

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

MR. CHRISTEPHER ROMERO, A PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARD WINNER

### HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2003*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Arizona student from my district who has achieved national recognition for outstanding volunteer service in his community. Mr. Christopher Romero of Phoenix has just been named one of my state's top honorees in the 2003 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Christopher, a junior at Sunnysdale High School in Phoenix is being recognized for having developed a program to help keep at-risk teens in an inner-city neighborhood away from crime and drugs. Being raised by a mother who struggled with a drug and alcohol addiction, he was recruited by a neighborhood gang. He was later adopted and given the opportunity to turn his life around. As a way to honor his adoptive parents for helping him become a better person he decided to put together a program that would help at-risk teens. He approached a police officer working at his former school, and became a volunteer mentor. Christopher soon began to put together activities such as swimming and soccer, CPR and nutrition classes, and organizing neighborhood clean-ups. He also has encouraged kids to get involved in fundraising activities to help pay for annual theme park trips.

Christopher should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud him for his initiative in seeking to make a positive impact on the lives of others. He has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. His actions show that young Americans can play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2003*

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall votes 146, 147, and 148. I was unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 146, 147, and 148.

AUTHORIZING PRINTING OF BROCHURES ENTITLED "HOW OUR LAWS ARE MADE" AND "OUR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT," THE PUBLICATION ENTITLED "OUR FLAG," THE DOCUMENT-SIZED ANNOTATED VERSION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AND THE POCKET VERSION OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

SPEECH OF

### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 6, 2003*

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Chairman NEY and Rep. LARSON for their appreciation of need to help Americans understand their most basic rights under this government.

One of the most popular House publications among my constituents is the pocket-size Constitution of the United States. Nothing is more important to this nation than the fundamental ideas set forth in this grand document that lays out our government, our rights and our responsibilities. Yet, time and time again, it appears that the citizens of this great nation are fundamentally unaware of those rights and responsibilities as established in the Constitution.

For instance, in May 2002, a Columbia Law School nationwide survey found that a shocking number of voting age Americans have serious misconceptions about the Constitution. The survey included a question revealing that two-thirds of Americans did not know that Karl Marx' foundation of Communism ("From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs.") was NOT included in the United States Constitution.

This government has gone some distance in trying to teach young people the importance of education and civics as they relate to our history and our Constitution. Last year, President Bush launched "We the People," an initiative to encourage the education of United States history. Last fall, the House of Representatives passed a resolution recognizing the importance of history and civics in a child's curriculum.

So far, however, the best instrument I have seen to teach children about the Constitution is a book called Constitution Translated for Kids. For those who want their children to understand our birthright as Americans—as laid out in the Constitution—this book is an excellent resource to see precisely what the Constitution says, at a fifth-grade level.

Constitution Translated for Kids features the actual 1787 text of the United States Constitution on the left-hand side of the page and the translation appears on the right side in the first ever side-by-side, simple translation of the short, yet most supreme, legal and political document of the United States. The book also offers historical context and student exercises

that approximate the decisions made in the name of democracy.

Democracy demands that citizens be informed. Understanding our history will make tomorrow's citizens more aware of their government and their rights. I thank the House Administration Committee today for bringing this resolution to the floor; and I urge my colleagues to continue our outreach to young people in order to make them aware of what the Constitution says and what that means in our daily lives.

KAZAKHSTAN

### HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 7, 2003*

Mr. FALEOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, today, when our country faces unprecedented challenges, it is crucial that we have strong allies in the world. One such ally is Kazakhstan, a country that throughout its short history of independence has demonstrated a true commitment to our principles and ideals of building a safe and prosperous world.

Against the backdrop of modern threats of catastrophic terrorism with the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), Kazakhstan has voluntarily renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal it inherited from the former Soviet Union, has shut down the world's largest nuclear test site and has been actively working with the United States in the fight against international terrorism.

Kazakhstan's example can be used as a response to aspirations by rogue states to develop WMD to impose their interests in the world. This is why I believe we need to actively spread the story of Kazakhstan's responsible international conduct and its strong cooperation with the United States that is of exceptional significance to settle today's most critical international problems.

As a key state for our interests in the center of Eurasia, Kazakhstan was one of the first to support us in the tragic days after September 11 and is providing concrete assistance in the Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Kazakhstan, sharing our interest in securing stability in Iraq and its surroundings after Operation Iraqi Freedom, is also sending its military medical personnel to join the International Coalition Stabilizing Force.

Now is the time, I believe, for us to develop multifaceted cooperation with Kazakhstan, a strategic partner of the United States in the fight against terrorism and proliferation of WMD. Now is the time to support this young and perspective country of pro-Western orientation in its serious efforts to build a developed and prosperous society. Such a course will undoubtedly meet the interests of our two nations.

On May 5, 2003, the Honorable Kanat Saudabayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, published an article in the Washington Times

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.