

international institutions. As the 2005 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index chart, where Armenia ranked 88th out of 158th, shows, Armenia has earned this support. Furthermore, according to the 2005 U.N. Human Development Report, Armenia has a Human Development Index of 83 out of 177, and ranks the highest among the Transcaucasian republics. Finally, in recognizing the country's continuing efforts to move away from its Soviet past, it cannot be overlooked that in this year's Index of Economic Freedom, Armenia ranked 27th best, tied with Japan and ahead of countries like Norway, Spain, Portugal and Italy. The rank puts Armenia in the category of "Mostly Free" countries, making it the most economically free state in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

No recognition of Armenia would be complete without acknowledging the fantastic contributions of the Armenian diaspora living here in America. It is estimated that the Armenian community in the United States numbers in the hundreds of thousands and represents the largest Armenian community in the world outside Armenia. In Michigan, my hometown of Detroit was itself one of the great historical centers where Armenians set down roots after they came to our great Nation. Armenian-Americans have also made contributions to every aspect of American life. Among the most notable have been William Saroyan, Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize winning author; Howard Kazanjian, producer of *Star Wars* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*; Raffi, children's singer and songwriter; System of a Down, multi-platinum alternative/metal group; Steve Zallian, Academy Award winning screenwriter of *Schindler's List*; Ray Damadian, inventor of Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and, of course, Andre Agassi, professional tennis player.

However, our relationship with Armenia has certainly been by no means a one-way street. Our Nation's Armenian diaspora has provided the greatest number of high ranking officials in the new republic: the young Minister of Foreign Affairs, Raffi Hovannisian, a lawyer and political scientist, whose father, Richard, professor of Armenian history at UCLA, is the foremost authority on the first republic; the minister of energy, Sebu Tashjian, also from Los Angeles; Jirair Libaridian, historian and former director of the Zoryan Institute, who is a personal advisor to President Levon Ter Petrosian; and Mathew Der Manuelian, a Boston lawyer with a high post in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

I'll conclude my statement by wishing Armenia and Armenian-Americans a happy independence day.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE
MANRESA JESUIT RETREAT
HOUSE

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House as it celebrates its eightieth year of service to Oakland County.

Founded by a group of laymen in 1926, the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House has grown and

evolved over the years to become a center for thousands of people to get away to a quiet place for meetings, seminars, workshops, and worship.

In its beginnings, the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House struggled to secure the funds to fully provide food service and other amenities to its guests. However, through perseverance and strong leadership, Manresa has become a fixture in the community, providing thousands of people with a place to worship, reflect, learn, and work in a nurturing atmosphere. Its board of directors has guided the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House's ministry to the community, including the establishment of the Internship in Ignatian Spirituality which trains both laymen and ordained people of many denominations for ministry in their communities.

September 23, 2006 will mark the eightieth anniversary of the first retreat ever held at the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, located on the thirty-nine acre "Deepdale Estate" on the corner of Woodward and Quarton Road in Bloomfield Hills. At the time of its establishment as the Manresa Jesuit Retreat House, this area was part of the expanding metro Detroit area. As the area grew, so did Manresa with a series of additions and renovations that have enlarged the original capacity of retreat guests from 23 to its current capacity of 78.

The Manresa Jesuit Retreat House has provided a foundation upon which thousands of metro Detroiters have grown, both personally and spiritually. I am proud to recognize its importance in forging the character of the community as we celebrate the eightieth anniversary of Manresa's inaugural retreat.

TRIBUTE TO AUSTIN MALCOLM
"MIKE" ALLEN

HON. THADDEUS G. MCCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the extraordinary life of Austin Malcolm "Mike" Allen, former Mayor of Northville, Michigan, and mourn his passing at the age of 91.

For more than nine decades, Mike served the people of the City of Northville, where we served as its Mayor from 1958–1978. Born on October 3, 1914, he left his world on September 9, 2006. In his magnificent life, Mike embodied the virtues of honesty and duty—and good old fashioned common sense—for which he was widely admired and never equaled. (Though, admittedly, few tried to emulate his love of suspenders!)

Mike is survived by his wife, Betty; his children, Jim, Sharon, and Patricia; and his siblings, Doris, Naomi, Jerome, Flora, and Hoy. He will be remembered for his witty sense of humor, unfaltering dependability, and endearing concern for others. Mike touched everyone he met; and, by his absence, we are all diminished.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Austin Malcolm "Mike" Allen for his lifetime of dedication and service to his fellow human beings.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE
MELANCON WELCOMES TO THE
UNITED STATES PRESIDENT
NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

HON. CHARLIE MELANCON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, Today I welcome President Nursultan Nazarbayev of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United States.

When the Soviet Union collapsed, there was great concern about the political and economic future of the former Soviet republics. The world wondered whether these nations would join democratically developed nations, and whether they would be able to overcome the communist ideology that had been imposed on them for so long. Furthermore, as a result of the disintegration of the Soviet Empire, nuclear weapons were scattered, uncontrolled and therefore even more dangerous. The colossal number of nuclear weapons was a real threat to peace and the possibility loomed of bloody territorial and international conflict.

Unfortunately, in some cases our concerns were valid. For many of these emerging states, the burden of building a stable, flourishing and democratic society appeared to be a difficult task. Not everyone could handle this historic mission. The world witnessed several conflicts, sometimes bloody, in the former Soviet bloc, which not only destabilized the region, but also caused economic stagnation.

All indicators showed that Kazakhstan, with its enormous territory, vast natural resources and multinational and multiethnic population, should have been the epicenter of instability. But instead, Kazakhstan was one of only a few former Soviet states that avoided bloodshed. Kazakhstan withstood the pressure of reform and today has made staggering economic and political progress, largely due to President Nazarbayev's vision and leadership.

President Nazarbayev's stewardship of Kazakhstan's vast natural and strategic resources has given the world confidence in his government. His commitment to harmonize Kazakhstan's political and business climate with Western standards has allowed Kazakhstan to assume a leadership role among the former Soviet states of Central Asia. And Kazakhstan has risen up as a model in disarmament and nonproliferation and should be applauded by all nations of the world.

In November of last year I visited Kazakhstan. The warm and hospitable Kazakh people reminded me of the people from my own home state of Louisiana. During that trip, I was proud to be one of the first leaders to congratulate President Nazarbayev on his reelection. I also met with the elected leaders of the legislative and executive branches of government and of several opposition parties. I am glad to report that democracy in Kazakhstan is growing.

If you have never seen Kazakhstan's capitol city, Astana, you must. The brand new city rises up out of the Steppes, with cranes and skyscrapers studding the horizon. Astana is a truly awesome testament to the will of the Kazakh people to move into the future. It is a symbol of the progress Kazakhstan has made from Soviet dominance to independence.

I would also like to commend President Bush's Administration for seeing what I have seen for some time. Kazakhstan wants to be a partner with the United States. They are an ally in the Global War on Terror and Kazakh troops have shed their blood alongside Americans in Iraq. As we work to secure our nation from terrorism, we should thank the Kazakhs for their sacrifice. Kazakhstan's military and economic security is linked to America's. I hope to see our nations walk together down a path of prosperity and stability.

It is with great enthusiasm that I look forward to Kazakhstan's continued success in the years ahead and wholeheartedly support the future strengthening of the U.S.-Kazakhstan strategic partnership. I am confident that with President Nazarbayev's leadership we will bring our two nations closer together.

Welcome to the United States, Mr. President.

DARFUR ACCOUNTABILITY AND
DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2006

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006.

As a Member of Congress who traveled to Darfur and visited the refugees in camps along the Chadian border, I am confident that now is the time for a two-pronged approach of diplomacy and divestment to end the genocide in Darfur.

As many of you know, divestment was a successful tool in ending the apartheid in South Africa. Similarly, we must make sure that the federal government prohibits contracts to multinational businesses enterprises if they maintain business relationships and investments with Sudan and other national, regional, and local governments involved in genocide or participating in business activities with any warring parties or rebel groups perpetrating genocide.

Today, state legislatures, colleges, and universities are leading divestment campaigns to pressure the Khartoum regime and show the international community that to achieve an end to the fighting, peace, truth, and reconciliation are needed immediately in Darfur.

The hard earned money of American citizens should not be used to support a pariah government that is killing its own people and supporting terrorists.

State legislatures in Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon, and Maine have passed legislation mandating divestment of State funds from companies that conduct business in Sudan. California, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Iowa, and Texas have considered or are considering legislation to divest State funds from companies that conduct business in Sudan. Connecticut, Ohio, and Vermont have passed nonbinding divestment legislation with respect to Sudan; and Arizona, Louisiana, Missouri, and Pennsylvania have adopted screening processes for investments in companies that conduct business in countries that are sponsors of terrorism, including Sudan.

Additionally, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) has launched successful student campaigns across the country, driving their respective colleges and universities to divest from companies doing business with Sudan.

Amherst, Boston University, Brandeis, Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Harvard, Middlebury, Oberlin, Princeton, the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, Samford, Simmons, Smith, Stanford, Trinity, the University of California, the University of Maryland, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Southern California, the University of Vermont, the University of Washington, Williams, and Yale have all divested their funds from, or placed restrictions on investment of their funds in, certain companies that conduct business in Sudan.

The Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act applauds the divestment efforts of the state and local government, colleges, and universities.

Mr. Speaker, my bill would also require the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Division of Corporate Finance and the U.S. Treasury to require all companies listing securities on United States capital markets, either directly or through a parent or subsidiary company, including partly-owned subsidiaries, have business operations in a country with a genocide declared by the Department of State or Congress, to disclose the nature of their business operations.

The Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act of 2006 would require:

(1) The Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) Division of Corporate Finance and the U.S. Treasury to require all companies listing securities on United States capital markets, either directly or through a parent or subsidiary company, including partly-owned subsidiaries, have business operations in a country with a genocide declared by the Department of State or Congress, to disclose the nature of their business operations.

(2) The United States Government (federal) to prohibit contracts with multinational business enterprises if:

(a) They maintain business relationships and investments with national, regional and local governments involved in genocide; and

(b) They participate in business activities with the government or government entities.

(c) Exemptions for businesses who are working in areas of Sudan that have been neglected by the Khartoum regime (Darfur, Southern Sudan, Kordofan/Nuba Mountain State, Blue Nile State or Abyei) or who are providing immediate humanitarian assistance (delivery of food aid, road construction, basic sanitation, education, etc.).

(3) Recognition and support of:

(a) States and Cities that have divested or are in the process of divesting State and City funds from companies that conduct business in Sudan; and

(b) United States colleges and universities that have divested their funds from, or placed restrictions on investments of their funds in, companies that conduct business in Sudan.

(c) Provides preemption protection for states and universities who have sponsored their own divestment campaigns.

(4) Within 180 days, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to investigate the existence and extent of all Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board investments with na-

tional, regional and local governments involved in genocide; or business activities with any warring parties perpetrating genocide; or related to debt-obligations issued by the government of Sudan;

(5) The following reports not later than 60 days after enactment:

(a) The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission shall report to Congress the names of the business enterprises and the details of their business operations in Sudan;

(b) And biannually thereafter, the Office of Global Security Risk shall report to Congress the names of the business enterprises and the details of their operations in Sudan;

(6) The Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to maintain and publish a list of the names of the business enterprises identified by the Securities and Exchange Commission as having ties with perpetrators of genocide.

Please join me in sending a message to the international community and out national pension funds that we do not want blood on our hands.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to lend your support to the Darfur Accountability and Divestment (DADA) Act of 2006.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW KENNEDY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a man who has touched the lives of so many in my community of Nashville, as well as around the world, through his music and his commitment to sharing his talent with others.

Matthew Kennedy was born in the segregated South in 1921, the son of a strict, school teacher mother and postal worker father. Only months after his birth, his father dies of a heart attack leaving his mother on her own to care for the family. Despite the challenges, Matthew's mother is determined that her young son and will be able to take "serious" piano lessons with the town's white music teacher. The teacher agrees to lessons and in exchange Matthew and his cousin agree to clean her studio.

Even at this very young age, Matthew's talent is evident. The famous Russian pianist Sergei Rachmaninoff comes to his hometown of Macon, Georgia and Matthew and his mother somehow get tickets to hear the master from the segregated balcony. Matthew says his life was changed by that experience forever. Soon, Matthew is heading to New York, having won a scholarship to continue his music studies at the Julliard School.

While in New York he performs at Carnegie Hall and the Apollo Theatre. But before long he is on his way to Nashville. His Julliard teacher encourages him to return to the South to use his talents to help his people. Matthew arrives at Fisk University where he is welcomed by the director of the world-famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. He agrees to take on the role of piano accompanist for the Jubilee Singers and begins what will be a lifelong commitment to the school, the Jubilee Singers and his belief in the power of music.

Matthew Kennedy served as the director of the Fisk Jubilee Singers from 1957 to 1985.