

things I work for is clarity." The completed piece was released during an American bicentennial ceremony and captures the very essence of American pride and patriotism. For those of you who have seen "The Prayer at Valley Forge", the suffering, the pressure, and General Washington's faith in America is perfectly understood and visualized.

In the 1950's, Mr. Friberg partnered with Hollywood producer Cecil B. DeMille to serve as chief artist and designer for DeMille's epic motion-picture, "The Ten Commandments." Mr. Friberg's 15 paintings for "The Ten Commandments" served as the pictorial basis for the scenes, characters, and costumes of the legendary film. For his efforts, Mr. Friberg earned an Academy Award Nomination in 1956.

Other famous works include Mr. Friberg's work for his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Mr. Friberg painted and designed covers for the children's magazine, The Friend, and has depicted well-known scenes and moments from The Book of Mormon. These paintings are loved and celebrated by members of the LDS Church around the world.

Mr. Friberg was born in a Chicago suburb, but by the 1950's, he was an established resident of Utah. Utah Governor Gary Herbert recently called Mr. Friberg Utah's "adopted son." His Utah family will miss him, but his memory and his artwork will live on forever.

CHECHNYA A YEAR AFTER THE
KILLING OF NATALYA
ESTEMIROVA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, a year ago this month Natalya Estemirova, the leading human rights defender in Chechnya was abducted near her apartment building in the capital city of Grozny by unidentified men, transported to the neighboring republic of Ingushetia, and brutally killed. She led a courageous life of denouncing corruption, calling for a fair judicial system, and standing up for human rights. For that she was cut down. While her killers may have ended her life, they will never silence the voice she brought to these issues. Ms. Estemirova's work was well known to the Helsinki Commission, which I co-chair, and colleagues there recall her 2006 visit to discuss the situation in Chechnya. Like Estemirova, all too many of her fellow human rights defenders and journalists are targeted because they have the temerity to speak out about human rights abuses.

Today, inspired by Estemirova's work, I introduce a measure expressing solidarity with human rights defenders in the Russian Federation; urging the Russian authorities to take appropriate steps to end the harassment, persecution and attacks against activists; and calling for an end to impunity for those responsible for such acts, including through the conducting of timely, transparent and thorough criminal investigations into the unresolved murders of human rights defenders, journalists, and political opposition members and the prosecution of all of those responsible for these crimes.

The Helsinki Commission has been at the forefront of drawing attention to the human rights situation in Chechnya and elsewhere in the North Caucasus region of Russia, having held numerous hearings and briefings. Notwithstanding the assertions by the powers that be in Moscow that the situation in Chechnya has returned to normal, the reality on the ground reveals otherwise. The recently released 2009 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, issued by the Department of State, found that the Russian government's already poor human rights record in the North Caucasus worsened during the reporting period, with a marked increase in extrajudicial killings by both government and rebel forces and politically motivated disappearances in Chechnya as well as in neighboring Ingushetia and Dagestan. The Helsinki Commission remains deeply concerned over ongoing human rights abuses, legal impunity, and the permeating climate of fear in the North Caucasus.

While one cannot discount that terrorist elements are responsible for some of the rights violations in that region, many of the reported abuses are perpetrated by federal and local security forces in Chechnya, including the private militia of Chechen strongman Ramzan Kadyrov, the republic's Kremlin-backed president. While it remains unclear what, if any role Kadyrov had in Estemirova's killing, his contempt for her and other human rights defenders is palpable. Earlier this month Kadyrov publicly labeled independent journalists and rights activists as "traitors and enemies of the state." Among those targeted by the Chechen leader is the respected Russian rights organization Memorial.

Madam Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission I remain concerned over the deterioration of the human rights situation in the North Caucasus generally, and Chechnya specifically. I am not alone in this regard, as the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly adopted a resolution late last month on the North Caucasus. The measure pointed to a series of specific concerns in Chechnya against the backdrop of what it characterized as "a climate of pervading fear" nurtured by the current authorities: recurrent disappearances of government opponents and human rights defenders still remain widely unpunished; continuing threats and reprisals, including abductions of relatives of persons suspected of belonging to illegal armed factions; and ongoing intimidation of the media and civil society, among others.

Ramzan Kadyrov's utter contempt for human rights and fundamental freedoms was again manifested recently in his reaction to paintball gun attacks against women on the streets of Grozny apparently because they were not wearing headscarves. Instead of condemning the assaults, the Chechen president reportedly praised the perpetrators. While Kadyrov has largely been given free rein in Chechnya, that does not absolve his backers in Moscow from responsibility for the deteriorating human rights situation in that part of the Russian Federation.

As a participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, it is incumbent upon the Russian authorities to ensure that fundamental freedoms are respected throughout the country, including in the North Caucasus. Turning a blind eye to human rights violations is unacceptable. I urge President Medvedev and Prime Minister Putin to

take effective measures to stop the harassment, persecution and attacks against human activists and journalists in the Russian Federation and to end the impunity for those responsible for the murder of Natalya Estemirova and others. Only then will there be hope that the situation in Chechnya will return to anything approaching normal.

IN HONOR OF PENNSYLVANIA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE BRYAN
BARBIN AND HIS EFFORTS TO
RAISE AWARENESS OF TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hundreds-of-thousands of U.S. service members and veterans impacted by traumatic brain injuries.

Earlier this morning, Congressman BILL PASCRELL and I welcomed Pennsylvania State Representative Bryan Barbin to the U.S. Capitol. Representative Barbin completed a seven-day motorcycle ride through seven state capitals to raise awareness of the impact of traumatic brain injuries, and to deliver the following resolution that was adopted by the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on June 23, 2010. It reads:

Whereas, More than 1.5 million United States military personnel have deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan since the start of military operations in 2001, and military statistics show that at least 115,000 troops have suffered brain injuries related to IED explosions since the Iraq and Afghanistan wars began; and

Whereas, Brain injury has been labeled a signature injury of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and brain injuries occurring among soldiers deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are strongly associated with post-traumatic stress disorder and physical health problems after soldiers return home; and

Whereas, Concern has been emerging about the possible long-term effects of combat-related brain injuries. Significant numbers of undiagnosed injuries and the failure by medical personnel to include such information in soldiers' permanent medical files has been identified as serious in studies prepared by medical and army experts; and

Whereas, Without diagnosis and official documentation, soldiers with head wounds have struggled to receive appropriate treatment, sometimes receiving psychotropic drugs instead of rehabilitative therapy that could help retrain their brains; and

Whereas, The Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, DVVIC, in Johnstown has been assisting returning veterans with rehabilitative therapy since 2006; and

Whereas, In January 2009, Congress mandated DVVIC to establish an assisted living pilot program to determine the best practices to rehabilitate soldiers with mild, moderate or severe traumatic brain injuries to enable them to return to their own communities, therefore be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives designate July 7, 2010, as "Combat-Related Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Day" in Pennsylvania to promote public understanding and encourage all citizens to help bind the wounds of our returning soldiers.