

independent people, whose direct descendants thrive to this day in New Mexico, introduced horses, cows, donkeys, sheep, and agricultural technology. Together with the Native Americans they contributed to what is New Mexico's rich culture.

As another example of its fascinating holdings, the museum also houses the Railway station clock that was shot as Pancho Villa invaded the United States. The clock, its pendulum stopped by a bullet, captured the exact moment in time, when the last invasion of the continental United States took place.

Today, the Palace is visited by thousands of visitors from around the world who tour the exhibits, and then purchase fine Native American artwork sold by Native peoples under the portal in front of the Palace. This trade between cultures has taken place daily for hundreds of years, and is a testament to the interaction between different cultures.

Tragically, these many unique examples of Spanish, Native American, Mexican, and U.S. history face imminent destruction if immediate measures are not taken to provide safe and adequate storage, and proper exhibit facilities. Currently the major portion of the collections has no protection from loss by fire, flooding or disintegration and the buildings where the collections are stored are over 90 years old, with a steam heating system that contributes deterioration of the collections.

Recognizing this disastrous situation, a group of my fellow New Mexicans have undertaken the task of planning for the construction of a modern and technologically advanced annex, the size of which will permit the rich multi-cultural history of the southwest to be made available to present and future generations. Over time they have raised almost \$6 million from state, city, and private sources to acquire a building, the land, and planning for the new annex. The amount, however, is far from sufficient enough to meet the projected total project cost of an additional \$32 million. Thus, it is imperative that Federal funds be provided.

The bill I am presenting today will help ensure these treasures are protected and funds are provided, so that we save the irreplaceable collections of the Palace of the Governors from the danger of being forever lost. The bill would authorize \$15 million dollars through the Department of Interior, and will assist the Palace of the Governors construct and also equip their new annex. It will also make the vast collections available for exhibition to future generations of Americans and for study by scholars who currently cannot access them because of a lack of appropriate facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the Palace of the Governors is not only an irreplaceable jewel in New Mexico's history, but the history of our Hispanic Southwest and our country as a whole. I urge that we act to support this aspect of our nation's history with the foresight that will reward our children with these unique, historical, and cultural gifts drawn from our country's amazing diversity.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE ON THE PASSING OF DR.  
HARGROVE F. WOOTEN

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2000*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, tonight I pay tribute to an outstanding man, community leader and distinguished Physician, Dr. Hargrove F. Wooten. I was saddened at hearing of the passing of Dr. Wooten: husband, father, grandfather, colleague, and friend to those who knew him.

Dr. Wooten was born in Jacksonville, Florida on October 9, 1925. As a child, he attended local public schools in Jacksonville. In Jacksonville, Dr. Watson dreamed of enriching the life of his community and becoming a doctor. He would later pursue his dreams at Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy and Meharry Medical College, where he earned his doctorate in medicine. At these two prestigious and renowned universities, his goals to pursue a medical career were nurtured and his dedication to his community was enriched.

Dr. Watson continued to further his education by obtaining his Master of Science degree at Texas Southern University in Houston, Texas and completed his residency in Ophthalmology at the University of Texas Health Science Center. After completing his medical degree, he served as intern through a rotating internship in Houston and was the first African-American to intern at the Memorial Hospital system.

As a practicing pharmacist and CEO of the self entitled Wooten's Pharmacy Chain, a university physician for the University of Houston from 1966 to 1972 and CEO of both Physicians Eye Associates and Hargrove F. Wooten M.D. and Associates, Dr. Wooten tirelessly worked to improve the health of Houston area residents.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Wooten's leadership was sought and admired by many of his peers. He served as the President of both the Houston Pharmaceutical Association, the Lone Star State Pharmaceutical Association, and the Houston Medical Forum. In 1994-1996, Dr. Wooten was elected by Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity to be their Grand Sire Archon. In addition, he was a member in sixteen honorary, professional and civic organizations including the NAACP, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Chi Delta Mu Professional Fraternity and the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

As a husband, Dr. Wooten was his wife's best friend, companion, and advisor. As a father, he was his three daughters' counselor, aide, and friend. A father in the true sense of the word and a man of the finest hour, Dr. Wooten was a friend, mentor and counselor to many. His daughters, Florence, Patrice and Sharon knew that he loved them through his 49 years of matrimony to their mother, Eleanor.

At this sad time, I offer the Wooten Family my deepest sympathy. While I am aware that no words of consolation can ease the hurt and sense of loss that you now feel, I hope that in time, you will be comforted by the legacy of

*March 30, 2000*

accomplishments that he left behind. I hope that the fond memories of experiences you shared with him will continue to inspire you in the future.

SUPPRESSION OF PEACEFUL  
DEMONSTRATORS IN BELARUS

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 2000*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, March 9, I chaired a hearing of the Helsinki Commission at which we heard compelling and disturbing testimony about the deterioration of human rights and democracy in Belarus. I was pleased to have as one of our witnesses Anatoly Lebedka, Deputy Chairman of Belarus' legitimate parliament, disbanding of Belarusian strongman Alyaksandr Lukashenka following an illegitimate 1996 referendum.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lebedka was one of some 500 people arrested last weekend, during a peaceful pro-democracy demonstration in Miensk. He was reportedly beaten and spent two days in detention before he was released. He is scheduled to go to trial on April 4. Also detained without explanation were more than 30 Belarusian, Russian and Polish journalists. Film shot by press photographers was reportedly confiscated. Aleh Hrudzilovich, a journalist with the opposition newspaper Nasha Svaboda and Radio Liberty who was initially detained on March 25, was summoned for interrogation on March 27, handcuffed, and then hit several times in the face while being transported by police to a detention center. He was released later that day. Other detainees also reportedly suffered physical abuse by the police. Several demonstrators have been put on trial, and some have already been sentenced to short-term detentions.

Mr. Speaker, during the Helsinki Commission hearing, I asked Mr. Lebedka about the scheduled March demonstrations, where he expressed the fear that there might be deliberate provocations by the police, as had been the case at a Freedom March rally last October. Fortunately, a large peaceful protest held on March 15 was held without any problems. According to many observers, including Mr. Lebedka, the growing number of participants in the officially-approved 30,000 strong March 15 demonstration prompted Lukashenka to take harsh measures against the March 25 demonstrators. Indeed, this comports with Lukashenka's recent warning that protestors who "get out of line" will have "the stuffing" beat out of them.

Mr. Speaker, the suppression of the March 25 demonstration is yet another illustration of the Lukashenka regime's disregard for fundamental human rights, including freedom of assembly and association, and information. It is another among a long list of outrages perpetrated by Lukashenka upon the people of Belarus. It is yet another in a pattern of violations of human rights commitments, which Belarus freely undertook when it joined the OSCE in 1992.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to reiterate my strong concern for the safety of Anatoly Lebedka and