

established by Lenin to deal with "counter-revolutionaries." Later he was condemned with hundreds of thousands of other prisoners to dig Stalin's infamous White Sea Canal, the first major forced labor project of the Soviet period. During World War II, he survived the 900-day siege of his native city, renamed Leningrad.

Through all the deprivations and hardships of Soviet Russia, Dmitri Likhachev pursued his studies in medieval literature, ultimately becoming Russia's foremost literary and cultural historian. In 1970, he became a member of the Soviet Academy of Sciences. When the Academy voted to expel dissident scientist Academician Andrei Sakharov from its ranks, Academician Likhachev was one of the few to defend Sakharov openly and vote against expulsion. Soon afterward, he barely escaped an attempt on his life.

After the Soviet Union collapsed and Russia regained its independence, Academician Likhachev became prominent for his defense of Russian culture. He helped preserve many architectural monuments in St. Petersburg, and lobbied the Russian Government to finance a television channel devoted to culture.

However, it was not only the physical destruction of his homeland that concerned Academician Likhachev. He condemned the moral wasteland left by seventy years of communism. "Like other members of the Russian intelligencia," wrote the *New York Times*, "Likhachev was deeply disappointed by the violence, greed and vulgarity that surfaced in Russian society after the fall of communism." Without overcoming the perverted morality created by communist rule, he warned, Russia could fall prey to an irrational demagoguery that could threaten the entire world.

With his love of country, combined with tolerance and reason, I believe Academician Likhachev embodied "Russian nationalism" in the best sense of the word. May his example and his ideas thrive in Russia of the 21st century.

THE FAIRNESS FOR PERMANENT
RESIDENTS ACT OF 1999

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, in 1996, Congress made several modifications to our country's immigration code that have had a harsh and unintended impact on many people living in the United States. These individuals, permanent resident aliens, have the legal right to reside in this country and apply for U.S. citizenship. They serve in the military, own businesses and make valuable contributions to society.

For example, earlier this summer, my office received a letter from a woman I will call "Amy." Amy, an American citizen, and her husband, "Bob," a permanent resident alien from Scotland, were married in the United States, have two American born children, and lived a productive life in Florida for nearly 20 years. Bob had been a resident of the U.S. since he was 11 years old.

In 1985, Bob was convicted of a crime and served a three year prison term and 10 years of probation. According to the immigration laws in effect at the time, Bob was punished under U.S. law and was expected to have served his debt to society. In 1999, Bob was a rehabilitated, productive and gainfully employed member of his community.

The changes made in the immigration laws in 1996 meant that Bob, who had committed a crime 13 years ago—a crime that was not considered deportable at that time—and served his debt to society, was about to be punished again. The harsh provisions of the 1996 bill dictated that he be automatically deported for the crimes he committed 13 years ago, with no opportunity to seek a waiver from an immigration judge, as he would have before the 1996 law change.

In addition, the law was made retroactive so that an 80-year-old permanent resident alien who committed a comparatively minor crime 60 years ago, had served his or her sentence and been a model resident in this country for more than 50 years, would now be automatically deported—regardless of physical infirmity, family considerations or any other reason.

Amy and Bob were forced to move to Scotland. The cost of the move was staggering to the family and most of their possessions were left in the U.S. Amy had to leave her native country to keep her family together, and their two children were forced to leave friends and family members behind. Amy is now undergoing immigration review in Scotland and Bob continues to work longer hours to support the family. It is uncertain if the family will be allowed to remain with Bob unless he can increase his income and prove he can support his family.

Last week, my colleague LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART and I introduced the Fairness for Permanent Residents Act of 1999. Our proposal is designed to "right" a wrong that was created by the 1996 changes to the immigration law. We must put fairness and justice in place to allow families like Amy and Bob to have their voice heard before they are forced into fleeing the country or being deported. For individuals who commit heinous crimes, the law should not be changed.

The law presently reads that any permanent resident alien convicted of a crime now or in the past that carries a possible sentence of one year or more—regardless of whether he or she was sentenced to or served a single day in jail—will be automatically deported with no chance for a hearing to seek a waiver. Under our bill, the right to a hearing before an immigration judge to seek a waiver from deportation would be restored for permanent resident aliens who commit comparatively minor crimes, expressly excluding murder, rape or other violent or serious crimes from waiver eligibility. Those in this category who have been deported since 1996 would have a right to seek a waiver, which if granted would permit them to return to the U.S.

Also included in our bill is relief for permanent resident aliens who are now being detained indefinitely pending deportation for crimes that have been committed in the past. Current law does not permit them to seek release on bond even if there is no place for

them to be deported and they pose no danger to society if released. Our bill would allow the Attorney General to consider release to such individuals, provided they meet certain conditions.

Our bill returns balance to our existing laws by allowing people with compelling or unusual circumstances to argue their cases for reconsideration. The legislation does not automatically waive the deportation order, it simply grants a permanent resident alien the right to have the Attorney General review the merits of his or her case.

The 1996 law went too far, and as the *Miami Herald* recently editorialized, "it hurts more than just the foreign born. Its victims include families with U.S. citizen children, communities that lose businesses, and businesses that lost employees. Most of all it hurts the spirit of a nation that prides itself on its immigrant heritage and just laws."

We are a fair nation and must strike a fair balance in our immigration laws—the Fairness for Permanent Residents Act would do just that.

HONORING THE BRANFORD FIRE
DEPARTMENT AND M.P. RICE
HOSE COMPANY 2 ON THEIR
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to congratulate the Branford Fire Department and M.P. Rice Hose Company 2 for one hundred years of dedicated service to the residents of Branford, Connecticut. M.P. Rice Hose Company 2 is the only entirely volunteer company which has remained active since the Branford Fire Department was established in 1899.

When it was first established, the Branford Fire Department was composed of citizens volunteering to protect their friends and neighbors from the threat of fire. With two hand drawn hose carriages and a horse drawn ladder truck, three fire fighting companies, Hose Company 1, House Company 2, and the Martin Burke Hook and Ladder company emerged. Today, the M.P. Rice Hose Company 2 continues in this strong tradition, a full century later, as the only remaining company which is completely comprised of volunteers. Working with career members of the Branford Fire Department, the volunteer companies provide residents with the very best in fire protection. As volunteers, the members of the M.P. Rice Hose company work arm and arm with our professionals, representing a commitment to the community that if taken up more broadly would make for stronger towns across America.

As the Branford community gathers today to celebrate this wonderful achievement, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who have dedicated not only their time, but their lives, to the safety of all Branford residents. Firefighters face risks that many of us can never truly comprehend. Each day they must be able to perform under intense pressure—literally in life or death situations. Few

things are more important than feeling safe in our homes and workplaces. Whether hosing down flames, rescuing a child from a burning house, or waiting for our call, firefighters are always there to protect us and provide us with the peace of mind we need to sleep at night. I am proud to recognize and commend the tremendous commitment they have made to our community. Our thanks and appreciation can never repay those who put their lives on the line to ensure our safety.

Today's celebration marks the 100th Anniversary of the Branford Fire Department. The courage and dedication demonstrated each day by these men and women, whether volunteer or career member, is reflective of the true spirit in which the department was established. I am indeed proud to rise today to extend my thanks for what you do each day, and congratulations on this remarkable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING ED PEELMAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ed Peelman for his outstanding contributions to the community of Fresno.

For half a century Ed Peelman has been a presence in the community, raising money for Christian causes, involved in conservative politics, making his mark in farming and later real estate.

Nearly 25 years ago, he closed a successful hay business to start an even more successful real estate firm, Peelman Realty Co. Inc. Ed kept his hand in agriculture by specializing in rural property and continuing to farm his ranches. For the last five years, Peelman was the number one seller of rural property in Fresno County, averaging about \$10 million in sales each year.

Peelman uses his contacts and fund-raising skills to support conservative Christian causes. Ed helped Warner Pacific College in Portland, Oregon, the alma mater of two of his three daughters. He arranged for a former hay customer and friend to donate 2,100 acres, which he used to set up a trust for the college. That donation is now worth about \$12 million.

Peelman's attention is now directed toward helping Fresno Pacific College. He has arranged for dozens of people to contribute to the college. Through the years, he has also been involved in numerous civic and church organizations.

These days Ed concentrates on the Christian Business Men's Committee, the Fresno County and City Chamber of Commerce, Fresno City and County Historical Society, and the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

At 71, Peelman shows no signs of slowing down, despite a triple bypass surgery three years ago and a gall bladder operation two years ago.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ed Peelman for his service to the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Ed and his fam-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ily many more years of continued success and happiness.

MILESTONE OF U.S. FOREIGN RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark a milestone in the conduct of America's foreign relations and diplomacy—the end of an era, if you will. This past Friday, October 1, 1999, the people and programs of the United States Information Agency formally joined the Department of State. After 56 years, America's public diplomacy will begin a new chapter. As the Agency joins the Department, I want to express a deep and profound appreciation for the work of USIA since 1953, and to salute the many members of the Foreign Service and the Civil Service who are engaged in its vital work.

THE COLD WAR

American "public diplomacy" began before World War II with the establishment of American centers in libraries in Latin America. During World War II, the Voice of America and the Office of War Information gave the people of occupied Europe and Asia the truth about the conduct of the war. Public diplomacy gained momentum after the war's end, when American libraries and cultural centers were established as part of postwar reconstruction, when Congress passed the Smith-Mundt Act, and when the Fulbright program began the postwar exchange of students and scholars to advance international understanding. In 1953, these elements of public diplomacy were gathered by President Eisenhower into the United States Information Agency.

When USIA was formed, the Cold War divided the world and its peoples. The brutal subjugation of the nations of Eastern Europe as Soviet satellites was a fresh memory. The Korean war was drawing to a close, and the Soviets were propagating yet one more of their "big lies": that the United States had introduced germ warfare in the conflict there. Three years later they would lie that the people of Hungary—then being killed by tanks in the streets of Budapest—welcomed the Soviet army.

The Cold War was more than a political, economic, and military contest. The Soviets and their surrogates worked hard to demonize the United States, to discredit American ideals, to support "national liberation" movements, and to inflame vast areas of the world with anti-American propaganda. Their broadcasts, newspapers, magazines, state-controlled wire services, and publishing houses spread some amazing fictions.

Fiction: The communist parties stood for the equality of all people. Truth: the communists, once in power, became a grasping and arrogant elite—a new class—that garnered the privileges of society while ordinary people lived in grim poverty, and their lives grew shorter.

Fiction: Communism and central planning would create a new industrial bounty. Truth: Except for their armaments and armies, the socialist nations had Third World economies.

Soviet propaganda went beyond words to embrace the use of forged documents and disinformation: that experiments in American laboratories had gone awry and spawned the AIDS virus, that Americans kidnaped Central American children for body parts, and that Americans developed weapons that would decimate the nonwhite peoples of the world, to name a few.

Facing such fevered attempts to turn nations of the world against us, USIA over the years developed scores of programs to "tell America's story to the world." For USIA's work to be credible, it had to be accurate and truthful. Edward R. Murrow described USIA's spirit of candor as the telling of America's story "warts and all."

USIA's American libraries overseas offered a wealth of knowledge and gave witness to important principles of democracy: that an educated public is the foundation of a democratic society, and that the free exchange of information and opinions is also a necessary element of liberty and prosperity.

In the early days, USIA's American libraries and centers also exhibited art and hosted authors and poets. In societies that had been only a few years beforehand devastated by war, these modest and aboveboard efforts to restore the cultural life of other nations were deeply welcomed and appreciated.

World's fairs and international exhibitions were important gatherings in the postwar period. It was USIA that managed American pavilions and hired young Americans who spoke the world's languages to describe our way of life and the benefits of freedom, markets, enterprise, and democracy.

In less developed areas of the world, USIA officers sometimes led small convoys of vehicles with motion picture projectors and generators, showing documentaries and other American films in small towns and villages.

USIA magazines such as *America Illustrated*, *Dialog*, *World Today*, *Trends*, *Topic*, *Economic Impact*, *English Teaching Forum*, and *Problems of Communism* won awards for content and design as they communicated American views in many languages to readers across the globe. USIA films such as "Years of Lightning, Days of Drums" and "The Harvest" were similarly lauded.

Americans who spoke abroad under USIA auspices—at foreign universities, policy institutes, and other places where students and intellectuals gathered—addressed topics in politics, economics, the environment, culture, and foreign policy. Among these speakers were American judges and lawyers introducing and explaining the idea of the Rule of Law.

International visitors sent to the United States under USIA auspices had the opportunity to meet counterparts in the United States on four week visits. For many, it was their first visit to the United States, and they encountered a society far different from the images they had grown up with. This kind of people-to-people program would not have been possible without the help of thousands of ordinary Americans affiliated with local councils for international visitors. They opened their homes, volunteered their time, and won friends for our country.

USIA administered the Fulbright program which placed American professors in foreign