

of thousands of voters, predominantly from minority and Democratic precincts, had to wait hours or were disenfranchised altogether due to unprecedented long lines, expected challenges, get-out-the-vote disinformation, electronic voting irregularities and questionable practices in tallying provisional ballots and completing the recount. This must spur us to action, to accomplish effective, bipartisan electoral reform—the kind we should already have implemented following the 2000 Presidential Election.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the ongoing GAO investigation into the reported irregularities in our latest Presidential Election, including possible voter intimidation and fraud. We must continue our legislative efforts, following in the footsteps of The Help America Vote Act, which became law in October 2002, to fulfill our responsibility as elected officials to ensure the right of every individual citizen to have their vote counted. We must support the Election Assistance Commission as it responds quickly to reports of irregularities and possible fraud in the 2004 Presidential Election by holding hearings on voting systems standards, registration databases, and provisional balloting. We also must address allegations of inaccurate results from electronic voting machines by supporting legislation to require such machines to produce a paper trail that can be used in the event of a recount. We must continue to act this session to ensure an election process that, in 2008, will maintain integrity as well as the public's confidence.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOUISVILLE BOARD OF INDEPENDENT INSURANCE AGENTS

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of the Louisville Board of Independent Insurance Agents.

The story of the Louisville Board began on February 15, 1854 when a dozen of the city's leading insurance officials met to organize the Board of Underwriters. The organization's first constitution stated that it was formed

in view of the benefits resulting from uniformity in the rates of insurance, in the conditions under which insurances should be made, in the principles and practices of adjusting losses, and in view also of elevating the character of insurance transactions. . . .

In 1858, the Louisville Board presented the city of Louisville with its first steam-powered fire engine. At a cost of \$5,000, the money to purchase the fire engine was donated from insurance companies and local merchants.

In 1896, Louisville Board members played a prominent role in the creation of a state insurance association within Kentucky. This organization still operates today as the Independent Insurance Agents of Kentucky. Additionally, Louisville Board members played an instrumental role in the creation of a national agents' association.

In 1951, the Louisville Board inaugurated a series of monthly luncheon forums, which continue to this day.

Mr. Speaker, the Louisville Board has been a valued partner in our community for the past

150 years. I congratulate them on a historic anniversary and wish them continued success in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF UKRAINE ON RECENT PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the people of Ukraine on their free and fair election that elevated Victor Yushchenko to the office of President. I have joined my colleagues in extending an invitation to President Yushchenko to address the Congress.

Just days before the elections, I traveled to Ukraine for the ninth time. On November 21, Ukraine held a run-off election for the office of President between Victor Yushchenko and Victor Yanukovich. International observers immediately found widespread fraud and declared the election invalid. Immediately following these events, supporters of the opposition party took to the streets to demand a recount or a new vote in what has been dubbed the "Orange Revolution." The Ukrainian Supreme Court agreed and called for new elections. Our six member Congressional delegation added our voices for a free and fair revote in the Presidential elections to be held December 26 in that nation of nearly 50 million people.

My first journey to Ukraine inspired a three-decade long quest that now explodes in the hearts of the people of Ukraine. The momentum of the opposition party in Ukraine is with the young. They crowded into the streets of Kiev. They blazed a trail on email. They are building a new future for Ukraine and this election cycle has been a transformational moment for them.

Ukraine was host to thousands of election observers from around the world, and from within Ukraine, with the purpose of preventing the abuses that characterized the earlier elections, particularly manipulation of mobile voting stations and absentee voting. Laws had been passed in parliament to avoid these pitfalls. However, election observers were critical in assuring a fair vote.

I continue to ponder how much Ukraine has changed in my lifetime. When I first drove into Ukraine in 1973, there were no other cars on the road other than military vehicles. Today, though far from an open society, Ukraine is making major strides toward developing liberty's institutions. The impact of this election in inspiring the next generation of Ukraine's youth cannot be underestimated. There is enormous fervor among the young people. Their free assembly is allowed in many regions of the nation.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus, I look forward to building strong ties between our nations. Just a few weeks ago, the Congress held a videoconference with members of the Ukrainian parliament, the Rada. As part of our 1999 agreement, we will continue to hold these discussions, both in person and via videoconference. Our relationship has just begun to blossom. I am very hopeful for Ukraine and her people.

RANCHO CORRAL DE TIERRA GOLDEN GATE NATIONAL RECREATION AREA BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT ACT—H.R. 296

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce important legislation to expand the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the Rancho Corral de Tierra Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) Boundary Adjustment Act, H.R. 296. This legislation will protect and preserve an extraordinary landscape and make a valuable addition to the National Park System at a fraction of the cost to the Federal government.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area is a national treasure preserving historic sites and open space as well as providing recreation in the midst of a densely populated urban area. It is one of our nation's most heavily used national parks. H.R. 296 would adjust the boundary of the GGNRA to permit the inclusion of lands directly adjacent to existing parkland as well as nearby lands along the Pacific Ocean. The upper parcels of land offer spectacular vistas, sweeping coastal and bay views and stunning headland scenery. Including these lands would also protect the important habitats of several species of rare or endangered plants and animals.

The addition of 4,700 new acres to the GGNRA will be accessible to more than 6 million people who live within an hour's drive of the park and will provide national park programs and experiences to millions of national and international visitors. An expansive tract of 4,076 acres known as Rancho Corral de Tierra includes the dramatic ascent of Montara Mountain from the sea, 2,000 feet in just over 1 mile. It is a spectacular sight not duplicated anywhere else in the Park and in few other places on the California coast.

With this legislation, Rancho Corral de Tierra will be preserved through a tripartite partnership between the National Park Service, California State Parks and the Peninsula Open Space Trust. For the Rancho Corral de Tierra property, we will seek 50 percent of the acquisition costs from the federal government and 50 percent through state and private contributions. The other properties will be donated by the State of California.

The current landowner of the Rancho Corral de Tierra is the Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST). They purchased the entire Rancho Corral de Tierra site for \$29.75 million to save the site from development and to preserve this important natural area. POST is a local land-conservancy trust in the San Francisco Bay Area and has a remarkable track record. POST has offered to donate significant funds towards the federal acquisition of the Rancho Corral de Tierra property through private contributions. The dedicated foresight and tireless efforts of POST led by its President Audrey Rust had enabled us to bring this legacy to our National Park.

My legislation enjoys strong local support. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore Citizens Advisory Commission adopted a resolution endorsing this legislation and supporting the addition of these areas into the GGNRA after