

whose tremendous wealth is built upon exclusive government deals and on the backs of Ukraine's working class.

These same Ukrainian commoners define the "Orange Revolution," named after Yushchenko's campaign color. I was in Ukraine as an election monitor during the start of the revolution and witnessed millions of Ukrainians pouring into Kiev's Independence Square.

The protest was sparked when the government announced fraudulent election results and tried to hand Yanukovich a false victory. Demonstrators stayed in the streets for weeks in sub-zero weather demanding a new election and an end to corruption.

Yushchenko's election is important for two reasons. First, with the help of international observers (including several Coloradans), Ukrainians conducted a legitimate election in the face of difficult odds.

Given the history of oppression in Ukraine, the election is a triumph of courage. Today's Ukrainians are the grandchildren, children and survivors of Stalin's engineered famine of 1932-33. For generations, they have seen that Ukrainians who challenge governing authorities often die untimely deaths.

The election is also a triumph for women. In 35,000 polling stations throughout Ukraine, it was the women who insisted on a transparent election. They were the brave volunteers who stood up to thugs, dressed down armed government agents and enforced the rules to protect the ballot box.

Indeed, the Patrick Henry of Ukraine is Yulia Tymoshenko, a parliamentarian who marshaled the masses in the peaceful, purposeful and well-organized Orange Revolution. Tymoshenko is emblematic of Ukrainian women. Their leadership has made the greatest difference in Ukrainian politics, business, academia and culture.

For Ukrainians, Yushchenko represents unleashed opportunity. Ukraine's massive underground economy has the potential to become one of the most powerful economies in Europe. Yushchenko understands this.

He has charted an ambitious agenda for reforming Ukraine's economic institutions with an emphasis on attracting foreign investment and improving domestic productivity. Ukraine's economy is quite strong. Last year's increase in its gross domestic product was among the highest in the world.

A country of 48 million, Ukraine has a highly educated workforce and nearly 100 percent literacy. It is the second-largest country in Europe, has abundant natural resources, contains the planet's richest soil and enjoys a geographic location conducive to trade.

In anticipation of a Yushchenko presidency, foreign investors have been busting down the doors of Kiev in search of ground-floor opportunities. Yushchenko's promise to accelerate NATO cooperation, European integration and Western economic standards is underscored by his immediate travel schedule. This week he heads to a meeting of the Council of Europe, then to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Colorado shares many common features with Ukraine which have led to partnerships in agriculture, mineral extraction, medicine, space development and education. Strengthening these partnerships in the Yushchenko era presents a solid opportunity for Coloradans to help secure democracy and freedom in Ukraine while expanding trade here at home.

RECOGNIZING MR. BRADLEY
DAVID DEBRASKA

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Bradley David DeBraska, a police officer with the Milwaukee Police Department. It gives me great pleasure to join the International Union of Police Associations in recognizing his service to the Milwaukee community.

Mr. DeBraska has honorably served the police force since 1977. He worked tirelessly as a Police Officer, and for the past twelve years has served dual roles as a Police Liaison Officer and Detective. Mr. DeBraska's service also extends to numerous Boards and Associations, helping to guide several police and community organizations. In addition, he faithfully served the residents of Wisconsin as a member of the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents. He has truly fulfilled his duty as a citizen of this country.

I am proud of the work that Mr. DeBraska has accomplished in his 28 years of service. Once again, I congratulate him. I wish Mr. DeBraska a healthy and happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING MARY BETH SCOW

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Mary Beth Scow and her contributions to excellence in public education. As a current representative of District A of the Clark County School District Board of Trustees, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice and is honored for her contributions. I stand today to praise her for her continued leadership and passion in improving education in southern Nevada.

Mrs. Scow, a Denver native, has been a resident of southern Nevada for the past 25 years. She graduated cum laude from Brigham Young University with a bachelor's degree in community health education. She and her husband Steve are the proud parents of nine children, all educated in the Clark County School District. The entire family has been very involved in community sports, music and church activities.

With a vision to help prepare Clark County students for higher education and for successful future careers, Mrs. Scow has been an outspoken voice for Clark County students. Elected to the board of school trustees in 1996, Mrs. Scow has proven her leadership qualities by serving two terms as president of that body. In addition, she has served on various educational committees and zoning task forces. In her community, she leaves a legacy to the Sunset Area Council of PTA as a former president and to her local Boy Scout chapter as den leader.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I stand today to pay tribute to a visionary leader, committed parent and public servant. I join with the William McCool Science Center at Frank Lamping Elementary School to pay trib-

ute to Mary Beth Scow for her dedication to Clark County students and her commitment to excellence in education. I thank her for her contribution and I urge my colleagues to recognize in their own communities, the contributions of great leaders in education.

COMMENDING PALESTINIAN PEOPLE FOR HOLDING FREE AND FAIR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in offering my congratulations to the Palestinian people on the recent election of Mahmoud Abbas as the second president of the Palestinian Authority.

After 4 long years of terror and bloodshed, the hope for peace that has spread through Israel and the Palestinian Territories in the last two-and-a-half months has been welcomed by Israelis and Palestinians. Not since the heady days following the signing of the Oslo Accords in September 1993, has there been this much optimism for better relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

I have been encouraged by the deepening contacts between Israelis and Palestinians following the death of Yasser Arafat and I am hopeful that next week's summit in Egypt between Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Abbas will lay the groundwork for cooperative planning as Israel prepares to pull out of Gaza and parts of the West Bank later this year. Planning and coordination between Israeli and Palestinian security forces would improve the chance for a peaceful transition to Palestinian control in Gaza.

I also hope that the election of President Abbas will finally mark a clear rejection of terrorism by the leadership of the Palestinian Authority. For too long, Yasser Arafat would say one thing to Israelis and Americans and another to his own people about the centrality of renouncing violence. President Abbas appears to understand that terrorism has brought only suffering to his people and that the only path to statehood for the Palestinian people is the path of negotiation.

Although President Abbas won the presidency by a healthy margin in last month's election, he has no real base of political support with the PA, nor does he enjoy great popular support among the Palestinian electorate. Thus, he will need to build support by demonstrating to the Palestinians that he can negotiate effectively with Israel and by securing U.S. political and economic assistance.

I know that the Israeli government understands the tenuousness of President Abbas's situation and has both sought to build confidence in him by easing up on security clampdowns in the territories and by showing restraint in not responding to a series of inflammatory statements by Abbas during the recent campaign.

President Bush's request for \$350 million in assistance to the Palestinians is an important signal that the United States also sees President Abbas as a serious partner in the search for peace between Israel and Palestinians. I share the President's vision of Israel and Palestine living side-by-side in peace and I am