

closer and closer to the edge of the financial cliff. A few steps forward and we will start a free fall into a canyon of debt which could be the economic death of America as we know it. Is that what we want for our children and grandchildren?

Have we lost the national will to make tough decisions that may require sacrifice?

Have we lost the political courage to reject the partisan and special interest demands and do what is right for our country?

This is an American issue; not a Republican issue or a Democrat issue. I will continue to work to try to achieve balance in our budget plan. Our goal must be a bipartisan document that can pass the House and the Senate. Is the Ryan plan perfect? No. But it at least recognizes the road that we must take. How we get there is the conversation we must continue to have because the financial future for our children and grandchildren is at stake.

I urge my colleagues to heed the wisdom of the father of our country at his farewell address in 1796. President George Washington admonished his fellow countrymen: "We should avoid ungenerously throwing upon posterity the burden of which we ourselves ought to bear."

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF JENNIFER GUZOWSKI ON HER OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young woman from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Jennifer Guzowski of Tiffin, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Jennifer brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Tiffin Columbian High School in Tiffin, Ohio, Jennifer earned academic letters and attained a grade point average that placed her in the top fifteen percent of her graduating class. Jennifer was also inducted into the National Honor Society, was a student representative on the school board and held various leadership positions in the school band.

Throughout high school, Jennifer was a member of the junior varsity and varsity soccer teams, displaying her leadership skills as captain of the junior varsity soccer team. She was also awarded a varsity letter for soccer during her senior year and was the recipient of two Golden Shoe Awards. I am confident that Jennifer will carry the lessons of her student and athletic leadership to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jennifer Guzowski on the acceptance of her appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point where she will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experience. I am positive that Jennifer will excel during her career in West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to her as she begins her service to the nation.

HONORING COLONEL JACK POTTER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a loyal friend, a brave hero, and a caring individual who recently turned 92 years young. Retired Colonel Jack Potter of San Rafael California, was born March 20, 1919, served in the Army from World War II through 1974, and has consistently worked for the benefit of veterans since his retirement.

It has been my privilege to work closely with Col. Potter for 18 years. His friendship and assistance have been invaluable to me over those years. Through Jack, I learned about veterans' issues, from the importance of national legislation to ensure they get the benefits they deserve to some of the challenges faced by local vets in Marin County. On Memorial Day, 2008, we authored a column together in the local newspaper calling for better benefits and health treatment for our veterans.

Jack was drafted into the Army in 1941. He was commissioned as an Infantry 2nd Lt. after Pearl Harbor and commanded an Infantry Rifle company seeing combat in the South Pacific. He remained in the Army after the war, serving in Europe, Korea, and South America, as well as in many positions stateside. He also attended The Industrial College of the Armed Forces and earned an MBA at George Washington University.

During the Vietnam conflict, Jack was assigned as the Commander of the Vietnam Region Exchange which operated more than 150 exchange activities with a total of more than 10,000 personnel. He continued his service stateside, in California, where his assignment as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics for the Sixth U.S. Army brought him to the Presidio in the Bay Area. He retired on August 1, 1974, after serving 33 years, 4 months, and 15 days on active duty. On the date of his retirement ceremonies, Jack was testifying in Nebraska in the federal trial of the American Indian Movement. At 12:01 a.m. on August 2, the U.S. Attorney General purchased Jack's first drink as a civilian.

After 31 changes of station, Jack and his wife now live in Marin County, California where Jack became active in veteran's affairs. Serving in various positions in the Military Officers Association of America, and the Marin County United Veterans Council, Jack has been a whirlwind for veterans' causes—he advocated personally for a number of vets who needed help, organized Veterans and Memorial Day events and a Tricare information session with me, and still found time to regularly bring doughnuts to my office staff.

One of Jack's most prominent roles was that of Master of Ceremonies at Marin County's Memorial Day celebrations. He last served that function in 2009, before retiring for health reasons. At that emotional event, 500 people honored Army Spc. Jake Vellozo who had recently been killed in Iraq. Jake's name was added to a veteran's monument that had been built at Jack's urging. And Jack was thrilled to learn that recently the House of Representatives passed my bill to name the local post office in Inverness after Jake Vellozo.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to work with and work for Col. Jack Potter. His quiet

determination on behalf of all veterans is a reminder of the daily heroism and sacrifice of all our troops. Thank you, Jack, for all your efforts.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS WEEK

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Crime Victims' Rights Week.

And the month of April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

These two occasions remind us of the importance of educating our fellow citizens about how we can help victims of this terrible crime and how we can stop sexual assault before it happens.

According to the National Institute for Justice and the CDC, every two minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted.

And one out of every six women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime.

As both a prosecutor and a judge back in Texas, I dealt with rape cases for 30 years.

I learned firsthand the devastation sexual assault victims experience.

Sexual Assault does not just physically harm the victim but is an assault on their entire being.

We need to promote justice for sexual assault victims here in Congress and throughout this great nation because justice is what we do in America.

JUSTICE FOR SERGEI MAGNITSKY ACT

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, on November 16, 2009—almost a year and a half ago now—Sergei Magnitsky died in a Russian detention center. While deaths in detention centers do occur all over the world, and the United States is no exception, what sets Mr. Magnitsky's case apart from many of the others are two remarkable facts.

The first remarkable fact is that Mr. Magnitsky was imprisoned not because he had committed a crime, but because he reported one—he just reported it to the wrong people, the very Russian government officials who had orchestrated a massive tax fraud scheme, and continued to report them increasingly louder the more he was threatened by Russian officials to keep quiet.

The second remarkable fact is that with all the necessary medical intervention, his death most likely could have been prevented—but this medical intervention was purposely withheld as punishment. These two facts make Sergei Magnitsky an emblematic victim of much larger human rights problems in the Russian Federation, the utter corruption and the complete lack of the rule of law in that country. This is what makes the Justice for Sergei Magnitsky Act not just an urgent intervention and attempt to establish accountability

in an individual case, but it makes this Act a true Russian Human Rights Act. And I could not be prouder to name the act after this great man, Sergei Magnitsky.

After becoming aware of a massive financial crime, Mr. Magnitsky testified before the official authorities about the largest tax fraud scheme in Russian history. He demonstrated how 230 million dollars were stolen from the Russian Treasury and he implicated a number of public officials who allegedly participated in this scheme. What would be a welcomed treasure of information to any tax fraud investigator in most countries around the world, not so in Russia, where other rules apply. Flying in the face of international legal standards and practices, it was Mr. Magnitsky who found himself arrested and charged with the crimes he helped expose. He was kept in pre-trial detention for almost one year, as the prosecutor's office appeared to have trouble finding any evidence to support their case.

Even more troubling questions relate to Mr. Magnitsky's death. Why did he die, what happened to him? Was he sick? And even then, was he so terribly sick that physicians could not have saved his life? In the absence of a formal and independent investigation into his death, the exact circumstances leading to his death remain shrouded under a veil of government secrecy. What we do know is that when Mr. Magnitsky was sent to prison, he was in general good health and showed no signs of medical problems.

We also know that Mr. Magnitsky—who diligently kept a record of his treatment in prison—was denied urgent medical care when he requested it from his captors, who were aware of his medical needs and deteriorating health.

Many of those unanswered questions deserve an answer—Mr. Magnitsky's family deserves an answer, as do the Russian people. Many of my colleagues and friends in Congress, on both sides of the aisle, and in both chambers, would like to see these questions answered. European Members of Parliament would like to see these questions answered. Russian human rights defenders would like to see these questions answered.

Up until now, no serious investigation into these matters has been undertaken, and most worrisome, no one has been held accountable. Not for the fraud, not for the abuse, not for the death.

Mr. Speaker, Sergei Magnitsky was a remarkable person, although he would certainly have disputed this claim. He was a husband, and a father of two children; he was a hard-working attorney; he was trying to provide for his family, a friendly and caring man, like many ordinary citizens in Russia.

What was special about Sergei was that in the face of threats, he had the courage to stand up for what is right. Sergei Magnitsky was special, because he was undeterred in the face of an enormous state apparatus that only served the interests of those people whom he had implicated. Consequently, the state arrested him and detained him for almost one year without bringing any charges. The prosecutor used his imprisonment to soften him up; to make him change or retract his testimony—and when he refused, he paid the ultimate price.

For his contributions to the fight against corruption in Russia, Mr. Magnitsky posthumously received the Transparency International Integrity reward 2009–2010. I quote the chair of the

awards committee who said “He [Mr. Magnitsky] believed in the rule of law and integrity, and died for his belief. Sergei, his heroic fight, and the ideals he stood for must never be forgotten.”

Mr. Speaker, all too often have the deaths of critics or whistleblowers of the Russian regime been swept under the carpet in Russia—Anna Politkovskaya and Natalia Estemirova are just two such famous examples of brave Russians who have died in search of truth. Now, Sergei Magnitsky's name will be added to this illustrious list of brave individuals.

Mr. Speaker, Russia has ratified numerous international human rights treaties. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention against Torture and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Russian Federation is also a contracting party to the European Convention on Human Rights and has subjected itself to the jurisdiction of the European Court on Human Rights, where it is all too frequently a defendant.

These internationally incurred obligations are binding. When Russia signed those treaties it made a public pledge—with the world as its witness—to uphold the inalienable rights enshrined in those very documents. But Russia not only signed a contract with the global community; but first and foremost, Russia signed a contract with its own people, these international commitments are a public expression of the Federation's desire to protect the individual rights of the Russian people.

If we do not want these human rights treaties to become hollow documents, if we want to maintain an international legal order in which these documents have any meaning at all, we need to speak up and demand that they be observed. What is the use of these treaties, when states can choose to ignore them at will; when they get in the way; when they find them inconvenient? Are we to allow that the signing of human rights treaties becomes a purely cosmetic action? No. I do not think so. I will not stand for that.

But Mr. Speaker, let me be clear. It is not only the formality of observing the treaty that matters. My primary concern is with the content of these documents, for what they represent. They say no to torture and abuse. They say no to arbitrary detention. They say no to murder, either actively or through utter medical neglect. They demand that people are protected from the abuse of the state. They promise that people are treated with dignity.

We need to be candid and frank with our friends and allies. We need to be able to look each other in the eyes and tell the truth. We need to question one another, and call each other out. That is what you do when you are a member of a larger society. For when we fail to do so, we have truly lost touch; we resign to our faith and show we care no longer. Russia, as a most important member of the family of nations, can do better and should do better than that.

I am not alone in this criticism. Senator CARDIN has voiced his concern about Sergei's abuse and death. And most recently during a visit to Moscow on March 10, 2011, Vice President BIDEN also criticized Russia: “a country in which—a company which can be seized, or an owner imprisoned on a politician's whim; in which a lawyer like Sergei Magnitsky [...] can be arrested after accusing the police of fraud and then die in deten-

tion before being tried”. He went on to say “We will continue to object when we think human rights are violated or democracy and the rule of law are undermined.”

I could not agree more with this statement, Mr. Speaker. And it is to reinforce this message, a message that asks Russia to stop these human rights abuses, to reform their justice system, to address their prison conditions, and to root out corruption and the abuse of power, that I have introduced legislation. I am deeply grateful to Mr. ALCEE HASTINGS, FRANK WOLF, JOSEPH PITTS, SUE MYRICK, STEVE COHEN and CHRIS SMITH, for their strong support and input.

The bill I introduced today imposes travel bans and financial sanctions on those involved in the fraud scheme and Mr. Magnitsky's abuse and death in prison. The bill further will fully restore if possible what is rightfully the property of the Russian people. By targeting the Russian Treasury, this fraud was committed against all Russian people; they are the true owners of the stolen 5.4 billion rubles.

ALAMOSA COOLSUNSHINE WRESTLING TEAM TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the participants of the 2011 Rocky Mountain Nationals Youth Wrestling Tournament in Denver, Colorado. As in the Colorado State High School Tournament, the San Luis Valley was well represented and enjoyed immense success.

Known for its high degree of difficulty, the Tournament can be one of the most challenging in the area. That reputation underscores the accomplishments of the wrestlers from the San Luis Valley. Three members of the Alamosa Coolsunshine Team placed in the top five for their respective weight divisions, most notably Isaiah DeLaCerde who grabbed second place in the 82 pound 12 & Under Bracket. Dozens of other wrestlers from southern Colorado also placed, including Dante Martinez, Michael Valdez and Austin Vance of Monte Vista.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the success grapplers from around Colorado enjoyed in the Rocky Mountain Nationals Youth Wrestling Tournament. There is no doubt they will continue to represent their community admirably for many years.

HONORING WESLEY HENRY SCHERLER McDOWELL

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Wesley Henry Scherler McDowell. Wesley 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 175, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.