

development at Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena.

Adele was the Director of the Foothill Developmental School, a non-profit pre-school that provided special services for disabled and non-disabled children in Monrovia, California. During the 1990s, she developed and implemented a curriculum for the Union Bank Child Care Center, one of the first centers in the San Gabriel Valley area to provide on-site childcare to its employees. In 1999, Adele became a Field Representative for then State Senator HILDA SOLIS, continuing on as a Field Representative and Caseworker, then District Director for Congresswoman SOLIS. In that capacity, Adele advocated for children, families, women, immigrants, senior citizens, veterans, and other constituents that needed federal assistance.

Ms. Andrade-Stadler's volunteer record in education is truly impressive. She has been in the Alhambra Parent Teacher Association (PTA) for nearly ten years, serving as PTA Council President. She has volunteered in the Alhambra Unified School District, at the Methodist Cooperative Preschool, and has been a long-time Sierra Club member and volunteer. Adele was a key organizer for the Alhambra School Bond Measures A and AA and led and coordinated the School Traffic Safety Plan at Fremont Elementary School. Currently, she is an advisor to the School Site Title I Council and Chair of the Traffic Commission for the City of Alhambra. In 2004, Adele was elected to the Alhambra Unified School Board.

I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an outstanding woman of California's 29th Congressional District, Adele Andrade-Stadler. The entire community joins me in thanking Adele for her success and continued efforts toward making the 29th Congressional District a more enjoyable place in which to live and work.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF JACK HOLMES THOMAS, SR.

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, Jack Holmes Thomas Sr. passed away after a short battle with acute leukemia at age 80. Jack was a man of God who served his family, community and country honorably and with distinction and I take this opportunity to remember his life.

Born on January 10, 1925 in Natchez, Mississippi, Jack was the husband of Helen Putt Thomas and the father of two sons: Jack H. Thomas Jr. and Robert Bryan Thomas. He had five grandchildren: Chris, Mallory, Chase, Tiffany and Heather.

Jack was part of "the greatest generation" and served in the US Marine Corps in World War II where he earned the Purple Heart. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1951 with a bachelor of science in agricultural education and served the US Department of Agriculture for thirty-three years before retiring.

Jack was a past president of the Mississippi Federation of the National Association of Re-

tired Federal Employees, an active life member of the Elk Lodge, a past president of the Starkville Shriners Club, and a strong Mississippi State University supporter and avid Bulldog fan.

Jack was a faithful member and deacon of First Baptist Church of Starkville and taught Sunday school and discipleship training while in Oklahoma.

Mr. Speaker, Jack Thomas has long been a blessing to his family and friends, but one that was felt beyond those people in the community at large. We mourn his passing, but we celebrate his life.

DEEPENING OUR RELATIONS WITH KAZAKHSTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the current situation in our world prompts the United States to seek and deepen relations with countries who share our principles and values, one such country is the Republic of Kazakhstan.

In the course of its development, Kazakhstan has achieved tremendous results despite some ups and downs. In fact, the people of Kazakhstan have gained long awaited freedom thirteen years ago and have chosen the right path consistently moving towards their ultimate goal of building a democratic and civil society with a strong market economy. The recent state of the nation address by President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan is strong proof of that.

I have read this document and must note that it is indeed a milestone for the country. It provides an outstanding description of the state and perspectives of the development of Kazakhstan's society. It is a comprehensive address which I kindly ask, Mr. Speaker, to submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for those of my colleagues who follow the development of this young and promising country. Let me mention a few highlights.

It is amazing how this country, which for many years existed under a totalitarian regime without any idea of market reforms has managed to achieve tremendous results in a very short period. Average income has grown almost fivefold during the last ten years, monthly salaries have increased by about 6 times, the minimum wage has gone up 25 times, average monthly pensions have increased by 4.6 times, and personal and average per capita bank deposits by 35 and 37 times. Compared to 2003, state expenditures on guaranteed free health care have risen 1.7 times. The most impressive part of the message is the massive social component of the Kazakh leader's program aimed at significant improvement of wellbeing of all levels of society, especially the poor, elderly, disabled and children.

The President's annual address also reflects the desire of a young nation to become a bulwark of democracy in a vitally important region. Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, Kazakhstan has become a leader in promoting political and democratic transformations in the post Soviet

states. Most importantly, Kazakhstan is not going to stop half way to this goal, but is eager to deepen this process based on Western standards of democracy. I support President Nazarbayev's initiative to create a National Program of Political Reforms in which the key player will be the people. I strongly believe that the evolution of Kazakh society inevitably will lead to a triumph of democracy. It is dictated by the will and aspirations of the people. I also agree with President Nazarbayev when he said that today "Kazakhstan is regarded in the world as a regional power possessing a strong economy and a solid position in the international community".

I congratulate the people and the Government of Kazakhstan for their achievements and am sincerely happy for them.

I am very glad that the United States has been instrumental in aiding the development of Kazakhstan. Our bilateral relations have gained the status of a strategic partnership. I am absolutely convinced successful cooperation between the U.S. and Kazakhstan is the cornerstone of stability in a crucial region and it is in the interest of both our countries and the world as a whole.

Today, it is vital for America to demonstrate its gratitude to the people of Kazakhstan who stood side by side with us after 9/11 and is today living up to its commitment in helping to build a free Iraq. I urge my colleagues and the administration to render them assistance and support their endeavors to be among the truly democratic countries of the world.

CONGRATULATING MRS. MARIETTA MURRAY URQUHART ON RECEIPT OF THE MOBILE CITY COUNCIL OF BETA SIGMA PI INTERNATIONAL SORORITY'S 2004 "FIRST LADY OF THE YEAR" AWARD

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and pleasure that I rise to honor Mrs. Marietta Murray Urquhart on the occasion of her being honored by the Mobile City Council of Beta Sigma Pi International Sorority with the organization's 2004 "First Lady of the Year" Award.

Beta Sigma Pi International Sorority was founded in 1931 for the purpose of providing women with opportunities for community service and as an outlet for cultural and social activities. Seven local chapters of the organization are currently active in Mobile, and since 1945 one woman has been selected each year for the "First Lady of the Year" Award. This honor is bestowed to an individual based on her contributions to the business, cultural, and civic life of the community.

Mrs. Urquhart has been a distinguished and active member of the Mobile, Alabama, community for over two decades. In 1982, she and her husband, Bill, chose to make Mobile their home upon Bill's completion of medical school and his residency. Almost immediately, she