

this decade. We in Estonia never shared this enthusiasm. But neither do we share the gloom of many Western observers today who seem to write off Russia and to say that nothing good will ever come out of there. I believe that Russia can indeed become a truly democratic country. But it will simply take a lot of time. What Russia needs during this time of growing up is firm guidance on what is and what is not permitted in our new world.

Today we see once again the bombing of villages and the killing of civilians in Chechnya. We see the deportation of tens of thousands of persons from Moscow—simply because of the different colour of their skin. And we see worrying calls for a strong man to lead Russia. All of these symptoms give cause for concern. We must in no way nurture these trends, we must in no way give people who advocate such policies a reason to believe that they are accepted or tolerated by the West. Rather we have to support those politicians in Russia who even today are expressing reservations about the war in Chechnya and the deportation of persons because of the colour of their skin. We must nurture the democratic forces in Russia, however weak, so that Russia may one day find the political will to abandon her post-feudal way of thinking and start to build a civil society. This means supporting the Russian democrats and providing assistance, but precisely targeted assistance. It means staying engaged with Russia. It means stability around Russia will be the best way to assist her democratic forces. It also means enlarging NATO to include those countries of central Europe that wish to join, including the Baltic states.

Ladies and Gentlemen, One of the fundamental tenets of our common heritage is the promotion of the free right of men and nations to choose their destiny. It is a tenet, which underpins the international society in which we live and where we wish to live. This is the principle, which should guide us when discussing the future NATO membership of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Any word—any hint—that Russia has a say in this matter will only strengthen those in Moscow who aim to do things the old feudal way. It will strengthen those who do not wish to have Russia become a member of the democratic society of nations. It will bring us all further from the goal of enhancing the sphere of stability and security in Europe.

In short, Baltic NATO membership is in the interest of those who wish to strengthen democracy in Russia.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I have approached Baltic membership in NATO from two angles: from a European and from a Russian one. Europe's role within NATO is growing and the Baltic states are committed to being part of this development. We are willing to carry our share of the burden.

On the other hand, Russia's future is only now taking shape and Baltic membership of NATO will help steer this development in the right direction.

The Baltic Caucus in the Senate and in the House and Baltic Americans are a crucial element in our strategy for gaining membership of the Alliance. It is you who are our advocates both here in Washington and across the United States. I hope that my presentation here today has further served to strengthen your resolve and has provided you with some additional ideas on this issue. I am convinced that by working together we can achieve our common goal so that Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania may in the near

future join the United States as full members of NATO.

By working together, Estonia and the US, the Baltic states and the US, Europe and the US, we can ensure that our world of tomorrow will be somewhat safer, somewhat more democratic, somewhat more prosperous than the world of today.

Thank you.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL
NORBERT R. RYAN, JR.

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rear Admiral Norbert R. Ryan, Jr., the outgoing Chief of Legislative Affairs for the U.S. Navy. During the past three years, he has proven to be an invaluable asset to the House Armed Services Committee, the House of Representatives and the Congress. It is an honor to have the opportunity to thank Rear Admiral Ryan for his dedicated service and to recognize him for his accomplishments.

A native of Mountainhome, Pennsylvania, Rear Admiral Ryan began his military career after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1967. From the beginning, Rear Admiral Ryan demonstrated his leadership skills, and in 1993 after a distinguished career as an aviator, Rear Admiral Ryan was selected for rear admiral (lower half). In 1996, Rear Admiral Ryan was selected to represent the Navy on Capitol Hill as Chief of Legislative Affairs. Given the significant changes in Navy leadership during his tenure, Rear Admiral Ryan's steadfast leadership and strategic vision may be credited with keeping the Navy's legislative strategy on course. Over the past three legislative cycles, I watched as he successfully navigated Navy leadership through difficult challenges to key naval programs including the F/A-18E/FSuperhornet, the CVN-77/CVN(X), the DD-21, Tactical Tomahawk, Virginia Class Submarines, shipyard maintenance and the Navy's role in Kosovo.

As Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, I have had the pleasure of working closely with Norb Ryan. His success has been due in no small part to the strong relationships that he has built with Members of the House and our staffs. He enhanced these action, and established an impressive program to maximize congressional exposure to the men and women who serve in the Navy and Marine Corps.

Rear Admiral Ryan may also be credited with initiating a series of Congressional Constituent Caseworker workshops by geographical region. Today, these workshops are invaluable to Members of Congress and ensure that we have the information we need on Navy programs to respond to the concerns of our constituents.

Rear Admiral Ryan's tireless efforts throughout his distinguished career have benefited America's Navy. He is a spirited and resourceful naval officer with whom it has been a pleasure to work. I look forward to working with Norb in the future and am certain that his contributions in the years ahead will continue to benefit both the Navy and the Nation.

While his presence on Capitol Hill will be missed, Rear Admiral Ryan will be doing critically important work in his new role as Chief of Naval Personnel. I can think of few officers as well suited to leading America's navy into the new millenium. As his career sails on, I would like to send Rear Admiral Ryan the traditional Navy farewell wish—"Fair Winds and Following Seas!"

TRIBUTE TO MIKE PETRO

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Firefighter Mike Petro for his dedication and service to the Orange County Fire Department. Mike Petro joined the fire service in 1984 as a volunteer fire fighter in north San Diego while he was a freshman in college. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection later hired him to be a Seasonal Firefighter. In 1989, Mike was hired as a Firefighter with the Orange County Fire Department, now the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA).

During Mike Petro's service career he has participated in and remains on several Fire Authority and County wide pre-hospital emergency care committees including: Local 3631 Pre-Hospital Care Committee, Equipment Project Team and EMS Continuous Quality Improvement Steering Committee. He has served as a Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instructor and teaches CPR classes for the OCFA's community CPR program. Additionally, he is an Emergency Medical Technician instructor for Rancho Santiago Community College and a guest lecturer for Saddleback Community College's Paramedic program. Mike Petro has also been a Paramedic Preceptor and an assistant instructor for Career and Reserve OCFA fire fighter academies.

Mr. Speaker, firefighters provide key services in protecting communities and citizens, as well as our Nation's forests. Mike Petro has gone above and beyond the call of duty in his service to the Orange County Community. I am proud to recognize Mike Petro as Firefighter of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO ANSON COUNTY
JAYCEES

HON. ROBIN HAYES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Anson County, North Carolina chapter of the Jaycees.

The Anson County Jaycees were recognized as the number one chapter in North Carolina Jaycees Parade of Excellence.

The Jaycees are a national organization of men and women between the ages of 21-39 who want the best opportunities for leadership development, volunteerism, and community service.

At the fall convention of the North Carolina Jaycees, The Anson County chapter also was awarded first place out of approximately 90 chapters.

Individual members were also recognized for their successes: Ken Caulder, Mark Snuggs, and Jennifer Tucker were 3 of the Anson Chapter's 48 members who were singled out for their good deeds.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Anson County Jaycees on the difference they are making on our community and I wish them continued success as they look forward to the next convention in February 2000.

TRIBUTE TO CATCH IN
PHILADELPHIA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Citizens Acting Together Can Help (CATCH), as it celebrates its 20 years of service and commitment to the community. CATCH is a non-profit organization incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania on November 12, 1976. The Corporation was established to assume responsibilities for the operation of the Community Mental Health and Retardation Center in Catchment Area 2B, located within the Southwestern portion of Philadelphia.

On July 1, 1979 CATCH assumed full responsibilities for the operations of the Community Mental Health Center, giving the Center the operational name of CATCH Community Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center. The Center is currently under the leadership of Raymond A. Pescatore, Chief Executive Officer with Edward C. Mintzer, Jr., Esq., serving as Board Chairman.

CATCH is a full-service, accredited Mental Health/Mental Retardation Center committed to serving citizens of Philadelphia.

CATCH continues to attract the attention of the community through its reputation of reliable service, leadership qualities and strong commitment. In keeping with its reputation of high quality care, CATCH serves the community offering the following services: Residential and Emergency Services, Mental Health Services and Developmental Disabilities Services.

In recognition of its years of service, I join the Citizens Acting Together Can Help, Inc., as it celebrates its 20 year anniversary.

IN HONOR OF MRS. STELLA M.
ZANNONI

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Mrs. Stella Zannoni, a retiree of the honorary consul of Italy for the State of Ohio, who died in August.

Mrs. Zannoni took an active part in her community. She was appointed honorary consul

by the Italian government in 1978, as well as being the co-owner and secretary-treasurer of Cleveland Imported Groceries and Wines Inc. At the store Mrs. Zannoni assisted customers in obtaining answers to questions about pensions, property matters and visas. In view of all who had the pleasure to know her and to work with her, she managed to help and touch the lives of tens of thousands of Clevelanders. The current honorary consul of Italy member was quoted saying that Mrs. Zannoni set an example for the Italian community with her selflessness and strength.

Mrs. Stella Zannoni received several honors and awards for her service in the Cleveland community as well as in the Italian Community. She was a steadfast believer in the art of the possible, of providing opportunities to all, and in the idea that anything was possible with the proper amount of hard work, diligence and sense of hope and optimism. She had spirit, spunk and outgoing joy for others. Mrs. Stella Zannoni will be greatly missed.

My fellow colleagues please join me in honoring the memory of Mrs. Stella Zannoni, a true beacon in the Cleveland community.

TRIBUTE TO BRADLEY JAY
RICHES

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Deputy Brad Jay Riches for the Blue and Gold Posthumous Award for his tremendous service as Deputy Sheriff for the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Deputy Riches began his service originally as a Paid Call Firefighter with Orange County Fire Authority and as an Emergency Medical Technician before joining the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1989.

Deputy Riches attended the Sheriff's Academy and graduated as a Deputy Sheriff in 1990. He worked in the Musick Facility and the Central Main jail prior to his transfer to the Patrol Division in 1998. Deputy Riches began his assignment with the City of Lake Forest Police Services Unit in December 1998.

On Saturday, June 12, 1999 at approximately 1 am, Deputy Riches was making a routine patrol check of a convenience store in Lake Forest when he was suddenly and without provocation, shot and killed by a suspect. Law enforcement officers put their lives at risk daily to ensure the safety of our citizens. Deputy Brad Riches paid the ultimate price for our safety, with his very life.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply honored to recognize Deputy Brad Riches for his tremendous service and sacrifice for the citizens of Lake Forest, California. His brave service to our community will not be forgotten.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY
ILL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the Alliance for the Mentally Ill, an outstanding non-profit association which will celebrate its 25th Anniversary on October 14, 1999.

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill is a special organization whose membership includes individuals who suffer from mental illnesses and their families. These dedicated people contribute almost all the funding for this nationwide group. Their hard work and commitment to the improvement of the lives of the mentally ill is truly remarkable.

Mr. Speaker, the founders of Alliance for the Mentally Ill first met in San Mateo County, California, in 1974 to discuss their concerns about the treatment of their mentally ill children. The organization has grown tremendously since then, but it still has the same intense personal concern for the people it serves. In 1979 a national group was established, based in Washington D.C. I am happy to say that the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI) now has representatives in all fifty states.

As its membership grew from ten people to over two hundred thousand, the fundamental mission of the Alliance has remained the same—to fight discrimination, to educate the public and those who are suffering, and to strive towards better treatment and research for an illness that has been historically misunderstood. This organization fights the traditional isolation and fear of mental illness with knowledge and compassion.

The Alliance for the Mentally Ill provides a network of support groups and educational services to assist families of the mentally ill at the local level. It has now assumed a vital role in our nation's health care community and is working closely with professionals on a variety of programs. Some of the programs it has helped to implement include a local mental health care center and an agency that provides supported housing. Newsletters and speakers keep the community active and informed about the important issues affecting the mentally ill. The organization has promoted a greater awareness of mental illness and encouraged our community colleges to implement peer counseling programs. As always, the Alliance has focused on helping adolescents and children, who are so much in need of special support.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to the Alliance for the Mentally Ill on this important 25th anniversary. This outstanding organization deserves our gratitude and our congratulations for a quarter century of selfless and dedicated service to the people of our nation.