

to their delivery destinations. "We were badly needed and sometimes flew two and three planes in a day," she recently remembered to the Long Beach Press Telegram.

By 1943, Major London and the other ferry pilots were pushed to their limits in response to Allied demands for more planes in Europe. She made four 2,000-mile trips delivering P-47, P-51 and C-47 aircraft in less than a week. This particular effort, combined with her distinguished service, was cited when she was awarded the Air Medal by General "Hap" Arnold, commanding general of the U.S. Army Air Force.

Married to Jack London, Jr. after the war, she raised two daughters, Terry and Kristy, each becoming pilots in their own right, and all three women continuing to make contributions to American aviation.

Mr. Speaker, the story of Barbara Erickson London is one of many stories of American heroism during the Second World War. But her story is especially notable for her achievement and for her groundbreaking role as a woman in our armed services.

On July 28 of this year, 60 of the women fliers, including Barbara Erickson London, were reunited in Long Beach as part of the Freedom Flight America celebration of the war's end. That cross-country armada of vintage military aircraft was designed as an event never to be repeated so to honor the courage and sacrifices made 50 and more years ago.

Mr. Speaker, Barbara Erickson London was one of those Americans who helped us to win that global conflict 50 years ago. I ask you and our colleagues to join with me in saluting her on this anniversary of war's end, and to wish her and her family the continued appreciation of a grateful Nation.

MORE DISTURBING SIGNS OF RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN RUSSIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of my colleagues the silencing of another powerful Russian voice: that of Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, viewed by many as the national conscience of Russia. My colleagues may have heard the report by Anne Garrells yesterday morning on National Public Radio.

The Nobel Laureate and world-renowned author was given a hero's welcome last year after his return to Russia from long years of exile in the United States. Since then he has shared with Russian television audiences his strong views on the course of Russia's post-cold war development, often voicing sharp criticism of government actions. ORT, the largest Russian television network and the only channel to reach the entire area of Russia and the former Soviet Union, recently announced that it had dropped Solzhenitsyn from its fall lineup.

ORT claims it canceled Solzhenitsyn's show due to low ratings, but Solzhenitsyn's supporters believe it is actually a case of censorship. They assert that with the approach of parliamentary elections in December, the Russian Government wanted an end to the weekly drubbing it has been receiving from Solzhenitsyn.

The reasons for the show's cancellation may be debatable, but there is a pattern of recurring government interference with independent media and government efforts to intimidate the media in general that make the cancellation worrisome. In House Concurrent Resolution 95, legislation introduced by Representative GILMAN and myself, we draw attention to several incidents that raise serious questions about freedom of the press in Russia, including: The Russian Prosecutor General's filing of criminal charges against a satirical show that pokes fun at public figures, the Russian Government's failure to solve the murders of television journalist Vladimir Listeyev and reporter Dmitri Kholodov, and the possible involvement of Presidential security forces in the assault on the offices of the MOST Group, which owns independent television station NTV.

The development of a democratic Russia is very much in our national interest, and nothing is more crucial to the maintenance of a pluralistic society than a free and unfettered press. I am deeply concerned that the Russian Government may be trying to restrict, through tactics of censorship and intimidation, including bodily harm, the right of individual journalists to report objectively on domestic and foreign news and the right of private entrepreneurs to establish, operate, and maintain independent media outlets.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the legislative branch and officials in the executive branch to raise the United States commitment to freedom of the press with Russian Government leaders at every opportunity.

TRIBUTE TO THE SISTERS, SERVANTS OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of my colleagues to a most significant event taking place in Monroe, MI. The year 1995 marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of a congregation of extraordinary women devoted to the service of God, their community, their nation, and the world.

The Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary congregation was established in Monroe in 1845 to meet a pressing need for Christian instruction in a parish that was maturing quickly, but was not far removed from its frontier past.

The zeal and enthusiasm of Rev. Louis Florent Gillett, a Redemptorist missionary, drew the first three members of the community, Marie Theresa Maxis, Charlotte Shaff, and Theresa Renaud. Their first convent was a log cabin on the banks of the River Raisin. The early days were difficult, as poverty and disease sapped the congregation. The community grew in numbers nonetheless, and expanded its educational works.

For this first century the congregation served Catholic communities in and near the dioceses of southern Michigan, especially the Archdiocese of Detroit, by providing Catholic education at all levels in local parochial schools and in their own private schools and college.

The people of Monroe benefited greatly over the years by the presence of outstanding schools operated by the IHM sisters. St. Mary's School, the first opened by the sisters, provided the young women of Monroe and the surrounding area the chance to get a first-rate education. The Hall of Divine Child, a school for boys, instilled discipline and curiosity in generations of boys. I can vouch for the skill and efficiency of the sisters myself, because I attended this school.

Other schools founded and built by the IHM sisters include Immaculate High School in Detroit, Marian High School in Birmingham, MI, and IHM High School in Westchester, IL.

In 1910 they established Marygrove College, which was moved from Monroe to Detroit in 1927. IHM sisters have also served in other colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, and throughout the world.

Over the past 50 years the IHM congregation has extended its reach, staffing schools in Puerto Rico, and several Western and Southern States in the United States. While the majority of the sisters have devoted themselves to education, some have committed themselves to religious education, parish ministry, health care, social actions, and other forms of service. A small group of sisters began serving among the poor in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia. The sisters also are vocal when it comes to local, national, and international affairs. I can tell you that a week seldom passes that I do not receive an articulate and thoughtful letter from one or another of the sisters, effectively arguing a position on legislation or national policy.

Mr. Speaker, I have great admiration for the spirit, the determination, the devotion and the faith displayed by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is without reservation that I commend this congregation to my colleagues on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

CUTS IN FUNDING FOR THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS ACCOUNT DAMAGE OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call my colleagues attention to a recent letter I received from the American Academy of Diplomacy. The letter points out the importance to U.S. national security of maintaining adequate funding for the international affairs (150) budget function.

Foreign aid is always a prime target in tight budget times. I believe this is shortsighted. Adequate levels of funding for sustainable development, population, democracy, security, rule of law, and other assistance should be viewed as a valuable payment toward the national security of the United States. Stable democracies with thriving economies are less likely to become destabilizing forces. They are also more likely to become valuable trading partners of the United States, which increases jobs here at home.

We also need a strong diplomatic presence abroad to advance the goals and objectives of American policy. I would like to call my colleagues attention to the massive cuts in the