

TSA has only been in existence for a few years and has certainly suffered through some growing pains. Because of this, we should be focused on ensuring the success of TSA rather than adding the new challenge of privatization that could jeopardize their future and potentially endanger the security of airline passengers. That is why I am introducing the Passenger Safety Act which will repeal the opt-out language in the law that created the TSA. I urge my colleagues to support this important initiative to protect passenger safety.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO AILEEN
WARFIELD

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of Aileen Warfield of Pueblo, Colorado. Aileen recently passed away at the age of seventy-eight. She will be remembered for her commitment to her family and her contributions to her community. I would like to join my colleagues in recognizing her life and her memory before this body of Congress and this nation.

Aileen's passion was working at her candy store, Nettie's Colorado Candies. The origins of Nettie's Colorado Candies can be traced back to the 1930's, and Aileen and her husband, Ray Warfield bought the candy store in 1971. They had no experience in the business, but Aileen wished to undertake the challenge of owning and operating a small business. Once the Warfields assumed control, they made it into a family business employing most of their children over the years. What originated as a hobby, turned into a busy job. Aileen worked six days a week and was an active member of the RCI, the Retail Confectioners International.

Aileen dedicated her time and energies to her family and her community. She was a member of the Mesa Junction Association, a board member of the Parade of Lights committee and the Greater Pueblo Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Speaker, Aileen Warfield was a beloved member of her community and I am honored to remember her life today. Her work ethic and friendly face at the candy store will be sorely missed in the Grand Junction community. I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Aileen's family and friends during this difficult time of bereavement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on July 19, 2004, I was unavoidably absent from this Chamber and missed three rollcall votes. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 391, 392, and 393.

DECLARING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR,
SUDAN

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, DONALD PAYNE, and the members of the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership in bringing H. Con. Res. 467 to the floor so quickly. The resolution, which I am proud to co-sponsor, accurately labels the situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan as genocide, and calls upon the United Nations to take action to prevent it.

Mr. Speaker, millions of people in Darfur face a life-threatening crisis. Through actions of militias supported by the Sudanese government, villages have been burned, crops destroyed, and people uprooted.

Tens of thousands of people have already died. Without prompt and effective international action, the death toll will soon go much higher.

The Bush Administration has appropriately increased public awareness, in the United States and throughout the world, about what is at stake in Darfur, and this resolution acknowledges that.

But it calls upon the Administration to do more. A decade ago, the international community did not act quickly enough to prevent the horror of Rwanda. We must not see a repeat of that tragedy in Darfur.

Sustained and effective leadership by the United States will be necessary to achieve that goal.

The rainy season has arrived in Darfur, and the level of misery is increasing. The Sudanese are not acting quickly enough to implement promises they made to control the militias and facilitate the delivery of relief supplies.

Passage of this resolution should heighten the sense of urgency and sharpen the understanding of the Sudanese government of the resolve of the United States on this urgent and critical matter.

I urge the adoption of the resolution.

URGING GOVERNMENT OF
BELARUS TO ENSURE DEMO-
CRATIC, TRANSPARENT, AND
FAIR ELECTION PROCESS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 21, 2004

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 652 which urges the Government of Belarus to ensure a democratic, transparent, and fair election process for its parliamentary elections in October 2004. As the sponsor of the Belarus Democracy Act (H.R. 854), which has also been reported out by the International Relations Committee, it is important that the House call specific attention to these upcoming fall elections. Mr. BERUTEER, in his capacity as Chairman of the House International Relations Subcommittee on Europe, has lend his support of the Belarus Democracy Act as well.

Belarus' poor track record with recent elections—which were judged as not meeting international democratic standards by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe—and more broadly with the situation with respect to human rights and democracy in Belarus, underscore the need for this resolution. Belarus, under autocratic ruler Alexander Lukashenka, has the worst human rights record in Europe today. Repressions against members of the democratic opposition, non-governmental organizations, the independent media and independent trade unions have become commonplace. Independent thought and action are anathema to Lukashenka, who over the last 10 years has consolidated his power to an alarming extent.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the Belarusian authorities will take this resolution seriously, as it provides them with a blueprint on what they need to do to have their elections conform with OSCE standards. Unfortunately, four benchmarks for free and fair elections established by the OSCE 4 years ago still not been met. Thus far, the pre-election environment has not been encouraging. Last month, three opposition parliamentarians staged an 18-day hunger strike demanding changes in the Election Code, which still includes several undemocratic provisions. The reform bill was overwhelmingly defeated by the Lukashenka-controlled parliament.

Belarusians still have no opportunity to receive independent viewpoints through broadcast media. Opposition access to the state media is virtually non-existent; rather the political opposition is often vilified. Just yesterday Lukashenka, talking about his hopes for a pro-government majority in the October elections, said: "I strongly hope that the people will make the right choice," and added that "the people will take a close look at traitors, black sheep . . . wolves in sheep's clothing, and we will help them if they don't." This is not a good harbinger for the elections—and the election campaign has not even begun!

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that we convey to the Belarusian authorities our call for a free, fair, open and transparent parliamentary election process consistent with Belarus' freely undertaken OSCE commitments. The long-suffering Belarusian people deserve no less.

STOCK OPTION ACCOUNTING
REFORM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 20, 2004

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, as a cosponsor of H.R. 3574, the Stock Option Accounting Reform Act, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the bill. In order to remain competitive in today's difficult economy, America's small businesses need the flexibility to choose how to treat their stock options, and I am pleased that Congress is acting today on legislation that maintains the discretionary nature of expensing stock options. If Congress were to do nothing and allow the mandatory stock option expensing proposal to take effect, America's small businesses—especially high tech firms—would suffer.

Particularly for the high tech sector, stock options are critical to attracting employees to