

more than 1 percent of all prisoners had died since the beginning of the year of disease, mostly tuberculosis, aggravated by harsh prison conditions and inadequate medical treatment. Estimates by human rights monitors are not substantially different from government figures."

We are pleased to have with us today as our leadoff witness Mr. Akezhan Kazhegeldin, Chairman of the National Republican Party of Kazakhstan. He is leading the fight for democracy in his country at a great personal risk to himself and his family. Other witnesses are with us here today were arrested, harassed and paid with their health and well being for their desire to tell the truth. Tell the truth to the people of Kazakhstan and to us.

The Nazarbayev regime has employed authoritarian methods to threaten and silence the witnesses who will testify today. For example, the brave Mrs. Savostina, is a veteran of Joseph Stalin's Gulag. Instead of receiving an award from the post-Communist government of her country, the Kazakhstani authorities have arrested her several times.

On June 16 of this year a criminal investigation was initiated against Mr. Kazhegeldin and his wife for filing his 1997 income taxes late even though they had been paid in full at least nine months earlier. They were paid late only due to a mistake of his Kazakhstani attorney and accountant, but nothing was said about any criminal charges last fall when Mr. Kazhegeldin was in Kazakhstan, nothing until the surprise charges were filed just last month.

Now the Nazarbayev regime has gone even farther in its abuse of the rule of law and is taking advantage of the legal system—which it controls—to persecute Mr. Kazhegeldin. The head of the Kazakhstani tax service, who happens to be Mr. Nazarbayev's son-in-law; the head of the internal KGB of Kazakhstan, another relative of the President, and the Chairman of the Supreme Court, a close personal friend of Mr. Nazarbayev, have written to Belgian police to initiate harassing investigations. This is an unacceptable way to treat an opposition leader.

I wrote to Secretary of State Albright recently to express my concern for the well being of Mr. Kazhegeldin and this latest attempt by the Nazarbayev regime to silence his voice of democracy.

The U.S. Department of State wrote to me on July 9, that "we had made it clear to the highest levels of Kazakhstan's government that harassment of opposition figures is not acceptable."

I would like to read into the record another portion of that response to my letter to the Secretary of State.

"A fundamental component of U.S. policy in Kazakhstan is promotion of democracy and human rights. Local and parliamentary elections expected this fall will again test Kazakhstan's democracy and observance of fundamental human rights. We remain intensively engaged with the Kazakhstani government on democracy issues. Our message has been consistent and clear: long-term stability depends on actions now to build democracy and foster greater respect for fundamental human rights principles, including Kazakhstan's commitment of the OSCE. We have specifically urged the government to bring its legislation on elections, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the media into accordance with international standards;

schedule elections far enough in advance to give parties and candidates adequate time to prepare effective campaigns; register new parties and NGOs promptly in order to endure broad participation in the elections, including by candidates and groups critical of the government; and broaden the central and local election commissions to include non-governmental representatives."

Prior to the January presidential elections, Vice President GORE phoned President Nazarbayev and demanded that Mr. Kazhegeldin be allowed to run for the presidency in the elections earlier this year. Unfortunately, Mr. Nazarbayev totally ignored the request of the Vice President of the United States.

The Nazarbayev government is determined to silence the voice of any viable opposition from being heard within Kazakhstan. It talks about democracy while it continues its autocratic and repressive conduct. No democracy, especially the United States government and this Congress, should tolerate such conduct.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE EVELYN HOOPER

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deepest sympathy that I pay a special tribute to my constituent Lucille Evelyn Hooper, who passed away in Whittier, California on Tuesday, September 7, 1999.

Lucille was the mother of my dear friend Robert John Hooper, who is a dedicated teacher and Democratic Party activist and leader in my 34th Congressional District.

Lucille Evelyn Hooper was born in Los Angeles, California on July 26, 1921. She was raised in Alhambra, California where she attended local schools, Alhambra High School and Western Business College.

Lucille was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad for twenty years. She was a lifelong member of several service clubs, including the assistance League and P.E.O. Lucille's hobbies were travel and fashion.

A dedicated wife and mother, Lucille is survived by her husband Jack Hooper, daughter Andrey Lynn Baugh, son-in-law Steve Lee Baugh, son Robert John Hooper, daughter-in-law Mary Catherine Hooper, and granddaughter Olivia Holland Hooper.

Lucille Evelyn Hooper bravely battled cancer for over five years, from June 1994 until her death. Her friends and family will miss her greatly and to them I extend my sincerest heartfelt sympathy and pray that they will receive God's comforting graces in abundance.

IN HONOR OF THE 38TH ANNUAL JERSEY CITY PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE AND BANQUET

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 38th Annual Jersey City

Puerto Rican Day Parade and Banquet for their efforts to stimulate cultural pride and diversity in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Armed with a vision to promote Puerto Rican culture through pride and unity, the Puerto Rican Day Parade began its annual parade 38 years ago in Jersey City—the oldest such parade in the State of New Jersey.

Starting out with just a few local organizations, both the parade and the message of cultural diversity which it emphasizes has grown tremendously. This year, the city is expecting more than 70,000 spectators at the event on Sunday, August 22nd, which starts at Lincoln Park in Jersey City.

The Jersey City Puerto Rican Day Parade has continued to be a success, year after year, because of the dedication and tireless efforts of the Parade Committee Members. This year's members are: Hiram Cardonia, President; Antonio Torres, Vice President; Enid Rivera, Executive Secretary; Lourdes Arroyo, Corresponding Secretary; Evelyn Rodriguez, Treasurer; Grimilda Sanchez, Pageant Coordinator; Octavia Sanchez, Pageant Coordinator; Iris Tirado, Pageant Coordinator; Mariano Vega, Banquet Coordinator; Nidia Davila-Colon, Banquet Coordinator; Hiram Cardonia; Annie Estrada; Helen Vargas; Elizabeth Morales; Hector Garcia; Roberto Valentin; Manay Matta; and Miguel Acosta.

At the Banquet on Friday, August 20, 1999, which is being held in the Casino in Lincoln Park, the Parade Committee will be honoring some outstanding and truly noteworthy members of Jersey City's Puerto Rican community for all of their contributions to the city. Those honorees are: Rafael Bou, Grand Marshal; Hector Rodriguez, Puerto Rican Man of the Year; Lourdes Arroyo, Puerto Rican Woman of the Year; Grimilda Sanchez, Local Godmother; William Estremera, Local Godfather; Frank Lorenzo, Police Officer of the Year; Yomo Toro, Padrino International; Roberto Nunez, Fireman of the Year; Nellie Tanco, Madrina International; Captain George Bueno, Fire Officer of the Year; Jose Cotty, Paramedic of the Year; and Orlando Cuervas, Puerto Rican Artist of the Year.

For its commitment to the Puerto Rican community and the city of Jersey City, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Puerto Rican community in Jersey City, all of the committee members who contributed to the event, and all of this year's honorees. Its remarkable efforts in promoting cultural diversity and unity have truly bettered the entire city.

SILVERTON 1999 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize an exceptional woman. Patty Dailey was named Silverton's Citizen of the Year in an awards ceremony that took place June 16th. Born and raised in Silverton, Patty became the type of citizen that every community needs and hopes for. The award program began in the 1980s and the selection committee consists of recipients from previous years. The award is given out annually and recognizes dedication to community

development, volunteerism, and overall good citizenship.

Patty exemplifies all of these attributes. She has always taken the time to involve herself in community events and projects. Her role, however, was usually one that took place behind the scenes. Patty Dailey never bothered to seek recognition for the aid that she provided. She even hosts the weekly dinner for the area's senior citizens. Recently, when 23 Mexican nationals were being held awaiting deportation, Patty provided them all with home cooked dinners. She has also been known to hire part-time help, not because she needed the help, but because a young person needed the job.

Patty has also been active in events for local schools and her church. She has helped with many school fundraising events, including the A Theater Group spaghetti dinner, which benefitted a scholarship program for Silverton's graduating seniors. At Saint Patrick's church, where she is an active member, she participates in the Altar Society and is a leader in fundraising and organization for their annual Christmas bazaar.

It is obvious why Patty Dailey was chosen as the 1999 Citizen of the Year. I think that we all owe her a debt of gratitude for her service and dedication to the community. If we had more citizens like her, I am certain that we would live in a very harmonious place.

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION OUTLINING A VI-
SION TO SHAPE CONGRESSIONAL
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
POLICY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of a concurrent resolution which recognizes the critical role played by the information technology sector and electronic commerce in the United States economy. On behalf of my colleagues, Representatives DREIER, GOODLATTE, DOOLEY, JIM MORAN, DUNN, ESHOO, and ADAM SMITH, I am setting forth principles that we hope will shape congressional information technology and electronic commerce policies that will ensure United States' continued worldwide dominance and competitiveness in the Information Technology Revolution.

The United States is the world leader in the innovation and production of information technological goods and services. Information technology was responsible for 6.1 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product in 1996. In 1997, U.S. businesses took in \$804 billion or 80 percent of worldwide information technology revenues. Information technology has spurred economic growth in the form of new goods, new services, new jobs, and new capital. Since 1993, the U.S. high technology industry has added over 1 million jobs to the U.S. economy, such that the industry now employs nearly 5 percent of the U.S. private sector workforce as of 1998.

Similarly, Internet growth has outstripped earlier predictions. The number of Americans with access to the Internet has increased

nearly 900 percent since early 1993. There were an estimated 148 million Internet users worldwide at the end of 1998, with approximately 81 million users in the U.S. alone by early 1999. One estimate places the dollar volume of business-to-business electronic commerce in 1998 at \$27.4 billion. The projected volume for 1999 is \$64.8 billion. Those numbers are expected to quadruple in the next two years alone.

Like other pivotal moments in human history, the Information Technology Revolution is transforming the tools and ideas that affect the way individuals communicate and think both privately and commercially. The American experience alone is replete with illustrations of new technologies generating faster economic growth. As the information technology industry continues its phenomenal expansion, the Federal Government needs to ensure that it plays an enabling—and not an inhibiting—role in supporting the movement of industry and people into the Information Age.

It is critical that policy makers recognize that the information technology industry and electronic commerce have become thriving forces in our economy because of the simple fact that they have largely been left alone to develop and grow according to the demands of free market processes. Our hope is that this resolution will encourage lawmakers to consider the holistic effect of individual legislative initiatives that are directly or indirectly aimed at information technology and electronic commerce. For this reason, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve passage of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO BRIGADIER GENERAL
JAMES H. BAKER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the outstanding achievement of Brigadier General James H. Baker, who will retire from the Missouri Air National Guard on September 17, 1999, after 37 years of extraordinary service to our nation.

Brigadier General Baker is originally from Knoxville, Tennessee, and graduated from Florida State University in 1962. In November 1962, Brigadier General Baker enlisted in the Air Force and was commissioned a second lieutenant in February 1963. After graduating from Air Weapons Controller School in 1963, he was assigned to the 728th Tactical Control Squadron at Ft. Bragg, where he performed extensive temporary assignments in both Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam. Brigadier General Baker was then selected to become the Operations Officer of the 729th Tactical Control Squadron at Eglin AFB, where he tested and implemented the concept of a forward Air Control Post and deployed to the Dominican Republic.

In July 1965, Brigadier General Baker returned to the United States and served as Operations Training Officer at the 727th Tactical Control Squadron at Walker AFB, New Mexico, where he was augmented as a regular officer in the USAF. Brigadier General Baker then served as an advisor to the Nationalist Chinese Tactical Control Center at Taipei Air

Station, Taiwan, in August 1966. He returned to the United States as a Captain and was assigned as Assistant Professor Aerospace Studies at the University of Mississippi, where he taught Military History, Military Management, Leadership and Air Force Organization, and served as Commandant of Cadets.

In September 1971, Brigadier General Baker was assigned to the Command Advisory Function (for special projects), 314th Air Division in Osan AG, Korea. Later that year, he also was selected to command a remote radar site at Kang Nung AB, Korea. When he returned to the United States, Brigadier General Baker assumed the position of Director of Operations for the 727th Tactical Control Squadron, and later became Chief, Standardization and Evaluation for the 602nd Tactical Air Control Wing at Bergstrom AFB, Texas, until his resignation from the regular Air Force in May 1976.

In June 1976, Brigadier General Baker joined the Missouri Air National Guard as both the Air Technician and Military Commander of the 157th Tactical Control Flight. While at Jefferson Barracks Air National Guard Base, Brigadier General Baker assumed the positions of Base Commander, Air Technician Commander, 157th Tactical Control Group Commander, and Executive Support Staff Officer. He became the Assistant Adjutant General for Air and was promoted to Brigadier General in January 1996.

Mr. Speaker, Brigadier General Baker has dedicated his life to our nation. He has served our nation with great honor and distinction. I know the Members of the House will join me in offering congratulations to Brigadier General Baker and his family—his wife Kathryn, his daughters, Kimberly, Sarah, and Susan, and his sons Bret and Sam; and I wish them all the best in the years ahead.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAZOSPORT
REHABCARE CENTER AND NA-
TIONAL REHABILITATION
AWARENESS WEEK

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and join with the Brazosport RehabCare Center in Lake Jackson, Texas, in observing and celebrating National Rehabilitation Awareness week beginning September 12 through September 18, 1999.

The Brazosport RehabCare Center opened its doors on December 31, 1992. Construction was completed at the end of April, 1993, for a total of 14 acute rehabilitation beds.

The Brazosport RehabCare Center is located in Brazosport Memorial Hospital in Lake Jackson, Texas. The primary service areas include the cities of Lake Jackson, Clute, Freeport, Angleton, Danbury and Brazoria. This service area has a combined population of approximately 95,000. The secondary service area includes the cities of Sweeny, West Columbia and Old Ocean with a population of approximately 16,000. The RehabCare Center has also attracted patients from Bay City and Alvin.