

IN HONOR OF INFINEUM'S LINDEN TECHNOLOGY CENTER FOR BEING NAMED AN OSHA VPP STAR SITE

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Infineum's Linden Technology Center for being awarded the star site status by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration under its Voluntary Protection Program.

A distinguished petroleum additives company, Infineum has continued to lead the way in employee health and safety. It has been an active force, committed to improving the quality of life for its employees and for the residents of the City of Linden and the State of New Jersey.

Because of its dedication to achieving the utmost in safety regulations for its employees, Infineum's Linden Technology Center's program is one of the most comprehensive safety programs in the country. In fact, Infineum has voluntarily set the highest standards for safety and health at its facilities around the world.

The OSHA Star, one of the highest honors awarded by the department, hails businesses that not only comply with OSHA's strict health and safety guidelines but also strive to surpass them through additional self-imposed restrictions. This year, the Linden Technology Center has achieved this level of excellence and is recognized as an OSHA star site.

For its continued efforts in, and dedication to, occupational safety, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Infineum's Linden Technology Center, its management team, and all of its employees on being named an OSHA star site.

TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY NEILSEN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a truly incredible woman. For the last two years, Dorothy Neilson has embodied a true spirit of charity. In 1997, she began to use her vacation time from her job in Aspen, Colorado, to visit Cimpulung, Romania. These were not, however, pleasure trips. She went to give any assistance that she could offer to the eight to eighteen month old infants and children who had been orphaned by the tragedies occurring in their country. Before she left, Dorothy also spent months of her spare time collecting donations of clothing, toys, and medicines.

Though she had to endure difficult living conditions, Dorothy was not daunted. She continued to work with the children and many of them blossomed in her care. She was dubbed "the angel" of the orphans by the agency that arranged her volunteer position. Dorothy also began to teach the workers at the orphanage about the positive effects that

direct interaction, such as hugging and play, had on the children.

On her second month long trip to Romania she continued to work to better the lives of these children. She also caught typhoid fever which caused her to spend several weeks in bed recovering upon her return to the United States. However, even this did not deter her from planning a third trip to Romania. This trip, like the first two, were successes both for Dorothy and the children she went to help.

Mr. Speaker, few people are as selfless and giving as Dorothy Neilson. She has volunteered a great deal of both her time and energy to children who have very little else in their lives. She has given hope to children in what would seem to be a hopeless situation. She has shown herself to be part of a rare breed. I feel that, as her fellow citizens, we own her a great debt of gratitude.

MICROENTERPRISES AROUND THE WORLD

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to laud the success of Microenterprises Around the World and in the United States as incorporated in H.R. 413, The PRIME ACT.

In the last decade, microenterprise development has changed the way that we think about the alleviation of poverty. Before our encounter with microenterprise, far too many of us were mired in the belief of the intractability of poverty and the similar impression that the poor are little able to help themselves. With respect to small business and financial services especially, some allowed themselves to fall prey to the misconception that, with so many other concerns to which to tend, it certainly would not be possible for the poor to save or to appropriately access financial services, much less to start and run their own businesses.

Thanks to the stunning successes of microenterprise around the world, these myths have been exploded. Today, millions of low-income people around the globe have taken a little bit of capital and used it as a springboard to transform their lives and those of their families. Women especially have used microenterprise to change their lives for the better.

The lesson of all of this is that the poor, like everyone, have the desire to build and to grow, but that their access to the same services and advantages that many of us take for granted is extremely limited. Again, it is not a lack of desire, but a lack of access that has damaged the lives of low-income people around the world. When given the opportunity and similar access, the results are clear. Microenterprise has been a stunning success indeed.

Armed with numerous success stories from around the world, we now have an opportunity to apply them at home as well. This spring the Banking Committee heard testimony from microentrepreneurs, from researchers, and from those working in the field. The message was simple and clear. Microenterprise can, and does, work in the United States as well.

However, we also heard a clarion call for different services and support. Foremost among them was the deep conviction among those in the field of business training and providing technical assistance. Particularly for very low-income entrepreneurs, this training and technical assistance is the vital ingredient that can mean the difference between success and failure, between economic security and a fear of what the next day might bring, between food on the table for the children and another night of hunger.

But the field of microenterprise needs our support. We also learned in the hearings that this money for critical business training and financial technical assistance is very difficult to come by. H.R. 413, the Program for Investment in Microentrepreneurs, would appropriate money to provide this assistance to those hard-working individuals who are most in need of it. This Congress is in a position to give the field a much-needed boost. And all indications are that there are many here in the House of Representatives who want very much to do this. But H.R. 413 is a modest bill and with so much work to do over the next month, I worry that it will get lost in the fray of all that remains to be done.

And so I implore my colleagues today. Let us not allow modest, but absolutely important legislation like H.R. 413 be forgotten as we proceed in this Congress. Let us work together to pass H.R. 413 this year, and to provide immediate funding for it. This is an investment with returns, but only if we take the time to capitalize on it.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on a serious human rights issue. On July 16, 1999, the Congressional Human Rights Caucus held a hearing on the human rights situation in Kazakhstan. I attended the hearing and was moved by the testimony of witnesses before the Caucus. I would like to take this opportunity to share the following remarks, which I made at the hearing, with all of my colleagues.

The Congressional Human Rights Caucus is deeply concerned about the human rights situation in Kazakhstan and has called this briefing today to take a closer look at recent developments.

I am chairing this briefing on behalf of my colleagues, the Honorable TOM LANTOS of California and the Honorable JOHN PORTER of Illinois, the co-chairs and founders of the Human Rights Caucus. Both men are not able to attend this morning but that should not be taken as any indication that they do not take this matter seriously. The Caucus has for more than two decades been the leading voice in the United States Congress on the protection of human rights, civil liberties and basic freedom around the world. No one is exempt from our scrutiny or our concern.

Kazakhstan is a former Soviet Republic that held great promise early in this decade for

moving toward democracy and a free market economy. But there has been a steady and alarming deterioration in recent years.

On January 10, 1999, President Nazarbayev was elected to serve a new seven-year term in elections considered by international standards to be seriously flawed. The United States Government and European Union both rejected those elections as illegitimate and refused to recognize the outcome. The Constitution, adopted in 1995 in a referendum marred by irregularities, permits the President to rule by decree and it cannot be changed or amended without the President's consent. Therefore both the executive and judicial branches are under the control of the President.

Government Officials routinely harass and intimidate political opponents. According to the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 1998, "Members of the security forces often beat or otherwise abused detainees, and prison conditions remained harsh. There were allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention, and prolonged detention is a problem. . . . The Interior Ministry reported in September that 1,290 prisoners, or more than 1 percent of all prisoners had died since the beginning of the year of disease, mostly tuberculosis, aggravated by harsh prison conditions and inadequate medical treatment. Estimates by human rights monitors are not substantially different from government figures."

We are pleased to have with us today as our leadoff witness Mr. Akezhan Kazhegeldin, Chairman of the National Republican Party of Kazakhstan. He is leading the fight for democracy in his country at a great personal risk to himself and his family. Other witnesses are with us here today were arrested, harassed and paid with their health and well being for their desire to tell the truth. Tell the truth to the people of Kazakhstan and to us.

The Nazarbayev regime has employed authoritarian methods to threaten and silence the witnesses who will testify today. For example, the brave Mrs. Savostina, is a veteran of Joseph Stalin's Gulag. Instead of receiving an award from the post-Communist government of her country, the Kazakhstani authorities have arrested her several times.

On June 16 of this year a criminal investigation was initiated against Mr. Kazhegeldin and his wife for filing his 1997 income taxes late even though they had been paid in full at least nine months earlier. They were paid late only due to a mistake of his Kazakhstani attorney and accountant, but nothing was said about any criminal charges last fall when Mr. Kazhegeldin was in Kazakhstan, nothing until the surprise charges were filed just last month.

Now the Nazarbayev regime has gone even farther in its abuse of the rule of law and is taking advantage of the legal system—which it controls—to persecute Mr. Kazhegeldin. The head of the Kazakhstani tax service, who happens to be Mr. Nazarbayev's son-in-law; the head of the internal KGB of Kazakhstan, another relative of the President, and the Chairman of the Supreme Court, a close personal friend of Mr. Nazarbayev, have written to Belgian police to initiate harassing investigations. This is an unacceptable way to treat an opposition leader.

I wrote to Secretary of State Albright recently to express my concern for the well being of Mr. Kazhegeldin and this latest attempt by the Nazarbayev regime to silence his voice of democracy.

The U.S. Department of State wrote to me on July 9, that "we had made it clear to the highest levels of Kazakhstan's government that harassment of opposition figures is not acceptable."

I would like to read into the record another portion of that response to my letter to the Secretary of State.

"A fundamental component of U.S. policy in Kazakhstan is promotion of democracy and human rights. Local and parliamentary elections expected this fall will again test Kazakhstan's democracy and observance of fundamental human rights. We remain intensively engaged with the Kazakhstani government on democracy issues. Our message has been consistent and clear: long-term stability depends on actions now to build democracy and foster greater respect for fundamental human rights principles, including Kazakhstan's commitment of the OSCE. We have specifically urged the government to bring its legislation on elections, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the media into accordance with international standards; schedule elections far enough in advance to give parties and candidates adequate time to prepare effective campaigns; register new parties and NGOs promptly in order to endure broad participation in the elections, including by candidates and groups critical of the government; and broaden the central and local election commissions to include non-governmental representatives."

Prior to the January presidential elections, Vice President GORE phoned President Nazarbayev and demanded that Mr. Kazhegeldin be allowed to run for the presidency in the elections earlier this year. Unfortunately, Mr. Nazarbayev totally ignored the request of the Vice President of the United States.

The Nazarbayev government is determined to silence the voice of any viable opposition from being heard within Kazakhstan. It talks about democracy while it continues its autocratic and repressive conduct. No democracy, especially the United States government and this Congress, should tolerate such conduct.

A TRIBUTE TO LUCILLE EVELYN  
HOOPER

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deepest sympathy that I pay a special tribute to my constituent Lucille Evelyn Hooper, who passed away in Whittier, California on Tuesday, September 7, 1999.

Lucille was the mother of my dear friend Robert John Hooper, who is a dedicated teacher and Democratic Party activist and leader in my 34th Congressional District.

Lucille Evelyn Hooper was born in Los Angeles, California on July 26, 1921. She was

raised in Alhambra, California where she attended local schools, Alhambra High School and Western Business College.

Lucille was employed by the Southern Pacific Railroad for twenty years. She was a life-long member of several service clubs, including the assistance League and P.E.O. Lucille's hobbies were travel and fashion.

A dedicated wife and mother, Lucille is survived by her husband Jack Hooper, daughter Audrey Lynn Baugh, son-in-law Steve Lee Baugh, son Robert John Hooper, daughter-in-law Mary Catherine Hooper, and granddaughter Olivia Holland Hooper.

Lucille Evelyn Hooper bravely battled cancer for over five years, from June 1994 until her death. Her friends and family will miss her greatly and to them I extend my sincerest heartfelt sympathy and pray that they will receive God's comforting graces in abundance.

IN HONOR OF THE 38TH ANNUAL  
JERSEY CITY PUERTO RICAN  
DAY PARADE AND BANQUET

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 8, 1999*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 38th Annual Jersey City Puerto Rican Day Parade and Banquet for their efforts to stimulate cultural pride and diversity in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Armed with a vision to promote Puerto Rican culture through pride and unity, the Puerto Rican Day Parade began its annual parade 38 years ago in Jersey City—the oldest such parade in the State of New Jersey.

Starting out with just a few local organizations, both the parade and the message of cultural diversity which it emphasizes has grown tremendously. This year, the city is expecting more than 70,000 spectators at the event on Sunday, August 22nd, which starts at Lincoln Park in Jersey City.

The Jersey City Puerto Rican Day Parade has continued to be a success, year after year, because of the dedication and tireless efforts of the Parade Committee Members. This year's members are: Hiram Cardonia, President; Antonio Torres, Vice President; Enid Rivera, Executive Secretary; Lourdes Arroyo, Corresponding Secretary; Evelyn Rodriguez, Treasurer; Grimilda Sanchez, Pageant Coordinator; Octavia Sanchez, Pageant Coordinator; Iris Tirado, Pageant Coordinator; Mariano Vega, Banquet Coordinator; Nidia Davila-Colon, Banquet Coordinator; Hiram Cardonia; Annie Estrada; Helen Vargas; Elizabeth Morales; Hector Garcia; Roberto Valentin; Manay Matta; and Miguel Acosta.

At the Banquet on Friday, August 20, 1999, which is being held in the Casino in Lincoln Park, the Parade Committee will be honoring some outstanding and truly noteworthy members of Jersey City's Puerto Rican community for all of their contributions to the city. Those honorees are: Rafael Bou, Grand Marshal; Hector Rodriguez, Puerto Rican Man of the Year; Lourdes Arroyo, Puerto Rican Woman of the Year; Grimilda Sanchez, Local Godmother; William Estremera, Local Godfather; Frank