

never would have been fought. We are now a key ally of the United States in Central Asia and a force for stability and security in the region.

Having set our sights on radical change, we had to rely primarily on our own resources, building new civic institutions from scratch, freeing industry from the shackles of state ownership and fashioning political reform in a way that reflected Kazakhstan's wide religious and ethnic diversity.

Today, 90 percent of the Kazakh economy is in private hands. Growth has averaged 10 percent over the last four years and is projected to continue at comparable levels. Our financial institutions approach Western standards of efficiency. Poverty is steadily being tackled, unemployment is falling, and sound macroeconomic policy has ensured low levels of inflation. Meanwhile, oil exports are rising by 15 percent each year. With the world's energy needs set to double during the present century, there is international recognition that Kazakhstan is emerging as an important and responsible player in international energy markets.

In the longer term, however, we know that oil wealth by itself will not ensure prosperity or guarantee inter-ethnic harmony. Only a broadly based, flexible economy will enable us to address the challenges of rural poverty, provide modern standards of health care, employment and pensions, and tackle the illegal shipment of people, drugs, weapons and extremist ideas from neighboring countries.

Economic reform will, we hope, be further stimulated by Kazakhstan's forthcoming entry into the World Trade Organization. My country's growing participation in international institutions provides an important learning opportunity. But we are not expecting a free lunch. As President Bush wrote in his recent letter to me, the United States is "grateful for Kazakhstan's continued assistance in the war on terror." We have given robust support, allowing our air space to be used and granting emergency landing rights during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Currently, our troops assist in the peaceful reconstruction of Iraq.

After centuries during which the big decisions came from Moscow via a complex bureaucratic chain, freedom and personal responsibility are new concepts to us. But our record should leave no doubt about our intentions.

Democratic reform and measures to enhance human rights must not, however, be introduced in a way that undermines stability. We cannot afford to disturb the atmosphere of religious and inter-ethnic tolerance that every visitor to our country, including his holiness, the pope, and the chief rabbi of Israel, notices immediately.

To those who say the pace of political change is too slow, I offer this personal assurance: We have not given up on reform. This is amply demonstrated by the decision made just a few weeks ago to impose a moratorium on the death penalty and by new legislative proposals to ensure free and fair elections this fall. Indeed, we hope that our twin record of external engagement and internal reform may persuade many countries to support our chairmanship of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in 2009.

When friends tell me that we are still not moving quickly enough, I am tempted to reply: "Bearing in mind how far and how quickly we have traveled, how much faster would you like us to go? In steering the infant Kazakh democracy, the accelerator has been used far more than the brake. Please remember also just how long your own societies took to complete the processes on which we are now embarked."

CONGRATULATING DR. DEBORAH GERMAN UPON HER RECEIPT OF THE AMWA CHANGING THE FACE OF MEDICINE: LOCAL LEGENDS AWARD

### HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2004*

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor one of the nation's leading physicians, Dr. Deborah German, who was recently named by the American Medical Women's Association as a winner of the "Changing the Face of Medicine: Local Legends" award. Dr. German is a highly skilled physician, a noted medical educator, an experienced healthcare administrator, and a supportive colleague who has actively encouraged others to succeed in medicine.

Dr. German is presently the CEO of the nonprofit Saint Thomas Hospital in Nashville, TN, as well as senior vice president and chief academic officer for Saint Thomas Health Services, but her rich career has encompassed clinical practice, research, and academia. After graduating from Boston University and Harvard Medical School, Dr. German completed a fellowship in rheumatic and genetic disease at Duke University Medical Center following her residency. While there, she was a research associate in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and published and presented work on adenosine metabolism at international meetings. She became director of Duke Gout Clinics and the associate dean of medical education at Duke University Medical School.

An appointment as associate dean of students brought Dr. German in 1998 to Vanderbilt University Medical School, where she was later named senior associate dean of medical education. While at Vanderbilt, she was honored with the Chancellor's Award for Human Rights and Affirmative Action.

In addition to numerous awards, publications and professional leadership positions, Dr. German was granted the 2002 AAMC Women in Medicine Leadership Development Award and held the Louisiana State University School of Medicine "Distinguished Woman in Medicine" Visiting Professorship in 2000. Dr. German is a founder and past president of both Tennessee Women in Medicine and the Society of Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine. She was awarded the 2000 Athena Award, given locally to women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of women in our community, and she was inducted into the YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement.

The AMWA's award is only the latest in a long series of awards and achievements for Dr. German, and the people of the 5th District of Tennessee are fortunate to benefit from her talents and from her dedication to excellence in medicine. On behalf of the 5th District, I congratulate Dr. German.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SOLLIE RASO

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Sollie Raso, an impressive man whose record of public service and commitment to education in the community of Pueblo, Colorado spans seven decades. Those whose lives Mr. Raso has touched during his distinguished career as an educator know him to be firm, fair, and friendly. He has led by example, never demanding respect, but rather commanding it through his actions. Simply stated, Sollie Raso exemplifies the most sacred of American values: service to the community and dedication to family.

Sollie is the son of Italian immigrants from Calabria, who instilled in him the value of hard work and the love of family. He served his country proudly during the Second World War as a nose-gunner in a B-17, logging many missions over Europe. Upon returning home, he married his high school sweetheart Betty Lou, with whom he raised four children, and moved to Pueblo to begin his teaching and coaching career at Central High School.

In 1956, Sollie was named principal of Central High, even though there were many who did not believe a football coach could succeed as an administrator. Sollie's straightforward administrative style quickly won over his detractors and, after eleven years as a principal, he moved on to become the Pueblo School District Activities Director. After retiring from the school system in 1982, he returned to public service in 1984 for the first of two terms as a Pueblo County Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to bring the service of Sollie Raso to the attention of this body of Congress, and commend him for the manner in which he has served the community of Pueblo, Colorado. His importance to Pueblo cannot be overstated, and he has helped to shape many leaders of the community. Sollie continues to serve his community as a member of the selections committee of the Greater Pueblo Sports Association, nearly sixty years after he first became an educator. I sincerely thank him for his service.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR OF DAPHNE, ALABAMA

### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2004*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom abroad.

Specialist Christopher Taylor, a native of Kentwood, Louisiana, and longtime resident of Daphne, Alabama, was assigned to the 1165th Alabama National Guard Military Police Company based in Fairhope. Last year, Christopher's unit was activated and deployed to Iraq following the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It was there that on February 16, 2004