

time discovering their own full potential. This organization infuses young women with core values and sound decisionmaking.

The Girl Scouts is also an educational experience for young women. They engage in activities that teach them about technology, science, money management, as well as health and fitness. All of this is accomplished while these young women build friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

The results are there as well. Over two-thirds of Girl Scout alumni are doctors, lawyers, educators and community leaders. They are out in our communities making a difference and using the values they learned from their days as Girl Scouts to positively influence our world.

I doubt that Juliette Gordon Low had any idea how successful the Girl Scouts would be when she held that first meeting in her living room back in 1912. Mrs. Low formed the organization in an attempt to provide young women with the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually. All one has to do is to look back over the Girls Scouts' long and illustrious history to see how successful Mrs. Low has been.

COMMENDING RADIO FREE EUROPE/RADIO LIBERTY ON RECEIVING FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEDAL

TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, although freedom and democracy are integral elements in the political systems of many countries, basic freedoms are still denied in many others and are not fully institutionalized in still others. Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty targets these areas, including Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Russia, and other former communist states, in order to promote free speech and political dialogue.

For more than fifty years, the organization has tirelessly supported free-thinking, freedom of expression, and democracy. Recently, the broadcasts have even been expanded to include and specifically target areas with large Muslim populations. In recognition of this history of work, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute awarded the "Freedom of Speech Medal" to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on June 8.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty on receiving this award and recognize its outstanding work in promoting freedom. I earnestly commend the following acceptance speech given by my dear friend Thomas A. Dine, the President of RFE/RL, Inc., and request that the speech be placed in the RECORD.

ACCEPTING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH MEDAL, ROOSEVELT STUDY CENTER MIDDELBURG, THE NETHERLANDS

Thank you for this wonderful, deeply meaningful award. It is a great, great honor to receive the Roosevelt Foundation's 2002 Freedom of Speech medal. No name better animates and exemplifies the work of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and its daily commitment to freedom and democracy than Roosevelt.

As President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, I accept this award not only on be-

half of the organization as it exists today, but also on behalf of its achievements during the Cold War and its importance as a fighting force in promoting freedom and democracy in the future, applying the highest journalistic standards of accuracy, balance, and objectivity.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has been battling for the cause of free speech and expression for over 50 years.

My colleagues and I will continue to fight as long as this most fundamental of freedoms is being controlled or suppressed in the countries to which we actively communicate via radio, Internet, and television.

Heading an entity called "Radio Free Europe," I am often asked, "But isn't Europe free?" It is true that the collapse of communism and of the Soviet Union has brought freedom to many parts of Europe that had been deprived of it for too long. However, suppression of speech, press, and assembly, sadly remains very much the rule on the European continent.

In Russia, for example, the Kremlin seems increasingly determined to control as much of the media as possible. Most recently, the government has coercively placed under its control several prominent independent media outlets, from television to radio to print, cloaking these power grabs as business transactions. More ominously, over the course of the last two years in Russia, 36 journalists have been killed or have disappeared. And last week Russia's Minister of the Press Lesin, in response to our daily news broadcasts in the Chechen language, warned us to stop interfering in Russia's domestic affairs.

The President of Ukraine is no friend of the first freedom. He is a likely suspect in the death of at least two reporters who dared criticize his administration for corruption and criminality. He is certainly responsible for a culture of fear that pervades the Ukrainian media environment.

The nation of Belarus is now under the thumb of the dictator Alexander Lukashenka, a man who openly expresses admiration for Stalin. Lukashenka ceaselessly harasses the press; deaths and disappearances of journalists have taken place in Belarus as well.

And a final contemporary example of the dismal condition of freedom of expression inside today's Europe exists in the Balkans, where Serbia, Croatia, Macedonia, and Bosnia are still not out from under the intimidation and controlling state grip of the Milosevic era.

In response to the specific challenges we face in this young century, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty has expanded the scope of its broadcasting across Europe and Asia. These broadcasts address the most difficult, but perhaps the most thrilling, battle yet for free speech: in areas populated by Muslims in Southeast Europe, Russia, the northern and southern Caucasus, Central Asia and Southwest Asia.

The terrorist attacks of September 11th highlighted for all of us the importance of the Muslim world in today's geopolitical landscape. Accordingly, a majority of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's current 33 languages are targeted to peoples that practice the Islamic religion.

Our broadcasts now include Albanian and Bosnian to the former Yugoslavia; Tatar and Bashkir to Russia's Volga River region; Crimean Tatar to Ukraine; Avar, Chechen, and Circassian to Russia's North Caucasus; Azeri to Azerbaijan and Northern Iran; the languages of Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Tajik, and Uzbek to Central Asia; Farsi throughout Iran; Arabic to Iraq; and now Dari and Pashtu to Afghanistan.

I am particularly proud of the latter two, Dari and Pashtu, in which we are now broad-

casting 10 1/2 hours a day to Afghanistan in response to that crisis. Next week, we will broadcast the Loya Jirga's deliberations live! Just as importantly, we have also established a program to train Afghan journalists in Kabul and Prague to help ensure that the new Afghanistan will be graced with a robust free press practicing the highest of professional standards.

In closing, it is a particular honor, both for me personally and for the organization I represent, to receive this award from an organization bearing the Roosevelt name. As President, Franklin Roosevelt instilled human rights in our collective consciousness and injected human rights into the center of our foreign policies.

So did Eleanor Roosevelt through her tireless work helping to create the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is no coincidence that a 1950's photograph of the former First Lady of the United States sitting in front of a Radio Liberty microphone adorns my office wall in Prague.

And it is Article 19 of the Universal Declaration that is the motto of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, indeed all of United States international broadcasting.

It is a simple, but compelling and timeless pronouncement—"Everyone has the right . . . to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers."

This motto appears on our stationery, in all of our literature, on prominently placed hall plaques. It symbolizes everything we strive to achieve.

The more than 2,000 worldwide staffers of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty are eternally grateful for receiving one of this year's Four Freedom awards. I promise this Foundation and this distinguished audience that we shall energetically continue our mission of promoting freedom and democracy today—in order to expand freedom and democracy tomorrow.

Thank you very much.

THOMAS A. DINE,
President, RFE/RL, Inc.

RECOGNITION OF CHIEF DEPUTY DANNY CHANDLER

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 13, 2002

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to bring to the attention of my colleagues a True Texas Hero, Chief Deputy Danny Chandler.

On behalf of the people of the Third District of Texas, I want to congratulate him on his promotion to be the first-ever Director of the Office of Security and Emergency Management in Dallas.

America is a whole different country since September 11. This is a different kind of war with a different kind of enemy. That is why Dallas has taken the lead to win the war for freedom, both at home and abroad. I know he will do a fine job heading that effort.

The Commissioners Court of Dallas County could not have picked a better leader. Starting as a Deputy Sheriff in 1973, Chief Chandler dedicated 29 years of his life to the Dallas County Sheriff's Department.

A highly decorated officer, he has put the lives and safety of others before his own. It's no wonder that Dallas Morning News named him a "Special Angel."