

School since it opened in 1993. Today, the school is one of the premier high schools in Los Angeles County.

High school administration requires many qualities—including vision, dedication, patience, strength, energy, creativity, the competence to balance an impossibly busy schedule, a willingness to allow people to experiment, the expertise to support a wide variety of school programs and reforms, and the ability to understand the complexity of teens for whom each day presents a new crisis. Possessing all of the traits, Dr. Priesz is an exemplary high school principal.

A dynamic educator who is committed to educational quality and academic excellence, Dr. Priesz has developed programs to meet the scholastic and social needs of all students. He gives abundant support to the handicapped and underrepresented population and avidly endorses extra-curricular programs to foster student growth and achievement. "What is best for kids" is the guiding doctrine for all decisions made at Valencia High School.

Dr. Priesz is a dedicated leader who believes in his staff and students. He manages school programs by focusing attention on the importance of building collaborative relationships yet at the same time allowing everyone the creative freedom needed to accomplish their job. Dr. Priesz asks nothing of his staff that he is not willing to do himself, and he continually displays a sincere, caring demeanor. He is highly supportive of professional development and school reform initiatives in order to perpetuate a vigorous learning environment.

Mr. Speaker, Valencia High School is fortunate to have such an extraordinary principal. I want to thank Dr. Paul Priesz for his leadership, inspiration and high standards. He has made a positive impact on thousands of students. In turn, Dr. Priesz is making our great nation a better place to live.

H. RES. 467: INDEPENDENCE FOR
KOSOVA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, since the cessation of NATO's 1999 conflict with the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, in Kosova remains under a United Nations mandate. But progress in Kosova is being held up by its lack of independence and its inability to determine its own fate. For that reason, I am introducing, together with the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should declare its support for the independence of Kosova.

The Kosovars, the United Nations, NATO and the international community are now making efforts to rebuild Kosova, revitalize its economy, establish democratic institutions of self-government, and heal the scars of war.

Under President Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav government dismantled Kosova's political structures, replaced ethnic Albanians with Serbs in most jobs, enabled Serb-owned firms to take over Albanian-owned companies, and forbade Albanians from purchasing or improving property.

As a result of this systematic persecution and discrimination, today the unemployment rate in Kosova is currently between 60 and 70 percent, increasing the likelihood of Kosovars either entering criminal networks or working abroad in order to survive. The perpetuation of these economic difficulties heightens the potential for continued instability in the region.

The only way to address the problem of the chronic instability that plagues the region, and the way towards a genuine, long-term political and economic stability of Kosova and the region, lies not only in the physical and social reconstruction of Kosova, but in considering Kosovar independence as a solution. Unless massive job creation is facilitated by guaranteeing the security of foreign investments through an independent Kosova, the impact of these economic difficulties could prove detrimental to U.S. interests in the region.

Three years after the war's end, Kosova is already responsible for 93 percent of its budget, with 7 percent supplied by foreign donors, underscoring its commitment to growing a market economy, not an aid economy. Under the Yugoslav constitution of 1974, Kosova was equivalent in most ways to Slovenia, Croatia, and the other republics. In its position as an "autonomous province," Kosova, in practice, exercised the same powers as a republic. It has its own parliament, high courts, central bank, police service, and defense force. Through its definition in 1968 as a part of the Yugoslav Federal System, it gained representation at the federal level.

When Slovenia and Croatia demanded independence, similar arguments were made by Western governments against recognizing those countries. However, eventually the same Western governments did recognize not only the independence of Slovenia and Croatia, but Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia as well, having discovered that independence for those nations involved not so much a change of borders as a change in the status of existing borders. The lines on the map remained the same, but their status was upgraded from republican to national. It is fitting that the Kosovars are allowed to follow the same path towards independence.

Accordingly, it is time for the United States to abide by its recognition that a right to self-determination exists as a fundamental right of all people through declaring its support for the independence of Kosova.

Mr. Speaker, for the information of my colleagues, I insert a copy of H. Res. 467 at this point in the RECORD.

H. RES. 467

Whereas the United States and the international community recognize that a right to self-determination exists as a fundamental right of all people;

Whereas Kosova was constitutionally defined as a sovereign territory in the First National Liberation Conference for Kosova on January 2, 1944, and this status was confirmed in the Constitution of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia adopted in 1946, and the amended Yugoslav constitution adopted in 1974 preserved the autonomous status of Kosova as a de facto republic,

Whereas prior to the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, Kosova was a separate political and legal entity with separate and distinct financial institutions, police force, municipal and national government, school system, judicial and legal system, hospitals and other independent organizations;

Whereas Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic rose to power in 1987 on a platform

of ultranationalism and anti-Albanian racism, advocating violence and hatred against all non-Slavs and specifically targeting the Albanians of Kosova,

Whereas Slobodan Milosevic subsequently stripped Kosova of its self-rule, without the consent of the people of Kosova;

Whereas the elected Assembly of Kosova, faced with these intolerable acts, adopted a Declaration of Independence on July 2, 1990, proclaimed the Republic of Kosova, and adopted a constitution on September 7, 1990, based on the international legal principles of self-determination, equality, and sovereignty;

Whereas in recognition of the de facto dissolution of the Yugoslav federation, the European community established principles for the recognition of the independence and sovereignty of the republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Kosova fully satisfied those principles as a de facto republic within the federation;

Whereas a popular referendum was held in Kosova from September 26-30, 1991, in which 87 percent of all eligible voters cast ballots and 99.87 percent voted in favor of declaring Kosova independent of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia,

Whereas, from the occupation of Kosova in 1989 until the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military action against the Milosevic regime in 1999, the Albanians of Kosova were subjected to the most brutal treatment in the heart of Europe since the Nazi era, forcing approximately 400,000 Albanians to flee to Western Europe and the United States;

Whereas in the spring of 1999 almost 1,000,000 Kosovar Albanians were driven out of Kosova and at least 10,000 were murdered by the Serbian paramilitary and military;

Whereas Slobodan Milosevic was indicted by the International War Crimes Tribunal and extradited to The Hague in June 2001 to stand trial for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Kosova, Bosnia, and Croatia;

Whereas the United Nations established Kosova as a protectorate under Resolution 1244, ending the decade long Serbian occupation of Kosova and Milosevic's genocidal war in Kosova;

Whereas Kosovar Albanians, together with representatives of the Serb, Turkish, Roma, Bosniak, and Ashkali minorities in Kosova, have held free and fair municipal and general elections in 2000 and 2001 and successfully, established a parliament in 2002, which in turn elected a president and prime minister;

Whereas 50 percent of the population in Kosova is under the age of 25 and the unemployment rate is currently between 60 and 70 percent, increasing the likelihood of young people entering criminal networks, the source of which lies outside of Kosova, or working abroad in order to survive unless massive job creation is facilitated by guaranteeing the security of foreign investments through an orderly transition to the independence of Kosova;

Whereas the Kosova parliament is committed to developing a western-style democracy in which all citizens, regardless of ethnicity, are granted full human and civil rights and are committed to the return of all noncriminal Serbs who fled Kosova during and after the war; and

Whereas there is every reason to believe that independence from Serbia is the only viable option for Kosova, after autonomy has failed time and time again: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should—

(1) publicly support the independence of Kosova and the establishment of Kosova as a

sovereign and democratic state in which human rights are respected, including the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, as the only way to lasting peace and stability in the Balkans;

(2) recognize the danger that delay in the resolution of Kosova's final status poses for the political and economic viability of Kosova and the future of Southeast Europe;

(3) work in conjunction with the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and other multilateral organizations to facilitate an orderly transition to the independence of Kosova; and

(4) provide its share of assistance, trade, and other programs to support the government of an independent Kosova and to encourage the further development of democracy and a free market economic system.

HONORING THE WORK OF GLORIA
BURKE

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman who has dedicated her life to the safety and well being of the children and families in Weymouth, Massachusetts. She is an individual with a noble sense of compassion and integrity, who is being honored today on the occasion of her retirement from Weymouth Youth & Family Services after 30 years of devoted service.

After receiving her Bachelor's Degree at the University of Massachusetts Boston, Gloria earned a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Cambridge College. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Family Therapist, Gloria came to the aid of countless struggling families to overcome the challenges associated with poverty, substance abuse, child abuse, domestic violence, and other social ills.

In 1971, Gloria was hired as the Community Education Director and Therapist for Weymouth Youth and Family Services. After ten dedicated years, Gloria's talents were recognized and she was asked to serve as the organization's Director, the position in which she has excelled in for two decades. Under Gloria's direction, Weymouth Youth and Family Services has provided food to the hungry, shelter to the homeless, financial assistance to the poor, and counseling to those in crisis. For several years, I have been a proud participant in the Weymouth Youth & Family Services' Annual Christmas Celebration, which Gloria founded and has raised thousands of dollars each year to benefit families in need during the holiday season.

During her tenure with the Weymouth Youth & Families Services office, Gloria has faced head-on the difficult challenges facing the youth in the community—from suicide to drug use, from racism and to violence. Her work as part of the Teen Facility Development Committee, which converted the shuttered police station into a thriving teen center, stands as a testament to Gloria's commitment to providing a promising future for the youth in the Town.

Gloria Burke is Weymouth's own in the truest sense. Born in the Town, she was educated in its public school system, and continues to live there today with her husband Jack, with whom she raised four children.

I am honored today to call Gloria Burke one of my closest friends. She has been a role model for me and the many thousands of those in Weymouth who have been touched by her genuine giving and caring nature. I know that her legacy will continue to be a lasting inspiration to future generations who wish to serve the community.

INTRODUCTION OF BELARUS
DEMOCRACY ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Belarus Democracy Act of 2002, which is intended to help promote democratic development, human rights and the rule of law in the Republic of Belarus, as well as encourage the consolidation and strengthening of Belarus' sovereignty and independence. When measured against other European countries, the state of human rights in Belarus is abysmal—it has the worst record of any European state.

Through an illegitimate 1996 referendum, Alexander Lukashenka usurped power, while suppressing the duly-elected legislature and the judiciary. His regime has blatantly and repeatedly violated basic freedoms of speech, expression, assembly, association and religion. The fledgling democratic opposition, non-governmental organizations and independent media have all faced harassment. There are credible allegations of Lukashenka regime involvement in the disappearances—in 1999 and 2000—of opposition members and a journalist. There is growing evidence that Belarus is a leading supplier of lethal military equipment to rogue states. A draft bill is making its way in the Belarusian legislature that would restrict non-traditional religious groups. Several days ago, on June 24, two leading journalists were sentenced to two and 2½ years, respectively, of "restricted freedom" for allegedly slandering the Belarusian President.

Despite efforts by Members of Congress, the Helsinki Commission which I co-chair, the State Department, various American NGOs, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other European organizations, the regime of Alexander Lukashenka continues its hold onto power with impunity and to the detriment of the Belarusian people.

One of the primary purposes of this bill is to demonstrate U.S. support for those struggling to promote democracy and respect for human rights in Belarus despite the formidable pressures they face from the anti-democratic regime. The bill authorizes increases in assistance for democracy-building activities such as support for non-governmental organizations, independent media—including radio and television broadcasting to Belarus, and international exchanges. The bill also encourages free and fair parliamentary elections, conducted in a manner consistent with international standards—in sharp contrast to recent parliamentary and presidential elections in Belarus which most assuredly did not meet democratic standards. As a result of these elections, Belarus has the distinction of lacking legitimate presidential and parliamentary leadership, which contributes to that country's self-imposed isolation.

In addition, this bill would impose sanctions against the Lukashenka regime, and deny high-ranking officials of the regime entry into the United States. Strategic exports to the Belarusian Government would be prohibited, as well as U.S. Government financing, except for humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products. The U.S. Executive Directors of the international financial institutions would be encouraged to vote against financial assistance to the Government of Belarus except for loans and assistance that serve humanitarian needs.

The bill would require reports from the President concerning the sale or delivery of weapons or weapons-related technologies from Belarus to rogue states.

Mr. Speaker, finally, it is my hope that this bill will help put an end to the pattern of clear, gross and uncorrected violations of OSCE commitments by the Lukashenka regime and will serve as a catalyst to facilitate Belarus' integration into democratic Europe in which democratic principles and human rights are respected and the rule of law prevails.

LTC RICHARD WANDKE ARMY
RANGER HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 27, 2002

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and to pay tribute to U.S. Army Ranger LTC Richard "Tex" Wandke (Ret) of Cypress, CA, on his induction into the Ranger Hall of Fame for exceptional valor and honor throughout his distinguished 25-year military career.

In 1963, LTC Wandke graduated as the Distinguished Military Student from the University of Maine, then went on to complete Ranger school and was assigned as a platoon leader for the Fourth Infantry Division. He then volunteered to serve his country in Vietnam, and was assigned as an advisor to the 43rd Vietnamese Ranger Battalion.

During his service, LTC Wandke earned various honors for his actions in combat, including two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, Three Bronze Stars and Three Purple Hearts. He also earned the Distinguished Service Cross through his valorous conduct in commanding his company on a search and destroy mission in Vietnam on May 27, 1969. When one of the rifle squads under his command surprised seven enemy soldiers and opened fire, hostile reinforcements soon arrived in huge numbers and unleashed tremendous firepower on his company's perimeter. LTC Wandke rallied his men to break the enemy assault, and then directed all of the able men under his command to establish a landing zone to evacuate the wounded. Although wounded himself, LTC Wandke stayed behind to protect the dead and critically wounded, and prevented the enemy from overrunning his position.

Since retiring from active service in 1988, LTC Wandke has been teaching high school ROTC. He is also active in several veterans organizations and was the National commander of the Legion of Valor from 1995–1996. Through his service both on the battlefield and off, he has exemplified the Ranger Creed: Rangers Lead the Way!