

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!