

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