

based company. Cargill International is the owner of the cargo aboard a Liberian shipping vessel, the MV Monarch, which has been seized and the contents impounded by the Ukrainian government. Thirty-five thousand metric tons of sugar carried on the ship was to be delivered in Ukraine. However, the seizure of the product has raised serious questions among our colleagues regarding the risks associated with Ukrainian trade and the desirability of Ukraine as a stable, reliable trading partner.

As you know Mr. Speaker, I remain a firm advocate of enhanced trade relationships between Ukraine and the United States, and believe this House should aggressively pursue prudent policies which draw the two democracies together, and for a variety of strategic and humanitarian reasons. While the pending episode is rightfully regarded by some here as a serious impediment to the maturation of trade relations, I am hopeful it will be resolved soon. I am mindful indeed of the significance of the dispute which is why I have taken to the floor today to alert our colleagues to the actions I have taken so far in this matter.

In addition to speaking personally to Ukraine's ambassador about the need to resolve the issue of Cargill's sugar shipment, I have been in regular contact with our embassy in Kyiv, our ambassador there, multiple U.S. business representatives, and many of my contacts in the Ukrainian government and in Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada. The nature of my conversations follow the text of the letters I conveyed to Ukraine's president, and prime minister which I hereby submit for the RECORD.

MARCH 14, 2002.

His Excellency LEONID KUCHMA,  
*President of Ukraine,*  
*Ukraine.*

DEAR MR. KUCHMA: Your immediate attention, intervention, and response to Ukraine's confiscation of property belonging to an American-based corporation, Cargill International SA, CISA, is hereby requested. I strenuously urge you to help me resolve this extremely volatile situation which is clearly capable of damaging the relationship between our nations. As you know, I have devoted six years of my service in the U.S. Congress toward improving the Ukrainian/US relations, and I am fearful much of our recent progress will be lost to the current episode involving the seizure of cargo, legally the property of CISA, by Ukraine's Black Sea Regional Customs authority.

The ship, MV Monarch, carrying 35,000 metric tons of raw cane sugar was seized in January 2002. The stated grounds for seizure, namely the alleged inability to substantiate the existence of an American company involved in the transaction, have been resolved. However, neither the ship, nor its cargo, have been released. In fact, the latest information indicates the ship has been moved to berth at a port in Illychivesk, where off-loading has commenced, and the security of the product is in jeopardy.

The international implications of this issue are quite serious. American product being unjustly detained, confiscated and off-loaded will certainly damage Ukraine's desirability as an international market and trade partner. The sugar cargo in question is clearly the property of CISA and is being off-loaded without the owner's consent. Your intervention and leadership in resolving this situation would do much to restore and maintain Ukraine's commitment to freemarkets and reliable international relations. Thank you in advance for your urgent attention to this serious matter.

As always, I am at your disposal to engage any meaningful effort advancing our nations' friendship and cooperation.

Very truly yours,

BOB SCHAFFER,  
*Member of Congress,*  
*Co-Chairman Congressional Ukrainian*  
*Caucus.*

#### TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

### HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to inform my colleagues that Wednesday, March 20, 2002, marks the 46th anniversary of Tunisia's independence. I invite my colleagues to join in extending our congratulations to the leaders and people of this important ally. The Republic of Tunisia has been and continues to be a model of economic growth, while keeping Islamic fundamentalism at bay.

However, the relationship between the United States and Tunisia is much older than Tunisia's 46th Anniversary of its independence may suggest. The United States first signed a treaty of peace and friendship with Tunisia in 1797. During World War II, Tunisia's nationalist leaders suspended their struggle against France in order to support the Allied cause, and, in 1956, the United States was the first world power to recognize Tunisia's independence.

Today Tunisia and the United States enjoy friendly bilateral relations. The Tunisian government has contributed military contingents to U.N. peacekeeping missions in Cambodia, Somalia, the Western Sahara, and Rwanda. Cooperation between the Tunisian and U.S. military has been growing, with an increasing number of joint exercises.

At the same time, after years of hard work, Tunisia has produced one of the highest standards of living in the region. U.S. bilateral economic assistance programs have ended principally because of Tunisia's resounding success in social and economic development. Tunisia's prudent fiscal and debt management policies also have given Tunisia access to international capital markets. Thus, Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and join the developed world.

Whether protecting Mediterranean shipping lanes against Barbary pirates, opposing the Nazi war machine in North Africa, supporting Western interests during the Cold War, or serving as an island of peace and security in a sea of troubles, the United States has always been able to count on Tunisia for its support regarding the important issues of the day.

Accordingly, I invite my colleagues to join in congratulating all Tunisians as they celebrate the 46th anniversary of their nation's independence.

#### CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

### HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary this month. On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low organized the first group of eighteen Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. Today, there are 2.7 million girls in Girl Scouts of the USA, and over 900,000 adult members.

The Girl Scout mission is to help all girls grow strong. To that end, Girl Scouting empowers girls to develop to their full individual potential; relate positively to others; develop values that provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others. Girl Scouts of the USA continues today to expand its programs to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while maintaining its core values. The organization's foundation is still based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, just as it was in 1912.

Girl Scouting helps our country's young women discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through an array of enriching experiences, Girl Scouts acquire self-confidence and expertise, take on responsibility, and are encouraged to think creatively and act with integrity—qualities essential in good citizens and great leaders. At the same time, they learn a great deal about science and technology, money management and finance, health and fitness, the arts, global awareness, and much more. I personally have shared in the wonderful experience of Girl Scouting, when a number of the young women volunteered in my office last summer.

Juliette Gordon Low envisioned Girl Scouting as a profound force in the lives of all girls. In 2001, Girl Scouts of the USA launched a major initiative to continue to fulfill the foundational principle that every girl deserves the opportunity to learn the leadership and life skills that will help her achieve her goals. Through "Girl Scouting: For Every Girl, Everywhere," Girl Scout volunteers and staff are working to ensure that Girl Scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic or geographic boundaries. The initiative aims to encourage broader membership from minorities, especially among Latina and Asian American girls. It also seeks to increase participation of teenage girls and girls with disabilities. One of the primary missions of Girl Scouts of the USA is to make the positive experience of its programs available to girls everywhere. In addition to schools and backyards, Girl Scout troops now meet in homeless shelters, migrant farm communities, juvenile detention centers, Native American reservations, and even online via the Internet.

With "Girl Scouting: For Every Girl, Everywhere," Girl Scouts of the USA hopes to truly reflect the face of America and to ensure that every girl who wants to join Girl Scouts has the opportunity to do so. This goal is in keeping with its long and proud history of diversity

and inclusiveness. For 90 years, Girl Scouts has had a proven track record of empowering girls to become leaders, helping adults be positive role models and mentors for children, and helping to build solid communities. I salute Girl Scouts on this tremendous milestone, and am confident that Girl Scouts is sure to continue this tradition for the next 90 years and beyond.

RECOGNIZING THE GIRL SCOUTS' 90TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JACK QUINN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, It gives me great pleasure to rise today to recognize the Girl Scouts as the pre-eminent all girls organization in the world. Founded on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia, the Girl Scouts organization celebrates its 90th Anniversary of service to the girls and women of America.

The Girl Scouts serves the unique interests of girls by providing girls with programs designed especially for them in an all-girls setting.

The Girls Scout Council of Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., joins Councils throughout the United States, and Girl Scouts everywhere, in celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in the USA, and its 85th year of service to the girls of Western New York.

The year 2002, marks nine decades of Girl Scouts providing girls with age-appropriate programs that help to impart good moral values, life skills, a respect for themselves and others, a foundation necessary for girls to become contributing adult members of their communities.

Girl Scout Troops in Buffalo & Erie County, Inc., and Girl Scouts across America, take their role as patriotic Americans more seriously than ever. Two of their public service endeavors include airlifting donations of Girl Scout Cookies and letters of encouragement to the women and men of the U.S. armed services stationed in Afghanistan and donating dollars to the children of Afghanistan.

The Girls Scouts of Buffalo & Erie County serve their immediate community through Gifts of Caring and Bronze, Silver and Gold Award service projects, that not only provides individuals with the necessities of life, but also helps to uplift the spirits of the homeless and less fortunate members of society.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join me in honoring the Girl Scouts.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LONG-TERM CARE SUPPORT AND INCENTIVE ACT

**HON. SUSAN DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about an important issue facing our community: the affordability of long-term care. People today are living longer and healthier lives than ever before. When the Declaration of Independence was signed, the

average life expectancy was 23. In the United States today, life expectancy at birth is 80 years.

While this increased life expectancy is allowing us to live fuller lives, it is also presenting us with serious financial challenges. Half of all older Americans who live alone will "spend" themselves into poverty after only 13 weeks in a nursing home.

My own family had to make difficult emotional and financial decisions when my father needed care. My dad was a pediatrician, and always lived a full life. When he needed care, my sisters and I struggled to find the perfect place for him to live.

We wanted to make sure he was happy and received high quality medical care. We searched for months to find the right place for our dad and we learned very quickly how expensive long-term care is. Fortunately, we had the financial resources to take care of him, but many families do not.

My experience with my dad renewed my commitment to improve our long-term care system. I took on this mission in Congress and I am pleased today to introduce the Long Term Care Support and Incentive Act. This much needed legislation will make a real difference for San Diegans carrying for older family members.

First, the bill will give a \$4,000 tax credit for seniors with long-term care needs and their caregivers. We know how many sacrifices families make to take care of their loved ones. They miss work, or in some cases are forced to give up their jobs. They pay for expensive medical supplies and equipment, and bare the burden of enormous medical bills. This tax credit will help ease their financial burden.

The second section of my legislation will establish a tax deduction for long-term care insurance premiums. As the long-term care needs in our community increase, we must face the reality that many seniors do not have family or friends to take care of them full time.

This is particularly important to women. Women live longer than men. Often times, women are the primary caregivers for their husbands. After their husbands pass away, there is often no one around to take care of them.

Long-term care insurance can help fill this gap, but premiums can be expensive. My legislation will make long-term care insurance more affordable by allowing individuals over 65 to deduct 75 percent of the cost of their premiums and individuals under 65 to deduct 50 percent of the cost of their premiums.

In addition, I have included several important consumer protections in the bill to ensure that people are purchasing responsible insurance plans that will adequately meet their long-term care needs.

The bill requires plans to include:

Mandatory inflation protection;

A lifetime deductible requirement that ensures policy holders must only pay their deductible one time in their lifetime;

Mandatory interchangeability so that individuals can determine where their benefits are spent;

A care coordination program that ensures seniors receive assistance in planning and securing the services they need.

By encouraging people to plan ahead for the future and purchase long-term care insurance, we can ensure that seniors live dignified and independent lives. I urge all of my col-

leagues in Congress to work with me to pass it quickly into law.

A TRIBUTE TO THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Earlier this month, the Girl Scouts celebrated their 90th Anniversary, and it is appropriate for us to take time to honor their contributions to our nation.

The Girl Scouts were founded by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia and were chartered by Congress on March 16, 1950. Today, the Girl Scouts boast 3.7 million members, 2.7 million of whom are daisies, brownies, junior scouts, cadets, and senior scouts. And they are supported by almost one million adult volunteers. The Girl Scouts is a truly worldwide organization partnering with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to create a family of ten million girls and adults in 140 countries.

As the former State Superintendent of North Carolina's public schools, I understand how important the Girl Scouts are to the development of our young women. The Girl Scouts are working to encourage young women to pursue careers in science and technology through a number of innovative science and math education initiatives. These initiatives provide girls with mentors, role models, and the technological resources to prepare them to succeed in the 21st Century.

Through Girl Scouts girls become strong women and good citizens. They participate in a number of activities that are designed to foster friendship, and build character. They learn leadership skills, teamwork, and core values that will guide them throughout their lives. These values are outlined in the Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

More than 50 million women in the U.S. have been Girl Scouts. Today these women are America's doctors, lawyers, teachers, and mothers. The lessons they learned in their childhood from their field trips and projects are still being applied today. Our nation is stronger today because of the Girl Scouts. I am proud to join my colleagues in saluting the Girl Scouts and look forward to what the next 90 years will bring.

HONORING TADELE WORKU FOR SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 2002*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Tadele Worku, recipient of