haunted Belarus throughout the last six years of Alexander Lukashenka’s rule. The Helsinki Commission, which I chair, has monitored and chronicled developments in Belarus, holding hearings which have included Belarusian democratic opposition leaders and leaders of the 13th Supreme Soviet, the legitimate parliament which Lukashenka disbanded in 1996. In July, I led the US delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meeting in Bucharest where the deteriorating situation in Belarus was high on our agenda. Importantly, this resolution includes language reaffirming Congress’ recognition of the 13th Supreme Soviet as the sole democratically elected and constitutionally legitimate legislative body in Belarus, which is also important, especially as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly continues to recognize that to seat the 13th Supreme Soviet as well. In the last few years, I have made numerous direct and indirect intercessions, including through various OSCE institutions, to draw attention to the deplorable situation in Belarus and to encourage the establishment of democracy in Belarus and I assure you that the Helsinki Commission will continue its efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this resolution, and am eager for the House to go on record in support of the restoration of democracy in Belarus. I am especially pleased that the resolution urges the Lukashenka regime to provide a full accounting of the disappearances of several prominent opposition members and urges the release of those imprisoned in Belarus for their political views. I look forward to working with my colleagues to keep the spotlight on Belarus and to encourage the Belarusian government to comply with its freely undertaken OSCE and other international commitments.

ROFEH INTERNATIONAL HONORS
MR. ARNOLD ZALTAS AND DR. TATSUO HIROSE
HON. BARNEY FRANK
OF MASSACHUSETTS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it has been my distinct honor over the years to take note of the extraordinary valuable work done by Rofeh International, in conjunction with the New England Chassidic Center led by Grand Rabbi Levi Horowitz. Grand Rabbi Horowitz, the Bostoner Rebbe as he is known, is a very distinguished scholar in the field of medical ethics, in addition to his eminence as a scholar of Judaism. Rofeh facilitates making the superb medical treatment that is available in Boston to people from all over the world, and if it were not for Rofeh, a large number of people who have benefitted from this medical treatment would not have been able to do so.

As part of their effort, Rofeh and the New England Chassidic Center have an annual dinner, at which they honor people who have been particularly distinguished in their service to this wonderful cause. This year Rofeh will honor two men. Arnold Zaltas and Tatsuho Hirose.

Dr. Hirose was born in Japan, and graduated from Kanazawa University School of Medicine there in 1961. His initial visit to the United States was 1965 when he was awarded a one-year scholarship to the Moorfield Eye Hospital, which allowed him to study clinical electrophysiology in vision at the Department of Ophthalmology, Cornell Medical School in New York. This happened when he was in the third year in the Postdoctoral School in Medicine in Kanazawa University. After spending three years in Cornell, he went back to Kanazawa and finished his Postdoctoral School in Ophthalmology at Kanazawa University where he was awarded Doctor of Medical Science in 1969. He came to the Schepens Retina Associates, Retina Foundation (now called Schepens Eye Research Institute) and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary for training and studying the surgery of the retina in the spring of 1969. He became a member of Schepens Retina Associates in 1973 at the same time he continued conducting research in studying functions of the retina at the Schepens Eye Institute, Harvard Medical School. He has been specializing in difficult complex retinal detachments, such as surgical failures in adults and children. He is particularly interested in infant and children’s retinal detachment particularly in premature born babies. He published more than 140 papers in scientific medical journals, edited two books, including the most recent one: Schepens Retinal detachment and allied diseases. He contributed 23 book chapters. He received a Research to Prevent Blindness award, honor award of American Academy of Ophthalmology. Senior Honor Award of American Academy of Ophthalmology, The Paul Kayser International Award of Merit in Retina Research. He has been selected in the Best Doctors in America 1996–1997, and Boston’s Best Doctors in Boston Magazine, 1999. At present, he is a Clinical professor in ophthalmology, Harvard Medical School, senior Clinical Scientist as Schepens Eye Research Institutes, and Surgeon at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Arnold I. Zaltas is a partner in the Natnick firm of Zaltas, Medoff & Raider, where he concentrates in estate planning, real estate and banking law. He is a Trustee and General Counsel to the Goddard School of Government, past President of the Boston University Law School, past President of the Boston University School of Law, past President of the Boston University Law School Alumni Association, and a recipient of the School of Law’s Silver Shingle Award in recognition of outstanding service to the School. He is a Trustee of Temple Israel of Natnick, where he was the recipient of the Maurice Geshelin Humanitarian Award.

Arnold is a long-time resident of Natnick, where he resides with his wife, Brenda. They have three children: A. David Zaltas, an attorney, Mandi M. Kunen, an ophthalmologist, Marjorie Rubin, an attorney, and three grandchildren. Arnold Zaltas and Tatsuho Hirose deserve hearty congratulations for the excellent work they do. Being recognized by Project Rofeh is a great honor, and I am pleased to take this opportunity to salute the work of this important organization of these two men.

STATEMENT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE SAYAVONG
HON. DANA ROHRABACHER
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, October 27, 2000

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend to my colleagues the following letter and testimony sent by His Royal Highness Prince Sayavong to Philip Smith, of the Center for Public Policy Analysis, for the U.S. Congressional Forum on Laos that was held on September 7, 2000. My foreign policy advisor, Mr. Al Santoli, was one of the keynote speakers and I would like to commend him for his work.

Mr. Speaker, family and friends recently said their final goodbyes to 101-year-old Paul T. Veluzat, one of the last of the American cowboys. He leaves behind a great legacy.

Paul’s travels as a cowboy and a shrewd businessman began on Dec. 6, 1898, when he was born in Summerside, KY. At age 17 he went to work in a shipyard, then made his way to Texas where he joined the Texas Rangers. Paul was one of the first people to board the German submarine that sank the Lusitania, an event that precipitated the United States’ entry into World War I.

Paul’s love of horses led him back and forth to Mexico, where he rode with the revolutionary, Francisco “Panchito” Villa. He eventually came to California where he worked as a bodyguard to industrialist J. Paul Getty and evangelist Aimee Semple MacPherson. He became a devout Christian—something his family and friends said was one of the most important aspects of his life. He purchased real estate throughout the Los Angeles area, including a ranch he called the “Diamond B” in Saugus where he ran cattle, and raised racehorses.

Paul’s passion for horses was as strong as his passion for filmmaking. The Veluzat family owns Melody Ranch, home to over 750 “B” western movies as well as other notable films and television shows such as the beloved Gunsmoke. “Last Man Standing” starring Bruce Willis was recently filmed there.

Paul was very successful. He and his first wife, Opal, were simple and down to earth, they were astute in business and had unquestionable integrity. Paul’s word was his bond. Ninety percent of his business was conducted by a handshake or over the phone. Paul’s true success was measured by his deep spirituality and the love and respect he gained from his family and his many friends. He will be remembered as a generous man who was liked by all.

Paul Veluzat is survived by Rosa, his wife of 14 years, his sons, Rene, Andre and Renaud, four grandchildren, Shantel Hudson, Daniel, Paul and Marcel Veluzat, three great-grandchildren and many, many friends.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS October 28, 2000
A COWBOY’S LAST RIDE
HON. HOWARD P. “BUCK” McKEON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, family and friends recently said their final goodbyes to 101-year-old Paul T. Veluzat, one of the last of the American cowboys. He leaves behind a great legacy.

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In the year 1975 Laos had a population—actually estimated at 5 million—by the Vietnamese army, which had been tricked into a wrong war by the US. Today, Laos is ruled by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic (LPDR) that is under the pressure of US administrations. The LPDR is the one-party Communist regime. Laos, however, is the most tragic country in Asia up to now. The LPDR, with its people wanting and needing the restoration of democracy, human rights and economic prosperity, has received no assistance from the US. Laos is currently ruled by the Pathet-Lao headed by Mr. Souvanouvong, who is the future President of the Socialist Restooges who at the very moment run the government of Laos. The US Congress—Capitol Hill, Washington, DC—on 26 September 1970, decided to support the LPDR to become the future capital of the Socialist Restooges.

The views expressed herein are the views of the LPDR. The LPDR is the result of the Vietnam War. The Laotian people both inside the country and overseas hope and pray with us that the American people will understand and support our cause so that the international community will no longer tolerate undemocratic practices and uncivilized and inhumane behavior by members of the United Nations. The LPDR is a regime that has no respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Laos today—in particular the non-respect of the neutrality, sovereignty and independence of our country by its immediate neighbours. The US should therefore support the LPDR in order to maintain a viable, peaceful, and democratic Laos.

In the end it will prove to be necessary to convene an International Conference similar to the Geneva Conference of 1962 to tackle the issues and problems that are plaguing Laos today—in particular the non-respect of the neutrality, sovereignty and independence of our country by its immediate neighbours. In view of the fact that the LPDR does not intend to create any anti-communist entity apart from the United States and Japan therefore decided to support the LPDR. Laos is a country that has received no assistance from the US. The US government has not yet granted Laos with economic aid.

In the end it will prove to be necessary to create a new power structure freely elected by the people. It is necessary for the United States to take the lead in choosing the future Lao government. The US government and the United Nations should exercise maximum pressure upon the Vientiane Government—PGVT—under the leadership of the Vientiane Government—PGVT. The US government should compel them to relinquish power and be replaced by a new power structure freely elected by the Lao people.

The Kingdom of Laos is under the occupation of the US. The US government has not yet granted Laos with economic aid. The US government and the United Nations should exercise maximum pressure upon the Vientiane Government—PGVT. The US government should compel them to relinquish power and be replaced by a new power structure freely elected by the Lao people. The US government should support the LPDR, which is the only political party in Laos. The US government should support the LPDR, which is the only political party in Laos.

For us free Laotians we consider December 2nd of each year as the time of mourning—of national mourning—of national mourning since it brings back to memory the death of our age-old traditions and way of life, of our fertile soils and rivers and mountains which we inherited from our forefathers. The Kingdom of Laos was one of the most ancient nations in Asia—the cradle of post-angkorian civilization. Of course, we will never forget that we were the victims of world politics, and we know that it was as a result of the Indo-Chinese war that brought about the death of millions of people.

The Lao people are being prevented from changing their government for the better through democratic means for external intervention—essentially from Western powers. The US government should therefore become critical in order to bring about needed reforms and policy in our country. The US government should use economic aid to bring about political change in Laos. The US government should use economic aid to bring about political change in Laos.

The Lao people inside the country and overseas hope and pray with us that the American people will understand and support their cause so that the international community will no longer tolerate undemocratic practices and uncivilized and inhumane behavior by members of the United Nations.