropriations legislation, but was defeated on a party-line vote late last year.

Last November, Attorney General Eric Holder unilaterally announced that Khalid Sheik Mohammed and his four co-conspirators currently held at Guantanamo Bay would be tried in the heart of New York City in a civilian trial. Alarmingly, the attorney general did not consult with any local leaders, including New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly or Mayor Michael Bloomberg. If he had, he would have better understood the dangers and cost of this approach. The trial, as planned, is estimated to cost taxpayers at least \$250 million per year—for a total expected cost of more than \$1 billion.

Upon reviewing the costs and security concerns from the New York City Police Department last week, Mayor Bloomberg stated, "It would be great if the federal government could find a site that didn't cost a billion dollars, which using downtown [New York City] will. [The trial] is going to cost an awful lot of money and disturb an awful lot of people." Shortly thereafter, scores of local, state, and congressional leaders from the New York region withdrew their support and encouraged the attorney general to reverse this reckless decision.

However, in light of this collapsing support from local leaders for the trial, I am concerned that the Obama Administration is now "venue shopping" for a new city to hold this trial in order to save face. This approach is no less dangerous, costly and disruptive to other communities under consideration than it was for New York City.

The legislation Sen. GRAHAM and I are introducing today would explicitly block this dangerous and wasteful trial from any domestic civilian court and, hopefully, compel the attorney general to work with Congress on a safer and more appropriate option. However, our legislation would still allow for a military commission at Guantanamo Bay or on a secure military base inside the U.S. This is a reasonable approach that allows the administration to try these murderous terrorists in an appropriate military commission. These detainees do not deserve more rights than an American service man or woman that is tried by military court.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation. The attorney general does not have a blank check to try dangerous terrorists in the venue of his choice. This must be a decision made in consultation with local leaders, Congress and the American people.

HONORING INTELLIGENCE SPE-
CIALIST FIRST CLASS PETTY
OFFICER JAMES K. BROWN

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Intelligence Specialist First Class Petty Officer James K. Brown, who is retiring following twenty years of service in the United States Navy.

IS1 James K. Brown's storied military career began in August 1989 when he enlisted in the