

April 27, 2007, after serving the Congress for over thirty years in various positions at CRS. Mr. Miko's tenure spanned multiple Congresses and several epochs in foreign policy and European affairs, his area of specialization. He has served as the institutional memory of Congress on important issues in which he was the recognized expert. His work as an analyst, manager, and leader in the CRS organization is particularly notable for his tact, judgment, and unswerving commitment to the core CRS mission of supporting an informed national legislature with nonpartisan analytical and research work.

Mr. Miko began working at CRS in 1974 as a research assistant in Soviet and Eastern European affairs. As an analyst and later as a specialist, Mr. Miko served as the principal CRS expert on Central and Eastern Europe. The quality of his work earned him widespread recognition and significantly contributed to CRS's reputation as a center for advanced policy analysis. During the Cold War years, he produced numerous studies on Eastern Europe and the détente period between the United States and Soviet Union, including major east-west initiatives such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). He participated in the congressional delegation to the Belgrade Conference of the CSCE in 1977 and the Budapest CSCE Cultural Forum in 1985. He was seconded to the Department of Defense in 1992 to serve as a representative of the Secretary of Defense at the CSCE Review Conference in Helsinki. As the Cold War wound down, Mr. Miko completed major CRS projects on the impact of the transformation of Eastern Europe after 1989 and the end of the Soviet Union in 1991. Later, he provided key analyses on global security issues such as organized crime, trafficking in persons, and approaches to counterterrorism. In the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, Mr. Miko served as co-coordinator of the CRS Terrorist Task Force that worked across subject divisions to coordinate related research needs for Congress.

I got to know Mr. Miko well in another role, one through which he also provided invaluable service to Congress. He has played an instrumental part in two congressional programs to assist with the development of new democracies. From 1990 to 1996, Mr. Miko coordinated the CRS role in the Frost-Solomon Special Task Force on the Development of Parliamentary Institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. The role of the Task Force was to help strengthen the parliamentary infrastructures of the formerly passive legislatures in twelve countries of post-communist central and eastern Europe. This unprecedented initiative of the U.S. Congress entailed extremely demanding and complex activities involving technical assistance on legislative practice, library and research institutional development, and automation systems and design. Mr. Miko's understanding of Europe on the one hand, and of Congress on the other, was essential to the success of the program, as his first-hand knowledge of the people and cultures of Eastern European countries helped the Task Force appropriately tailor its activities to the needs and working styles of its legislative partners in the region.

Rep. DAVID DREIER and I worked closely with Mr. Miko on the Frost-Solomon Task Force, and our positive experiences inspired

us, in 2005, to establish the House Democracy Assistance Commission to strengthen democratic institutions in emerging democracies worldwide. In this effort Mr. Miko has again proven an invaluable resource as a veteran expert in the development of democratic legislatures. He has helped the Commission determine appropriate partner nations, participated in needs assessments, and delivered direct technical assistance to partner legislatures. Most recently he accompanied us on a mission to Georgia, where we are working to support the democratic gains of the Rose Revolution. I and other Members of the Democracy Assistance Commission will greatly miss having such ready access to Mr. Miko at CRS, but we hope to find ways to continue to draw upon his insights and expertise as we move ahead with our work.

Over the years, Mr. Miko assumed several senior management positions at CRS, serving twice as section head of the Europe, Middle East, and Africa section, and once as deputy assistant director for the foreign affairs division. He represented the Library of Congress at the National War College in 1984–1985. He earned a Distinguished Service Award for his performance as representative of the Office of the Secretary of Defense at the 1992 Helsinki Review Conference.

In all of his professional endeavors, Mr. Miko has been a role model of the highest level of service to the U.S. Congress, the Library of Congress, and CRS. He has excelled as a capable manager of programs and resources, as a nationally renowned expert in his field of policy expertise, as a diplomat, and as a notable contributor to the legislative work of Congress.

On behalf of my colleagues in Congress, I want to express my appreciation to Francis Miko for his many years of public service and for his multiple contributions to the Congress, and to wish him well in his retirement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PANCH R.
PRASAD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Panch R. Prasad, C.E.O. of U.S. International Trading Corporation, for his recent professional successes and achievements.

Panch is the President and C.E.O. of U.S. International Trading Corporation. The company was founded in 1990 in Portland, Oregon, however, their corporate offices are now located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Since its founding, the U.S. International Trading Corporation has been committed to providing quality hair care, skin care, and cosmetics products. The company's beauty and cosmetics products are sold across the world with the products being available to consumers in East Asia, Europe, South America, the Middle East, and Australia.

Most recently, Panch was honored as the Small Business Exporter of the Year by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The Small Business Administration utilizes an independent panel of judges that use several factors in awarding these honors to the recipients.

The panel evaluates businesses on several factors such as the growth in number of employees, increase in sales, current and past financial reports, innovativeness of product or service, and contributions to community-oriented projects. This is an outstanding and well-deserved honor. Panch believes in supporting a commitment to excellence by providing quality distribution and products to U.S. International Trading Corporation's customers. I applaud his commitment to excellence.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Panch R. Prasad. His professional success is truly commendable. I congratulate him for his recent recognition by the Nevada District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

FEDERAL AGENCY DATA BREACH
PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, secure information is the lifeblood of effective government policy and management, yet federal agencies continue to hemorrhage vital data. Personal information continues to be placed at risk, and we must ask: What is being done to protect the sensitive digital identities of millions of Americans, and how can we limit the damage when personal data does go astray?

As we all now know, a Department of Veterans Affairs employee reported the theft of computer equipment from his home—equipment which stored more than 26 million records containing personal information. VA leadership delayed acting on the report for almost two weeks, while millions were at risk of serious harm from identity theft and the agency struggled to determine the exact extent of the breach.

But this is only one in a long string of personal information breaches in the public and private sectors, including financial institutions, data brokerage companies, and academic institutions. Last year, we found the Census Bureau could not account for over one thousand laptops containing sensitive information issued to employees. And just recently, we learned the Department of Agriculture left sensitive data on a website, putting the personal information of 150,000 individuals at risk.

These breaches continue to illustrate how far we have to go to reach the goal of strong, uniform, government-wide information security policies and procedures.

On the Government Reform Committee, I focused on government-wide information management and security for a long time. The Privacy Act and the E-Government Act of 2002 outline the parameters for the protection of personal information. These recent incidents highlight the importance of establishing—and following—security standards for safeguarding personal information. They also highlight the need for proactive security breach notification requirements for organizations—including Federal agencies—dealing with sensitive personal information.

Congress continues working on requirements for the private sector—but Federal agencies present unique requirements and