

disabilities. She initiated a self-therapy, water-oriented rehabilitation program for herself. After many months, she was able to walk again without crutches and braces.

This personal triumph inspired Evelyn to open her backyard swimming pool to disabled children. After several weeks, the news of Evelyn's invitation spread. Parents, schools, and doctors were bringing children 5 and 6 days a week. As the numbers grew, Evelyn knew that she would have to expand beyond the limitations of her modest pool.

With the support of community and civic leaders, Evelyn founded the Cerritos Communities Pool for the Handicapped, Inc.—a non-profit corporation, now known as the California Pools for the Handicapped, Inc. Today, her organization is an internationally respected leader in aquatic rehabilitation and still maintains its original goals: to heal and comfort those in need, to never turn anyone away, and to never charge for any service.

For Evelyn, there has been no separation between her personal and professional dedication to the disabled. In addition to her commitment to no-cost aquatic rehabilitation therapy, Evelyn adopted 4 disabled children and served as foster mother for 12 more.

Evelyn's concern, commitment, and courage are exceptional. Her ability to take a personal tragedy and turn it into a personal triumph that has benefited thousands stands a model for all. Her life shows what wonderful things can be accomplished when one person seeks to make a personal tragedy into a triumph.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1124,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 24, 1996

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge my colleagues to oppose the fiscal year 1996 Department of Defense [DOD] authorization bill conference report. There are many reasons to defeat this conference report. One of the worst provisions contained in this bill would lead to the immediate discharge of the 1,049 service members infected with HIV, the virus that causes aids.

The Department opposes this provision and does not believe that service members with HIV present a deployment problem. The DOD believes that members with HIV should be treated as any other service members with chronic, possibly fatal, medical conditions, and remain on active duty until such time as they cannot perform their duties.

This provision is discriminatory because it treats people with HIV differently from the way people with other chronic diseases are treated.

Current policy concerning service members who are not eligible for worldwide deployment, such as those with HIV, are sufficient. Service members become ineligible for worldwide deployment due to a number of medical reasons, such as diabetes, asthma, heart disease, cancer, and pregnancy. They still perform very significant duties but are restricted in overseas travel to remain close to adequate medical services.

It is inappropriate to single out individuals with HIV disease for discharge from the Armed Services and in so doing, treat these individuals differently than the military treats other productive service members with chronic illnesses.

The current policy has been in place since the Reagan administration and received the support of senior military officials. The policy is the product of serious analysis and deliberation by the Pentagon of the impact of individuals with HIV disease on military readiness. The Clinton administration has only moved to continue these policies, demonstrating bipartisan support for this approach.

The presence of HIV-infected service members in the military does not adversely affect combat readiness or efficiency. These troops are still physically capable and are valuable to the Armed Services. Adopting this conference report would endorse unacceptable discrimination.

RESIGNATION OF SERGEI
KOVALEV

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I call the attention of my colleagues to one of several deeply disappointing developments in Russia. Deputy Sergei Kovalev, our colleague in the Russian Parliament and longtime human rights activist, resigned his post as head of President Yeltsin's human rights commission earlier this week. Well known to anyone who has followed the course of human rights and democratic development in Russia, Mr. Kovalev was a political prisoner under the Communist regime and he has been highly critical of the Yeltsin government's policies in Chechnya. During the first weeks of the Russian attack on Grozny, the Chechnya capital, Mr. Kovalev bravely travelled to the region to see the facts for himself. For his efforts to stop the killing and terrorizing of both Chechens and Russians, he was roundly condemned and even threatened by fervent Russian nationalists.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kovalev's resignation comes at a time when President Yeltsin appears to be casting off the last of his democratic orientation and throwing in his lot with rapid nationalists, allegedly reformed Communists, and cabinet cronies. Though he talks a reform line, President Yeltsin's actions demonstrate otherwise. In his resignation letter, Sergei Kovalev charges that President Yeltsin's government is "trying to run the country in a direction completely contrary to the one proclaimed in August 1991." This is a very disturbing course for Russia, for its neighbors, and for the entire world.

I urge President Yeltsin to return to the path of reform as the only genuine guarantee of peace and justice for Russian people, and Mr. Speaker, I trust the administration is using every appropriate opportunity to make that point to Mr. Yeltsin and his associates.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to have included in the RECORD Sergei Kovalev's letter of resignation to President Yeltsin.

The text of the letter follows, as reprinted in the January 29, 1996 Washington Post.

THE CASE AGAINST YELTSIN

(By Sergei Kovalev)

(From a letter of resignation sent Jan. 24 to Russian President Boris Yeltsin by Sergei Kovalev, who had been chairman of the president's human rights commission since October 1993.)

For the past six years I have considered it my duty to promote in every way possible the policy that can fairly be called the "democratic transformation of Russia" notwithstanding many reservations. For a long time that policy was closely linked with your name. You were the head of a country on the road to democracy, and at first, you were even considered the leader of the democrats. As long as you remained headed in that direction, I considered myself your ally, or, in those instances when you departed from the overall course or drastically allowed the tempo of advance, a member of the loyal opposition.

Russia's road to freedom never promised to be easy. Many difficulties were obvious from the very beginning. Many others cropped up unexpectedly. To overcome them, all of us—the government, society, each individual—had to make complicated and sometimes tragic decisions. The main things the country expected from you were the will to make changes and honesty. Especially honesty. In electing you, Russia saw not only a politician ready to demolish the former state structure, but a person who was sincerely trying to change himself, his views, his prejudices and his habits of rule. You convinced many—myself included—that humane and democratic values could become the foundation of your life, your work and your policies. We weren't blind. We saw the typical traits of a Communist Party secretary preserved in your behavior. But all Russia, like a man striving to overcome a serious defect, was struggling with itself. We understood you even when we did not love you.

In recent years, however, even though you continue to proclaim your undying devotion to democratic ideals, you have it first slowly, and then more and more abruptly, changed the course of government policy. Now your government is trying to turn the country in a direction completely contrary to the one proclaimed in August 1991. . . .

Beginning in late 1993 if not even earlier, you have consistently taken decisions which—instead of strengthening the rule of law in a democratic society—have revived the blunt and inhuman might of a state machine that stands above justice, law and the individual. . . .

During the tragic days of the fall of 1993 [when Yeltsin dissolved the Supreme Soviet], I decided to stand by you despite my serious inner doubts. I don't deny my responsibility for that support. I believed that the use of force was a tragic necessity given the imminent threat of civil war. Even then I understood that the events of October might encourage the top leaders to perceive force as a convenient and familiar instrument for resolving political problems. But I hoped for a different outcome, that by overcoming the crisis of legitimacy and creating a basis for the rule of law in Russia, the president and the government would do everything possible for our country's peaceful and free development. To a very great extent, the outcome depended on you, Boris Nikolaevich. I believed that you would choose the second path. I was wrong.

The 1993 Constitution confers enormous powers on the president, but it also places enormous responsibilities on him to be the guarantor of the rights and liberties of citizens, to safeguard their security and to protect law and order in the country. How have you discharged these duties? How have you fulfilled your responsibilities?

You have virtually halted judicial reform, which was designed to make the administration of justice truly independent from the other branches of government. You openly professed the principle, "Let the innocent suffer as long as the guilty are punished."

You loudly proclaimed the launching of a war on organized crime. In order to implement this, you granted exceptional, extralegal authority to the security ministries. The result? The criminals continue to roam freely, while law-abiding citizens have to tolerate the abuse of the uniformed forces without gaining the security they were promised.

You stated that your goal was the preservation and strengthening of the Russian Federation's territorial integrity. The result? A shameful and bungled civil war which has been raging in the North Caucasus for more than a year. Under the guise of strengthening Russia's defense capability, you've blocked all military reforms which would give Russia an effective modern army. The result? Spending on the army is growing, and the number of generals has increased to an indecent figure. In order to justify their existence, the term of service has been increased and draft deferments have been ended. Meanwhile, soldiers and officers are impoverished, ragged and hungry. And the degradation, ill-treatment and corruption, traditional in our army, are as prevalent as ever. Not surprisingly, tens of thousands of young men are evading this medieval recruitment like the plague.

You speak of a policy of openness, of transparency and of public accountability, yet at the same time you sign secret decrees concerning the most important matters of state. You create closed institutions, and you classify as secret ever more information about government operations and the state of the country. Presidential decisions are made almost in the same backroom fashion as in the era of the Politburo. It's no secret that you increasingly depend on the security services and on their system of clandestine information. Isn't it obvious to you how unreliable and tendentious this information is?

The thrust of your personnel policy is becoming clearer with each passing day. At first there were quite a few competent, honorable people around you. But you also enthusiastically welcomed individuals whose only virtue consisted in their personal loyalty to you. Gradually such loyalty has become your primary demand when recruiting staff, just as it was in the heyday of the Community Party. . . .

You began your democratic career as a forceful and energetic crusader against official deceit and party disposition, but you are ending it as the obedient executor of the will of the power-seekers in your entourage. You took an oath to build a government of the people and for the people, but instead you have built a bureaucratic pyramid over the people and against the people. Moreover, having rejected democratic values and principles, you haven't stopped using the word "democracy" so that naive people may well believe that "democrats" remain in power in the Kremlin. Your policies have compromised the very word, and if democracy is fated to someday exist in Russia (and I believe it will), it will exist not because of you, but in spite of you.

PIONEERING DR. DAZELLE
SIMPSON RETIRES

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a native Miamian and the first black pediatrician in Florida, on the occasion of her retirement after 42 years. Dr. Dazelle Simpson has contributed significantly to the Miami community but, she also has been a faithful and active member of the National Medical Association. She has chaired the pediatrics section. She has been honored as outstanding physician by the National Medical Association.

During her lifetime, Dr. Simpson has achieved and recorded many firsts. She was first in her high school, college, medical school, the first black pediatrician in Florida, the first to achieve specialist certification in her field, the first black president of the Greater Miami Pediatrics Society, the first black board of trustees member of a medical school, the first to set up and finance a scholarship fund for black health professional student in Florida and the first alumni association president to raise \$1 million for her school.

As with many strong women, she did this all while maintaining one of the most successful medical practices in the county, raising a family, running a family business, attending to church and community needs, and caring for sick family members.

In tribute to Dr. Simpson, a gala event is planned for Saturday, February 3, 1996. The day of honor will also feature a health symposium cosponsored by Meharry Medical College.

THE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF
THE "CHALLENGER" ACCIDENT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, the names Onizuka, McAuliffe, Jarvis, Resnik, Smith, Scobee, and McNair became a part of this Nation's history. Ten years ago those seven individuals lost their lives in the service for both their country and mankind. Their tragic loss touched us all very deeply and has left an indelible mark on the national psyche of this country.

Today, I pay tribute to those seven men and women in a small way by recognizing their bravery and the memory of their contributions to not only the lives of their friends and family, but to the whole of humanity. These individuals represent the best in all of us and it is in their memory that we should devote ourselves to continuing what they began.

Humans have always possessed an inherent drive to explore and expand their boundaries. Our exploration of space has been important for more reasons than the technological advances and resulting benefits to society; it represents an undeniable part of us all. From the beginning, this country has recognized the importance of space and always taken a leading role in its development and in-

vestigation. While inundated with more earthly concerns such as budget deficits, crime, and international peace, it is often easy to forget our commitment to the enterprise of space and its value to the United States and the international community. In remembering the *Challenger*, let us also take a minute to recall the purpose for which its crew was dedicated.

Let me also thank the families of these American heroes for their continued support of the space program and the efforts to which the *Challenger* Seven dedicated their lives. Nothing we say here today can adequately repay the debt that is owed, or sufficiently express the feelings of sorrow that are universally felt. We can, however, pay those seven souls no greater tribute than to carry on the work in which they believed in and for which they paid the ultimate sacrifice for. It is important that we properly fund this dynamic work for the 21st century and insure that America remains first in space exploration.

HONORING THE WORK AND DEDICATION OF THE TEEN PREGNANCY PREVENTION PROGRAM OF NEW BRITAIN

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise to pay tribute to the work being done by RoseAnne Bilodeau and her staff at the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program of New Britain. There is no question that the dramatic increase in the incidence of teen pregnancy is one of the major causes of poverty amongst women and children. As the director of New Britain's program, Ms. Bilodeau was invited to join President Clinton and Health and Human Services Secretary, Donna Shalala to discuss the President's task force on teen pregnancy prevention and the establishment of public-private partnerships.

The work being done by the dedicated staff of New Britain's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program is exceptional and even in these uncertain times, the program is thriving. The staff and board have demonstrated forward thinking in reaching out to private industry and foundations for funding and in doing so, has captured national recognition and the attention of the President of the United States. I am proud to have such a noteworthy and successful program within my district and will continued to work in support of their efforts to make a positive long term impact on the lives of New Britain's young people.

THE DALLAS COWBOYS:
DOMINATING THE DECADE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 30, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the accomplishments of the Dallas Cowboys, and to nominate them for the unofficial title of "Team of the 90's." Although faced with considerable