

modulation of gene expression, having the capacity to enhance athletic performance, is prohibited." Although the U.S. Anti Doping Agency and the World Anti-Doping Agency presently prohibit gene-doping, there is no guarantee that gene-doping will remain on the prohibited list. The prohibition of gene-doping by statute and further public dialogue is critical. I salute my House and Senate colleagues for their foresighted efforts in this regard.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN JOHN
HOSTETTLER

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, for 12 years, JOHN HOSTETTLER served the people of southwest and west central Indiana with an abiding faith and determination to do that which is right. Defeating an incumbent in 1994, he carried with him to Congress his steadfast belief that this nation must ever stray from the Constitution for its governing principles.

Holding to his convictions, JOHN served with distinction on both the House Armed Services and Judiciary Committees. His ideological values guided him through difficult decisions. From legislation on gun control, to abortion and fiscal restraint, JOHN never wavered from his convictions. His principled leadership and dedication to service will always be referenced as an example to his colleagues and countrymen.

JOHN's strength of character led him throughout his years in Congress, often being the lone voice speaking out on an issue. It was this commitment that made him a valuable and esteemed member of Indiana's delegation. This nation should boast the patriotic efforts of this great Hoosier. His selfless dedication to service and continued demonstration of leadership while helping to govern this country is to be applauded. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO KASEY M. FEAUTO

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the patriotism and military service of Specialist Kasey M. Feauto of Norfolk, NE.

Kasey was born in Sioux City, Iowa on September 9, 1982. He is the son of Michael Feauto and Joy Kleinberg and the brother of Amy.

Kasey graduated from Westwood Community High School in Sloan, Iowa in 2002 where he was an honor roll student and played on the football team. After graduation he joined the Army National Guard in 2003.

Mr. Feauto was deployed to Iraq on October 7, 2005, with the Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery. On December 4, 2005, Kasey was driving the lead truck of a three vehicle convoy when a roadside bomb exploded and hit the second truck in the convoy causing the truck to cross oncoming traffic and crash into a concrete wall. After realizing what had

happened, Kasey turned his truck around to go help. The third truck was called to lend medical assistance but was hit by another roadside bomb.

SFC Richard Schild, the gunner in the second truck, was killed instantly. SGT Allen Kokesh, the driver of the second truck, was seriously injured. Kasey pulled Kokesh out of the truck and performed life-saving medical attention, putting a tourniquet on his wounded arm and leg. This medical care saved Kokesh's life long enough for him to return home and see his family. SGT Kokesh passed away in February 2006 from other wounds sustained that day. SSG Daniel Cuka, the truck commander in the third truck, was also killed from the explosion. SPC Corey Briest, the gunner in the third truck, was wounded.

Private First Class Kasey M. Feauto, of Charlie Battery, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for exceptionally meritorious heroism in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the life-saving aide he performed on SGT Allen Kokesh. His exemplary selfless service and outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the Command's mission. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Army.

Through this entire trauma Kasey has maintained his heart and sense of humor and his ability to be there for his family and friends in their time of need. He maintains that the real heroes are those who have given their lives for this country. Specifically the men of Charlie Battery who gave their lives: SGT Allen Kokesh Jr., SSG Daniel Cuka, SFC Richard Schild, and SSG Greg Wagner.

Home from Iraq, Kasey is living in Norfolk, NE with his fiancée Maria Vandersnick.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Mr. Feauto's selfless service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man worthy of our honor, Specialist Kasey M. Feauto.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL
AND VALORIE ODETTE WILLIAMS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael and Valorie Williams in celebration of their 25th anniversary on December 18, 2006.

Michael and Valorie, both native Nevadans, were married in Las Vegas, Nevada, at Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ by the late Bishop E.N. Webb. Since that time, they raised their blended family of four children—Jason, Shawn, Jamaal, and Courtney—with unending love and support and have taught them to have respect for God and their country.

Valorie, a graduate of Rancho High School and veteran of the United States Army and Michael, a graduate of Valley High School and retired employee from the Department of Energy, share a view of life that makes their union special—God is first in everything that they do and everything they are and from that realization, true love exists. They translate this view either to the children they minister to as

youth pastors and advisors for their church or with the children they work with on a daily basis as employees of the Clark County School District.

Their home is a place of peace and refuge for the families they have adopted, fed, or cared for as their own and it can never be said that when you enter their home that you did not feel love and happiness from the many laughs and fellowships they have shared with so many throughout the years. Some come to them for advice. Others come to them for support. But all recognize that their marriage is one to admire—for it is built upon a foundation of mutual respect, truth, love, admiration, laughter and faith in God.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to celebrate Michael and Valorie today as they prepare to celebrate their anniversary of 25 years. I wish them all the best this year and hope they are able to celebrate another twenty-five.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 7, 2006

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge passage of H.R. 5948, the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006, to provide sustained support for the promotion of democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the Republic of Belarus, as well as encourage the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus' sovereignty and independence. Mr. Speaker, I especially thank you for your commitment to bring this legislation before this Congress. Your deep personal interest in the cause of freedom in Belarus, as demonstrated by your recent meetings in Vilnius with the leaders of the democratic opposition, has been particularly appreciated by those struggling for the rule of law and basic human freedoms. This legislation enjoys bipartisan support, and I want to recognize and thank the tremendous collaboration of Rep. Tom Lantos, an original cosponsor of this bill.

As one who has followed developments in Belarus over many years through my work on the Helsinki Commission, I remain deeply concerned that the Belarusian people continue to be subjected to the arbitrary and self-serving whims of a corrupt and anti-democratic regime headed by Aleksandr Lukashenka. Since the blatantly fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, which the OSCE condemned as having failed to meet international democratic standards, the pattern of repression and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. While those who would dare oppose the regime are especially targeted, the reality is that all in Belarus outside Lukashenka's inner circle pay a price.

RECENT NEWS REGARDING LUKASHENKA'S REGIME

Last week in Riga, President Bush pledged to help the people of Belarus in the face of the "cruel regime" led by President Lukashenka. "The existence of such oppression in our midst offends the conscience of Europe and the conscience of America," Bush said, adding that "we have a message for the people of Belarus: the vision of a Europe whole, free

and at peace includes you, and we stand with you in your struggle for freedom.” Mr. Speaker, this legislation would be a concrete expression of Congress’ commitment to the Belarusian people and would show that we stand as one in supporting freedom for Belarus.

Just within the last few months, we have witnessed a series of patently political trials designed to further stifle peaceful, democratic opposition. In October, 60-year-old human rights activist Katerina Sadouskaya was sentenced to 2 years in a penal colony. Her “crime”? “insulting the honor and dignity of the Belarusian leader.” Mr. Speaker, if this isn’t reminiscent of the Soviet Union, I don’t know what is. And just a few weeks ago, in a closed trial, Belarusian youth activist Zmitser Dashkevich received a 1½ year sentence for “activities on behalf of an unregistered organization.”

A report mandated by the Belarus Democracy Act and finally issued this past March reveals Lukashenka’s links with rogue regimes such as Iran, Sudan and Syria, and his cronies’ corrupt activities. According to an October 9, 2006, International Herald Tribune op-ed: “Alarming, over the last 6 years, Belarus has intensified its illegal arms shipment activities to the point of becoming the leading supplier of lethal military equipment to Islamic state sponsors of terrorism.”

I guess we shouldn’t be all that surprised that in July, Lukashenka warmly welcomed to Minsk Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez. In keeping with their bent, both pledged cooperation and denounced the West. More recently, Belarusian Foreign Minister Martynov traveled to Iran where President Ahmadinejad pledged further cooperation in the energy and defense industries. Not long ago, a member of Belarus’ bogus parliament asserted on state-controlled radio that Belarus has the right to develop its own nuclear weapons. Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, Belarus is truly an anomaly in Europe, swimming against the rising tide of greater freedom, democracy and economic prosperity.

THE LEGISLATION

Three years ago, I introduced the Belarus Democracy Act which passed the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed into law by President Bush in October 2004. At that time, the situation in Belarus with respect to democracy and human rights was already abysmal. The need for a sustained U.S. commitment to foster democracy and respect for human rights and to sanction Aleksandr Lukashenka and his cronies, is clear from the intensified anti-democratic policies pursued by the current leadership in Minsk. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that countries throughout Europe have joined in a truly trans-Atlantic effort to bring the promise of freedom to the beleaguered people of Belarus. Prompt passage of the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 will help maintain this momentum aimed at upholding the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people. With the continuing decline on the ground in Belarus since the fraudulent March elections, this bill is needed now more than ever.

This reauthorization bill demonstrates the sustained U.S. support for Belarus’ independence. We seek to encourage those struggling for democracy and respect for human rights in the face of the formidable pressures and per-

sonal risks from the anti-democratic regime. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary in assistance for each of fiscal years 2007 and 2008 for democracy-building activities such as support for non-governmental organizations, including youth groups, independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, human rights defenders, independent media, democratic political parties, and international exchanges.

The bill further authorizes monies for both radio and television broadcasting to the people of Belarus. While I am encouraged by the recent U.S. and EU initiatives with respect to radio broadcasting, much more needs to be done to penetrate Lukashenka’s stifling information blockade. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Administration will make this a priority.

In addition, H.R. 5948 calls for selective sanctions against the Lukashenka regime, and the denial of entry into the United States for senior officials of the regime—as well as those engaged in human rights and electoral abuses. In this context, I welcome the punitive sanctions imposed by both the Administration and the EU which are targeted against officials—including judges and prosecutors—involved in electoral fraud and other human rights abuses.

The bill expresses the sense of the Congress that strategic exports to the Government of Belarus should be prohibited, except for those intended for democracy building or humanitarian purposes, as well as U.S. Government financing and other foreign assistance. Of course, we would not want the exports to affect humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions are encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs. Furthermore, we would encourage the blocking of the assets (in the United States) of members of the Belarus Government as well as the senior leadership and their surrogates. To this end, I welcome the Treasury Department’s April 10 advisory to U.S. financial institutions to guard against potential money laundering by Lukashenka and his cronies and strongly applaud President Bush’s June 19 “Executive Order Blocking Property of Certain Persons Undermining Democratic Processes or Institutions in Belarus.”

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it crystal clear that these sanctions are aimed not at the people of Belarus, but at a regime that displays contempt for the dignity and rights of its citizens even as the corrupt leadership moves to further enrich itself at the expense of all Belarusians.

ONGOING ANTI-DEMOCRATIC BEHAVIOR

To chronicle the full litany of repression over the course of Lukashenka’s 12-year misrule would go well beyond the bounds of time available here. Let me cite several more recent illustrations of anti-democratic behavior which testify to the true nature of the regime.

Belarus’ March 19 presidential elections can only be described as a farce, and were met with condemnation by the United States, the OSCE, the European Union and others. The Lukashenka regime’s wholesale arrests of more than one thousand opposition activists and dozens of Belarusian and foreign journalists, before and after the elections, and violent suppression of peaceful post-election protests

underscore the contempt of the Belarusian authorities toward their countrymen.

Illegitimate parliamentary elections in 2004 and the recently held presidential “elections” in Belarus brazenly flaunted democratic standards. As a result of these elections, Belarus has the distinction of lacking legitimate presidential and parliamentary leadership, which contributes to that country’s self-imposed isolation. Albeit safely ensconced in power, Lukashenka has not let up on the democratic opposition. Almost daily repressions constitute a profound abuse of power by a regime that has blatantly manipulated the system to remain in power.

In the last few months, the regime continues to show its true colors, punishing those who would dare to challenge the tinpot dictator. Former presidential candidate Aleksandr Kozulin was sentenced to a politically-motivated 5½ years’ term of imprisonment for alleged “hooliganism” and disturbing the peace. His health is precarious as he is now well into his second month of a hunger strike.

In early August, authorities sentenced four activists of the non-partisan domestic election monitoring initiative “Partnerstva”. In a patent attempt to discourage domestic observation of the fraudulent March 19 presidential elections, the four had been kept in custody since February 21. Two were released, having served their 6-month sentences. Two others—Tsimafei Dranchuk and Mikalay Astreyka—received stiffer sentences, although Astreyka has been released from a medium security colony and is now in “correctional labor”. Other political prisoners, including Artur Finkevich, Mikalay Autukhovich, Andrey Klimau, Ivan Kruk, Yuri Lyavonau, Mikalay Razumau, Pavel Sevyarynets, Mikalay Statkevich also continue to have their freedom denied, languishing in prison or in so-called correctional labor camps.

Administrative detentions of 10 or 15 days against democratic opposition activists are almost a daily occurrence. Moreover, the Lukashenka regime continued to stifle religious expression. It refuses to register churches, temporarily detains pastors, threatens to expel foreign clergy, and refuses religious groups the use of premises to hold services. Despite the repressions, Protestant and Catholic congregations have increasingly become more active in their pursuit of religious freedom. I am also concerned about the recent explosion at a Holocaust memorial in western Belarus, the sixth act of vandalism against the monument in 14 years. Unfortunately, the local authorities have reportedly refused to open a criminal investigation. Lukashenka’s minions have closed down independent think tanks, further tightened the noose around what remains of the independent media, suspended the activities of a political party, shut down the prominent literary journal *Arche*, and evicted the Union of Belarusian Writers from its headquarters. Of course, Lukashenka’s pattern of contempt for human rights is nothing new—it has merely intensified with the passage of time.

Moreover, we have seen no progress on the investigation of the disappearances of political opponents—perhaps not surprisingly, as credible evidence points at the involvement of the Lukashenka regime in their murders.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 will help end to the pattern of violations of OSCE

human rights and democracy commitments by the Lukashenka regime and loosen its unhealthy monopoly on political and economic power. I hope our efforts here today will facilitate independent Belarus' integration into democratic Europe in which the principles of democracy, human rights and the rule of law are respected. The beleaguered Belarusian people have suffered so much over the course of the last century and deserve better than to live under a regime frighteningly reminiscent of the Soviet Union. The struggle of the people of Belarus for dignity and freedom deserves our unyielding and consistent support.

This legislation is important and timely because Belarus, which now borders on NATO and the EU, continues to have the worst human rights and democracy record of any European state—bar none.

HONORING LLOYD C. HILLARD, JR.

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to Lloyd C. Hillard, Jr., an exemplary community leader, businessman and citizen from my congressional district. Lloyd received this year's Hardin County Distinguished Citizen Award from the Boy Scouts of America during ceremonies earlier this month.

A native of Kentucky, Lloyd grew up on a farm in Pine Grove and earned college degrees from the University of Kentucky and the University of Wisconsin. Lloyd has distinguished himself as a business leader, serving as President and CEO of First Citizens Bank, and a good neighbor, through his active involvement in many community and charitable organizations.

Though never a scout himself, Lloyd's life-long example of honesty and devotion to his family and community parallel ideals championed by the Boy Scouts. He first became involved with the Scouts as a young adult, running a school recruitment program.

Lloyd has been an especially active member of our community, having served as past president and director of the Bluegrass Council Boy Scouts of America, past chairman of the North Central Kentucky Education Foundation, and former treasurer and director of the Cavalry Armor Foundation.

Lloyd was also past chairman of the Hardin County Community Foundation, Helping Hand of the Heartland, and the Hardin County Fund for the Arts. He remains an active member of the local United Way and the Elizabethtown Rotary Club.

It is my great privilege to recognize Lloyd C. Hillard, Jr. today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his example of leadership and service. His unique achievements make him an outstanding American worthy of our collective honor and respect.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
BOB POYDASHEFF

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a veteran and mayor in my district, Bob Poydasheff, the former Mayor of Columbus, Georgia.

Bob Poydasheff knows what service to our Nation means. He served our Nation in the Army during a combat tour in Vietnam, along with service as counsel for the Secretary of the Army and other officers. He retired with the rank of colonel and many awards, including the Bronze Star.

Bob Poydasheff began serving in the community in the city of Columbus through a variety of non-profit organizations, including the Columbus Symphony, and he worked to help ensure the right direction for our young people through his involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. He has served as the mayor since 2003 and served on the Columbus Council for 6 years prior to his election as mayor.

Bob is also committed to his family, raising two children with his wife Stacy, and enjoying his time with his five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, we are all grateful for the service Bob Poydasheff has rendered to our Nation through his time in the military and to our state through his service as mayor of Columbus. We wish him well in all of his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILL"
BRADFORD

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Bradford of Sulphur Springs, TX, whose distinguished work in radio recently earned him the dedication of a city street in Sulphur Springs in his honor. In recognition of his many years as a radio owner, operator, and pioneer, Radio Road was recently renamed Bill Bradford Road.

Outgoing Sulphur Springs Mayor Clay Walker began pursuing the renaming of Radio Road at the suggestion of long-time Sulphur Springs resident, Jeff Massey. The idea for this change was well-received by the City Manager and members of the City Council who unanimously voted for the change. Indeed, the idea was so popular that many community leaders expressed surprise that the idea had not been thought of before.

As incoming Sulphur Springs Mayor Freddie Taylor's first official act, a framed city resolution changing the name from Radio Road to Bill Bradford Road was presented to Bill along with the first street sign to bear the name "Bill Bradford Road." Sixty days later street signs were erected on August 2nd and 3rd making the name change effective.

Bill began his radio career as a radio operator in the military during World War II and afterward became owner of radio station KSST in Sulphur Springs. In 1992 he was named Texas Association of Broadcasters'

"Pioneer of the Year," and he was installed into the Texas Radio Hall of Fame's "Hall of Honor" in 2005.

Bill has contributed his time and talent to the radio industry and to the residents of Sulphur Springs. Having lived in Sulphur Springs for nearly 60 years, Bill has been a pivotal and influential voice in chronicling the city's growth. Today I am proud to recognize a beloved and legendary citizen of Sulphur Springs, TX—Bill Bradford.

NONPROFIT ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION
PROTECTION ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, the following letter from American University, Washington College of Law Professor Andrew F. Popper outlines the problems and concerns with this legislation.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY,
WASHINGTON COLLEGE OF LAW,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN CONYERS,
Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN CONYERS, I recently learned that the House of Representative is considering H.R. 1176, a bill that would immunize major non-profits in the university sport/entertainment field and all non-profits involved in children's activities generally. I have testified against this bill in its earlier form and have seen the current version. I very much hope this current version will be rejected. It is an awful bill, as discussed below.

The specific question posed to me was whether this bill would carve out an exception for state tort common law claims against organizations and officials who engaged in behaviors that devastated children, athletes, and others who place their trust in the non-profits that are the subject of this bill. There is reason to think actions will not be possible if this bill becomes law.

State tort law holds out the promise of a real incentive to exercise due care in precisely the kinds of programs this bill describes in its opening sections. The tragedy is, this bill would eliminate those state common law tort claims required to produce those incentives.

The argument has been made that while this bill provides explicitly comprehensive immunity for non-profit organizations in the sports/athletics and related fields, somehow it preserves the necessary state common law tort claims required to secure relief when organizations and their employees and volunteers have failed to exercise that requisite level of care required and a child or young adult has been injured as a result. If the legislation stated directly that it excluded from its unconscionable sweep of liability all State common law tort claims, that argument would have some validity. In fact, the bill does just the opposite, listing precise fields where the immunity would be inapplicable—and in that list, state common law tort claims for negligence is nowhere to be found.

Preservation of state common law tort claims for who those who have been harmed, for children, families, athletes and others swept into this bill, could occur either by direct exclusion from the legislation such as