

Rollcall vote 134, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 304, expressing condemnation of the continued egregious violations of human rights in the Republic of Belarus, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 135, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass S. 1744, continued submission of certain species conservation reports, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 136, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1509, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 137, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and agree to H. Con. Res. 310, supporting a National Charter Schools Week, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 138, on passage of H.R. 2957, the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 139, the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass S. 2323, the Worker Economic Opportunity Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 140, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 4055, the IDEA Full Funding Act, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote 141, on the motion to Suspend the Rules and pass H.R. 1901, the Kika de la Garza United States Border Station, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF THE PHILIPPINE
NURSES ASSOCIATION OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Philippine Nurses Association of America, which is holding its 21st annual convention on June 21–23, 2000 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Philippine Nurses Association of Ohio will co-host the event along with the chapters from Michigan and Indiana. This year's convention, titled *Nursing Odyssey: New Realities, New Vision*, will reflect the dynamic role of nurses in a changing health care delivery system.

The Philippine Nurses Association of America was established in 1979 in response to the growing need to address the concerns and issues important to Filipino nurses within this country. The Ohio Chapter was formally established in 1992. The PNA of Ohio is a voluntary, non-profit organization encompassing the areas of Cleveland, Akron, Medina in Ohio. There are over one hundred paid members in the chapter.

The objectives of the Philippine Nurses Association reflect their commitment to community service and the promotion of activities and programs that unify the Filipino nurses of the United States and advance health care of Filipinos throughout the nation. Their contributions to the betterment of their community is noteworthy. Their dedication, caring, and love for others is most evident, and I am grateful for their service to others.

My fellow colleagues, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the important accomplishments and essential contributions of the Philippine Nurses Association of America.

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleague from Louisiana, JOHN COOKSEY, who also serves with me on the House International Relations Committee, I would like to take a moment to recognize and congratulate the Bulgarian Government—particularly Prime Minister Ivan Kostov and Deputy Prime Minister Peter Zhotev—for the significant efforts that the Government has made over the last two years to strengthen Bulgaria's economy, and in particular, Bulgaria's energy sector.

After years of economic decline and mismanagement under socialist rule, we are pleased to see that the country's economic picture is now showing solid signs of improvement. In 1999, inflation dropped to 6.2 percent and the country's economy grew by 2.5 percent. In 2000, a 4% level of growth has been targeted and appears to be achievable.

There is no doubt, that Prime Minister Kostov and his team have played a key role in making this improved picture possible through a variety of accomplishments, including turning over 70 percent of the country's economic assets to private hands, restoring 95 percent of the country's nationalized farmland to its original owners and, completing nearly 1100 privatization deals in 1999 alone (representing nearly \$587 million dollars in proceeds for the Bulgarian treasury).

Additionally, the Government recently pledged, over the course of the coming year, to continue progress on a variety of tough anti-corruption, anti-crime, and judicial reform programs and to find new ways to help alleviate poverty and unemployment in the country.

The ongoing reforms and the restructuring process that are taking place in the country's energy sector are also impressive and lead to attractive foreign investment opportunities. In this sector, over the coming year, the Government plans to: continue its efforts to eliminate state subsidies; close inefficient production facilities; begin the separation of generation, transmission and distribution assets; and take actions to encourage further foreign investment in the sector.

Each of these steps/actions represent an important part of the Governments ongoing efforts to comply with IMF targets and meet the deregulation and environmental standards that will be necessary precursors to eventual European Union membership.

We would like to highlight one particularly promising project that the Government is undertaking in the country's energy sector. In conjunction with a well-known U.S. company—Entergy Corporation, this project will modernize one of Bulgaria's important energy facilities: the lignite-fired, Martiza East III plant (located in the town of Stara Zagora, approximately thirty-seven miles from the Turkish border).

Once the planned improvements and upgrades are completed at this facility, the plant will meet stringent environmental standards, which will lead to a reduction in levels of sulfur dioxide emissions by at least 90%. In addition,

the implementation of the Maritza East III project will also help to ensure that Bulgaria has a sufficient reliable capacity of electricity as it moves to close down a Soviet designed nuclear power plant deemed unsafe by E.U. standards. It is our understanding that Entergy also plans to support the community around the power plant through worker training programs, environmental improvement programs and the identification of a variety of projects for social investment. The Maritza East III project will bolster the Bulgarian economy by the purchase of more than \$75 million dollars worth of local goods and services and the creation of 600 construction jobs. In short, we believe this partnership between Bulgaria and Entergy is a win-win situation.

We look forward to seeing additional progress in Bulgaria over the coming year and to the country becoming an important, reliable and efficient energy hub in the Balkan region. We also look forward to a growing level of involvement in the country's energy sector by American companies.

Congratulations again to the Bulgarian Government for a job well done and to continued progress for a prosperous and peaceful future.

SALUTE TO DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate two young District of Columbia students who have achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in their communities. Milton Boyd and Lakeshia Wallace have just been named honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on only one high school and one middle school student in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Milton Boyd, a junior at Grant School Without Walls, developed a theatrical presentation to educate teenagers in the District about the importance of making healthy life decisions. As a result of his work, Milton was recruited to join Planned Parenthood's youth outreach campaign, which promotes non-violence, sexual awareness and abstinence, and self control.

Lakeshia Wallace, a junior at Hugh Browne Junior High School, initiated a project to deliver home cooked meals to the homeless in her community during the cold fall and winter months. As president of her local Boys and Girls Club, Lakeshia helped establish "Project GRATE," which delivers food to homeless people who live and sleep on subway grates.

I ask my colleagues to join me today and applaud Milton Boyd and Lakeshia Wallace for their initiative in seeking to make their communities better places to live and for the positive impact they have had on the lives of others. Congratulations to both for their commitment and dedication to the people of the District of Columbia.