

consideration the bill (H.R. 2506) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, had the Kaptur amendment been made in order, I would have supported it. The Kaptur amendment 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 humanitarian aid and non-governmental assistance 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 supporting 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 corruption, suppression of the media and instability in the Ukrainian government have called this aid into question.

In April, the Communist-dominated Ukrainian parliament voted to dismiss Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko and his government. The ouster of Prime Minister Yushchenko and his cabinet, widely viewed as the most successful government since Ukraine gained independence 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 implicating 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 corruption and organized crime was brutally murdered by four men with clubs.

The State Department Annual Human Rights Country Report on Ukraine cites a mixed human rights record and notes the failure to curb institutional corruption and abuse in the Ukrainian government. One startling example 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 appealed 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 company's investment in Ukraine remains unrealized.

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 significant 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 question 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 amendment will send a positive message to the government 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 democratic development. I am prepared to continue to work with Ukraine to determine how Congress 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 convene 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 counterparts to share views on how both our countries 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 received the award at the A.A.C.L.'s 68th Annual 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 bodies 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 Arrmenian-American Citizens' League. Since joining the A.A.C.L. Mr. Kadorian has been very active in the Los Angeles Chapter, serving in many capacities.

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

PUERTO RICAN CONSTITUTION DAY

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 25, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the citizens of Puerto Rico on Constitution Day, July 25, 2001. The people of Puerto Rico established the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for the very same reasons our forefathers wrote the Constitution of the United States of America, to establish themselves as a democracy.

The Puerto Rican Constitution ensures basic welfare and human rights for the people, enforces the idea of a government which reflects the will of the people, and pays tribute and loyalty to the Constitution of the United States of America.

The Puerto Rican culture is a distinctly unique culture. By pledging allegiance to the Constitution of the United States of America, the people of Puerto Rico celebrate shared beliefs and the co-existence of both cultures. By ratifying their own Constitution, the people of Puerto Rico retain and honor their original heritage while expressing the desire to pursue democracy and happiness for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the following individuals for their contributions to the Greater Cleveland community: Ana Iris Rosario, Roberto Ocasio, Hector Vega, Maria Senquis, Dolly Guerrero Velez, Pastor Jose Jimenez, Victor Matos, Henry Guzman, Esther Monclova Johnson, Abelino "Al" Lopez, Yolanda Figueroa, Betty Villanueva, and Juan Alberto Gonzalez. I hope that my fellow colleagues will join me in honoring these individuals and praising the Puerto Rican people as they celebrate Constitution Day.

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 Caruso, Megan Lockhart, Arielle Buck, and Rebecca Ambrose. In August, the young women of their troop 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 leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

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

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