

Dr. Sakharov was a man of great stature in the Soviet scientific community, working on defense projects of the greatest importance to the Soviet government. His induction into the Academy of Sciences in 1953 made him the youngest-ever member of the Academy. He enjoyed every privilege that Soviet society had to offer, but he abandoned his elevated position to protest the threat to humankind posed by nuclear testing and the build up of nuclear arms. This led to Dr. Sakharov's becoming a leader of the effort for internal reform in the Soviet Union and a strong advocate for human rights throughout the world.

In 1962, Dr. Sakharov proposed to his government that the Soviet Union sponsor a partial Test Ban treaty along the lines proposed by U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower in the late 1950s. On August 5, 1963, the effort resulted in the signing of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space, and Under Water in Moscow.

In 1968, The New York Times published Dr. Sakharov's ground-breaking essay "Progress, Coexistence, and Intellectual Freedom" which pursued two major themes. The first was to challenge Soviet authorities to increase intellectual freedom in the interest of peaceful coexistence with the West and ending the Cold War. Conversely, it stimulated Western interest in disarmament and scientific exchanges, and convinced many opinion-makers in the West that it was worth entering into a dialogue with Soviet intellectuals and that change from within was possible in the USSR. Ultimately, more than 18,000,000 copies of the essay were printed around the world in various languages.

Within two years, Dr. Sakharov, along with Valery Chalidze and Andrei Tverdokhlebov, became one of the three founding members of the Moscow Human Rights Committee. This gave institutional expression to Sakharov's developing interest in human rights and the rule of law as guiding principles in the effort to reform and liberalize the Soviet regime. When the Helsinki Accords were signed in 1975 by the Soviet Union, the United States, Canada and 32 European countries, he noted that the Accords had meaning "only if [the Accords] are observed fully and by all parties. No country should evade a discussion on its own domestic problems * * * [n]or should a country ignore violations in other participating states. The whole point of the Helsinki Accords is mutual monitoring, not mutual evasion of difficult problems."

As he became more committed to the human rights struggle in his country and peace throughout the world, Dr. Sakharov continued to speak out on peace and disarmament, as well as freedom of association and movement, freedom of speech, against capital punishment, and in defense of preserving the environment.

Such "heresy" against his government's denial of basic human rights brought upon him reprisals from the Soviet government and its secret police, the KGB. He was barred from classified work, and many of his professional privileges rescinded. Only after a 17-day hunger strike by Dr. Sakharov and his wife and fellow human rights activist, Dr. Elena Bonner, did authorities allow his daughter-in-law to join her husband in the United States. Only after another long struggle was Dr. Bonner permitted to go abroad for medical treatment.

At the same time, the international community was closely following his efforts, under-

standing that his struggle touched us all. In 1975, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Dr. Sakharov for his "personal and fearless effort in the cause of peace." It was, Dr. Sakharov wrote, "a great honor for me, as well as recognition for the entire human rights movement in the USSR."

On January 22, 1980, in response to Dr. Sakharov's protests against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Dr. Sakharov was picked up by the police on a Moscow street and sent into "Internal exile" in the closed city of Gorky. Joined subsequently by Dr. Elena Bonner, he was kept under house arrest, with a round-the-clock police guard, until December 1986. Dr. Bonner describes their plight eloquently in her book, *Alone Together*.

Meanwhile, at the direction of the Congress, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed May 21, 1983—Dr. Sakharov's birthday—"National Andrei Sakharov Day." In his published statement, President Reagan praised Dr. Sakharov's "tireless and courageous efforts on behalf of international peace and on behalf of human freedoms for the peoples of the Soviet Union."

Upon his release from internal exile on December 16, 1986 by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Dr. Sakharov continued the fight for human rights in the Soviet Union and was elected to the newly-formed Congress of People's Deputies. Just before his death in 1989, he completed his draft of a new constitution and submitted it to the Constitutional Commission. While many of its specific points were provisional and advanced to provoke debate, the draft fundamentally provided for a democratic political system, revoking the Communist Party monopoly on power. Indeed, a few months after Dr. Sakharov's death, the Congress of People's Deputies repealed Article 6 of the Constitution which had provided the legal basis for the Communist Party's monopoly on power in the Soviet Union. This loss of Communist Party monopoly led inexorably to the collapse of the Soviet Union, which removed from the earth a vast state that repressed its own citizens and presented a powerful military threat to the United States.

Recently, President Putin, a former KGB agent himself, called Dr. Sakharov "a visionary * * * someone who was able to not only see the future, but to express, to articulate his thoughts, and do that without any fear."

Fearless in the face of state repression, principled in his devotion to peace and disarmament, selfless in the pursuit of human rights for all, this was Dr. Sakharov's character.

Mr. Speaker, honorary citizenship is conferred by the United States Government on rare occasions to individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to this country or to humankind throughout the world. It is and should remain an extraordinary honor not lightly conferred nor frequently granted.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that for his contribution to world peace, the end of the Cold War, the recognition of the inextricable link between human rights and genuine security and the achievement of human rights, however rudimentary in some areas, in the nations of the former Soviet Union, Dr. Andrei Sakharov is worthy of being posthumously granted honorary citizenship of the United States. I hope my colleagues share my enthusiasm for this initiative and will support this resolution.

RECOGNIZING HEAR O' ISRAEL
INTERNATIONAL INC.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, In light of the tragedy that struck our nation September 11th, and the continued violence in the middle east, I believe it's fitting to recognize a valued organization within the Houston community, Hear O'Israel International Inc., which is currently sponsoring its National Mercy, Love and Compassion Campaign. This year long event is being conducted in conjunction with the ongoing initiative "Listen to the Cries of the Children National." Hear O'Israel works to make a difference in the lives of the physically challenged, the elderly, neglected children, and battered women across Houston. They work to give these men and women a stronger sense of self-worth and instill in them the need to treat others with compassion and respect. National Mercy, Love and Compassion Campaign has been endorsed by Mayor Lee P. Brown and every member of the Houston City Council which further demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

Hear O'Israel International, Inc., a non-profit, non-denominational organization works to increase public awareness of those that are less fortunate. "Listen to the Cries of the Children National" is designed to strengthen unity among families and further public awareness of the negative consequences that drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children. Another ongoing program worth commending is "Turning the Hearts of the Fathers back to Their Children and the Hearts of Their Children Back to Their Fathers." The mission of this program is to reach out to at risk youth in schools, juvenile justice facilities, and those that may be involved in gang activity. Additionally, this program encourages parents to strengthen their relationship with their children, in an effort to unite families and bridge existing gaps among cultures.

National Mercy, Love and Compassion Campaign is an initiative to call attention to the plight of children around who do not have access to adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. As a symbol of compassion for suffering children, Hear O'Israel International, Inc., encourages supporters to adopt a family or an individual in need as a gesture of support in resounding, the alarm for those who have been forgotten and many times rejected by our communities.

Again, I would like to recognize Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend my personal best wishes for a successful and rewarding campaign.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL MICHAEL R.
REGNER

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate and pay tribute to

Colonel Michael R. Regner, who performed in an outstanding manner as the Marine Corps' Liaison Officer to the U.S. House of Representatives from May 1999 to May 2002.

Colonel Regner began his service in the military in 1976, following graduation from the Citadel. Commissioned a Second Lieutenant, he commanded Rifle and Weapons Platoons, a Rifle Company, Headquarters Battalion, and an Infantry Battalion. Colonel Regner was also a recruiter on duty in Little Rock, Arkansas. His staff assignments include duty as Battalion Logistics and Executive Officer, Staff Secretary to the 2nd Marine Division Commander and Joint Amphibious Operations Planner and Partnership for Peace Staff Officer to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

Colonel Regner served with distinction in Operation Desert Storm, United Nations operations in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia, and in Bosnia. He has completed the Advanced Infantry Officer's Course, Airborne Course, Marine Command and Staff College, and the NATO Defense College. He also holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration/Human Relations. Colonel Regner's awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, three Meritorious Service Medals, and two Navy and Marine Corps commendation Medals.

In Colonel Regner's three years as the Marine Corps' House Liaison Officer he has provided this Congress with a working knowledge of the Marine Corps. He has been instrumental in directing Marine Corps legislative activities in Congressional hearings, official travel, constituent services, and other important legislative functions.

Colonel Michael Regner has served our Nation with distinction for the last 26 years. As he takes post as Commanding Officer of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit at Camp Pendleton, California, I know that the Members of the House will join me in wishing him all the best in the days ahead.

COMMEMORATING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1992 LOS ANGELES RIOTS

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots, one of the worst events of its kind in our history and the first multiracial one in the United States.

Thousands of people and businesses were devastated by the three days of rioting and looting, which began on April 29, 1992. Fifty-eight people died, 2,400 were injured, and 11,700 were arrested. Damages totaled \$717 million. In less than 24 hours, 1,000 fires seized Los Angeles, causing flight delays and cancellations. Governor Pete Wilson deployed 6,000 National Guard troops at the request of Mayor Tom Bradley. President George Bush sent 5,500 military troops and law enforcement specialists and put the National Guard under federal command.

The Korean American community in Los Angeles, which is home to the largest Korean population outside of Seoul, sustained the most damages. Korean Americans lost more

than half of their 3,100 businesses in Los Angeles, with damages totaling more than \$350 million. Out of the 200 liquor stores that were destroyed during the riots, 175 were Korean-owned. A survey, conducted by the Korean American Inter-Agency Council 10 months after the riots, found that out of 1,500 respondents, about 75 percent had yet to recover from the riots' after effects, including post-traumatic stress disorder, temporary memory loss, and suicidal tendencies. Some families moved back to Korea, declared bankruptcy, or permanently relocated their businesses to safer areas.

Korean Americans termed the tragic three days as Sa-ee-gu, which literally translates into the numbers 4.29, the first date of the riots. It is common for Koreans to refer to historically and politically significant events by their dates. Immediately following the riots, the Korean American community and its supporters held the largest Korean American demonstration in the United States. It signified the birth of a community shaken but standing firm in demanding its fair share of the riot relief funds, adequate representation in government, corporate responsibility, and accurate media coverage.

A decade after the riots, the Korean American community vividly recalls the destruction and mayhem of those three days. But more importantly, this community has risen from the ashes to reclaim their space in American society and regain their dignity as Americans through unprecedented levels of civic participation and heightened political consciousness. The 1992 Los Angeles Riots forced the Korean American community to face a grim reality, but the future holds a community that has been strengthened and made wiser by this experience. The community is in the process of building its political leadership and establishing the infrastructure and resources necessary to stand up for themselves in times of trouble and gain recognition in times of triumph.

Today, I join the Korean American community in Los Angeles and nationwide to commemorate the 1992 Los Angeles Riots and to celebrate the spirit and determination of Korean Americans throughout the country.

HONORING JOHN GURDA, 2002 POLISH HERITAGE AWARD WINNER

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, On Sunday, May 5, 2002, the Pulaski Council of Milwaukee will be observing Polish Constitution Day with its 23rd annual Heritage Award Dinner. This year's Polish Heritage Award is being given to Milwaukee author and historian John Gurda.

John is a native Milwaukeean, with a lifelong love for local history. He is author of 13 books, including his most recent work, *The Making of Milwaukee*, a superbly written and richly illustrated account of our community's past and present.

An 8-time winner of the Wisconsin Historical Society's Award of Merit, John Gurda serves as a guest lecturer, tour guide and local history columnist for the Milwaukee Journal/Sen-

tinel. He has also received well-deserved honors from the Council for Wisconsin Writers, which awarded him the Leslie Cross Award for book-length nonfiction, and was the Milwaukee Public Library's 2000 inductee to the Wisconsin Writers Wall of Fame.

Anyone who has had the opportunity to hear John speak, read his books and articles, or take one of his neighborhood tours has truly been enriched by the experience. He is a masterful storyteller, bringing Milwaukee's colorful and fascinating past to life, and often finding, in the telling, important relevance to our community's present and future.

Milwaukee is a city of immigrants, a weave of many nationalities and cultures. John Gurda has eloquently captured the histories of our ethnic neighborhoods, including Milwaukee's Polonia, or Polish-American community. From Polonia's early struggles with poverty and language barriers to its growth to one of Milwaukee's largest ethnic groups, John has skillfully chronicled the community's rich Polish heritage.

As Gurda himself has said, "We look back to look ahead; the deepest value of the past is to help the present shape its future." John Gurda's gift to Milwaukee's Polish-American community is a deeper connection to its past, and a greater understanding of its role in our city's present and future. The Pulaski Council of Milwaukee has made an outstanding choice for its 2002 Polish Heritage Award, for John's words will continue to educate, inspire and bring Milwaukee Polonia's history to life for generations to come.

Congratulations, John!

NATIONAL PARK WEEK AND
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2002

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate National Park Week. This special commemoration was first proclaimed in 1991 by President George H.W. Bush and has become an annual celebration of the National Park Service. This week is an opportunity to celebrate what the National Park Service is all about by educating the public about the great work performed by park rangers, resource specialists, scientists, managers and all the other important employees that make the National Park Service special.

In conjunction with National Park Week, Mr. Speaker, we also celebrate this week, the many volunteers at our National Parks. These volunteers in parks, or VIP's, play a crucial role in helping Park Service staff with their duties. I am proud to recognize the park volunteers in my own district, Mr. Speaker. These volunteers at the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor are making a difference. Whether helping guide a canoe trip down the Blackstone river or assisting with a historic village tour, these volunteers make important contributions to the success of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor.

America's democratic experiment shines through in the 24 cities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island that make up the Blackstone River Valley. It is a quilt of America's past, present and future that tells the story of America's progression from an agrarian society to