As we all know, Yugoslav President Milosevic has maintained his power in Serbia throughout the 1990s through a combination of virulent Serb nationalism and outright oppression.

The violence that occurred in Kosovo was brutal and a dramatic affront to the inhabitants of those environs. He has also tried to silence democratic opponents in Montenegro—the only remaining republic outside Serbia in the Yugoslav Federation. Now, the democratic opposition must be given every incentive to flourish in Serbia and Montenegro.

This bill authorizes as much as $50 million to support democratization of the Republic of Serbia (excluding Kosovo) and $55 million in support of ongoing political and economic reforms and democratization in the Republic of Montenegro.

H.R. 1064 directs the radio and television broadcasting to Yugoslavia in both the Serbo-Croatian and Albanian languages be carried out by the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Inc. The message of democracy and human rights can be disseminated directly to the people of Serbia if we use all technological means at our disposal. The bill also provides funds for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to facilitate contacts by democracy activists in Serbia and Montenegro with their counterparts in other countries.

The bill contains some measures that hold the worst human rights abusers accountable. H.R. 1064 maintains sanctions against the government of Yugoslavia until the following conditions are met—agreement on a lasting settlement in Kosovo; compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina; implementation of internal democratic reform; settlement of all succession issues with the other republics that emerged from the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia; and cooperation with the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia indicted by the tribunal.

The bill also blocks all Yugoslav assets in the United States; restricts U.S. citizens from doing business with the Yugoslav government; prohibits U.S. visas to senior Yugoslav government officials and their families; and restricts non-humanitarian U.S. assistance to Yugoslavia.

Finally, the bill directs the President to coordinate multilateral sanctions on the governments of Serbia and Yugoslavia; requires that the United States fully support the investigation of President Slobodan Milosevic by the International Criminal Court for the former Yugoslavia for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and grave breaches of the Geneva Convention; directs the President to report to Congress on the information provided to the tribunal; and urges the President to condemn the harassment of ethnic Hungarian inhabitants in Vojvodina.

HONORING JOHN KIDNEY

HON. JOSEPH M. HOEFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, today I acknowledge the accomplishments of John Kidney. John has been an integral member of the Abington Rockledge Democratic Committee in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania since 1966 and it has been a privilege to work so closely with him over the years.

John was raised in Hartford, Connecticut where his political career began. At the age of 17, he was appointed a delegate from East Windsor, Connecticut to the 1944 Democratic State Convention. While earning his undergraduate degree from Yale University, John served as president of the Yale Young Democrats and was invited to be a political commentator at a local radio station during the 1948 presidential election.

Upon completion of an MBA from Harvard University, John and his wife Polly moved to Montgomery County. In 1958 they relocated to Italy and did not return to the United States until the mid 1960's. He and Polly have four children and six beautiful grandchildren. John has served as a committee person and the Treasurer of the Abington-Rockledge Democratic Committee since 1971.

John worked for Rohm and Haas Corporation in various financial positions from 1951 to 1991. After retiring from Rohm and Haas, he managed investments and administered charitable grant programs for the Haas family.

John's expertise and knowledge in the political arena are invaluable assets. It is an honor and a privilege to recognize John Kidney and the outstanding contributions he has made to the Democratic community in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

COMMENDING THE PEOPLE OF SWITZERLAND FOR REJECTING A LIMIT ON FOREIGNERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we tend to be quick to criticize and slow to praise. Earlier the Swiss were subjected to intense international criticism for the policies and practices of Swiss banks during World War II. The Swiss government and Swiss banks have moved in the right direction since that matter became an issue of international concern.

Mr. Speaker, this past weekend the people of Switzerland in a national referendum demonstrated their willingness to act in a remarkably enlightened fashion on an issue that is sensitive and that has been subject to demagoguery. By a vote of nearly 64 percent, Swiss voters decisively rejected a proposal to reduce the number of foreigners in their country to 18 percent of the total population. A majority of voters in all of the 26 Swiss cantons rejected the proposal. To their credit, the Swiss Cabinet urged voters to reject the proposal.

This was a serious issue, Mr. Speaker, because foreigners currently make up about 19.3 percent of the population of Switzerland—some 1.4 million out of a population of 7.2 million, almost one in five residents of the country, are foreigners. A quarter of the Swiss work-force is foreign. These figures are high even by European standards. Austria and Sweden, both of which have among the highest foreign population in the nations of the European Union, have only about one in nine foreigners living in their countries.

Mr. Speaker, the action of the Swiss people in this referendum was enlightened and informed, and it dealt a blow in the fight against far-right and neo-Nazi fringe groups, who support placing limits on foreigners in Switzerland. It is important that we acknowledge and commend the Swiss people and the Swiss government on this decisive and most encouraging result.

HMONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000—EXTEND NATURALIZATION TO FORMER SPOUSES OF DECEASED HMONG VETERANS

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation to exempt the widows of the Hmong veterans from certain citizenship requirements.

The Hmong are a mountain people mainly found in southern China and northern areas of Burma, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Beginning in the 1950s, Hmong soldiers fought the communist Pathet Lao movement in Laos and later assisted U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. The Hmong aided U.S. forces, collected intelligence, rescued downed American pilots, protected sensitive U.S. military installations monitoring the Ho Chi Minh Trail and tied down an estimated 50,000 North Vietnamese troops in Laos. When the war ended, the Pathet Lao took power in Laos and persecuted and imprisoned many of the Hmong allies of the United States.

The Hmong come from a tribal society that, until recently, had no written language and many have found it difficult to naturalize because of their difficulty in learning English. This legislation would exempt them from this difficult requirement. Currently this same exemption has been given to those men and their spouses who served with a special unit, operating from a base in Laos in support of the U.S. military. It is time to extend this same exemption to the widows of these men.

This is a great step for the widows who were not covered under the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act. The Hmong have faced insurmountable odds with the English language portion of the citizenship exam. This bill provides a needed form of relief in the citizenship process by exempting the widows from that portion of the exam.

Mr. Speaker, these women are the same spouses of men who sacrificed everything to help us. Many of their husbands gave their lives to save U.S. pilots and other Americans. They fought side-by-side with the U.S. forces and then lost everything. This legislation represents what the Congress can do to provide for the widows of these brave men.