

HONORING MR. BRIAN ABRAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Brian Abram. Mr. Abram served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as a member of the Chautauqua County Legislature, serving district 6.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Abram served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Abram is one of those people and that is why, Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of him today.

HONORING NIC FIORE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Nic Fiore. Mr. Fiore passed away on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at the age of 88. A celebration and tribute to the life of Mr. Fiore and his wife, Midge, will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at the Curry Village Pavilion in Yosemite Valley.

Mr. Nic Fiore was born on December 1, 1920, in Montreal, Canada. He was one of 12 children. After serving in the Canadian Army during World War II, he abandoned his dream of becoming a championship European bike racer and taught skiing in the Laurentian Mountains north of Montreal. In 1947, Mr. Fiore was recruited by Luggi Foeger, then ski school director at Badger Pass. He drove into Yosemite Valley for the first time on December 8, 1947.

Mr. Fiore originally planned on staying only 4 months at the Badger Pass ski area. One ski season became the next and he became more involved in various operations of the park. While teaching skiing in the winter, he worked in the hotels in the park over the summers, including serving as maitre d' of the Ahwahnee Hotel and managing the Glacier Point Lodge and the Wawona Hotel. In 1956, Mr. Fiore was named director of the Badger Pass Ski School, and in 1963 he also began managing Yosemite's five High Sierra camps in the wilderness back country. Mr. Fiore served as the director of the Yosemite's Ski and Snowboard School at Badger Pass ski area for 45 years before assuming the role of "ski ambassador" in 2001.

Early in Mr. Fiore's career, he became concerned with the integrity of ski instructors. In the late 1940s, he joined the newly formed California Ski Instructors Association. Through the organization, he advocated for the creation of a national ski instructors association to promote the quality and consistency of instruc-

tors. In 1961, the Professional Ski Instructors of America was founded. Mr. Fiore remained vigilant in pushing the national organization to maintain high standards for the certification process of ski instructors. He served as executive director of the western division of the Professional Ski Instructors of America for nearly 30 years. For his tremendous service to Badger Pass Mr. Fiore has received various honors; including the prestigious Charlie Proctor Award in 1986 from the Sierra Chapter of the North American Ski Journalist Association.

While well into his 80s, Mr. Fiore skied nearly every day and taught occasional lessons during the 2003–2004 season. It is estimated that in his 50 years with Badger Pass, Mr. Fiore taught 100,000 guests how to ski. In 2004 Mr. Fiore underwent heart surgery and in May 2009 suffered from a stroke. Mr. Fiore was preceded in death by his wife, Midge. He is survived by his two daughters, Cindy and Nicole, as well as eight grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor Nic Fiore. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and wishing the best for his family.

KAZAKHSTAN'S VISION OF A MORE EFFECTIVE OSCE

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 2, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kazakhstan's new role as chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, OSCE. The decision by the OSCE participating states to appoint Kazakhstan as its chair for 2010 marks the first time that a former Soviet state will take on this leadership role. The decision was not without controversy, and I would like to acknowledge the efforts made over the past two decades to establish democracy and a market economy. I look forward to full implementation of the promises of reform made by Kazakhstan at the 2007 OSCE Madrid Ministerial. In a January 2010 video address, President Nazarbayev told the OSCE Permanent Council that, "Kazakhstan as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship is firmly committed to the fundamental principles and values of the OSCE." I welcome and applaud this statement as well as Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's Permanent Council statement that, "further steps in the area of democratization in Kazakhstan will be fully in line with the goals and tasks that we have set ourselves during our Chairmanship."

This month, Kazakhstan Secretary of State–Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev has officially assumed his role as chairman-in-office of the OSCE and I believe he will dedicate his efforts toward realizing Kazakhstan's vision and goals for the OSCE this year. I know Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's objective is to make the organization even more valid, useful, and effective. I commend Kazakhstan's effective preparation for the chairmanship, and welcome the deepening cooperation between Kazakhstan and the U.S. to make the chairmanship a success.

On January 14, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev outlined his country's plan for executing Kazakhstan's strategic vision. In

light of increased threats to international security, including illicit drug trafficking and terrorism, Kazakhstan will focus on preventing conflicts that result in tragedy and disaster. It is important that the United States support these efforts. I also support Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev's intention to continue to focus on the OSCE's human dimension.

One area of focus for Kazakhstan as chairmanship of the OSCE will be to address issues pertinent to the developing situation in Afghanistan. In fact, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev has stated that a principal goal is to help the Afghan people leave behind their militaristic world and develop a lasting peaceful and productive society. To achieve this Kazakhstan has donated \$50 million to a new program which will provide vocational training to 1,000 Afghanis at Kazakh universities. Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev also intends to develop cooperative projects that strengthen the border and improve law enforcement practices, and I support increasing OSCE involvement in this regard.

Beyond the global peril of Afghanistan is the issue of nuclear disarmament. As a former Soviet state, Kazakhstan should be applauded for its decision to eradicate its inherited nuclear arsenal and for its example and leadership in nuclear nonproliferation. With the mantle of OSCE leadership, Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev will work with the OSCE to achieve increased global security.

I commend Kazakhstan for prioritizing the fight against the deplorable and growing concern of human trafficking, particularly that of children. Trafficking has become a major international concern that warrants the attention and cooperation of the OSCE states to develop effective solutions to eliminate such practices.

Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev has also expressed the need for increased tolerance and equality, especially with regard to religion, race, and gender. Various conferences and meetings are already in place to discuss the implementation of previous decisions concerning these areas. I plan to attend at least one of the conferences. And I will encourage colleagues to attend as well.

Finally, as many of my colleagues would agree, energy security remains a critical global concern. Kazakhstan, with its significant oil, gas and mining potential, plays a key role as a reliable energy supplier. The past two years has seen significant challenges to energy supply and distribution in the OSCE region and there is much that the OSCE could be doing to help mediate differences and encourage greater transparency in this area. I am confident that Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev will bring to bear his country's experience and expertise in energy issues to create greater capacity for energy security both politically and institutionally in the OSCE.

I look forward to helping and following the progress of the OSCE under the leadership of Kazakhstan.

The priorities outlined by Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev demonstrate the challenges ahead for the OSCE. I wish Chairman-in-Office Saudabayev and the entire Republic of Kazakhstan well as the OSCE chairmanship. It is my hope that by the close of 2010, we will see Kazakhstan's OSCE leadership manifested through positive outcomes.