

For thirty-nine years, La Tribuna has shone light on daily events affecting the Hispanic community. Part of the foundation of the United States Constitution is freedom of the press. La Tribuna brings this ideal to life for the Hispanic community on a weekly basis through the paper's commitment to truth and fairness. Whenever and wherever news happens, La Tribuna is at the forefront of articulating events in a concise, non-nonsense manner.

Under the direction of publisher and editor Ruth Molenaar, La Tribuna has grown to be a well-respected member of New Jersey's news community. The people of my District, and New Jersey, are fortunate to have Ms. Molenaar and her staff, including Lionel Rodriguez, providing fair and accurate news coverage. They have been a reliable voice for the Hispanic community for almost two generations.

In recognition of the impact La Tribuna has had on the community, the City of Newark will name a street after the newspaper. The corner of Ferry Street and Niagara Street will be named La Tribuna Street.

It is an honor to have La Tribuna operating in my District. Its efforts have helped our nation's Hispanic community to blossom and flourish. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this remarkable organization for all it has done for the Hispanic community.

**CELEBRATING CAMP FIRE BOYS'
AND GIRLS' ABSOLUTELY IN-
CREDIBLE KID DAY**

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the birthday of the Camp Fire Boys and Girls' Absolutely Incredible Kid Day. Each year, on the third Thursday in March, the day is set aside to help adults communicate better with kids. As part of the celebration, adults are encouraged to send letters of love and appreciation to young people in their lives to show them how much they mean to them. Now in its fifth year, more than 450 million people have been touched by Absolutely Incredible Kid Day.

Absolutely Incredible Kid Day can make a positive impact that will last a lifetime. The campaign has received the critical acclaim of child and family care experts, award winning authors, noted psychologists, and adults and kids everywhere. Celebrities such as Oprah Winfrey, Jim Carrey and Cindy Crawford have also given their support to Absolutely Incredible Kid Day.

In my hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan the Campfire Boys and Girls West Michigan Council has put an enormous amount of time and effort into this celebration. In addition to having adults write letters to kids they know, the organization is also encouraging adults to write letters for distribution to at-risk youths throughout Grand Rapids. The Council has also organized an extensive public awareness program complete with posters, stickers and stationary to spread the word about this spe-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

cial and important day. I applaud them for making this day a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues, moms and dads, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, mentors and other adults alike take time out of their day today to let a young person know how much they appreciate them. Let them know you care and help make a positive difference in their lives today and everyday by writing a letter of love and support. You'll be glad you did and so will the reader of the letter!

**CENTRAL ASIAN REPRESSION AND
MISMANAGEMENT ARE THE
PROBLEM NOT THE SOLUTION
TO COMBATING ISLAMIC EXTRE-
MISM**

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, those of us who follow events in Central Asia are alarmed by the growing influence of Islamic extremism in Central Asia. As my colleagues are aware, an Islamic insurgency has taken root in the Fergana valley area where the borders of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan meet. Reports indicate that this insurgency is being supported and fueled by the fiercely Islamic Taliban in Afghanistan.

So far, Kazakhstan has not been directly affected by this insurgency. However, because of its oil and mineral wealth, Kazakhstan is the crown jewel of the region and is thus another likely target of Islamic extremist groups. Kazakhstan's democratically challenged regime has taken note of the alarming developments in its neighbors to the south and has taken steps to strengthen its defenses. That's the good news. The bad news, however, is that President Nursultan Nazarbayev has apparently stepped up his repression, and it has been reported that he is plundering his oil and mineral rich country by siphoning hundreds of millions of dollars into foreign bank accounts. As a result, President Nazarbayev is said to be the eighth richest person in the world.

The people of Kazakhstan are not as blind. They can easily see that they inhabit a rich country, and they are justifiably beginning to ask why so little of their country's great wealth seems to be trickling down to them. The people are also not blind to sham elections, the stifling of press freedom, and the jailing of opposition leaders that have come to characterize the country's political life. I have been told that more and more people in Kazakhstan are losing hope, and are more willing to give Islamic extremists groups, who claim that they will eliminate the corruption of the current regime, a chance to govern.

In the March 3 issue of the Economist, there is an excellent article on Kazakhstan's security situation. At the end of the article, the author states "Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots." I whole-

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heartedly agree with this premise, and I ask that the full text of the Economist article appear immediately after my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, some people in Washington may be tempted to urge U.S. support for the Nazarbayev regime because it claims to be a bulwark of defense against Islamic extremism. But according to the information that I have been receiving, it is the Nazarbayev regime itself that will likely fuel the growth of Islamic extremism. Democracy, a free press, and respect for human rights are the keys to protecting a country like Kazakhstan from the influence of Islamic extremists groups. The United States must stand with regimes in Central Asia who share these key democratic values, not those regimes and leaders who subvert them.

[From the Economist, Mar. 3, 2001]

IN DEFENCE

When the Soviet Union broke up ten years ago, the leaders of Central Asia's newly independent states felt safe from possible attacks on their region. Their main concern was to promote order, economic reform and the assertion of power for themselves and their families. They were jolted out of their complacency by bomb blasts in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, in February 1999 and an attack by Islamic militants in Kirgizstan in August. Last year Islamists again attacked both countries.

Although Kazakhstan was not directly affected by these attacks, they have alerted the country to look to its defences. President Nursultan Nazarbaev has set about making Kazakhstan's armed forces capable of dealing with what he believes are the main threats to the state; terrorism as a result of religious extremism, and organized crime.

He is strengthening defences in the south, in the mountainous border regions from which an Islamic incursion might come. He wants his soldiers to be more mobile. Sniper groups are being formed. Villagers with local knowledge of the terrain are being recruited as guides. The country's defence budget has been more than doubled this year to \$171m, or 1% of GDP. Soldiers' pay is to go up by 30-40%.

One difficulty is the Kazakhstan's borders were not clearly defined in Soviet times, so it is difficult to decide what is a "border incursion". Kazakhstan has 14,000 km (8,750 miles) of borders with neighboring states. It has agreed on its border with China, but it is still negotiating with Russia, Kirgizstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. Bulat Sultanov, of Kazakhstan's Institute of Strategic Studies, worries that "our border troops cannot carry out any operations because there is no legal basis for them."

Last year, Uzbek border guards entered southern Kazakhstan and claimed a stretch of land. Since then, there have been several brushes between Uzbeks and Kazakhs, mostly villagers unclear about which country they are living in. All this is a distraction from the task of making the south of Kazakhstan more secure.

Then there is Afghanistan. Although Kazakhstan is not a direct neighbour, the fiercely Islamic Taliban who control most of Afghanistan are a worry to all of Central Asia. They are believed to provide training for extremists, among them the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), which wants to set up a caliphate in the Fergana valley, where Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan meet. The IMU was said to be behind the attacks in Kirgizstan and Uzbekistan in the

past two years and is thought to be preparing another assault before long.

Most of Kazakhstan's military equipment dates back to the Soviet period. Replacing, say, old helicopters used in the border areas will be expensive, but necessary. In January a Mi-8 helicopter crashed in the south, injuring the defence minister, Sat Tokpakbaev, who was aboard. Another helicopter crashed near the Chinese border two weeks ago, killing six people.

Kazakhstan will receive arms from Russia worth \$20m this year as part of its annual payment for the use of a space-rocket site at Baikour. It is due to receive over \$4m from the United States to improve border security. The government might also consider some nonmilitary measures. Government repression and mismanagement help to nourish extremism and terrorism in Central Asia. An effort to improve social and economic conditions and freedom of expression might make Kazakhstan less fertile ground for militant zealots.

RECOGNIZING MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY FOR WINNING THE NORTHEAST CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP AND GOING TO THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work of the Monmouth University Hawks men's basketball team who won the Northeast Conference basketball title recently with a 67-64 victory over St. Francis of New York. Mr. Speaker, this victory rounds out a "Cinderella" season that saw the Hawks reclaim the top spot in the Northeast Conference and earns them an automatic bid to the "big dance."

The 12th Congressional District of New Jersey has a proud tradition of sending teams into battle during March madness. This is Monmouth University's second NCAA tournament bid. As the field begins to fill out I salute the courage and determination of the Monmouth Hawks and wish them great success and a full dance card.

Men's Basketball 2000-01 Roster

Listed by number, position, height, weight, class, hometown, and highschool/college, as follows:

- 4 Rahsaan Johnson, G, 6'-0", 195, Jr., Washington, D.C., Gonzaga/Allegany College.
- 5 Tom Kaplan, G, 6'-4", 190, Fr., Tel Aviv, Israel, Elitzur Rishon Le Zion.
- 10 Jason Kray, G, 6'-5", 215, Fr., Point Pleasant, N.J., Christian Brothers Academy.
- 11 Steve Birdgemohan, F, 6'-8", 225, Jr., North Brunswick, N.J., North Brunswick.
- 12 Phil Bonczewski, F, 6'-8", 220, Fr., Plymouth, Pa., Wyoming Valley West.
- 13 Cameron Milton, G, 6'-3", 185, Jr., Philadelphia, Pa., Franklin Learning Center.
- 20 Demitry Courtney, G, 6'-1", 165, Sr., Trenton, N.J., Notre Dame.
- 21 Jay Dooley, F, 6'-6", 210, So., Rumson, N.J., Rumson-Fair Haven.
- 24 Gerry Crosby, F, 6'-5", 205, Sr., Twinsburg, Ohio, R.B. Chamberlin/Monroe CC.

25 Kevin Owens, C, 6'-10", 225, So., Haddonfield, N.J., Camden Catholic.

33 Nick Barnes, C, 6'-9", 260, Fr., Mount Airy, MD., The Newport School.

45 Russ Anderson, F, 6'-7", 210, So., Chester, N.Y., Don Bosco Prep.
Head Coach Dave Calloway.
Assistant Coach Mark Calzonetti.
Assistant Coach Ron Kray.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE VOSSMEYER

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

HON. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 15, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my esteemed colleague from Missouri's 3rd District, the Democratic Leader, Mr. GEPHARDT, to honor a loyal friend, devoted father, remarkable public servant, and esteemed political and civic leader whose love of life will live on in the memory of all those lives he touched. Steve Vossmeier died march 9, just five days before his 57th birthday. Citizens of the City of St. Louis, his beloved Central West End neighborhood, and the Great State of Missouri mourn his passing.

Steve loved the law and he loved people. He was a popular political figure who used his wit and humor to cajole and prevail upon others to accept his point of view. He was a force to be reckoned with because he researched the situation thoroughly, asked tough questions of opponents, and loved to galvanize those of like mind around a challenge then execute a winning strategy. His love of sports, particularly Cardinals baseball, was legendary and shared enthusiastically with family and friends. An invitation to partake of Steve's culinary skills was a treasured occasion that brought the best minds together around his table and provoked conversations which extended well into the night.

Mr. Vossmeier served the United States Senate as the legislative Assistant to Missouri Senator Thomas F. Eagleton from 1969 to 1972. Steve accompanied Senator Eagleton and two other Senators on a fact finding mission to Vietnam in 1970. His interrogation of military personnel after their "canned" presentations uncovered significant admissions that the war was not going as well as public pronouncements had indicated. In response he drafted major portions of the War Powers Act. His strongly held beliefs in the democratic process motivated him to serve as an election observer for the first democratically conducted elections in Czechoslovakia after the fall of communism.

Mr. Vossmeier was elected a Missouri State Representative of the 86th District in 1972, and held that office for ten years. His first election was one of the biggest upsets in the state. He ran against a well known labor union official who outspent him by a margin of more than 4 to 1. His campaign utilized innovative techniques and new technology not previously employed in Missouri elections. At the close of each session, he prepared a comprehensive newsletter on the successes and

failures, and those newsletters were quickly imitated almost verbatim—with his approval—by legislative colleagues of both parties. Steve was aided in these elections and constituent communications by Sandy Rothschild, a close friend from Washington University undergraduate days.

During his tenure in the Missouri House he championed a number of measures that benefited women. He sponsored several measures to protect rape victims from spurious attacks by defense attorneys and to balance the playing field for both sides in domestic relations disputes. He sponsored public records reforms and legislation to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. He helped numerous women in their campaigns for public office. This list includes State Representative Sue Shear, Lt. Governor Harriet Woods and Dee Joyce Hayes, his former wife, whom he helped a decade after their divorce in her successful effort to become St. Louis Circuit Attorney. As Chairman of the House Governmental Review Committee, Steve reformed many of the antiquated and ineffective procedures used by State agencies and modernized the State's mental health laws.

Steve served the City of St. Louis as a Member of the Board of Electors. This body examined a series of problems confronting the St. Louis region, recommending various reforms. In the St. Louis community he remained a political activist fighting for good government and preservation of historic neighborhoods. His opinion on a broad range of issues was sought by numerous federal, state, and local officials, including former Missouri Congressmen Jack Buechner and Alan Wheat, as well as the sponsors of this Congressional Record Statement. He was always very generous with his time and consistently demonstrated concern for issues of public interest. Steve practice law in St. Louis full time with the firm he co-founded in 1979, Newburger and Vossmeier. His principal partner was David Newburger, whom he met while Mr. Newburger taught law at Washington University. His primary area of practice was civil litigation and domestic relations.

Steve has a son, Robert Stephen Vossmeier, and a daughter, Rebecca Sarah Vossmeier. "Becca" is the child of his current marriage with M. Celeste Vossmeier. He loved his children dearly. They were with him during his last days, as were friends mentioned herein joined by Richard Callow, Betty Neill, and Paul Steinmann. We include an article from the Sunday, March 11 edition of "The St. Louis Post-Dispatch" where a number of his friends reflect with Jo Mannies on their memories of Steve.

Mr. Speaker, please join us in sending condolences to Steve's family in their time of grief. We will honor him by gathering March 19th from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the courtyard at Bar Italia in his neighborhood per his wishes that friends celebrate his life. In Marc Connelly's profound 1930 play, The Green Pastures, has characters suffer as they fight to save their families and countryside from oppressors. They discover God's love through suffering. We are glad that Steve's suffering is over and he has found God's love. We doubt that he will ever stop fighting the good fight.