

Nolan Ryan. In addition, the Ceremony included former Houston City Councilman Judson Robinson's wife, Mrs. Margaret Robinson. Mrs. Robinson was the first African American nurse to work in the surgical facilities at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital.

In a time when many hospitals are facing difficulties in recruiting and retaining their nursing staff, this Magnet Award demonstrates that St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital is providing a nurturing work environment where all employees work collaboratively toward the common goal of providing quality health care services to their patients. A recent Wall Street Journal article recommended to its readers that they should seek care at a magnet hospital in their area.

The Magnet Award program began in 1993 as a means to recognize centers of excellence in nursing care. This program reviews the management philosophy and practices of nursing staff; adherence to standards for improving the quality of patient care; leadership in supporting continued competence of nursing personnel; and attention to the cultural and ethnic diversity of patients and their significant others.

Clearly, St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital has worked hard to provide the resources and personnel needed to accomplish this goal. The nursing staff is the backbone of any hospital and the nurses at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital have earned a distinction worthy of special praise.

CONGRATULATING ESTONIA, LATVIA, AND LITHUANIA ON THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, ten years ago with the collapse of the Soviet Union, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania threw off the yoke of Soviet domination and regained their independence. Between World War I and World War II, they had been sovereign nations and respected members of the international community. In 1939, however, they were illegally partitioned between Hitler and Stalin as part of the infamous Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement. Based on this agreement, Hitler gave Stalin the green light to seize the Baltic states. I am proud to state that the illegal incorporation of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the Soviet Union was never recognized by the United States Government.

Stalin's NKVD killed or exiled thousands of Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who resisted the takeover and subjugation. If not murdered outright, tens of thousands of Baltic citizens were rounded up and loaded into railroad cars to be shipped to distant regions of the Soviet Union. The current president of Estonia, for instance, grew up in Siberia. The President of Latvia, whom I recently had the pleasure of meeting, grew up in a refugee camp in Germany where her family had fled from the Soviet incursion. Almost 300,000 Lithuanians were deported to Siberia in the

1940s and 1950s. Those Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians who remained in their homelands saw their native languages and cultures denigrated in favor of Soviet "culture" and linguistic "Russification."

Among the political prisoners in the post-Stalin GULAG, the Balts were well represented. We still remember the names of Baltic political prisoners such as Mart Niklus, Gunars Astra, and Nijole Sadunaite, and many others willing to sacrifice their freedom and, in some cases, give their lives to resist Soviet oppression of their homelands.

But the Soviet system was doomed and the people of the Baltic nations knew it. "Glasnost" and "perestroika" gave them the opportunity to resolutely, but peacefully, work to regain their independence. In August 1989, on the 50th anniversary of the Molotov-Ribbentrop agreement, about one million Balts created a human chain the "Baltic Way," stretching about 400 miles from Estonia, through Latvia, to Lithuania to protest Soviet rule over their nations. Two years later, after a bloody but ultimately fruitless attempt by Moscow to regain armed control over its unruly subjects, the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania had regained the independence they had dreamed of for so long.

And now, ten years after that momentous event, the Baltic nations are again sovereign nations, respected members of the international community. Their David-and-Goliath struggle is an inspiration to enslaved peoples everywhere.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I am joined by Mr. HOYER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, in submitting a resolution which congratulates the people of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the restoration of their full independence. This resolution also calls upon the United States Government to continue the close and mutually beneficial relations with these countries that have existed since the restoration of full independence.

I hope my colleagues will join us in supporting this resolution.

TRIBUTE TO STETSON UNIVERSITY

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2001

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, as the State of Florida recently celebrated its 156th anniversary, Stetson University and President H. Douglas Lee, along with the Dean Gary Vauss of the School of Law, recognized the occasion by hosting an event attended by Floridians in Washington, D.C.

Stetson University was founded in 1883 with a population of only 13 students. It established Florida's first professional schools in Business, Law and Music.

The University, with 2,491 students and a student-faculty ratio of 11 to 1, embraces six core values of education: (1) Ethical Decisions, (2) Religious and Spiritual Life, (3) Environmental Responsibility, (4) Diversity and Global Awareness, (5) Community Service

and (6) Gender Equality. The School of Law, with 708 students and a student-faculty ratio of 18 to 1, has established centers of excellence in Advocacy, Elder Law, Dispute Resolution Health Law and Litigation Ethics. It also ranks in the top three of accredited Law Schools in the United States for Trial Advocacy.

I am pleased and honored to represent Stetson University, which lies within the Seventh Congressional District, in DeLand Florida. I am also delighted that the School of Law, which is located in the Tenth Congressional District, in St. Petersburg, Florida, is represented by my friend and colleague Representative C.W. Bill Young.

Finally Mr. Speaker, the attendees of the State of Florida anniversary event received a copy of the March 15, 1845, edition of the St. Augustine Newspaper which detailed the Congressional action that confirmed Florida as America's 27th State. Some of the advice given by the editor in the article, to give us your "good, tried and honest men" who will lay "party feelings . . . aside" to represent the new state, should be equally important today.

I submit for the RECORD the article from the March 15, 1845, edition of The News of St. Augustine, Florida.

THE STATE OF FLORIDA

The Bill for the admission of the State of Florida into the Union has passed Congress. The day of trial has come, and the people will soon feel the full benefits arising from the change and from the visits of the tax collector. The die is cast, and all, who have opposed State Government, must submit. They can support the burdens of a State as well as those, who have heretofore been most clamorous for it. In many instances, the personal interests of those, who have opposed our admission at this time, will probably be promoted by the change. They resisted it not from personal considerations, but because they entertained the sincere conviction, that the interests of Florida and its prosperity would be injuriously affected by it. Such is their belief still. But the measure has been brought about despite of their opposition. With others rests the responsibility, whatever the result.

Now it is the duty of all to adapt themselves to the new order of things, and to make the most of it. All should unite in organizing the new government in the best and most economical manner. The intelligence and the integrity of the whole Territory should be sought out and employed in putting the government in motion. Much, very much of the future prosperity and greatness of the country will depend on our action now. More than the mere party politicians is needed at this time. The occasion requires those, who have made our free institutions and the science of government their study. A direction and an impulse are now to be given to the machinery of our institutions. Much nearly everything depends on a right commencement. To do this, the mind of the country must be put in requisition. Good, tried and intelligent men must be sent to the Legislature. Party feeling should be laid aside. Partialities and prejudices should be sacrificed to the good of the country. The inquiry should be, who can lend the most efficient aid in imparting the right impulse to our State Government. By no other consideration should any be influenced. At the first session of the Legislature, Officers are to be selected, and their salaries determined;