

his commitment to others, and his professional and individual achievements. With dignity, strength and grace, he paved the way for others to succeed, gently leading and always inspiring.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Charles Whitman Jones, as Myers University and the Cleveland community gather in tribute to his brilliant life and legacy. His energy and spirit live on through his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched, especially his wife, Diane; son, Peter Lawson Jones, daughter-in-law, Lisa Jones; and his grandchildren, Ryan, Leah and Evan.

Mr. Jones led by example and his activism and service continues to pave the way for educational and professional opportunities for the young adults of our community. His integrity, warmth, wit and concern for others has left an indelible mark upon our entire community, and he will be remembered always.

RAY FLETCHER, A SALUTE TO
HURRICANE VOLUNTEERS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute those individuals and organizations that opened their hearts and dedicated both financial and emotional support to the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. All of the states along the Gulf Coast have endured terrible hardships during this hurricane season, and I know that the generosity of North Texans played a vital role in bringing some peace into their lives.

Today, I want to specifically thank one man for his creditable contribution. Ray Fletcher, of Gainesville Texas, has done an outstanding job as the Cooke County Emergency Manager, especially during and after Hurricane Katrina.

As the Cooke County Emergency Manager, Mr. Fletcher has successfully managed the relief efforts conducted in his community, including a shelter that housed many displaced Louisianans.

I stand here today to sincerely thank Ray Fletcher for his hard work. It is people like him that I am proud to call a fellow Texan. Through his contribution, he not only stands as a devoted and giving American citizen, but he serves as an inspiration to others.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE
GREATER AWARENESS OF
EFFECTIVE RUNAWAY YOUTH
PREVENTION PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 484, a resolution which supports efforts to promote greater awareness of effective prevention programs for youth at-risk of running away from home and the need for safe and productive alter-

natives, resources, and supports for homeless youth. The resolution also commemorates National Runaway Prevention Month.

The statistics of runaway and homeless youth are staggering: 1.6 million youth are on the streets every day; more than 1,200 youth run away from home each day; and 1 out of every 7 children in the United States runs away from home before the age of 18. It's not easy being a kid today. The decisions and concerns confronting kids today are tougher than ever: peer pressure, drug/alcohol abuse, and more. Some face pregnancy or AIDS. Many more are experiencing violence in the streets, at home, and in the classroom.

For the estimated 1.6 million kids living on the street, these dilemmas may be especially difficult because there is all too often no one to talk to. These youth thought they could escape their problems by running away, only to encounter even more problems.

That is why I support the National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)'s mission which serves as the federally-designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth. While its national headquarters is in my district in Chicago, NRS provides services to youth and families across the country. Without organizations such as the National Runaway Switchboard, over a million youth each year would have nowhere to turn during a time of crisis. Established in 1971, NRS is recognized as the oldest hotline in the world. With the support of more than 150 volunteers, NRS handled over 111,000 calls last year and more than 3 million calls in its 34-year history. NRS provides crisis intervention, referrals to local resources, and education and prevention services to youth, families and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Over 10,000 youth have been reunited with their families through the NRS Home Free program.

On April 18, 2005, I joined Executive Director, Maureen Blaha, at NRS headquarters to unveil NRS's new 800 number, 1-800-RUNAWAY to the American public. NRS also announced the establishment of a new web site, www.1800RUNAWAY.org to match its new signature 800 number. These new initiatives are intended to provide vulnerable and at-risk youth with an easy name and number to remember when they are experiencing crisis and looking for help. The NRS hopes to offer its services to more and more youth with the rollout of 1-800-RUNAWAY.

Now is the time to protect the vulnerable and support our youth. Tomorrow's leaders are running away from homes and falling into a life of uncertainty, violence, and crime. I urge my colleagues to join me in this fight to save tomorrow's leaders; vote "yes" on H. Res. 484.

ANNOUNCING PASSING OF
FORMER CONGRESSMEN ED ROYBAL
AND BOB BADHAM

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 25, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute today to a friend and distinguished former colleague, Mr. Edward Roybal of California.

I had the honor of working with Ed for 17 of the 30 years he served in the House of Representatives. I knew Ed to be a man of integrity, good conscience, courage and passion. He always stood for what he believed was best for the country. And he helped found many institutions of importance to America's Latino community.

Ed's passion and dedication to public health and quality of life issues has benefited generations of people and helped saved lives. He and I both shared the belief that government has an obligation to invest in the public good. Ed's work to secure the first funding for AIDS research and programs at the Center's for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 1982 stands out to me. Back then, we did not fully understand how serious and deadly the AIDS virus would become, but Ed Roybal did.

Consequently, I thought it was a fitting honor for the CDC central campus in Atlanta and the California State University at Los Angeles Institute for Applied Gerontology to dedicate their facilities in his name. These honors, and many others given him, are well deserved.

I offer my sincerest condolences to Ed's surviving family, including his daughter, my friend and current colleague, Representative LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD. With Ed's passing, America has lost a leader, role model, and to those of us who were fortunate enough to call him such: a friend.

TESTIMONY ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
CENTRAL ASIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following testimony for the RECORD.

Good morning. It's a pleasure for me to speak before you today, the Middle East and Central Asia subcommittee. I want to commend the subcommittee for organizing this important hearing and for your work concerning the ongoing problems in Central Asia.

The peoples of Central Asia are largely Muslim, with a history of living under Russian rule for centuries. Despite our hopes and modest expectations that these nations would matriculate from dictatorships to democracies, from my vantage point as Co-Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the disappointing reality over the last fifteen years is that most are moving in the wrong direction. Moreover, in all countries of the region "super-presidents" dominate the political arena while their families, friends and favored few exploit the country's natural resources. Corruption among the elite is pervasive, as is cynicism among the populace. Legislatures and judiciaries have languished while the authorities maintain tight control of the most important media outlets.

Yet despite these similarities, the five countries of Central Asia run the gamut from the standpoint of democratization and human rights observance; I would like to offer quick character sketches of each and then suggest some policy options.

Kyrgyzstan represents one positive advance, as the only country in Central Asia where the head of state won his job in a fair contest. In last March's Tulip Revolution, opposition leaders mobilized popular resistance to yet another rigged election and