Program; and the National Park and Recreation Association, with a 'Commemorative Citiation' in recognition of outstanding leadership and volunteerism to the parks and recreation movement and to advancing the quality of life in her community.

Furthermore, Marge has been a key figure in the formation of the Halloran Advisory Board—a board that contains both community and civic minded individuals, who share the interest of the positive delivery of services to the community of Halloran Skating Rink.

Along with this tremendous work, and being a wife to the late Dennis Sweeney, Marge has taken great pride in raising her eight lovely children; Dennis, Patty, Brian, Jimmy, Kevin, Shawn, Kelly, and Annie.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring Marge Sweeney for her thirty years of public service to the residents of Cleveland, and for her kindness and generosity that have and will continue to inspire all who cross paths with her.

IN HONOR OF VACLAV HAVEL AND THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHARTER 77

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, this year marks the thirtieth annivesry of the Charter 77 movement. Along with other colleagues from the Helsinki Commission, which I had the privilege of Chairing and Co-Chairing from 1985 to 1994, I rise today to commemorate Charter 77's extraordinary accomplishments, and to praise Vaclav Havel, a founding member of the Charter 77 movement and Czechoslovakia's first President after the fall of communism.

Twenty years ago this month, I led a Congressional delegation to Czechoslovakia—my first trip to that country. At that time, I was assured by Czechoslovak Government officials that Charter 77 was only a small group, and there was no need to have a dialogue with its members. In an apparent effort to underscore their point, the regime detained several Chartists to keep them from meeting with our delegation: Vaclav Havel, Petr Uhl and Jiri Dienstbier were all arrested in Prague; Miklos Duray was prevented from traveling to Prague from Slovakia; and although Petr Puspoki-Nagy made it to Prague, he was also immediately detained on his arrival.

Although I was deprived of the chance to meet these individuals in person, I was already well aware of their work. In fact, the Helsinki Commission's second hearing, held in February 1977, published the full text of the Charter 77 manifesto at the request of one of our witnesses, Mrs. Anna Faltus. We owe a special debt of gratitude to the late Mrs. Faltus, who worked tirelessly for decades as an advocate for a free Czechoslovakia. To this end, she made sure that the documents of Charter 77 and the Committee for the Defense of the Unjustly Persecuted were quickly translated and widely disseminated to policy makers and human rights advocates. Her effort made it possible for the Helsinki Commission to publish (in 1982 and in 1987) selected and representatives texts of the Charter 77 movement.

Looking back, the breadth of those documents is truly remarkably, touching on everything from the legacy of World War II to the country's economic situation; from contemporary music to nuclear energy. But the common thread that bound these diverse statements together was a commitment to promote and protect "the right of the individual to know and act upon his rights." This right was freely adopted by the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic when Gustav Husak fixed his signature to the Helsinki Final Act in 1975.

It was, of course, with great interest that I discussed Charter 77, first with Czechoslovak officials during my February 1987 trip to Prague, then with Czechoslovak parliamentarians visiting Washington in June 1988 (a delegation which included Prague Communist Party boss Miroslav Stepan), and then with the Czechoslovak delegation to the 1989 Paris Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension. In these meetings, as well as in correspondence with the Czechoslovak Ambassador to the United, I was told that Charter 77 didn't represent public opinion. I was warned that siding with Charter 77 would not help bilateral relations, and I was assured that democracy was coming soon to Czechoslovakia—"socialist democracy."

Needless to say, I was not convinced by my interlocutors: I was not convinced that Augustin Navratil was actually being treated for a mental health condition, rather than being persecuted for his religious activism. I was frankly disgusted when the Czechoslovak delegation to the Paris meeting baldly lied about Jiri Wolf, telling us he had been released early from his prison sentence as a "humanitarian" gesture, and then shrugging with indifference when they were caught in their lie. Most of all, I did not believe that Vaclav Havel was a criminal and Charter 77 merely an "insignificant" group.

In fact, in 1989 Senator Dennis DeConcini and I nominated Vaclav Havel for the Nobel Peace Prize. As Senator DeConcini said, "[i]n spite of relentless harassment by the authorities, including imprisonment, repeated detentions, house searches, and confiscation of property, Havel has remained active in the struggle for human rights. . . Havel is now in prison, but he is not alone in his cause. In a dramatic move. . . over 700 of his colleagues—playwrights, producers, artists, and actors—signed a petition calling for his release and the release of others [similarly imprisoned]. For these people, like many others in his country, Vaclav Havel has become a symbol of an enduring and selfless commitment to human rights."

Madam Speaker, on this 30th anniversary of the founding of the Charter 77 movement, I rise to commend and remember the courageous men and women, signatories and supporters, who paved the way for the peaceful transition from communism in Czechoslovakia and restoration of Europe, whole and free. On this anniversary, I give special tribute to Vaclav Havel, playwright and president, and his singular role in leading his country to freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber today. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 100, 101 and 102.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR USE ACT OF 2007

HON. RICK BOUCHER

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing the Freedom And Innovation Revitalizing U.S. Entrepreneurship Act of 2007. Like other bills I have introduced in earlier years, the FAIR USE Act of 2007 is intended to promote innovation, encourage the introduction of new technology, enhance library preservation efforts and protect the fair use rights of consumers.

As more fully described in the attached section-by-section analysis, this bill differs fundamentally from H.R. 107 and H.R. 1201, as proposed in the 108th and 109th Congresses, respectively. For example, the revised bill does not contain the provision which would have established a fair use defense to the act of circumvention. I continue to believe that there should be such an exemption in the law, but content owners have expressed concern that enactment of such a provision could lead to widespread redistribution of audiovisual and other works.

In an effort to address their concerns, I have instead crafted specific exemptions to section 1201 of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act which do not pose a comparable potential threat to their business models. For example, the proposed legislation would codify the decision by the Register of Copyrights, as affirmed in a determination made by the Librarian of Congress under section 1201(a)(1) of the DMCA, to allow consumers to "circumvent" digital locks in six discrete areas. The bill also contains six narrowly crafted additional exemptions that are a natural extension of these exemptions. For example, given the central role that libraries and archives play in our society in ensuring free speech and continuing access to creative works, the bill includes a provision to ensure that they can circumvent a digital lock to preserve or secure a copy of a work or replace a copy that is damaged, deteriorating, lost, or stolen.

The bill contains other new elements. For example, it would limit the availability of statutory damages against individuals and firms who may be found to have engaged in contributory infringement, inducement of infringement, vicarious liability or other indirect infringement. Given the increasing extent to which content companies are on the receiving end of lawsuits, I would hope they would see the value of this element of the bill.

I have more narrowly crafted the provision codifying the Supreme Court's Betamax decision to eliminate any uncertainty about a potential negative impact on the Supreme Court's holding in the Grokster case.