

property of all citizens of the Russian Federation;

(4) initiation of genuine negotiations for a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict in Chechnya, including a full investigation of the conflict and bringing to justice those individuals, civilian or military, who in a court of law are found to be guilty of violating human rights;

(5) respect for the rule of law and improvement of civil and legal institutions to implement and defend these rights; and

(6) reform of the judicial system to prevent the arbitrary detention of citizens and provide for a speedy trial and equal access to the judicial system.

The President and the Secretary of State are requested to convey to appropriate officials of the Government of the Russian Federation, including the President, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, this expression of the views of the Congress.

HONORING BROWARD COUNTY
FIRE RESCUE

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Broward County Fire Rescue, of Broward County, Florida. The State of Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) recently selected Broward County Fire Rescue as the 2000 State of Florida EMS Injury Prevention Agency of the Year. Indeed, Broward County Fire Rescue exemplifies the Emergency Medical Service's injury prevention efforts throughout the State of Florida.

Each year, the State of Florida Department of Health's Bureau of Emergency Medical Services names one of the state's 250 EMS providers as the best injury prevention unit in the state. The award encourages EMS providers throughout the state to become more active in injury prevention efforts.

Broward County fire rescue had many great accomplishments this year. It was the first agency in the county to give a heart attack clotting drug, Retavase, to patients en route to the hospital. The agency received a \$100,000 grant to enhance their heart attack prevention plan by placing automatic external defibrillators in public buildings. These defibrillators have proved life-saving in cases of dire heart attack emergencies. Prioritizing quality of care for patients, Broward County Fire Rescuers make an extra effort to transport heart attack victims to the county hospitals best equipped to care for victims rather than the nearest hospital. Also, the agency has increased fire prevention awareness by airing fire-safety announcements before films at local movie theaters.

Mr. Speaker, I extend a hearty congratulations to Broward County Fire Rescue for their leadership in medical and rescue excellence. They go above and beyond what is demanded of them and perform their heroic services with professionalism and success.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING GARY McPHERSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense sadness that I take this moment to celebrate the life of Colorado State Representative Gary McPherson. Gary tragically passed away at age 37. For the past six years, Gary served the State of Colorado with great distinction as a Member of the Colorado State House of Representatives. As family, friends, and colleagues mourn this sudden and terrible loss, I would like to pay tribute to this statesman and friend.

Gary was born in Auburn, Washington, but attended school at Platte Valley Academy in Nebraska, graduating in 1981. He went on to Union College where his thirst for knowledge earned him a degree in business administration, as well as minors in history, psychology, social science and sociology. Gary then went on to earn his law degree at the University of Nebraska in 1988.

After law school, Gary moved on to what would become a highly successful career. His time as a lawyer saw him practicing for a number of different law firms, including Hall & Evans, Elrod, Katz, Preco & Look P.C., Fortune & Lawritson P.C., and most recently Kissinger & Fellman P.C.

In addition to his many accomplishments as a lawyer, Gary also served in the Colorado Legislature with great distinction. As a legislator, Representative McPherson fought hard on a range of issues important to Colorado's future. During his tenure in the legislature, Gary served as member of the Appropriations and Judicial committees as well as Chairman of the House Finance Committee.

Before serving in the Colorado State Legislature, Representative McPherson was a member of numerous organizations promoting the health and vitality of his community and all of Colorado. He served as president and board member of Jackson Farms Homeowners Association, director of the Attorney/Physician Suspension Alternative Project, chairman of the ABA Prelaw Counseling Committee, board member and legislative liaison for the Colorado Bar Association Military Law Commission, and vice chairman and board member of Arapahoe County Park and Recreation District.

Giving back to his community was a priority for Representative McPherson and his hard work and determination earned him a number of awards. His honors include Colorado Bar Association's Outstanding Young Lawyer, Aurora Public Schools Superintendent's Award, International Academy of Trial Lawyer's Award, and CACI Legislator of the Year 1995.

Gary was an incredible human being, a loving and devoted father, husband, and friend. His compassion for others and commitment to his community will not soon be forgotten. Gary served his community, State, and Nation admirably. This statesman, family man, and friend will be greatly missed.

October 19, 2000

PUTIN'S POTEMKIN DEMOCRACY
IN RUSSIA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, recent very disturbing trends in Russia with respect to press freedom have raised serious doubts about democratic development in that country. The current effort by Russian President Vladimir Putin to eliminate the independent news media in Russia is a serious threat to Russia's democratic future.

It will take a long time to build democracy in Russia, Mr. Speaker, but one of the very few encouraging signs of the last decade in Russia was the presence of a free press. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am using the past tense—it was an encouraging sign.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Putin's administration puts an end to the persecution and harassment of whatever is left of the free media in Russia. But the attack against the independent media is serious and systematic, and it is deadly earnest.

Mr. Speaker, the Washington Post (October 2, 2000) published an excellent editorial expressing serious concern about freedom of the press in Russia. I ask that the text of this editorial be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read this important editorial.

IMAGE AND REALITY IN RUSSIA

[The Washington Post, Oct. 2, 2000]

Russian President Vladimir Putin tends to his international image with skill. He dines with American media heavyweights in New York City and professes his commitment to a free press. He lunches with former dissident Nathan Sharansky in the Kremlin and insists on his love of human rights. For a pathetically small price—a bit of attention—he co-opts Mikhail Gorbachev, who in turn says nice things about the young Russian president to foreign media. All this impresses Western leaders. Meanwhile, Mr. Putin is in the process of destroying the independent media in Russia. If he succeeds, democratization will be severely set back.

On a small scale, you can see Mr. Putin at work in the case of Andrei Babitsky, who is scheduled to go on trial in southern Russia today. Mr. Babitsky is a reporter for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty who reported honestly on brutal Russian behavior in Chechnya. Russian security forces arrested him for this affront and then arranged for him to be kidnapped by Chechen criminals. President Putin pretended to know nothing about this until international pressure became a liability, at which point Mr. Babitsky was freed. But the bullying did not stop. Mr. Putin's administration is prosecuting the reporter for carrying false documents—documents forced on him by his kidnapers.

Mr. Putin's assault on Media-Most is potentially more serious. The company owns NTV, the only Russian television network not controlled by the government. It also owns a radio station and publishes a daily newspaper and, in partnership with The Washington Post Co.'s Newsweek, a weekly magazine. Its survival now is threatened by a commercial dispute with the giant natural gas company, Gazprom, that lent it money.

As in the Babitsky case, Mr. Putin pretends not to be involved in this dispute. But

the Kremlin owns a large piece of Gazprom and effectively controls the firm. Mr. Putin's administration set the stage for the dispute by throwing Media-Most's owner into prison for three days. After this KGB-style intimidation, the owner, Vladimir Gusinsky, was pressured—by a member of Mr. Putin's cabinet acting in close consultation with the Kremlin—to sign an unfavorable contract. Mr. Gusinsky was promised in return his freedom, which President Putin apparently feels is a commodity to be bargained, not a fundamental right. Now, despite Mr. Putin's protest of noninvolvement in a commercial dispute, his prosecutor-general has opened a criminal fraud case against Mr. Gusinsky.

The West has little leverage over Russia. Oil prices are high, meaning that Russia, an oil-producing country, no longer needs Western loans. But as his image campaign suggests, Mr. Putin does crave acceptance in the West. Western leaders should welcome him as long as he respects democracy at home. If he does not—if he persists in undermining Russia's independent media—the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations should return to being a G 7. A Potempkin democrat does not belong in the club of democracies.

RESOLUTION HONORING NOBEL
LAUREATES DR. ERIC R.
KANDEL AND DR. PAUL
GREENGARD

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to honor the American winners of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for 2000, Drs. Eric R. Kandel and Paul Greengard. These two distinguished scientists will share this year's award with a third winner, Dr. Arvid Carlsson of Sweden.

The scientists were recognized by the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute for their important contributions to understanding how brain cells interact with each other at the molecular level to create moods and memories in individuals. Their separate but related pursuits, which began in the 1950s, have provided the basis for today's understanding of mental illness and neurological disorders, including schizophrenia, depression, bipolar disorder, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease. This understanding has been essential for the drugs and treatments that have been already developed for these afflictions and provide the foundation for even more promising research in these areas.

Last year, the Office of the Surgeon General published *Mental Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, which noted that although the United States leads the world in understanding the importance of mental health to the overall health of its people, the nation still has many challenges to meet. Today, one in five people in the United States are afflicted with some form of mental disorder. Furthermore, mental disorder is one of the key contributors to a leading cause of preventable deaths—suicide. The federal government, particularly the National Institutes of Health (NIH) has provided strong support toward research efforts in the

mental health area. Indeed, NIH contributed to the discoveries made by Drs. Kandel and Greengard through grants and research support for over 30 years. As we celebrate the honor bestowed by the Nobel Assembly upon Drs. Kandel and Greengard, we should also look forward to the challenges ahead, which include not only continued scientific research but also improving the delivery of mental health services and helping society to overcome ingrained fears and misconceptions concerning mental illness.

GEORGE E. BROWN, JR. UNITED
STATES COURTHOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 17, 2000

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to add a few words to those of my colleagues in support of this bill to designate the U.S. Courthouse on 12th Street in Riverside, California, as the "George E. Brown, Jr., United States Courthouse." I think this is a worthy honor for a man who brought so much to his constituents in California, to colleagues in Congress, and to the citizens of this country.

The death of George Brown, Jr. last year deprived this Congress and this country of a great champion of science and technology. While I worked with him for only a brief time, I felt as though I had known him for years because he had been a colleague and friend of my father and because his reputation was so well known.

George Brown was a man of courage and vision and ideological consistency. In his 34 years of distinguished service in the House, he worked to advance energy and resource conservation, sustainable agriculture, advanced technology development, space exploration, international scientific cooperation, and the integration of technology in education.

With or without a Courthouse in his name, George Brown will be remembered. But I'm sure if he were with us here today, George would appreciate this gesture on the part of his colleagues and the country to ensure his legacy lasts beyond our own lifetimes.

HONORING ABDUL CONTEH

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 18, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday Major League Soccer honored Abdul Conteh, a star of the San Jose Earthquakes, by presenting the inaugural New York Life Humanitarian of the Year Award to him.

I want to add my voice to those honoring Mr. Conteh, and I want to commend Major League Soccer and New York Life for drawing attention to the world's humanitarian crises and to those working to do something to ease suffering.

Abdul Conteh was born in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. His family moved to the United States when he was a teenager, but he has not forgotten his people and his country and he is using his hard-won fame to champion their needs. In conjunction with the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the American Red Cross, Mr. Conteh recently launched an initiative to raise funds to alleviate the suffering of a people who have experienced gruesome atrocities, death, and destruction during nine years of war.

His hope is to fund a school and other projects that can help his people reclaim their lives. As he works toward this goal he is doing something else too: he is raising the awareness of soccer fans and others who otherwise wouldn't think about Sierra Leone—Americans who can do something to help the people of a nation founded by former slaves, people who have been trapped by fighting over the lucrative diamond trade for nine long years.

Rebel forces—funded by stealing Sierra Leone's diamonds and assisted by Liberia's president, Charles Taylor—have brutalized innocent men, women and children throughout Sierra Leone. They have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes and killed tens of thousands more. Some 20,000 of these suffered forced amputations of their hands, ears, or legs by machete; most of these victims died. Untold numbers of girls and women have been raped, many of them left infected with AIDS as a result. The country, which should be one of the richest in Africa, consistently ranks as the poorest in the world and the most miserable by every measure.

I have been to Sierra Leone and I have seen first-hand the results of these rebels. Last December, Congressman FRANK WOLF and I visited camps for the survivors of the rebels' attacks. We met thousands of people who are lucky to be alive, who did not bleed to death as they struggled to flee the rebels who had just cut off their arms, legs, or ears. Few were spared rebels' grotesque and evil acts. Infants' arms and legs were cut off. Young men in the prime of their life suddenly had half of a leg, or no hands. Women were raped by rebels and then had their arms amputated—only to give birth several months later as a result of the rape they suffered.

Mr. Conteh knows first-hand what I have just described; more than 20 of his family members have been killed in the bloodshed. The horrible images we all have seen and the stories we have heard about the atrocities in Sierra Leone touch Mr. Conteh and others personally. It is the survivors who are left with the empty beds, the missing generations, and the questions from the children as to why their friends, uncles, cousins, siblings, or parents are no longer here.

Through his initiative, Mr. Conteh will make a difference in people's lives in Sierra Leone. I commend Mr. Conteh for his efforts on behalf of the people of Sierra Leone, I congratulate him for receiving this prestigious humanitarian award, and I wish him and others doing lifesaving work in Sierra Leone all the best.