

SUPPORTING GOALS AND IDEALS
OF RED CROSS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. MARCIA L. FUDGE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 16, 2010

Ms. FUDGE. Mr. Speaker, since 1943 Americans have celebrated the month March as Red Cross Month. I am proud to continue this tradition and recognize the humanitarian spirit of the Red Cross' mission and the dedication of its volunteers.

The American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland, which has its headquarters on Euclid Avenue, does a tremendous job serving the community. The Cleveland chapter improves the quality of lives through emergency preparedness, responding to disasters with humanitarian aid, and providing health and safety training.

When a recent explosion on West 83rd left several families with nothing, the Greater Cleveland Red Cross stepped in and opened a temporary housing facility for them. It then joined with local residents to raise funds and accept donations. That situation demonstrates our Red Cross' responsiveness to community needs and compassion for Americans.

I'd like to congratulate Mary-Alice Frank, CEO of the Greater Cleveland Chapter, David Plate, CEO of the Northern Ohio Blood Services, and Richard W. Vogue, Chairman of the Greater Cleveland Chapter's Board of Directors, on their stewardship of the American Red Cross of Greater Cleveland.

I am equally proud of the Red Cross on the national level. Bonnie McElveen-Hunter, the first woman to be selected as Chairman in the organization's 126-year history, and Gail J. McGovern, the President and CEO, are doing an outstanding job in furthering the goals of the organization. As its mission states, the Red Cross continuously provides relief to victims of disaster and help people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies. These goals deserve recognition and celebration all year.

HONORING DR. ANTHONY BROWN

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the life of Dr. Anthony Brown of Madison.

Anthony was indeed larger than his own life. The gift of love and compassion that he tirelessly bequeathed to all of us during his lifetime is one that can be passed on and passed down forever. He taught us to believe in the power of one to make a difference and more importantly, he showed us by bringing joy and purpose to others every single day. His legacy transcends time, place, person, and death. We are all better for knowing Anthony, for having him in our community, and for feeling his radiant affection for all people.

It would be impossible to recite the countless professional achievements and accomplishments that he accumulated throughout a career without end. To Anthony, his work was

never done and that mindset permeated his every action.

He was the epitome of a brother's keeper and embodied all that we strive for in a community of shared responsibility. No matter one's color, creed, or station in life, Anthony was never satisfied until the least among us was given the helping hand we all too often take for granted. While Anthony's spirit of uplifting love and generosity will live on in each of us and all those with whom we share it, the memories of our cherished moments with him will only live on in our thoughts and prayers.

For me, that moment came the day before the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. When I was fortunate enough to be able to present Anthony and Brenda with an invitation to attend, I was met with tears of gratitude. For Anthony and millions more around the world, this was not simply a celebration of a new American leader. It was the realization of a dream told decades ago. It was only fitting for Anthony to be a part of something that he had a hand in creating.

My condolences to Anthony's friends and family could never repay the debt of gratitude we owe Anthony for all he has done for us. All I can say is thank you.

COMMENDING OUR ALLY,
AZERBAIJAN**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. PASTOR of Arizona. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to highlight the small country of Azerbaijan, wedged between Russia and Iran, on the Western shore of the Caspian Sea. Azerbaijan has now been an Independent Republic for the longest time period in its history—nearly 20 years. The Region contains oil and gas resources equivalent to those of Saudi Arabia, and Azerbaijan owns one-third of the oil and gas deposits in the Region. Their main oil pipeline runs from the capital city, Baku, through Georgia and Turkey, and out to the Turkish Port of Ceyhan on the Mediterranean Sea. An important oil customer of theirs is Israel. Azerbaijan is a Muslim country that has practiced complete religious tolerance for hundreds of years, with some five Jewish Temples in Baku alone. And of major importance, Azerbaijan has provided troops to support our military efforts in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

Between 1991 and 1993, Azerbaijan was locked in a conflict with surrounding countries. A brutal act during the conflict happened at the Azerbaijani village of Khojaly in February 1992, when women, children, and old people were killed. Therefore, February is an especially emotional time for the people of Azerbaijan.

With the help of the government of Russia, a cease-fire was negotiated in this war in 1994, leaving 16 percent of Azerbaijan, including the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, occupied by Armenian forces. Since that time, the Minsk Group of OSCE has played the lead negotiating role in attempting to bring about a solution to this situation, encouraged by numerous international resolutions including five in the United Nations.

Today, some 18 years after Khojaly, there is a glimmer of hope. President Ilham Aliyev of

Azerbaijan has been meeting regularly with President Sargsyan of Armenia, and in a recent weekend spent with President Medvedev of Russia, it was reported that the two Presidents worked on a Preamble to an agreement that will take great political courage for both of them. It is important that we give them our encouragement and make sure that our actions with respect to the Region support this historic agreement.

CONGRATULATING AND SUPPORT-
ING KAZAKHSTAN FOR ITS NEW
AND VITAL ROLE AS CHAIR OF
THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE
SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION
OF EUROPE (OSCE)**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to congratulate Kazakhstan for its new role as chair of the Organization for the Security and Co-operation of Europe, OSCE, and to let this serve as a reminder to the world that emerging democracies do in fact have an important and pivotal role to play on the global stage.

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki accords, a historic declaration by OSCE member states seeking to improve relations and foster dialogue between the West and the communist countries of the time, it seems duly appropriate to recognize the importance of Kazakhstan's new chairmanship since it is the first former Soviet state, the first CIS member, and the first central Asian country to assume such a role in the 56-member organization.

This past September, I commended Kazakhstan's President Nazarbayev for almost 20 years of vision and leadership in transforming the former Soviet republic into an emerging and thriving democratic society. The unanimous endorsement by all OSCE member states for the chairmanship by Kazakhstan only reinforces these enormous and positive steps forward by this young democracy from its former Soviet roots.

As a result, Kazakhstan and its neighbors have seen progress in regional security as Astana has emerged as both a regional and global leader on the non-proliferation and disarmament front, and its citizens have seen vast improvements to their daily lives as their country emerges as a regional economic leader. Furthermore, Kazakhstan has established itself as a strong ally and strategic partner to the United States fighting the global war on terror and especially playing an active role to ensure stability and security in Afghanistan.

As one of its first acts as a society free from Soviet rule, President Nazarbayev positioned Kazakhstan to be a leader in nonproliferation by shutting down the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site, dismantling its nuclear and missile arsenal, which was the world's fourth largest at the time, and safely getting rid of, according to the president himself, 104 intercontinental missiles from the Soviet Union that were each tipped with 10 nuclear warheads.

This was not an easy decision considering the potential influence that such an arsenal could yield both in the region and the globe,

but the President has focused his country's efforts on building a "new economic and political model" that would strengthen its commercial and security relationships with the West. As a result, Kazakhstan has emerged as a regional economic leader, increasing its GDP to \$135 billion—six times greater than its \$22 billion GDP 10 years ago—in addition to increasing its foreign trade to more than \$80 billion. These economic strides and the increase in economic opportunities stand in stark contrast to life under communist rule and are enough to mirror similar opportunities in many western countries, which is no small feat in so little time.

Kazakhstan has also been a reliable ally to the United States, and President Nazarbayev has indicated that he looks forward to strengthening this relationship in addition to reinvigorating the OSCE. Proving his effectiveness and determination to tackle even the toughest of challenges, President Nazarbayev welcomes his country's new undertaking with the same gusto and leadership that helped him transform his country into the promising democracy and economic leader that it is today. Alluding to the many global challenges we face today, he issued a call to action to the member states, urging them to convene in a summit this year, for the first time in 10 years, in order to strengthen the role of the OSCE as we face "one of the most complicated periods in modern history."

One of the main issues he hopes to address and strengthen within the OSCE by holding this summit would be security matters and fighting terrorism. Accordingly, eliminating the terrorist presence and threat in Afghanistan is a matter of high priority that will not only benefit the region but will also have long-term positive implications for our own national security and international security.

The Kazakh president asserted that "it is a time when leaders of OSCE member states should demonstrate their political will and outline solutions to the difficult challenges facing our nations. The summit will not only give a powerful impetus to adapting the OSCE to modern challenges and threats, but also increase the confidence and respect among our peoples to the organization itself."

Madam Speaker and fellow colleagues, I once again commend President Nazarbayev for his steadfast vision and leadership and urge you today to support him as he sets out to reestablish dialogue among all OSCE member states by convening a summit this year. Such an assembly can only foster cooperation that will ultimately lead to increased security and stability for all.

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NOWRUZ AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IRANIAN-AMERICANS

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, on the evening of March 17, 2010, the Nowruz Commission held its inaugural event at the Library of Congress. Nowruz is recognized by many people around the world who celebrate the exact moment of Vernal Equinox as the beginning of a New Year. Mr. Nasser Kazeminy and

Ms. Gissou R. Kian, serve as Chairman and President of the Nowruz Commission, respectively. Ambassadors and senior diplomats of eight nations serve on the Commission.

Dr. Kamran Khavarani, the creator of "Abstract Romanticism" presented a special painting entitled "The Bird of Freedom" to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson. The painting was accepted by Dr. James Hadley Billington, the Librarian of Congress. This was witnessed by nearly 400 people of Iranian, Iraqi, Turkish, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Russian, Ukrainian and Kurdish origins at the Coolidge Auditorium.

This is the first time in history that an Iranian American artist has presented a painting to the spirit of Thomas Jefferson, the man whose gift of books provided the beginning for the Library of Congress. Dr. Kamran Khavarani deserves to be recognized for his unique gift.

The Nowruz Commission, whose mission of bringing diverse people together in search of peace and friendship, deserves special recognition on the first day of spring, Nowruz, March 20, 2010.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I traveled home for the birth of my grandchild. As a result, I missed a number of votes. Had I been present, I would have voted the following:

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45300 Portola Avenue in Palm Desert, California, as the "Roy Wilson Post Office." (Rollcall No. 128)

"Nay" on Ordering the Previous Question providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rollcall No. 129)

"Nay" on Agreeing to the Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules. (Rollcall No. 130)

"Aye" on Motion to Refer the Resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Rollcall No. 131)

"Nay" on Motion to Table raising a question of the privileges of the House. (Rollcall No. 132)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended State Admission Day Recognition Act of 2009. (Rollcall No. 133)

"Nay" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the Agricultural Credit Act of 2009. (Rollcall No. 134)

"Aye" on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the Vermont Long Trail, the oldest long-distance hiking trail in the United States, and congratulating the Green Mountain Club for its century of dedication in developing and maintaining the trail. (Rollcall No. 135)

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, earlier yesterday I was unavoidably detained and

missed rollcall No. 132. If present, I would have voted "yea."

IN MEMORY OF FESS PARKER

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 19, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of an extraordinary actor, a gentleman, a family man, a successful vintner and hotelier, and a patriotic American, Fess Parker, who died Thursday after 85 years of making the world around him a better place.

My wife, Janice, and I were fortunate to call Fess Parker and his wife, Marcella, our friends.

I first met Fess in 1987 when by chance we were seated together on a flight from Washington, DC, to Los Angeles. He had just left the White House where he had been a guest of his old friend Ronald Reagan and I was on my weekly trip home.

From that chance meeting, we built a lasting friendship. I had the good fortune of visiting with Fess on several occasions at his home in Los Olivos. Fess was a humble man with a great sense of humor. He shared many great stories, like how he was discovered by Adolphe Menjou, the debonair movie star of the '30s and '40s.

At the time, Fess was a student at the University of Texas and president of his fraternity. Fess chauffeured Mr. Menjou on his visit to the university, they built a rapport and Menjou paved the way for Fess's own success in Hollywood.

There were many other stories, but none that I enjoyed more than how he met the love of his life, Marcella. It was a true love story that even the most talented of Hollywood writers could not have created.

My experience with Fess is typical. He never acted like a Hollywood star in private life.

After more than 20 years in Hollywood, Fess and Marcella moved to Santa Barbara County. There he produced Fess Parker wine from his 2,200-acre vineyard and opened two top-class hotels, the Fess Parker Wine County Inn and Spa in Los Olivos and Fess Parker Doubletree Inn in Santa Barbara. His wine bottles feature the familiar coonskin cap he made famous in his role as Davey Crockett, as do wine glasses sold at the winery. Fess Parker was known to spend hours signing wine bottles for visitors while regaling them with stories of Hollywood.

He and Marcella also were well-known in town, often seen walking hand-in-hand.

In addition to Marcella, with whom Fess celebrated 50 years of marriage in January, Fess Parker is survived by his son, Eli; daughter, Ashley; 11 grandchildren; a great-grandchild; hundreds of friends and millions of fans.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in offering our condolences to Marcella, Eli, Ashley and their entire family, and in remembering a Hollywood icon whose off-screen values and successes in many ways surpassed the successes of his onscreen personas.