

THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
FOUNDING OF THE MOSCOW HEL-  
SINKI GROUP

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, as Ranking Member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Helsinki Commission, I note that tomorrow marks one of the major events in the struggle for human rights around the globe. Thirty years ago a courageous band of human rights defenders in the Soviet Union founded the "Moscow Helsinki Group," dedicated to monitoring Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Final Act, an historic agreement containing important provisions on human rights.

When General Secretary Brezhnev signed the Helsinki Final Act, or the Helsinki Accords, on August 1, 1975 on behalf of the USSR, Soviet officials believed that they had gained an important foreign policy victory. Indeed, there were some provisions that Soviet diplomats had sought assiduously during the negotiations among the thirty-five nations of Europe and the United States and Canada. However, the West, for its part, had insisted on certain provisions in the area of human rights and humanitarian affairs, including the right of citizens "to know their rights and to act upon them."

With this commitment in mind, Professor Yuri Orlov, a Soviet physicist who had been involved in the defense of human rights in the Soviet Union previously, called upon several of his similarly-minded colleagues to join together in an organization to press publicly for implementation of the Helsinki Accords in their country.

Eleven brave individuals answered the call, and on May 12, 1976, at a press conference called by famed human rights campaigner and peace activist Dr. Andrei Sakharov, the creation of the "Public Group to Assist in the Implementation of the Helsinki Final Act," or as it became later known, the "Moscow Helsinki Group" was announced.

The Moscow Helsinki Group committed itself to collecting information about implementation of the Helsinki Accords in the Soviet Union and publishing reports on their findings. During the first six years of its activity, they produced almost two hundred specific reports, as well as other announcements and appeals. More activists joined with the passing months. Similar Helsinki monitoring groups were established elsewhere in the USSR, including in Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia and Armenia. Other groups focused on specific human rights issues such as psychiatric abuse or religious liberty joined the movement. The Moscow Group became an important source of information for individuals and groups seeking assistance in the area of human rights.

Naturally, the Soviet leadership rejected such "assistance" and undertook to suppress the Moscow Helsinki Group. Members were fired from their jobs, "persuaded" to emigrate, castigated in the press, and subjected to KGB searches and interrogations. When such reprisals proved mostly ineffective, members were charged with political crimes and given lengthy sentences in labor camps of the Soviet Gulag, usually with an additional term of

"internal exile," forced resettlement, typically somewhere in Siberia or the Soviet Far East.

Ten years after the founding of the Moscow Helsinki Group, 14 members had been sentenced to a total of 69 years in labor camp or prison, and 50 years internal exile. Anatoly Marchenko, a founding member and veteran dissident, died during a hunger strike at Chistopol Prison in December 1986. By 1982, the Moscow Helsinki Group had been forced to suspend its activities in the face of intense KGB repression.

But while Moscow had rid itself of some troublesome dissidents, the spirit of Helsinki was not so easily quashed. Ludmilla Alekseyeva, an exiled member of the group, testified in the U.S. Congress in October 1985 that "for victims of human rights abuses in the Eastern bloc, Helsinki remains the main source of hope . . . and a rallying point in their struggle for freedom and peace." Just a little over 4 years after she spoke those words, the Berlin Wall fell.

The Moscow Helsinki Group was re-established in 1989. Reinvigorated through the work of new and veteran members, it is one of the most respected human rights organizations in the Russian Federation today. Alexeyeva, who returned to Russia in the early 1990s, following the demise of the Soviet Union, serves as chair of the group.

Mr. Speaker, we would do well to heed the wise words of Andrei Sakharov when he noted, "The whole point of the Helsinki Accords is mutual monitoring, not mutual evasion of difficult problems." A key to the ultimate success of the Helsinki Process has been the involvement of civil society—courageous human rights defenders like those who established the Moscow Group—willing to speak out on behalf of others. I remain deeply concerned over human rights trends in Russia, especially the adoption of regressive laws affecting fundamental human rights and freedoms.

I join my colleagues on the Helsinki Commission in congratulating the Moscow Helsinki Group on the occasion of its 30th anniversary of dedicated service in the defense of fundamental freedoms and liberty.

RECOGNIZING NICHOLAS J. PARK  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas J. Park, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 180, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Nicholas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas J. Park for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CALI-  
FORNIA STATE SENATOR ED  
DAVIS

**HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2006*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today to honor the memory of Ed Davis, a former California State Senator and Los Angeles Chief of Police. He was a remarkable man who was a monumental presence on the Los Angeles and California political scene. Senator Davis passed away on April 22, 2006 in San Luis Obispo, CA at the age of 89.

Born Edward Michael Davis on November 15, 1916 in Los Angeles, he graduated from John C. Fremont High School and enlisted in the United States Navy where he became a decorated officer. He later received his Masters in Public Administration from USC. Always a proud alumnus, he often sported a maroon blazer and gold pants, USC's famous colors, on the State Senate floor.

Joining the Los Angeles Police Department in 1940, Ed first walked a beat in downtown Los Angeles with the late Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley. Rising up through the ranks, he was a director of the police and fire union and later a trusted top aide to legendary Chief William Parker. Ed served as Los Angeles Chief of Police from 1969 until 1978 where he was known as a popular firebrand who pushed law and order during times of turbulence.

Chief Davis proved popular with not only with the people of Los Angeles, but also with weary Americans who were looking for tough leadership during uncertain times. During the same period, his officers' morale was at an all-time high. He became a national figure as a tough law and order proponent quelling student protests during the Vietnam War, opposing the Black Panthers, and taking a strident stance against the epidemic of hijacking in the early 1970's.

In 1974, the entire nation watched as the Chief's force had a climatic shootout with the Symbionese Liberation Army who had kidnapped heiress Patty Hearst. Several leaders of the gang died in a fiery blaze at the conclusion of the confrontation.

Chief Davis implemented historic reforms at the LAPD and left a legacy of influence in law enforcement. His innovations include creating the Neighborhood Watch concept to bring residents together, and instituting community policing. While crime rose by 55 percent across the Nation during his tenure as Chief, crime actually decreased by 1 percent in Los Angeles. His influence still exists in the LAPD, and programs that the Chief invented are at the heart of every police organization worldwide. The City of Los Angeles honored him by naming the newest and most elaborate of the three LAPD training centers "The Ed Davis Emergency Vehicle Operations Center & Tactics/Firearms Training Center" in 1998.

A respected member of the academic community, Chief Davis lecturing at USC and Cal State Los Angeles as an adjunct professor of police administration and management for 18 years. He was the author of Staff One, a leading police management textbook.

Prior to his appointment as Chief, he served for many years as a law enforcement advocate working with the California Legislature in