

MARINA PSICHENKO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marina Pshichenko who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marina Pshichenko is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marina Pshichenko is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Marina Pshichenko for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

AZERBAIJAN AND ISRAEL: GOOD FRIENDS UNDER SIEGE FROM IRAN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, good relations between the State of Israel and Muslim nations are the exception rather than the rule. Everyone knows about the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Egypt as part of the Camp David Accords, which led to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Israel's neighbor, Jordan, Under King Hussein and his son, King Abdullah II, have also developed good ties with Israel.

More typical than Israeli-Egyptian or Israeli-Jordanian relations in the public's eye is the poisonous relationship between Iran and Israel, a situation fueled by the unrelenting hostility and anti-Semitism of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei.

Iran and its particular brand of Shi'ite Islam seem particularly hostile toward Israel, which is understandably nervous not just about Iran's nuclear ambitions but its strong financial support of Hezbollah and its terrorist activities right in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Given this situation, it would be surprising to most to learn that one of Israel's strongest friends in the region is Azerbaijan, a former Soviet Republic, with over a 90 percent Shi'ite population that has adopted a secular style completely opposed to Iran's sectarian government. Azerbaijan has chosen a very different path from that of its southern neighbor, even though there are over 20 million ethnic Azeris living in Iran, including the Grand Ayatollah himself, who is of Azeri descent.

One possible explanation for Azerbaijan's positive relationship with Israel is the presence of a strong Jewish community in Azerbaijan for over 2,500 years. By all accounts, these

Azeri Jews have always been well treated and never subject to the types of discrimination and hostility that confronted Jews, not just in Muslim nations, but the Christian nations of Europe.

Israel and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations in 1993, and Israel opened an Embassy in Baku one year later. Cultural ties also increased at this time. In 1994, a Yeshiva was opened in Baku, and other Jewish schools established years later. A new Jewish synagogue, one of the largest, if not the largest in Europe, opened in Baku in 1993 and currently there are synagogues in several other Azeri cities.

Prominent Israeli visitors to Baku have included then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1997, President Shimon Peres in June, 2009 and in 2010 Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. Israeli trade, diplomatic and cultural missions to Azerbaijan are common place, and Israel is Azerbaijan's fifth largest trading partner, exporting over \$3.5 billion per year to Israel, including supplying over a quarter of Israel's oil supply. Israeli exports and direct investments in Azerbaijan are also growing, creating strong economic ties between the two nations.

On a political front, Israel and Azerbaijan cooperate closely on security issues. Israel supplies significant military equipment to Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan provides Israel with valuable intelligence support, particularly regarding Iran. The two nations also work together to combat the growth of radical Islam.

The close political, cultural, economic and security relations between Israel and a majority Shi'a but secular Azerbaijan present a model that needs to be encouraged, cultivated and spread throughout the Muslim world. However, this will not happen by itself, and, unless the United States begins to focus more on Azerbaijan's importance in the region, the very existence of this positive Azeri-Israeli relationship could be put in jeopardy.

I would like to include in the RECORD a recent article from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, published on March 9, 2010, "The Blooming Friendship Between Azerbaijan and Israel," by Anna Zamejc. The article quotes Baku-born former Israeli Knesset member Yosef Shagal on Azerbaijan's friendship with Israel: "Today, everyone understands why Iran wants to block the Azerbaijani-Israeli rapprochement by any means . . . It is one of the most important strategic priorities of the Islamic republic. Teheran is perfectly aware of the following: the stronger the connection between Baku and Jerusalem, the more weakened Iran will be."

Zamejc goes on to discuss the tremendous pressure Iran is placing on Azerbaijan to cut its ties with Israel, pressure which is becoming more and more difficult to resist without strong support from the West, particularly the United States. The United States has spent too much blood, treasure and diplomatic capital trying to build peaceful relations between Israel and its Muslim neighbors for it to let this great example of success slip away.

It is important that we pay greater attention to Azerbaijan for economic, strategic and security reasons, and in particular respond affirmatively to Azerbaijan either when it cooperates with the United States in these areas or demonstrates that a Muslim nation both can and should have positive relations with the State of Israel.

RECOGNIZING BEN ARRENDONDO, RETIRING MEMBER OF THE TEMPE CITY COUNCIL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ben Arrendondo and his 16 years of service as a member of the Tempe City Council. I wish to thank him for his dedication to public service and look forward to seeing his future accomplishments within our community.

Councilmember Arrendondo's contribution to Tempe has been both earnest and extensive. His years of teaching and service on school boards and the City Council have revealed him to be a fierce champion for improvement of education and commitment to our youth and to the community. As a former teacher and Mayor of Tempe, I respect and share Ben's commitment to public service and education, and wish to thank him for his tireless efforts and leadership.

Though Ben will be retiring from the Tempe City Council, his service to his community will surely continue in other capacities. Also, his family's legacy of service to Tempe will continue through his niece, Robin Arrendondo-Savage, who was recently elected to the City Council. I am honored to call Ben a friend, and I wish him all the best in his next endeavor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ben Arrendondo's 16 years of outstanding service as a member of the Tempe City Council.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on May 25, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be in the chamber for a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call number 298, H.R. 3885, the Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act.

HONORING COMMUNITY HOPE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Hope, headquartered in Parsippany, Morris County, New Jersey, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2010.

In 1985, a group of mental health professionals and families formed Community Hope with the mission of providing a safe haven for the continuing recovery of young adults afflicted by chronic mental illness. The organization began with one residential facility, staffed by professional counselors capable of assisting individuals in making the transition back to

community and family life. The founders of Community Hope strove to help these individuals break the cycle of repeated psychiatric hospitalizations with personalized therapeutic care coupled with in-residence treatment.

In 2004, Community Hope took advantage of its experience with residential recovery programs and opened its doors to former service men and women in need. It is now the largest transitional housing program in New Jersey for homeless veterans at Lyons Veterans Administration Medical Center in Bernards Township.

Community Hope has been extraordinarily successful in helping young men and women afflicted with chronic mental illness—it now boasts thirty-nine residential facilities, serving 300 individuals. The organization has also taken steps toward creating permanent, affordable housing for New Jersey veterans afflicted with post-traumatic stress syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and physical disabilities incurred in combat.

Community Hope's success is due in no small part to its philosophy. The organization believes all persons with serious mental illness have the potential to live successfully in the community if they are able to view their future with hope. Through a holistic approach that addresses each individual's total needs, the counselors at Community Hope instill confidence in these young men and women, encouraging each individual to grow to his or her maximum potential, both individually and socially.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Community Hope on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, celebrating years of service to those with chronic mental illness and our veterans.

CELEBRATING ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a distinguished couple that exemplifies the ideals of Asian Pacific Islander American, APIA, Month, Mr. Truc Ho and his wife, Ms. Dieu Quyen. Truc Ho and Dieu Quyen have made tremendous contributions to Orange County, in particular to the Vietnamese American community.

As a refugee, Truc Ho escaped communist Vietnam, arriving to the United States in 1981. He is a talented songwriter, composer, and a successful producer. His music and humanitarian efforts have touched the hearts of the Vietnamese communities around the world. Truc is also the CEO of Saigon Broadcasting TV Network, the first 24 hour Vietnamese language channel.

Ms. Dieu Quyen Nguyen immigrated to the United States in 1978 at the age of 14. She is a graduate from Cal State Long Beach and is a teacher at Pacifica High School in Garden Grove. Dieu is a dedicated educator and community activist. She serves as a board member for the Council of Vietnamese Language Schools, and is a television news anchor for SBTN-TV and ASIA Entertainment.

Together this dynamic duo is known for their philanthropic contributions in helping human

trafficking victims; Vietnamese refugees; raising awareness on human rights violations in Vietnam; and preserving the Vietnamese language and culture.

Please join me in recognizing these outstanding individuals that have enriched the culture in my district, in Orange County.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN ELEMENTARY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE WALK ON! CHALLENGE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the grant awarded to Jordan Elementary in Chandler, Arizona for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona's 2010 Walk On! Challenge. I wish to applaud the students, teachers and staff of Jordan Elementary for their enthusiastic participation in the Walk On! Challenge.

The Walk On! Challenge increases the knowledge of both the issue of childhood obesity and the necessity for exercise and good health in our youth. As a teacher for almost 28 years, I understand the importance of addressing these issues through a hands-on approach.

By applying for and receiving this grant, and participating in this program, Jordan Elementary and its educators have taken a significant step towards alerting our community to the problem of obesity and stimulating a positive response. Through their help, we can help instill good habits for children that will lead to an active and healthy lifestyle, and help to solve the problem of obesity within our community.

This is truly an inspiring and encouraging initiative to undertake within the community, and I would like to once again thank the entire Jordan Elementary community for addressing it.

CHRISTOPHER K. LYNCH

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher K. Lynch. Christopher is 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 205, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Christopher has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Christopher has earned the 12-Month Camper and World Conservation Awards. Christopher has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Christopher constructed several shelters located around the athletic fields of First Bible Baptist Church of Blue Springs, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher K. Lynch for

his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JOHNNY MAJORS

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today alongside our colleague Mr. SHULER, to recognize the lifetime accomplishments of our friend, former University of Tennessee football coach Johnny Majors.

Johnny is from a remarkable football family in Lynchburg, Tennessee. His father Shirley was the patriarch of a family of Tennessee football royalty. He was the head coach at Sewanee, the University of the South, for 21 years and had five sons who played college football.

Johnny and his brother Joe played high school football for the Huntland Hornets, where their father coached, and their sister Shirley-Ann was a cheerleader. The team won the state championship in 1951. Johnny, along with two of his brothers, Bill and Bob, would all go on to play for my alma mater, the University of Tennessee. His brother Larry played for the University of the South at Sewanee.

His brother, Joe Majors, a close friend of mine, was the starting quarterback at Florida State University and also played for the University of Alabama. He was an accomplished attorney; a former member of the Tennessee State House of Representatives, and a well-respected and popular figure on Capitol Hill. Everyone who had the pleasure to know him or work with him, as I did, was saddened when he passed away in 2007.

Johnny Majors stayed with football all of his life. In college, he was a triple-threat tailback at the University of Tennessee. Johnny was an All-American and runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1956. He played for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League for one year and then moved on to several coaching positions.

Johnny was head football coach for the Iowa State University Cyclones for five seasons before taking over the football program at the University of Pittsburgh, where he helped win the National Championship with the Pittsburgh Panthers in 1976 and was honored as the National Coach of the Year.

Luckily for our alma mater, Johnny Majors decided to return to the University of Tennessee in 1977. While there, he reached remarkable success in the 1980s and early 1990s by winning three SEC Championships—in 1985, 1989 and again in 1990. His time there included one particularly noteworthy season in 1989, when the Majors-led Vols followed a 5–6 season with an 11–1 season, the largest turnaround of the year. Johnny retired from NCAA coaching after the 1996 season.

Over the years, Johnny Majors has been recognized as a self-less player and a capable, dedicated leader. He was admitted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1987, where his biography reads, "Few who have followed college football over the years will soon forget the gridiron magic created by a certain skinny tailback. . . Even [his] name