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EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
BIRTHDAY OF DR. ANDREI  
SAKHAROV

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the 80th anniversary of the birth of the late Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov, one of the truly great figures in the struggle for human rights in the 20th century. On May 21 of this year, Dr. Sakharov would have celebrated his 80th birthday.

A brilliant physicist, Dr. Andrei Sakharov enjoyed the respect of his colleagues and the material privileges provided by Soviet officialdom for his work in helping to develop the Soviet atomic bomb. He could easily have continued to enjoy his elevated status in Soviet society, but his conscience would not permit it. He became deeply convinced that the arms race was pointless and a threat to mankind. When he protested privately to Soviet authorities, he was ignored. In 1968, Dr. Sakharov circulated his groundbreaking essay entitled, "Thoughts on Progress, Peaceful Co-Existence and Intellectual Freedom," in which he drew the connection between human rights and international security. For this challenge to the system, he was barred from military research, and when he continued to protest, he was fired from his work. In 1975, Dr. Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but Soviet authorities would not allow him to travel to Oslo to receive the award. In January 1980, without any legal procedure, let alone a trial, Dr. Sakharov was picked up on the streets of Moscow by KGB agents and spirited off to exile in the city of Gorky.

At the same time, the Kremlin, under the leadership of former KGB chairman Yuri Andropov, launched a crackdown on Soviet dissidents. In 1984, Dr. Sakharov's wife, Dr. Elena Bonner, was convicted of "defaming the Soviet political and social system" and sentenced to join him in exile.

Even in these dark hours, Dr. Sakharov, continued to speak out against the war being carried out by Soviet forces in Afghanistan, to defend persecuted human rights activists in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and to address vital issues of disarmament and peace. On three occasions, Dr. Sakharov went on a hunger strike to protest the mistreatment of his friends and colleagues in the human rights movement. During his confinement, his notes and his manuscripts were stolen from him by KGB thugs. President Reagan declared his sixtieth birthday, May 21, 1980, "Andrei Sakharov Day."

In December 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev lifted Dr. Sakharov's exile and "in-

vised" him to return to Moscow. In 1989, Dr. Sakharov was elected to the Congress of People Deputies, an organization that had previously been the rubber stamp legislature for the Soviet Union. In the short time that he served, Dr. Sakharov joined a handful of other elected leaders to press for real reforms in the Soviet Union. On December 14, 1989, the world was saddened to learn of this great man's death.

In its coverage of "the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century," Time magazine noted that, "By the time of his death in 1989, this humble physicist had influenced the spread of democratic ideals throughout the communist world. His moral challenge to tyranny, his faith in the individual and the power of reason, his courage in the face of denunciation and, finally, house arrest—made him a hero to ordinary citizens everywhere."

Although Andrei Sakharov has passed on and the Soviet Union is no more, the issues that he and his colleagues confronted still challenge us today. "Small wars," like the bloody conflict in Chechnya, have replaced the big Cold War. Human rights continue to be violated. Arms control and security issues are high on the agenda.

Several years ago, Dr. Bonner bequeathed Dr. Sakharov's papers to an American university bearing the name of one of our country's greatest jurists—Justice Louis Brandeis. This is a priceless gift not only to Brandeis, but to our entire nation. A generation of young people who have grown up since the fall of the Soviet Union, will be able to study Dr. Sakharov's writings on civic responsibility, non-violence, ethnic and religious intolerance, and other aspects of human rights and what we now call the human dimension.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Andrei Sakharov, I urge Americans young and old to acquaint themselves with Dr. Sakharov's struggle for peace and human dignity, and to support educational efforts such as the Sakharov archive at Brandeis to preserve the legacy of an intellectual and humanitarian giant of the 20th century.

THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS  
ARREST FATHER NGUYEN VAN,  
A NEW ROUND OF RELIGIOUS  
PERSECUTION IN VIETNAM

**HON. DANA ROHRBACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Vietnamese communist authorities arrested a highly respected Catholic priest Father Nguyen Van Ly, a former Amnesty International "prisoner of conscience," accusing him of fomenting unrest against the government. Father Ly was detained in his parish of Phu An, near Hue, under a criminal law for failing to obey surveillance rules and agitating followers to cause public disorder.

"He was arrested for spreading propaganda against the government," said a spokesman for the secret police of Phu An commune. The propaganda charges Ly faces carry penalties of 10 to 12 years in prison. A longtime critic

of the government, Ly has previously spent nearly 10 years in prison.

On Wednesday, Ly led a religious service of about 150 people in which police said he distributed leaflets. The government said the leaflets were anti-communist. Ly, 54, had previously been under heavy police surveillance and in March was denounced by official media as a "traitor" for urging the United States to link religious freedom to ratification of a bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam. "(Ly) continued to carry out behavior that affected public security and obstructed production and normal life of the people," the spokesman said.

Father Ly's arrest came amid growing criticism of Hanoi for persecution of religious groups—Christians, Buddhists and, Cao Dai. Ly's detention coincided with a report that a dissident Buddhist leader, Thich Quang Do, was summoned for questioning in Ho Chi Minh City. The Paris-based International Buddhist Information Bureau said that 73-year-old Thich Quang Do received a summons demanding he appear before a Communist kangaroo court tomorrow to explain "a number of wrongful acts" he has recently committed." The move could be related to Do's recent letter to the Vietnamese leadership in which he called for the release of another dissident monk, the group said. Do is the second-highest monk in the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. The movement's patriarch, Thich Huyen Quang, 83, has been imprisoned for 19 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Hanoi regime insists it grants full religious freedom to its citizens. This is a blatant lie. Given the simultaneous mass persecution of our former allies, the Montagnard tribes people in Vietnam's Central Highlands, this body should link an end to religious and ethnic persecution to the ratification of the bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Vietnam. I also call on the United States embassy in Hanoi to aggressively make every possible effort to demand the release of Father Ly and an end to religious persecution and rampant human rights abuses in Vietnam.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Biotechnology Week, to commend the biotechnology community for its many contributions to science, healthcare, and technology.

Biotechnology has contributed enormously to the success of the United States as the global leader in research and international commerce. It will unquestionably be an important vehicle for high-tech job creation throughout the 21st century.

Today, biotechnology is widely used in many fields, including agriculture, food processing, and energy production. It has been largely responsible for improving quality of life all around the globe through its utilization in water quality protection, conservation of topsoil, and improvement of waste management

techniques. Through its many innovations in pharmaceuticals from penicillin to AIDS drugs, biotechnology has paved the way for finding cures to many of the world's devastating diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank the biotechnology community for its many contributions to our nation and the world.

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TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM RECHLIN

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. William Rechlin upon his retirement from his position of City Manager of Berkley, Michigan.

Mr. Rechlin has been a public servant in Michigan for the past four decades. Beginning as a police officer in Dearborn in 1958, he then served as lieutenant, sergeant and police chief of Westland.

Mr. Rechlin came to Berkley after his Westland service, and assumed the position of Director of Public Safety. After ten years, he was named City Manager, a position he held for four and one-half years. William is highly respected throughout law enforcement and by his peers as a City Manager.

Throughout his career, Bill has been an effective worker, diligent, caring, and a man "in charge." Mayor John Mark Mooney said, "Rechlin has filled the job so thoroughly the last four years, it will be difficult to choose a replacement."

Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed my many opportunities to work with Bill Rechlin, a truly fine gentleman and a consummate professional. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing William Rechlin a happy and healthy retirement. He will be missed.

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KEEPING OUR PROMISE TO  
SPECIAL EDUCATION ACT OF 2001

**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, or IDEA.

Improving special education is on the minds of millions of Americans. Our Governors, school boards, education professionals, and families of children with disabilities identify full funding for special education as their number-one priority.

The nearly six-and-a-half million students with disabilities have a right to a free and appropriate public education. They deserve to participate in the American dream.

Today this Congress has an opportunity to help these students fulfill that dream. I am pleased to introduce the "Keeping Our Promise to Special Education Act of 2001" to provide for mandatory increases in special education funding each of the next ten years. My effort sets the course to achieve full funding for Part B of IDEA by fiscal year 2011.

The enactment of this bill will give relief to school districts, resources to teachers, hope to parents, and opportunities to children with disabilities. It will free up State and local funds to be spent on such things as better pay for teachers, more professional development, richer and more diverse curricula, smaller class sizes, making needed renovations to buildings, and addressing other needs of individual schools. To me, fully funding IDEA will provide the ultimate in local educational flexibility.

I am proud to say that the Keeping Our Promise to Special Education Act has received the support of the National Education Association, the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Incorporated.

Mr. Speaker, twenty-six years ago, Congress made a commitment to fully fund the Federal Government's share of special education costs. If in this era of economic prosperity and unprecedented budgetary surpluses we cannot meet this commitment, when will we keep this pledge?

School districts in the Second District of Connecticut and other congressional districts are demanding financial relief. Children's needs must be met. Parents expect accountability. There is no better way to touch a school, help a child, or support a family than to commit more spending for special education.

It is time to fulfill our promise. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Keeping Our Promise to Special Education Act.

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CONGRATULATION ON TAIWAN  
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN'S  
FIRST ANNIVERSARY IN OFFICE

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the people in the Republic of China on Taiwan will be celebrating President Chen Shui-bian's first anniversary in office on May 20, 2001.

President Chen Shui-bian won his presidential election last year and in the last 12 months, he has shown the world his steady leadership at home and abroad. He has continued the social and economic programs of his predecessor and convinced the world of his intention to seek better relations with the Chinese mainland and maintain good relations with allies and friends abroad. He has done an excellent job for the people of Taiwan.

Taiwan has become one of our nation's largest trading partners and continues to grow in that capacity to the benefit of both the people of the United States of America and Taiwan. Trade between the United States and Taiwan totaled \$64.9 billion in 2000, up 19.4 percent from 1999. Last year, Taiwan's imports from the United States grew by 27.4 percent to \$24.2 billion. It is hard to believe that just fifty years ago, the per capita GNP in Taiwan was \$150. Today, Taiwan is the world's 17th largest economy and Taiwan's vigorous

trade with foreign countries has given the people of Taiwan a much higher standard of living. The great strides Taiwan has made economically are an admirable tribute to Taiwanese people and their democratic leaders. I particularly thank President Chen Shui-bian in continuing to lead Taiwan in that tradition.

On his first anniversary in office, I wish President Chen Shui-bian every success in leading his country and his people to ever greater economic heights at home and international recognition abroad. Also, I am delighted to see that as he travels to Central America this month, he will be making a transit stop in New York City. I welcome President Chen to the United States and wish him the best in leading Taiwan in continued prosperity.

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IN HONOR OF JAMES LARGE, JR.

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor James Large Jr., who has served as Acting President of the Wildlife Conservation Society and distinguished himself as a virtuous leader in business and philanthropy and, most importantly, as a citizen dedicated to conserving the natural heritage of his local as well as global communities.

For more than a year, and for what was offered as a temporary and part-time assignment, James Large has devoted 12-hour work days, restless nights, early mornings along with the whole of his intellect, heart and spirit to leading the Wildlife Conservation Society into the 21st century. Under his stewardship, the Wildlife Conservation Society's celebrated wildlife parks inspired more than 4.5 million visitors to care about wildlife and wild lands and to participate in their conservation, managed field projects in living landscapes around the world, and developed award-winning environmental education programs for schools across the United States and abroad.

Jim's role as Acting President will soon be coming to an end. I congratulate him on a job well done, and wish him and his wife, Carol, well on the journey that lies ahead. He will no doubt continue to serve his community with diligence, honesty and devotion and remain steadfast to his commitment to conserve the beauty, bounty, and wonder of nature.

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RAILROAD HEROES

**HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 17, 2001*

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my constituents in the Fourth Congressional District, I want to honor the heroes who stopped the runaway train in northwestern Ohio on Tuesday.

The entire nation saw the courage of Jon Hosfeld, Jess Knowlton, and Terry Forson as they slowed and then stopped a 47-car train whose cargo included a dangerous chemical.