

one would tell the true story of a suffering people. But there were idealists who never forgot the Albanian people and found ways to expose the regimes' sins. I rise today to pay tribute to two such idealists who have been ignored in our hastiness to absolve all former communists if they would just declare themselves democrats, no questions asked. I must refer to two such individuals with unbound idealism, one whom lives among us, the other made the ultimate sacrifice. They are the Stavrou brothers, Gregory and Nikolaos.

Gregory, at age 23 assumed risky intelligence missions into Albania for the Greek service. In his last mission, aimed at restoring a vital network that the British traitor Kim Philby betrayed he, too, was betrayed, captured, tortured, tried before a military tribunal and executed on September 3, 1953. It appears he was Philby's last victim in Albania. I am told that Gregory's last words to the military judges were, "I will do it again, if I have another chance." His heroism gave hope to the Albanian people that they were not forgotten. For his bravery, Gregory was posthumously decorated by Decree of the Greek Government on September 19, 1991 with the Medal of Exceptional Deeds for his courage and unparalleled heroism."

Dr. Nikolaos A. Stavrou, his brother and prominent professor in International Affairs at Howard University continued his brother's work by other means. His testimony before committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and his appearance before the U.N. Commission on Human Rights earned him the wrath of the Hoxha regime. Dr. Stavrou was among the few scholars in the West who regularly exposed Albanian atrocities and Hoxha's vast gulag. His articles appeared in the Washington Post, Outlook Section, the Manchester Guardian, To Vema (Greece), Borba (Yugoslavia), The World and I, World Affairs, and many other journals. For 12 years, he was the analyst of Albanian Affairs for the Hoover Institution's Annual Review of World Communist Movement. He annoyed the Tirana regime so badly that it condemned him to death in absentia.

For 15 years since the collapse of the Albanian Communist regime, Dr. Stavrou sought quietly the help of the Albanian Government to locate, exhume and retrieve Gregory's remains and give him a decent funeral. He approached this truly human tragedy quietly and away from public fanfare and nationalistic overtones until now. Two Albanian Prime Ministers and a Speaker of the Albanian parliament promised him to conduct an inquiry into his brother's death but ultimately nothing came of it. As an American citizen, Dr. Stavrou sought the help of the State Department and again was disappointed. Though he never gave up searching for his brother, he was stymied in every step of the way. The evidence is overwhelming yet the Albanian Government has been less than forthcoming in helping Professor Stavrou honor a hero of the Cold War who happened to be his brother. I have also called upon our Department of State to use its good offices with the Albanian Government and to solve a humanitarian issue but never received a satisfactory answer. The least we can do is honor this family for the sacrifice they made for freedom. I am among those who consistently supported the cause of the Albanian peoples to gain their freedom and develop their country. However, our sup-

port should not be taken for granted. I hope the government of Prime Minister Berisha would be more respectful of those who gave their lives for freedom.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO KELSEY
MARTINEZ

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kelsey Martinez of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Martinez has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Martinez has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Kelsey Martinez, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS
THAT THERE SHOULD BE
ESTABLISHED A LET'S ALL
PLAY DAY

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Rhode Island, Mr. LANGEVIN for his leadership on this bill. As cosponsor, I also want to express my strong support for children of all abilities to have environments where they can learn and play together.

As the father of three, I understand that play is essential to healthy childhood development. Play inspires thinking, imagination, problem-solving and creates learning opportunities that can't be found in the classroom. Playgrounds are where children can play, learn and understand the world around them. Unfortunately, in many cases, the design of traditional playground isolates children with disabilities from playing, learning and sharing with their peers.

Today, we are introducing legislation that recognizes that all children should have equal access and equal opportunity to play together on barrier-free, inclusive playgrounds. This bill would express the sense of Congress that a "Let's All Play Day" should be established for all children, including the estimated 6 million children in the United States with a disability that make it hard or impossible to enjoy traditional playgrounds.

As we discuss the importance of play for all children, I want to take a moment to recognize the work of the National Center for Boundless Playgrounds. The National Center for Boundless Playgrounds is a champion in bringing the joy of play to all children with and without disabilities. Formed in 1997 and located in the town of Bloomfield in the First Congressional District, Boundless Playgrounds in collabora-

tion with Hasbro, Inc. and GameTime has helped communities in 21 states create more than 100 extraordinary "boundless" barrier-free playgrounds. I want to thank the Center for their tireless work and dedication in the state of Connecticut and across the country on behalf of all children.

Mr. Speaker, as children with and without disabilities learn together in classroom, we should encourage their learning together outside on the playground. I encourage my colleagues and communities across the country to join me and Congressman LANGEVIN in celebrating the joy of play for all children, with all abilities, in every community.

HONORING SAM SMITHSON ON HIS
BIRTHDAY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to rise today to honor Mr. Sam Smithson on his 94th birthday and to thank him for his dedication and service to our country.

Born in Williamson County, Tennessee on October 4, 1912, Mr. Smithson was inducted into the Army as a Private First Class in December of 1942.

He fought bravely in major battles across Normandy, northern France, the Rhineland, and in the Ardennes as a member of B Company, 612th Tank Destroyer Battalion. On December 17, 1944, Pfc. Smithson was captured by German forces and sent to a prisoner-of-war camp, Stalag XIII-C, deep within Germany.

After living in captivity under brutal conditions for nearly six months, the camp was liberated by Allied Forces on April 28, 1945. Mr. Smithson's heroism and determination in the face of adversity earned him a promotion to Corporal upon his discharge from the Army in October 1945.

Mr. Smithson and his late wife Fronie were married for 69 years and had one son, Sam Smithson, Jr. On Saturday, September 30th, Mr. Smithson's family and friends will gather to celebrate his 94th birthday.

Sam's story is the American story. It's a testament to the determination and love of country that has kept us free for more than two centuries now. It's because of men like Sam that the American Dream lives. We thank God for his service to America, and it's right that we take time to reflect on his life and celebrate his 94th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our thanks to Mr. Smithson for his service to our nation and our best wishes as he celebrates his birthday.

REGARDING HIV/AIDS AND
AFRICAN AMERICANS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the crisis of HIV/AIDS among African Americans.

There are currently more than 68,000 Texans living with the disease.

Americans should be reminded that HIV/AIDS does not discriminate when it comes to who can catch the disease. In fact, HIV is taking a devastating and disproportionate toll on people of color.

Among women living with HIV in Texas in 2005: 19 percent are White, 18 percent are Hispanic, and over 60 percent are African American.

The Congressional Black Caucus will continue to lead the HIV/AIDS fight in Congress and support programs that are making progress against this devastating disease.

We can and must all do more. Governments, corporations, foundations, religious groups and private citizens must unite to win the war on AIDS.

There is no other moral or practical choice.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE
MIKE THOMAS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen policeman from Colorado, Mike Thomas.

This week thousands of Coloradans paid their respects to Detective Thomas, who was killed earlier this month while waiting at a stoplight. According to reports, officers came from as far away as Canada to pay their respects.

Mr. Thomas was a longtime dedicated public servant. He spent more than two decades serving the community as a policeman, and like his father Delbert, was an Air Force veteran. He will be sorely missed.

I was particularly moved by an account I read in The Denver Post about Mr. Thomas recounted by police Captain Jerry Hinkle. Hinkle told those gathered at the funeral about a card the department had received from a well-wisher named "George" after news of Mike Thomas' tragic death. In the card, George wrote about how when he was a teenage gang member whose future prospects looked bleak, he encountered Mr. Thomas. Thomas pulled up to the boy in his squad car, Hinkle said, and told him to get in. The two talked, and today George is the owner of a successful security company.

Mr. Speaker, all Coloradans owe a great debt of gratitude to Mike Thomas, and all of the men and women of law enforcement who risk their lives each day to guarantee our safety.

He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

HONORING FIRST BAPTIST
CHURCH OF CLARKSVILLE ON 175
YEARS OF WORSHIP

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege for me today to take a moment and

honor a community of people in Clarksville, Tennessee. The First Baptist Church in Clarksville is celebrating a remarkable 175 years of worship and that's an achievement we ought to all applaud.

With a history of faithful and dynamic leadership, the First Baptist congregation has blessed the community of Clarksville with their ministry and prayer. Pastor Roger Freeman continues this legacy of good works through faith as the current Senior Pastor of First Baptist.

From an active Senior Adult Ministry to a tremendous Preschool Ministry, the church is making our community a better place every day. With strength and faith, the congregation reaches out to the community of Clarksville and offers many a beacon of hope and comfort.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Pastor Freeman and the congregation of First Baptist Church of Clarksville for their continued ministry and with them all the best for another 175 years of dedication to the Lord.

RECOGNIZING JIMMY SEEMAN OF
DADE CITY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the amazing achievements of Jimmy Seeman of Dade City, Florida. Already exhibiting an entrepreneurial spirit at the age of 17, Jimmy runs his own 40-acre nursery, Gardens Wholesale Nursery.

Jimmy began to take an active interest in the agricultural field at the age of 13 while working alongside his father at his lawn maintenance business. Starting by growing a few plants on the side, Jimmy eventually expanded his operation and opened his own nursery. Today Gardens Wholesale Nursery includes several employees and 40-acres of plantable land.

Showing an amazing drive for personal growth, Jimmy has taken it upon himself to learn Spanish to better communicate with many of his employees, often waking at 3 a.m. to study and practice his Spanish. Jimmy has also taught himself to fix computers and install irrigation.

With the support of his parents, Cathy and Jimmy, and his two brothers, Michael and Jacob, Jimmy has shown that neither age nor experience are required to be an accomplished businessman. Through hard work and dedication Jimmy has proven to his family and friends that he is well on his way to achieving remarkable success in his chosen field.

Mr. Speaker, it is young men and women like Jimmy Seeman that should be congratulated for contributing to the American Entrepreneurial spirit. I look forward to following Jimmy's career as he runs Gardens Wholesale Nursery and wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, if I had been present to vote on Monday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 26, 2006, I would have voted in the following way:

Yes—H.R. 5059—New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006

Yes—H.R. 5062—New Hampshire Wilderness Act of 2006

No—H.R. 5092—Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE) Modernization and Reform Act of 2006

No—H.R. 4772—Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2006

Yes—H. Res. 989—Commending the United Kingdom for its efforts in the War on Terror, and for other purposes

Yes—H. Res. 1017—Affirming support for the sovereignty and security of Lebanon and the Lebanese people

Yes—H. Res. 1038—Rule providing for H.R. 2679—Public Expression of Religion Act

Yes—H. Res. 1039—Rule providing for S. 403—Child Custody Protection Act

No—S. 403—Child Custody Protection Act

Yes—H. Res. 723—Calling on the President to take immediate steps to help improve the security situation in Darfur, Sudan, with a specific emphasis on civilian protection

Yes—H. Res. 992—Urging the President to appoint a Special Envoy for Sudan

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF
HEALTH REFORM ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2006

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this Congress to redouble its efforts in the fight against cancer.

Over 33,000 people in my home state of Massachusetts will be diagnosed with some form of cancer this year.

I recently met with a number of constituents about the importance of increased funding for cancer research. One of my constituents, Judith Hurley, shared her cancer story with me. After extreme weight loss and extensive testing, Judith was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, which had spread to her bones. Judith endured a variety of treatments, and made one thing clear to her doctors: she was not through raising her children.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that in July, Judith became a 5-year cancer survivor.

Another one of my constituents, Sue Tereshko is a two-time breast cancer survivor.

Mr. Speaker, constituents like Judith and Sue are the beneficiaries of advances in cancer treatment.

Congress must do more to fund cancer research and treatment programs.

First, we should pass the National Institutes of Health Reform Act of 2006, which authorizes a 5% increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Congress must also appropriate a 5% increase for the NIH in the