Center for Latin American Studies at Harvard called a ''much more insidious'' form of press repression. Quoted in the Committee to Protect Journalists' ''Attacks on the Press 2010'' report, Ms. Erlick elaborated that, ''You never know where the censorship is coming from—through threats, attacks on the streets, new laws, or lack of access. The threats are always there and sometimes lead to self-censorship even before censorship begins.''

In the spirit of this World Press Freedom Day, Mr. Speaker, let me then use the balance of my time to turn over just a few of these ''much more insidious'' rocks:

In Venezuela, the government has engaged in what CPJ unambiguously calls ''a systematic campaign to stifle dissent.'' It included barring the publication of photos in conjunction with reporting on rampant crime and unsolved murder cases; suddenly voiding the broadcasting license of the nation's oldest television channel and a major critic of the government; and exploiting or inventing technical regulations to administratively shut down dozens of radio stations also critical of the government.

In Ecuador, the OAS' 2009 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights special rapporteur for freedom of expression found that, ''Ecuador has seen a rising climate of polarization in which attacks on and threats against journalists and media outlets of all editorial positions have increased''; a March 3 Inter-American Press Association report stated flatly that the government had ''redoubled its offensive'' against press freedom; and, just last month our own State Department's 2010 Human Rights Report found—among many other actions—that, ''In June and July, during the broadcast of the Soccer World Cup matches, the government ran a media campaign against the press, referring to media outlets as corrupt and delinquent.''

. . . And, in Argentina—according to The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and The Financial Times among many other outlets—for more than two years the government has waged an escalating war against critical media outlets. Specifically, the government: was just found by the nation's Supreme Court to have unconstitutionally allocated government advertising funds to reward news outlets favorable to its policies while withholding such funds from opponents; shut down and tried to literally force the sale of the nation's biggest private internet service provider; orchestrated a surprise raid by 200 federal tax agents on the offices of the nation's largest media company and then dismissed the raids as a ''mistake''; and—in a series of moves taken directly from the original Peronists' playbook—is seeking aggressively to seize control of the nation's newsprint supply to silence opposition newspapers by literally making it impossible for them to go to press.

These are just a few of the things happening in a few of the countries in our own backyard, Mr. Speaker, that justify—indeed, demand that Congress remain vigilant and vocal in defense of freedom of expression everywhere . . . not just on World Press Freedom Day, but every day of every year.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF VINCENT JOHN SKINDELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember Vincent John Skindell. Vincent passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 13, 2011 in a car accident.

Vincent Skindell was born on August 19, 1960 to Vincent M. and Carol (nee Kaska) Skindell. Vincent was a 1978 graduate of Brunswick High School and an evening manager at Goodyear Tire in Brunswick for 12 years. He enjoyed the outdoors, especially gardening, fishing, and hunting and enjoyed shooting pool also.

Vincent was preceded in death by his father Vincent and his son Joshua Skindell. Vincent is survived by his wife Shawn (nee McGee); his daughter Tara Painting; his grandchildren Faith and Noah Painting; his mother Carol; his step-children Christie Stiffler and Jennifer Pasquale and step-grandchildren Matthew, Nicholas, and Michael Stiffler and Allison and Olivia Pasquale.

Vincent is also survived by his brother Michael, who is a State Senator in Ohio, representing Cleveland, Lakewood, Parma, and other Cleveland suburbs in the 10th Congressional District. Vincent was always supportive and active in Michael's campaigns as a Lakewood City Councilman, a State Representative, and State Senator. I would frequently see Vincent and his family at campaign events for Michael and at my own events.

Mr. Speaker and respected colleagues, please join me in remembering Vincent John Skindell, citizen and friend, and in offering condolences to his family who are now grieving his loss.

RECOGNIZING VICTIMS OF CONCENTRATION CAMP IN OMARSKA

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the victims of a notorious concentration camp in Omarska, located in northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the summer of 1992, Omarska was the site of murder, torture and other mass violations of human rights. It is thanks to the courage of the British journalists Ed Vulliamy, Penny Marshall and Ian Williams and their brave reporting, that the world learned about the horrors of Omarska in the last decade of the 20th century.

As we remember the victims of Omarska, let us reinforce the significance of remembrance and the right of the survivors and families of the victims to mark this tragic chapter in the history of Europe.

CONGRATULATING ZOE FROMER, KIRILL SAFIN, AND IZAAL LAKHIA OF ATLANTIC HIGH SCHOOL IN DELRAY BEACH, FL ON THE FOUNDING OF INITIATIVE RENAISSANCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I proudly recognize Zoe Fromer, Kirill Safin, and Izaal Lakhia of Atlantic High School in Delray Beach, Florida as Hastings' Star Students. When state budget cuts to education forced their school to cut back on arts programs, these young people took the task of saving these programs into their own hands. They formed Initiative Renaissance, an aptly named organization that raises funds to restore classes such as drama, musical engineering and chorus. The organization's $100,000 fundraising goal would help improve arts facilities and expand the school's band and visual arts programs. Their mission has garnered national recognition and Initiative Renaissance was accepted into the Pepsi Refresh Project with a chance to win a $50,000 grant.

Zoe, Kirill, and Izaal's passion for attaining a well-rounded education demonstrates the folly of cutting funding to arts and education. All students deserve a public education that fully prepares them to compete in the 21st century.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that these young people chose to fight to save their school's arts programs and applaud their dedication and perseverance to this project, which has undoubtedly been beneficial to the entire community.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE GRAND OPENING OF THE CLEVELAND SYRIAN CULTURAL GARDEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the grand opening of the Cleveland Syrian Cultural Gardens, taking place on May 29, 2011.

The 254-acre piece of land that constitutes Rockefeller Park was donated to the City of Cleveland by John D. Rockefeller in 1896. The Cleveland Syrian Cultural Gardens is a fifty-acre piece of land within Rockefeller Park. These gardens were founded in 1926 to create a memorial area for the diverse ethnic groups that shape the region, and to serve as a space of reflection on peace, cooperation and understanding. The Cultural Gardens is currently a collection of 26 gardens which include African-American, American Indian, British, Chinese, Czech, Estonian, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Polish, and Slovenian gardens, among others.

In 1929, the land for a Syrian Cultural Garden was allotted to the Greater Syrian American Community. The Syrian American and Arab American community have, for over 100 years, played a vital role in the spiritual, social and cultural life of the greater Cleveland community. For unknown reasons, the garden was never planned or built.

Decades later, while researching Arab immigration, the Arab American Community Center for Economic and Social Services (AACCESS) in Ohio came across the garden plot. After informing Cleveland's Syrian community, the project was restarted in 2004. The Syrian American Cultural Garden Association, Syrian Medical Society, Syrian American Cultural Council and the National Arab American Medical Association, Ohio Chapter worked to design the project.

The design of the Syrian Cultural Garden was created by an architectural graduate student from Damascus University. The garden will be composed of many elements that represent Syrian culture such as the Arches of Palmyra, Amphitheater of Basra, Syrian Arch, and the Arabic Fountain and will include Damascene roses.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me recognition of the grand opening of the Cleveland Syrian Cultural Garden, the newest edition to Cleveland's historic Cultural Gardens.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PAUL ''BUCKY'' PIZZARELLI

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life of a truly outstanding individual, Mr. John Paul ''Bucky'' Pizzarelli, who is recognized as an exceptional and influential jazz guitarist. Bucky Pizzarelli hails from my hometown of Paterson, New Jersey, where he was honored by his admirers at Paterson Day on Saturday, May 21st, 2011.

Bucky was born and raised in Paterson, where he learned to play guitar and banjo at a young age. He truly has music in his blood, as he learned his craft from his uncles, who were musicians. His first professional engagement came at the ripe age of 17, when he joined Vaughn Monroe's Dance Band. He honed his skills with Monroe's ensemble for several years, although his career was briefly interrupted when he was called to serve his country in Europe during the Second World War as a member of the U.S. Army.

In 1952, Bucky became a staff musician for NBC, eventually joining the house band for famed television host Johnny Carson. He has played alongside major acts such as Dion and the Belmonts, Benny Goodman, and his close friend and fellow guitar great Les Paul.

Bucky is no stranger to Washington, DC. He visited the White House several times, performing for President Ronald Reagan, fellow musician President Bill Clinton, and former First Lady Pat Nixon.

In addition to his professional successes, Bucky is a committed family man. His sons, John and Martin, his daughter, Mary, and his daughter-in-law, Jessica, have all carried on the Pizzarelli legacy as musicians. Bucky has collaborated with them on many of their recordings.

Later, Bucky returned to serve his hometown of Paterson as a member of the music faculty at William Paterson University, passing on his talents to the next generation of New Jersey musicians. His tireless energy and enthusiasm for his art should serve as an example for all Americans.

Today, Bucky resides with his wife, Ruth, in Saddle River, New Jersey, not too far from his roots in Paterson. A true renaissance man, he continues to be an avid painter in addition to his musical talents.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to learning about and recognizing individuals like Bucky Pizzarelli.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Bucky's family and friends, all the musicians and fans of his music whose lives he has touched, and me in recognizing Mr. John Paul ''Bucky'' Pizzarelli.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF MR. THOMAS STANTON KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Mr. Thomas Stanton Kilbane, one of Cleveland's top litigators, who passed away on April 28, 2011.

Born in 1941, Mr. Kilbane was raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended St. Ignatius High School and later John Carroll University. During his time at John Carroll, Mr. Kilbane participated in its Reserve Officer Training Corps. Upon graduating as valedictorian of his class, Tom moved to Chicago and attended law school at Northwestern University where he was chosen for its law review.

In 1966, Mr. Kilbane joined the international law firm of Squire Sanders. However, during 1968 and 1969, Tom served his country in the Vietnam War. As a captain, he served in a transportation group and was awarded a Bronze Star for combat.

After arriving home from Vietnam, Mr. Kilbane returned to Squire Sanders and was made a partner at the firm in 1976. Tom specialized in areas such as antitrust law, product liability and contracts. He served as a member of Squire Sanders' management committee and he chaired the litigation practice between 1996 and 2006.

Mr. Kilbane was one of the most successful and reputable lawyers to work at Squire Sanders and in the Cleveland area. Throughout his career he was welcomed into groups such as the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Trial Lawyers. He was also recognized with numerous awards such as Best Lawyers' ''bet-the-company'' litigator in 2009 and the Cardinal Bellarmine award from his alma mater, St. Ignatius High School, in 2011.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembrance of Mr. Thomas Kilbane. I extend my condolences to his wife, Sally; five children; four grandchildren; and four siblings.

HONORING ANTHONY PSAROMATIS

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Anthony Psaromatis, District Manager of the Chicago Social Security Administration, Northwest Office. After over 45 years of service and numerous awards for his dedication and commitment to public service, Mr. Psaromatis will be retiring on May 31, 2011.

Mr. Psaromatis has worked in offices around the Nation and around the world. He began his career in 1965 in Huntington, West Virginia. Throughout the years, Mr. Psaromatis also worked in various offices in Ohio, Baltimore, MD and also provided Social Security benefits overseas in Athens, Greece and Frankfurt, Germany. In 1990, Mr. Psaromatis returned to the United States to continue public service work in the Chicago Northwest Social Security Office. He has served the Jefferson Park community for nearly 21 years.

As District Manager, Mr. Psaromatis has made an enormous impact on the community. He did so by giving speeches about Social Security benefits and programs at airports, business and community centers. In order to establish guidelines on how to best serve the public, Mr. Psaromatis met with Congressional and Senatorial Aides. He has also fought for the large Polish population in Jefferson Park to provide better resources.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a deeply grateful community and with enormous appreciation for decades of dedication to public service and providing assistance to communities in America and overseas, I thank Mr. Anthony Psaromatis for his extraordinary leadership and selfless commitment to his family and staff at the Chicago Northwest Social Security Office. Thank you, Tony, and we wish you, Martha, your sons, Michael and Anthony, daughter-in-law Bridget, and granddaughters, Kallie and Kirie all the happiness in the future.

65TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 23, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues Congressman DAN LUNGREN and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to recognize the sixty-fifth anniversary of the founding of Solano Community College. The College has provided generations of Solano County residents with high quality education programs that prepare a diverse student population to participate in today's local and global communities.

Solano College had its inception in 1945 when the California State Department of Education authorized the Governing Board of the Vallejo Unified School District to establish a junior college on the campus of Vallejo Senior High School. Classes for junior college students started in the fall of 1945 with fewer than 100 students. In the fall of 1957, the Governing Board of the Vallejo Unified School District voted to separate the junior college completely from the high school. Vallejo Junior College began offering summer classes in 1964, and enrollment increased to 1,000 students that year.

In 1965, the voters of Solano County voted overwhelmingly to establish a separate community college district. At the same time, seven trustees were elected to the new governing board, representing the committees of the district.