

people have increasingly seemed desirous of becoming a more united part of European affairs, including through the development of ties with the European Union and NATO. They are part of a sophisticated, well-educated society, feel more secure within their borders, and want greater freedom and prosperity for themselves and their children. Analysts have, for at least two years, viewed the country as being in a stage of real transition. Unfortunately, as this transition moves forward, it meets greater resistance from those who have become entrenched in, and enriched by, the power they hold. This resistance manifests itself in two ways, the gross manipulation of the political system to the advantage of the ruling party, and the continued reliance on nationalist passions.

Regarding political manipulations, elections must be held within the next three months, yet there is no date, no new election law that provides a free and fair standard, no loosening of the grip on the media. More specifically, there continues to be a so-called "diaspora" representation, which effectively is the same as giving almost ten percent of parliamentary seats to the ruling party up front. Moreover, for some time the authorities considered scheduling the elections within a few days of Christmas, a rather blatant attempt to manipulate popular sentiment and voter turnout.

The ruling party is maintaining its control over Croatia's broadcast media. Defamation laws have resulted in hundreds of prosecutions, both criminal and civil, of journalists and publishers for critical comments deemed "criminal" for allegedly insulting the honor or dignity of high officials. In Croatia, it seems that alleged criminal activity by officials uncovered by independent journalists can be protected under a broad definition of "state secrets."

On the nationalist front, Serbs (who once represented over ten percent of Croatia's population) still have difficulty returning home—many fled in 1991 and 1995—and those who have returned face difficulties in getting their property back or obtaining government assistance. Statements by officials often create an environment which make individuals believe they can get away with more direct, physical harassment of the Serbs. While many Serbs may not be able even to participate in the voting for the upcoming elections, Croatian authorities are considering the reduction from three seats to one seat for Serb representation in the Croatian Parliament, or Sabor. Meanwhile, the "diaspora" vote sways the loyalties of Bosnia's indigenous Croat population, and Croatian President Tudjman recently resurrected notions of a Croat entity in Bosnia-Herzegovina. While Croatia's citizenship law still makes it difficult for members of the Serb and sometimes other minority communities to get citizenship, voting rights are extended to ethnic Croats abroad on the discredited basis of blood ties alone.

Tudjman further claimed this last week that Croatian generals cannot be held accountable for the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity. His resistance to cooperation with the International Tribunal in The Hague is reprehensible, and, if it continues, warrants a strong response by this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, Croatian courts recently convicted Dinko Sakic, a commander of the

Jasenovac concentration camp in Croatia during World War II. The trial and its outcome say something positive not only about Croatia's courts; the attention in Croatia given to this case indicates an ability to acknowledge a horrible period in the past. More broadly, Croats realize they must seek justice for the past and move forward so that they do not sink their personal futures in the pit of extreme nationalist aspirations.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, the leaders of Croatia today will come to their senses, and abide by the wish of the people to live in full freedom, true justice and greater prosperity. Signs of this would be: (1) holding an election which, from the campaign period to the vote count, is free and fair according to both international observers and domestic ones who should be permitted to observe; (2) cessation of the relegation of ethnic Serbs to the status of second-class citizens whose presence, at best, will be tolerated; and (3) surrendering to The Hague all indicted persons, including Mladen Naletilic (aka "Tuta") now that Croatia's own courts have cleared the way, and the information and documents which the Tribunal may request.

Only with progress in these areas can Croatia take its proper place in Europe and the world. Mr. Speaker, I ask Croatia's leaders, when that will be?

IN HONOR OF MR. NICHOLAS A. CAPODICE, BAYONNE CITY COUNCIL MEMBER-AT-LARGE, RECIPIENT OF SICILIAN CITIZEN'S CLUB 1999 MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bayonne City Council Member-At-Large, Mr. Nicholas Capodice, for being named this year's 1999 Man of the Year by the Sicilian Citizen's Club.

Grandson of Pietro Capodice, charter member of the Sicilian Citizen's Club, Mr. Capodice has been committed to serving the City of Bayonne. Through his exemplary service to the community, he has shown tremendous leadership.

Receiving his B.A. in special education and an M.A. in Administration and Supervision from the New Jersey City University, Mr. Capodice's commitment to the educational and social development of his students is truly remarkable. He has continued his work in the field of Special Education by serving on the Bayonne Board of Education for 10 years and on the Jersey City Board of Education for the last 11 years.

Mr. Capodice was recently elected Bayonne's City Council Member-At-Large, where he is Commissioner of the Bayonne Local Redevelopment Authority. In this capacity, Mr. Capodice is responsible for the strategic planning and implementation of the economic redevelopment of the City of Bayonne.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, Mr. Capodice served as a Trustee for the Ba-

yonne Board of Education from 1991 to 1996, acting as President from 1992 to 1995. In addition, he was a member of the Board of School Estimates from 1993 to 1994.

For his dedication to the people of the City of Bayonne and his extraordinary service record, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating City Councilman Nicholas Capodice on being named 1999 Man of the Year by the Sicilian Citizen's Club of Bayonne.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUNG WITNESS ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1999

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, this week more than 350 young Americans gathered in our Nation's capitol to share their views about violence and how it has affected their lives. Three individuals from my district—Pierre Laurent and Amanda Abreu of Somerville, MA, and Yarimee Gutierrez of Boston, MA, came to Washington to take part in the Voices Against Violence conference. Their commitment to addressing the problems associated with violence among youth is to be commended, and I want to take this opportunity to personally thank them for their efforts to make a difference within their schools and communities.

As Pierre, Amanda, Yarimee and the other participants of the conference return to their respective communities with a renewed commitment to this cause, I believe it is Congress' responsibility to do all that we can to support these young peoples' efforts. What better way to do this than to provide legislation that assists young people who are striving to do the right thing? For this reason, I rise today to introduce the Young Witness Assistance Act of 1999.

Sadly, more and more of our Nation's youth are becoming intimately familiar with violent crime. These crimes include homicide, assault, robbery, domestic violence and sexual assault. Upon witnessing such violent crimes, they suddenly find themselves in the uncomfortable position of deciding whether or not to report the act. Far too often, many young people choose to stay quiet. In many ways, who can blame them? Witnessing a violent crime is a traumatic experience. Additionally, reporting a violent crime can potentially lead to additional hardships that threaten the well-being of the young witness. Earlier this year in Connecticut, an 8-year-old boy and his mother were gunned down after the boy agreed to testify as a witness in a murder trial. In my district, a young man and his family were harassed and threatened after he agreed to assist authorities in an armed robbery case—eventually his family removed the boy from school and placed him into hiding in reaction to repeated threats on his life.

It's time we take a stand for the young people who are willing to stand against crimes in their communities. The Young Witness Assistance Act is a step in the right direction. It provides Federal funds to state and local authorities specifically for establishing and maintaining programs that assist young witnesses of

violent crimes. Authorities can use these funds to develop such activities as counseling for the youth; pre- and post-trial assistance for the youth and their family; educational services if the youth has to be removed from school; community and school based outreach initiatives; and protective services. The bill would authorize \$3 million for each fiscal year from 2001 to 2003. No new money will be used to fund this effort. Rather, funding would be derived from existing monies within the Violent Crime Reduction Trust Fund.

Mr. Speaker, this bill supports our Nation's young people who take a courageous stance against violent crime in their communities. It sends a message that Congress cares and is willing to provide the assistance young witnesses need. Forty-six members of the House, Democrats and Republicans, have acknowledged this by becoming original cosponsors of this legislation. It is my hope that the House will "do the right thing" and pass this legislation.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
LEONARD S. RASKIN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Leonard S. Raskin, whose death on October 18 is an incalculable loss to his loving family and cherished friends, and to our community. Lenny loved life and was undaunted by its challenges. Even as cancer claimed more and more of him, he did "... not go gently into that good night ... (but) ... raged against the dying of the light. ..." His incredible strength and will to live emulate these words of courage written by Dylan Thomas to his dying father. Lenny adopted me into his life, and as my friend, reinforced in me the belief that anything was possible to accomplish if you just tried hard enough and were good enough. I knew even if I failed he'd still be there for me; so true was his love. Lenny loved his family and friends with a passion even death cannot diminish. Mr. Speaker, please join me in expressing my deepest sympathy to his devoted wife of 50 years, Sarah Raskin, his eldest son, Phillip E. Raskin, his only daughter and my dearest friend, Maryl D. Raskin, his youngest son and daughter-in-law Garry N. and Susan Raskin, and his beloved grandchildren, Kaley and Sydney Raskin. I ask unanimous consent that the following material be included with my statement. The poems, "Adios" by Naomi Shihab Nye, and "Reading Aloud to My Father" by Jane Kenyon; works Maryl shared with me which reflect upon life as we reflect upon this wonderful man's friendship and love. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Adios, Lenny.

ADIOS

It is a good word, rolling off the tongue no matter what language you were born with.

Use it. Learn where it begins, the small alphabet of departure, how long it takes to think of it, then say it, then be heard.

Marry it. More than a golden ring, it shines, it shines.

Wear it on every finger till your hands dance, touching everything easily, letting everything, easily, go.

Strap it to your back like wings. Or a kite-tail. The stream of air behind a jet.

If you are known for anything, let it be the way you rise out of sight when your work is finished.

Think of things that linger; leaves, cartons and napkins, the damp smell of mold.

Think of things that disappear.

Think of what you love best, what brings tears into your eyes.

Something that said adios to you before you knew what it meant or how long it was for.

Explain little, the word explains itself. Later perhaps. Lessons following lessons, like silence following sound.

—Naomi Shihab Nye.

READING ALOUD TO MY FATHER

I chose the book haphazard from the shelf, but with Nabokov's first sentence I knew it wasn't the thing to read to a dying man:

The cradle rocks above the abyss, it began, and common sense tells us that our existence is but a brief crack of light between two eternities of darkness.

The words disturbed both of us immediately, and I stopped. With music it was the same—

Chopin's Piano Concerto—he asked me to turn it off. He ceased eating, and drank little, while the tumors briskly appropriated what was left of him.

But to return to the cradle rocking. I think Nabokov had it wrong. This is the abyss.

That's why babies howl at birth, and why the dying so often reach for something only they can apprehend.

At the end they don't want their hands to be under the covers, and if you should put your hand on theirs in a tentative gesture of solidarity, they'll pull the hand free; and you must honor that desire, and let them pull it free.

—Jane Kenyon.

TRIBUTE TO MANA, A NATIONAL
LATINA ORGANIZATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to stand before you today to pay tribute to the members of MANA, a national Latina organization whose members are in our Nation's Capital to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the founding of this organization.

MANA, a national Latina organization, was founded in 1977 as a Mexican American Women's National Association. Its mission is to strengthen Latina community leaders; cultivate vital and prosperous Latino communities and advance public policy for an equal and just society. MANA is a membership-based organization headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has chapters across the country.

For over 25 years, MANA has been the voice for Latinas in the Nation's Capital and across the country—from the statehouse to

the White House. They have shared the national and international concerns of Hispanics with Presidents of the United States and Mexico and consulted with cabinet-level leaders on a range of domestic issues. Through its chapters, MANA has duplicated a strong advocacy role at the community level.

Throughout its rich history, MANA has established a number of programs which have been replicated at the local level through their chapters. From the outset, MANA viewed leadership development as the key to achieve a dream of "full empowerment of Latinas." To that end, the organization holds annual training conferences on public policy issues and the legislative process. MANA also provides scholarships specifically targeting Latinas. Concerned with the high dropout rate, MANA developed its youth stay-in-school program, Las herMANITAS. This program has been duplicated at the chapter level. Through role models, success stories, personal triumphs, encouragement and leadership training, MANA has developed, inspired, motivated and mobilized self-reliant, determined and courageous women to become community leaders.

Lastly, I would be remiss if I did not mention the women who led the organization the last 25 years. Through their efforts they demonstrated how a totally volunteer organization of more than 1,000 women across the country can make a difference in creating a better future for Hispanic women, their families and their communities. Past National Presidents include: Blandina (Bambi) Cárdenas, Founder, 1974; Bettie Baca, Organizing Chair 1974-75; Evangeline (Vangie) Elizondo, President 1975-76; Gloria López Hernández, President 1976-77; Elisa Sánchez, President 1977-79 and 1995-1999; Wilma Espinoza, President 1979-81; Raydean Acavedo, President 1981-83; Veronica (Ronni) Collazo, President 1983-85; Gloria Barajas, President 1985-86; María Rita Jaramillo, President 1986-88; Irma Maldonado, President 1988-90; Judy Canales, President 1990-92 and Elvira Valenzuela Crocker, President 1992-94.

On behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, we applaud you for your contributions, and we thank you for your leadership on behalf of Latinas and Latinos throughout the country. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the years to come.

JACOB'S HOPE

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 21, 1999

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow marks the tenth anniversary of a tragic event in my home state of Minnesota. On October 22, 1989, an eleven-year-old boy named Jacob Wetterling was stolen from his family in the small community of St. Joseph, Minnesota. Since then, no one has heard from Jacob or the masked gunman who stole him that day.

This tragedy shook the community, our state and the nation. If a child could be taken from a closely-knit, small community like St. Joseph, Minnesota, what child in America was truly safe?