

Congressional District in the medical community and has demonstrated exemplary service in its cultural, scholastic, and charitable endeavors.

At this year's annual charity gala, the Asian-American Medical Association will present Mr. Feisal Istrabadi with the Crystal Globe award. Feisal is a resident of Valparaiso, Indiana. He was born in Iraq and he has spent almost 16 years as an Attorney in Valparaiso. Feisal was recently chosen as Iraq's interim ambassador to the United Nations. He was nominated in January 2004 by the President of the Iraqi Governing Council. In June 2004 he was renominated, and he was then appointed by the President of Iraq. Feisal returned to Iraq within the past two years at the request of the government, to help rebuild the country. He helped write the interim constitution that is now in place and he also helped author the interim bill of rights. I am honored to commend Feisal for his commitment and dedication to the well being of those who seek his knowledge and leadership. His efforts and hard work are worthy of the highest recognition.

Although Feisal's career consumes much of his time, Feisal has never limited the time he gives to his most important interest, his family. He and his wife, Juliet have two daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending the Asian-American Medical Society and Feisal Istrabadi for their outstanding contributions. Their commitment to improving the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana and throughout the world is truly inspirational and should be recognized and commended.

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 10218—NOVEMBER 17, 2004

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218. For the past decade my district has been fortunate to be home to these veterans who served in World War II, Desert Storm and conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Bosnia and Iraq.

The service of these veterans did not end with their tour of duty. V.F.W. Post 10218 continues to serve our community in El Monte and South El Monte. Under the leadership of their commander, Mr. Michael Felix, a decorated former Army Sergeant who served in Vietnam, I expect the V.F.W. Post 10218 will continue to be a great asset to our community.

I wish to offer the V.F.W. Post 10218 my sincerest congratulations on their 10th anniversary. This country and the community are deeply indebted to them for the service they have performed both at home and abroad.

CONGRATULATING MR. JOHN SAINT ON RECEIPT OF THE MOBILE CIVITAN CLUB'S MOBILIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mr. John Saint, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Mitchell Corporation in Mobile, Alabama, on the occasion of his being honored by the Mobile Civitan Club with its 56th Mobilian of the Year Award.

A native of Sand Mountain, Alabama, and a veteran of the Vietnam War, John Saint has been actively involved in the life of the Mobile community for many years. The Mitchell Company is one of the leading real estate and development companies in the southern United States, and its official work in the community is matched by its dedication to the families of Mobile and their needs. Under the guidance and inspiration of John Saint, the company has become one of the leaders in the area of charitable giving in south Alabama.

Each year, the Mitchell Company sponsors a "Giving Tree" fundraiser, in which area students contribute hand-made Christmas ornaments to decorate a tree in the company's offices. For each ornament received, the company makes a contribution to charity, and the success of this program has been tremendous. Under John Saint's leadership, the company in 2003 donated over \$18,000 to Saint Mary's Home, a facility in Mobile that provides temporary shelter and residential treatment for abused and neglected children. Additionally, Mobile County schools which participated in the "Giving Tree" program received \$20,500 in donations. All told, the "Giving Tree" program has over the years contributed a total of \$70,000 to Saint Mary's Home and \$113,500 to area public, private, and parochial schools.

Along with the "Giving Tree" program, the Mitchell Company provides free meals at Camp Smile, a summer program for adults with disabilities, and Camp Rap-A-Hope, a summer program for children battling cancer. The company also makes its corporate jet available to transport cancer patients to their chemotherapy appointments in states outside of Alabama and serves as the corporate sponsor for the Lady's Professional Golf Association.

The Civitan Club received numerous worthy nominations for men and women from throughout Mobile who in their own way also make significant contributions to their friends and neighbors on a daily basis. I am certain it is difficult to make the final selection for the Mobilian of the Year Award, but as in the past, this year's winner has shown a level of community support and charitable giving in the Mobile area which is, in my opinion, unmatched anywhere else in the state. John Saint gives as much as he does to his community, and inspires many other friends and coworkers to do likewise, simply because he says such a spirit of generosity comes naturally to him. There are hundreds of families in Mobile, Alabama, whose lives are richer because of his natural desire to support his fellow man.

Along with his many family, friends, and colleagues, both in Mobile and throughout the

State of Alabama, I wish to extend to Mr. John Saint my warmest congratulations on the receipt of the Mobile Civitan Club's Mobilian of the Year Award.

THE CASE OF MIKHAIL TREPASHKIN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, there is reason to fear for the fate of rule of law in Russia. I want to present one relevant example.

Mikhail Trepashkin, an attorney and former Federal Security Service, FSB, officer was arrested on October 24, 2003, a week before he was scheduled to represent in legal proceedings the relatives of one of the victims of a terrorist attack in Moscow. Mr. Trepashkin's American client is Tatyana Morozova of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In September 1999, Ms. Morozova's mother was killed and her sister barely survived the bombing of an apartment house in Moscow. Officially, the crime was blamed on Chechen separatists, but Mr. Trepashkin was expected to present the findings of his investigation which suggested involvement of elements of the FSB in the 1999 apartment bombings in Moscow as well as an aborted attempted bombing in the city of Ryazan.

Mr. Trepashkin had been a consultant to the public commission set up by prominent human rights activist and former Duma Deputy Sergei Kovalev to investigate the 1999 bombings. The Kovalev commission asked many unpleasant questions but got precious few answers from the authorities. Meanwhile, in the course of his investigation Trepashkin discovered evidence that didn't track with the official version of the bombing incidents. This included events in Ryazan, where a bomb in an apartment basement was discovered by local police and safely detonated hours before it was due to explode. The two suspects in that case were released after presenting FSB identification documents. The whole incident was later declared a "readiness exercise" by Russian authorities.

Several months later, the co-chairman of the Kovalev Commission, Duma Deputy Sergei Yushenkov, was assassinated in front of his home. Four persons were convicted of the murder. Another member of the Commission died of food poisoning in a hospital, another was severely beaten by thugs, and two members lost their seats in the Duma. The activities of the decimated commission came to an abrupt halt.

A week before the October 24, 2003 trial opened, the police just happened to pull Trepashkin over on the highway, and just happened to find a revolver in his car. Trepashkin claims the gun was planted. Three weeks later, he was put on trial and sentenced to 4 years labor camp by a closed court for allegedly divulging state secrets to a foreign journalist.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know all the details of this case, but it looks very much like Mr. Trepashkin was prosecuted in order to prevent him from releasing potentially damaging information regarding the activities of the FSB. The