Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, had the Kapatr amendment been made in order, I would have supported it. The Kapatr amend-
ment would have required that no less than $125 million of the bill's funds be provided to
Ukraine. The bill caps funding to Ukraine at
$125 million, 90 percent of which goes to hu-
manitarian aid and non-governmental assist-
ance programs. This represents a $44 million reduction in funding from last year. While I
support measures to ensure funding for Ukraine, I also have serious concerns about
recent events in Ukraine that have impeded steps toward a fully democratic society.

I have been a strong supporter of Ukraine
throughout my tenure in Congress. In past years, I have taken a leading role in sup-
porting increased funding for Ukraine. These
efforts, along with those of my colleagues,
have made Ukraine the third-largest recipient
of U.S. aid. But, evidence of political corrup-
tion, suppression of the media and instability
in the Ukrainian government have called this
aid into question.

In April, the Communist-dominated Ukrain-
ian parliament voted to dismiss Prime Minister
Viktor Yushchenko and his government. The
cabinet, widely viewed as the most successful
government since Ukraine gained independ-
ence in 1991, is likely to slow down reforms at
this most crucial time. This vote comes in the
midst of the ongoing political crisis sparked by
revelations on secretly recorded tapes impli-
cating the involvement of President Leonid
Kuchma and high government officials in the
case of murdered journalist Heorhiy
Gongadze. Most recently, another journalist,
Ihor Oleksandrov, who sought to expose cor-
ruption and organized crime was brutally mur-
dered by four men with clubs.

The State Department Annual Human Rights
Country Report on Ukraine cites a mixed human rights record and notes the fail-
ure to curb institutional corruption and abuse in the Ukrainian government. One starting ex-
ample of government corruption that has come
to my attention is the case of U.S. investment
fund, New Century Holdings. This investment
company has been repeatedly thwarted in its
efforts to develop a hotel it owns along with
the City of Kiev. Despite owning a controlling
interest in the hotel, New Century Holdings
has been prevented access to the hotel, as
local police have taken over the building for
themselves. New Century Holdings has ap-
pealed to the Mayor and other local officials
to no avail, and the Ukrainian government has
been unable or unwilling to help. Meanwhile,
the hotel remains undeveloped and the com-
pany's investment in Ukraine remains unreal-
ized.

I value the strong relationship between the
United States and Ukraine. However, Ukraine
will never be a full partner of the United
States, unless it fully embraces democracy
and human rights. Ukraine has made signifi-
cant progress in the ten years since it became
independent, but pervasive corruption, lack of
media freedoms, and the conduct of the inves-
tigation of the Gongadze case call into ques-
tion Ukraine's commitment to being a fully
democratic nation and hold Ukraine back from
reaching its immense potential.

It is my hope that the debate on this amend-
ment will send a positive message to the gov-
ernment of Ukraine, that the U.S. Congress
will not simply rubber stamp funding requests
for the Ukraine, without also considering the
serious issues involved in Ukraine's demo-
cratic development. I am prepared to continue
to work with Ukraine to determine how Con-
gress can best assist them in staying on the
road toward democracy and a free-market
economy.

With this in mind, this fall the Congress-
Rada Parliamentary Exchange Group will con-
vene for the first time here in Washington. I
urge all Members concerned about the evident
setbacks in Ukraine, to take advantage of this
opportunity to meet with our Ukrainian coun-
terparts to share views on how both our coun-
tries can work to continue Ukraine on its path
toward a fully democratic society.

HONORING SAM KADORIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to honor Sam Kadorian for being named
"Man of the Year" by the Armenian-American
Citizen's League (A.A.C.L.). Mr. Kadorian re-
ceived the award at the A.A.C.L.'s 68th An-
nual State Convention held in Van Nuys, CA.

Sam Kadorian is a survivor of the Armenian
Genocide of 1915 and a longtime member of
the A.A.C.L. Sam was eight years old at the
time of the genocide and narrowly escaped
death. He was on the bottom of a pile of bod-
ies that were being stabbed with swords. One
of the swords missed his chest by inches,
leaving only a scar on his right cheek. Sam and
his mother survived, but unfortunately
Sam lost his father, brother, two sisters, and
other friends and relatives in the Armenian
Genocide.

Sam and his mother eventually boarded a
ship for the United States, deciding to settle in
Chicago. At the age of 35 Sam joined the
United States Army where he served as a
photographer. After his time in the U.S. Army,
Sam moved to Southern California where he
joined the Armenian-American Citizens' League.
Since joining the A.A.C.L. Mr. Kadorian has been very active in the Los An-
geles Chapter, serving in many capacities.

Mr. Speaker, I want to honor Sam Kadorian for being named "Man of the Year" by the Ar-
menian-American Citizen's League. I urge my
colleagues to join me in wishing Sam Kadorian many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING STUDENTS FROM NEW YORK

HON. STEVE ISRAEL
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great
pride that I rise today to recognize four of New
York's outstanding young students: Anne Ca-
ruso, Megan Lockhart, Arielle Buck, and Re-
becca Ambrose. In August, the young women
of their team will honor them by bestowing upon them the Girl Scouts Gold Medal.

Since the beginning of this century, the Girls
Scouts of America have provided thousands of
youngsters each year the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leader-
ship skills while learning self-reliance and
teamwork.

These awards are presented only to those
who possess the qualities that make our na-
tion great: commitment to excellence, hard
work, and genuine love of community service.
The Gold Awards are the highest awards attainable by Junior and high school
Girl Scouts.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratu-
lating the recipients of these awards, as their