

ousted Askar Akaev. He was replaced by President Kurmanbek Bakiev, who won in a genuine landslide. Media outlets which were under pressure can now report freely on events. All this proves that Central Asians are ready for democracy. But Kyrgyzstan faces many problems. Parliament was elected in a rigged vote, and criminal elements are increasingly influential. A series of assassinations of parliamentarians has unsettled the Kyrgyz and their friends abroad. Moreover, leaders in nearby states have been disturbed by the precedent of "people power" in their neighborhood.

On the other hand, under the megalomaniac "president for life" Saparmurat Niyazov, gas-rich Turkmenistan is the last one-party state in the former Soviet bloc. No dissent or religious freedoms are allowed and all media glorify the "great" leader. Citizens must study Niyazov's Rukhnama—a pseudo bible-mishmash of history, folklore and anthropology which seeks to supplant traditional Turkmen sources of spirituality. No other institutions or individuals have been allowed to emerge. Not only are all human rights violated, none of the bases of modern statehood have been fostered, leaving Turkmenistan's people ill-prepared for the day when Niyazov inevitably leaves the scene.

Tajikistan is the only state in Central Asia where Muslim political parties are legal, an outcome of the bloody civil war fought between 1992 and 1997. The agreement ending those hostilities brought opposition parties into government, a major step forward for Central Asia. But lately President Imomali Rakhmonov has been concentrating power. In 2004, he orchestrated a referendum that will allow him to remain in office until 2020, if he wins next year's presidential election—he is preparing by clamping down on potential rivals. Two weeks ago an opposition figure was sentenced to 23 years in prison on charges many see as politically motivated. At the same time, Rakhmonov has been muzzling the media, with various independent newspapers closed down or under constant pressure.

In oil-rich Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbaev has been President since the late 1980s and is running for re-election in December. Opposition parties are registered but have no representatives in parliament. Independent and opposition newspapers are harassed or fined for libel. The new and regressive national security amendments limit religious freedoms by increasing registration requirements, banning unregistered religious groups, greatly curtailing missionary activity, and permitting the suspension of registration of a religious organization. Nevertheless, Kazakhstan wants to be Chairman of the OSCE in 2009, a consensus decision that will have to be made in 2006. While I would like to see a Central Asian country in that position, chairmanship of the OSCE must be earned. A grade of "excellent" from OSCE election monitors on the presidential contest in December is the minimum requirement. Many more improvements in human rights performance will be needed before U.S. backing for Kazakhstan's candidacy could be given in good conscience.

Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov has banned all opposition. Censorship remains in effect, torture is pervasive and thousands of people are in jail on political or religious grounds—Islamic observance is permitted only within state structures. Lagging economic reform has crimped business development and aggravated widespread poverty, all of which was recently documented by a very thorough Human Rights First report. Demonstrating the lows the regime will take to squash dissent, Uzbek authorities last week subjected one of the country's most promi-

nent human rights defenders, Elena Urlaeva, to forcible psychiatric treatment, injecting her against her will with powerful psychotropic drugs.

Her troubles began when she was put under house arrest in May to prevent her protesting the violence in Andijon. Last May, armed men assaulted a prison in Andijon where local businessmen were being held for alleged Islamic radicalism. Troops responded the next day by shooting indiscriminately at large crowds. According to eyewitnesses, hundreds, perhaps thousands were killed. The U.S. Government, along with the OSCE, UN and European Union, has called for an independent investigation into Andijon. President Karimov has refused and state-run Uzbek media outlets have accused the U.S. of assisting with Islamic terrorists. The allegation would be funny if it weren't so chilling.

Andijon has been a watershed in Uzbekistan's post-independence history and in U.S.-Uzbek relations. As of today, our bilateral ties are in a deep freeze and Tashkent has demanded that our military base at K-2, which was supplying coalition forces in neighboring Afghanistan, be shut down.

As you can see, the countries of Central Asia have much in common but have different prospects of future development. I believe the United States can help move them in a positive direction, while balancing the priorities of security cooperation, energy supplies and democratization.

It is worth recalling President Bush's 2003 Whitehall Palace speech during his trip to the United Kingdom in which he acknowledged past mistakes in U.S. foreign policy: "in the past, [we] have been willing to make a bargain; to tolerate oppression for the sake of stability . . . yet this bargain did not bring stability or make us safe. It merely bought time, while problems festered and ideologies of violence took hold."

Considering this, U.S. policy must support those Central Asian governments which have made progress towards democratization, especially Kyrgyzstan. We must also use our influence to urge those in the middle to improve their performance and those on the extremes to begin moderating their behavior. If we are to defeat terrorism and instill democracy and human rights in this region, we must do more.

That is why I've introduced H.R. 3189, the Central Asia Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2005. If there is to be lasting success in fighting terrorism, the U.S. must break away from policies that back dictators who suppress and terrorize their own people, as repression will mostly likely breed future terrorism. The United States Government should therefore use every means at its disposal to move the countries of Central Asia to greater respect for democracy and human rights. U.S. engagement should support American values, promote long-term stability and security in the region, and ensure that all assistance programs support and reinforce these goals. In short, the bill facilitates engagement with those countries that want to engage.

In President Bush's second inaugural speech, he declared "it is the policy of the United States to seek and support the growth of democratic movements and institutions in every nation and culture, with the ultimate goal of ending tyranny in our world." My bill fulfills this policy directive by providing constructive foreign assistance to support democratization and human rights, while conditioning all non-humanitarian U.S. assistance to the individual governments of Central Asia, both economic and military, on whether each is making "substantial, sustained and demonstrable progress" towards democratization and full respect of human rights in keeping with their OSCE commitments.

The legislation would require that the President make an annual determination whether such progress is being made by examining five categories: democratization; free speech; freedom of religion; torture; and rule of law/trafficking in persons. If a country is not certified, economic and military assistance would be withheld in a graduated format. My bill provides greater flexibility to the President, as it allows the U.S. to express dissatisfaction in a significant way while not immediately ending all aid programs to the central governments in this strategic region of the world. The President is also provided with a national security waiver.

Notably, withheld money is not lost. The President is authorized to reallocate withheld funds to provide financial assistance (including the awarding of grants) to foreign and domestic individuals, NGOs, and entities that support democracy, the promotion of democracy and/or full respect of human rights.

The United States should use every means at its disposal to encourage democratization in Central Asia. Democracy in that part of the world will ultimately promote long-term stability and security in the region. That's the objective of my legislation. I hope the Members of the Middle East and Central Asia subcommittee will join me and cosponsor H.R. 3189.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK WINE EXPERIENCE

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 28, 2005

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marvin Shanken, editor and publisher of the Wine Spectator, on the 25th anniversary of the New York Wine Experience a biennial tribute to fine wine from around the globe.

Last month the world's leaders gathered in New York City to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. This week another group of world leaders will arrive in New York City, these leaders will represent the world's finest wineries and chateaux and they will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the New York Wine Experience.

For 25 years now, wine lovers and winemakers have flocked to New York City every two years for the chance to taste fine wines from six continents, under one roof. The Wine experience is the largest wine event in the United States attracting daily crowds numbering in the thousands.

Not only does the Wine Experience showcase outstanding wines, but it also lends a hand to many charities and nonprofit organizations. All proceeds from the event go to the Wine Spectator Scholarship foundation, which in turn provides funding to, the enology and viticulture program at the University of California, Davis, Copia, the American Center for Wine, Food and the Arts and the Culinary Institute of America.

Over the last 25 years, The New York Wine Experience has exposed tens of thousands of people to the world of fine wine and there is no doubt that Marvin Shanken has greatly contributed to the growth of the California wine industry through his work with the event and the Wine Spectator.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I think it is appropriate that we honor and congratulate Marvin Shanken for the success of the New York Wine Experience and its immeasurable contribution to the American and global wine industries. I wish Mr. Shanken and the Wine Spectator well as the New York Wine Experience prospers for another 25 years.

CONGRATULATING ED LUCKS ON  
BEING INDUCTED INTO THE COLORADO  
SKI AND SNOWBOARD  
HALL OF FAME

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Ed Lucks on his induction into the Colorado Ski & Snowboard Hall of Fame for 2005. Mr. Luck's accomplishments have greatly impacted the lives of Coloradans, and he deserves recognition for the many contributions he has made to his community.

Ed Lucks' passion for skiing is matched by his gift of sharing it with others. In 1966, Mr. Lucks began teaching skiing at Arapahoe Basin and discovered his life-long mission to share the sport with disabled people. Working with doctors from an Army hospital, Ed began teaching disabled Vietnam veterans and soon included kids from Children's Hospital in Denver. In 1969, he moved to Snowmass Village and started the adaptive ski program at Aspen where he taught for over 26 years. Mr. Lucks practiced skiing on one leg and skiing blindfolded to see what methods and techniques would work best with his students. If he found a way that a piece of adaptive ski equipment could be improved, he'd spend countless hours modifying it for his students. He has selflessly shared his knowledge and teaching with instructors and volunteers throughout the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Mr. Lucks for contributing to his community in far-reaching ways. We recognize his accomplishments in bringing freedom and confidence through skiing to thousands of people with disabilities through his pioneering techniques and effective experimentation with equipment. I'm proud to offer warm congratulations to Mr. Lucks on his well deserved honor in entering the Colorado Ski Museum's Hall of Fame.

IN HONOR OF C. LYONEL JONES,  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF CLEVELAND

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of C. Lyonel Jones, upon his retirement as Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland. Fortified with a law degree and a deep commitment to protect the legal rights of the poor, Mr. Jones grasped the torch of legal justice in 1966,

passed to him by the Legal Aid Society's first attorney, Isador Grossman.

Mr. Jones began working at the Legal Society in the summer of 1966, in a dilapidated building in Cleveland's Hough neighborhood. He witnessed the struggle for civil rights right outside his office door, as the historic Hough Riots had begun just three days earlier. After the rioting had ceased, Mr. Jones united with U.S. Congressman Louis Stokes, Cleveland Mayor Carl Stokes and the NAACP to rebuild the eastside neighborhood. He also provided legal defense to those who were erroneously charged during the riots.

Mr. Jones' kind and humble nature veil his high intellect and legal savvy. His focus on providing quality legal services to those who otherwise could not afford legal representation served to lift the lives of thousands of families and individuals into the light of legal protection and justice. Moreover, Mr. Jones was a champion on behalf of the Legal Aid Society, always finding avenues to raise funds and garner community support.

Throughout the past four decades, Mr. Jones' vision and leadership guided the Legal Aid Society through a significant expansion in staff and services, yet he ensured that the Society's mission remain constant—to provide compassionate and competent support to those unable to afford legal representation, and also to advocate on behalf of vital issues facing our community.

From advocating for the restoration of the Hough neighborhood in the 60's, to winning cases that improved the lives of those living in psychiatric facilities and nursing homes, to advocating on behalf of battered women, to forcing Republic Steel to comply with the EPA's Clean Air Act, Mr. Jones's efforts continue to have far-reaching, positive effects that extend miles beyond northeast Ohio.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and celebration of C. Lyonel Jones, whose integrity, commitment and leadership has given a voice to those who were silent and has offered protection and solutions to those who had neither.

Mr. Jones' thirty-nine year tenure at the helm of the Legal Aid Society brought critical societal issues into the light of day, and his efforts, framed by heart, conviction and an unwavering focus on human rights issues, will exist as a brilliant example for all those who will follow. The work of Mr. C. Lyonel Jones has strengthened the foundation of justice upon which others will continue to build upon; a foundation fortified by their hopeful and courageous efforts focused on the day when these historic words will ring true: ". . . and justice for all."

KIM BROWN, 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 sea-

son, 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 woman for her creditable contribution. Kim Brown has done an outstanding job as the Shelter Operations Director for the Gainesville Red Cross shelter for the Katrina Hurricane survivors.

As the Shelter Operations Director, Ms. Brown coordinates acquisition and distribution of food, clothing, laundry services, transportation, donations, computers, medical care, prescriptions, activities and volunteers for everyone at the shelter.

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

H.R. 1409, THE ASSISTANCE FOR  
ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE  
CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES ACT: PROTECT OUR  
CHILDREN, PROTECT OUR FUTURE

**HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 28, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1409, the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act. This bill will provide assistance for the most vulnerable children in the poorest of nations for basic care, HIV/AIDS treatment, school food programs, education and employment training assistance, and protection of inheritance rights. This bill also establishes the position of Special Advisor for Orphans and Vulnerable Children within the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to better coordinate the task of helping these children.

As a mother and as a grandmother, I will not stand by while millions of children all over the world suffer through the most abject, hostile, and inhumane conditions. In the last decade alone, more than one million children were orphaned or separated from their families as a result of war. As of July 2004, there were more than 143 million children living in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean who were identified as orphans, having lost one or both of their parents. Of this number, approximately 16 million children were identified as double orphans, having lost both parents—the vast majority of whom died from AIDS. According to a joint report of UNAIDS and UNICEF released in July 2004, every 14 seconds a child is orphaned by AIDS worldwide. Even orphans who are adopted continue to live a life of poverty and disadvantages due to the lack of proper infrastructure and the large poverty-stricken population. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), orphans are less likely to be in school and more likely to be working full time. We must help and protect these children from a life of disease, crime, and uncertainty.

I support H.R. 1409 because a child should be receiving a balanced diet, not worrying whether there will be food to eat the next day.