

U.S. Members of Congress and Administration officials made regular trips to Kiev with the same message. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, our hopes were crushed when we saw how the 2004 presidential campaign was unfolding.

According to information collected by international and local non-partisan monitoring groups, most of Ukraine's 225 territorial election commissions are controlled by pro-government political forces that are openly supporting the candidacy of the Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. International observers also estimate that the twenty five presidential candidates are not genuine candidates, but are running to place Yanukovich loyalists on the electoral commissions. This practice compromises the independence of the commissions and makes a complete farce out of the Ukrainian election law. State and local Ukrainian officials are controlling and manipulating the media to shut out the main opposition candidate Victor Yuchshenko. The state officials are using illegal means to interfere in the election campaign, giving rise to grave concerns regarding the commitment of the Ukrainian Government to free and fair elections.

In fact, our Ambassador to Ukraine, John Herbst, most recently publicly stated that Ukraine is not meeting its commitments to conduct fair and transparent elections. I am also concerned by the behind the scenes deal between President Putin and Prime Minister Yanukovich. It is obvious that Mr. Yanukovich is the preferred candidate of Russia, and I wonder how much of the Ukrainian political sovereignty and economic freedom have been ceded to Russia in exchange for its financial support.

I hope that this resolution will send an important message to the Ukrainian electorate and the Ukrainian political elite that the U.S. Congress cares deeply about the future of Ukraine. Ukrainian citizens must have confidence that the legal system will protect their rights and that their political will and their votes will be counted, and the result of the elections will not be manipulated. The United States hopes to sustain a strong and friendly relationship with democratic, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine. History has shown us that the most enduring alliances are sustained between allies who share the same values and vision. The elections on October 31, 2004 will reveal whether the Ukrainian Government is committed to democracy and the rule of law and whether it is willing to become a full and equal member of the western community of democracies.

TRIBUTE TO WESLEY AND ELLA
MAE ROOKS

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Wesley and Ella Mae Rooks. They are a very special couple who have given so much to the community they adopted over forty years ago. Wesley came to Gillett, Arkansas, as a math teacher, and Ella Mae found a job in a neighboring town as a secretary. Eventually, Ella Mae was employed as a secretary to the principal at Gillett High School where Wesley was teaching.

Mr. Speaker, there is no way to adequately measure the positive influence Wesley and Ella Mae had on the young people of Gillett in their years at Gillett High School. I personally know from my own children's experience how they valued every child and encouraged them in their class work and in life beyond the classroom. They were demanding of a child's best, expected it, and did so with a large dose of good humor. Young people knew the Rooks were rooting for them to succeed.

Their retirement has given them other outlets to find ways of encouraging others. Whatever need presents itself, they respond.

So on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I take this opportunity to wish Wesley my congratulations on his 80th birthday, and he and Ella Mae are both congratulated on being loved and appreciated by a host of friends and relatives. They are the essence of what makes America great. I am indeed blessed to have them as my friends and neighbors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOBBY
JULICH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Bobby Julich, a truly talented athlete from Glenwood Springs, Colorado. Bobby's efforts in the Athens Olympic Games are an inspiration to us all, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Bobby Julich was first motivated to become a competitive cyclist at the age of twelve while watching Aspen's Alexi Grewal win a gold medal in the 1984 Olympic time trials event in Los Angeles. As a student at Glenwood Springs high school, he was an active competitor and was sponsored by many local shops. Now 32, Bobby recently won the bronze medal in the men's road time trial at the Athens Games. His achievement has been recognized by his high-school on its wall of pride.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Bobby Julich for his achievement. Representing his country in the Olympics is a great privilege and he did so nobly. I am proud to recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Congratulations on your performance in the Olympic games, Bobby, and I wish you well in all of your future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MS. KOKO
TAYLOR

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate one of my most prestigious constituents, from Country Club Hills, Illinois, Ms. Koko Taylor, the "Queen of the Blues". Ms. Taylor is a recipient of the 2004 National Heritage Fellowship.

The National Heritage Fellowship is the country's highest honor given in the folk and

traditional arts. Ten fellowships and twelve awardees were chosen from 10 states, and we are proud to have Ms. Koko Taylor as this year's award recipient from Illinois.

Ms. Taylor was born 75 years ago in a sharecropper's cabin at the edge of a cotton plantation in southwestern Tennessee. Even though her father encouraged her to perform only Gospel music, Koko and her siblings would sneak out and play the blues on homemade instruments. When she was eighteen, Koko (given that name as a child due to her love of chocolate) moved with her soon-to-be husband Robert "Pop" Taylor to Chicago. Initially sustaining herself as a housekeeper on Chicago's North Shore, it was not long before she was sitting in with legendary blues musicians in Chicago's lively club scene. In 1962, she was discovered by Willie Dixon and signed to a Chess recording contract—Chess Records was the Motown of Chicago. She recorded the million record selling hit "Wang Dang Doodle" in 1965, and had many successful hits since.

For more than 40 years, Koko Taylor's powerhouse vocals have thrilled audiences, from little bars in Chicago's South Side to giant international festivals. She's been in movies, on television, on radio and in print all over the world. Ms. Taylor has received just about every award the blues world has to offer. She has received 19 W.C. Handy Awards, more than any other female blues artist. She has also been nominated for a Grammy for six of her last seven Alligator albums, and won a Grammy in 1984. In 1993, Chicago Mayor Richard A. Daley honored Taylor with a "Legend of the Year Award," and declared "Koko Taylor Day" throughout Chicago. The Blues Foundation bestowed a Lifetime Achievement Award on her in 1999.

Ms. Taylor has been described by Rolling Stone as "the great female blues singer of her generation." Her vocal power and stage presence, drawing on such forbears as Bessie Smith, Sippie Wallace, and Alberta Hunter, has carried her through four decades of recording and live performance, and she continues to play over 100 concerts a year all over the world. Ms. Taylor's contributions to the music world have been enumerable, and I congratulate her on her achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL AUTHORIZING EXPANSION OF HAWAII VOLCANOES NATIONAL PARK KAHUKU, HAWAII

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize expansion of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park located on the Island of Hawai'i.

This bill would authorize expansion of the park's boundaries to allow the National Park Service to acquire 656 additional acres between the 1,000 and 2,000-foot elevation marks in the Kahuku district makai (ocean-side) of State Highway 11. This property, which is a part of the historic Kahuku Ranch, most of which has already been added to the Park, includes extensive natural and cultural resources. These Kahuku lands encompass