

spacecraft is carrying some of the ashes of Clyde Tombaugh.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to express their support for the reversal of the International Astronomical Union's decision and the official reinstatement of Pluto as the ninth and outermost planet in our solar system.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATORS ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN L. MICA**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th Anniversary of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. The AAMVA will be holding their 2008 annual meeting in Orlando, Florida.

In 1932, growth in the motor vehicle population, increasing interstate travel, and an increase in death and injuries on the highways highlighted the need for a national organization for uniform interstate laws and programs.

In response, representatives of the States, recognizing this need for uniform and reciprocal administration of motor vehicle laws, formed the American Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Subsequently in 1933 the group renamed itself the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, or AAMVA.

AAMVA has been the recognized North American authority for driver licensing and motor vehicle administration. AAMVA's U.S. and Canadian members have worked collaboratively to support and improve motor vehicle administration, safety, identification security and law enforcement.

AAMVA has served as a liaison with other levels of government and the private sector, and its development and research activities have provided guidelines for more effective public service.

AAMVA has fostered a tradition of service in the motor vehicle and law enforcement professions, providing outstanding service to the community through superb customer service initiatives, information technology, safety, and the best in public affairs and consumer educational programs throughout North America.

I would like to commend the many achievements of AAMVA and encourage AAMVA to continue its tradition of excellence in service to motorists through its advocacy of improving highway safety.

HONORING COMMUNITY BRIDGES OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Bridges of Santa Cruz County, which will gather to celebrate its 30th anniversary later this month. Community Bridges, a family of non-profit programs, provides otherwise unmet care to the citizens of Santa Cruz County and is a vital component of our community.

Since its inception on October 19, 1977, Community Bridges has worked to provide innovative human services to enhance our diverse community. Today the family of programs (Child and Adult Care Food Program; Child Development Programs; La Manzana Community Resources; Lift Line: Live Oak Family Resource Center. Meals on Wheels; and WIC Nutrition Program) serves nearly 30,000 Santa Cruz County community members each year.

Through its services, the group nurtures the entire life from beginning to end. Starting childhood, Community Bridges fosters a better life by providing childcare, after-school programs, and teen mentoring to ensure that children develop the skills they need to succeed in school and life. For those later in life Community Bridges helps residents maintain their dignity and independence by providing meal delivery, transportation, and literacy and language education.

With an eye on healthy living, Community Bridges combats childhood obesity and promotes community wellbeing by providing nutrition education programs, breastfeeding support for new mothers, and food reimbursements. Moreover, Community Bridges helps reduce the risk of child abuse and keeps families strong by providing parenting classes, fostering educational attainment, and connecting families to health insurance programs and other important resources.

They not only seek to address unmet human service needs in our county, but also focus on supporting existing efforts to serve the community by working with other local care providers. Community Bridges promotes civic engagement by actively seeking community input and providing leadership training opportunities for local residents. By building partnerships with local organizations they ensure the greatest efficiency and accessibility of services for Santa Cruz County residents. The broad reach and integrated structure of Community Bridges affords the agency the unique ability to swiftly identify and address community needs as they emerge.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to express appreciation for the critical role Community Bridges serves in providing a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our community and helping to improve the quality of life for the children, families, and seniors in Santa Cruz County.

COURT RULINGS ON YUKOS MANAGEMENT

**HON. ROGER F. WICKER**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 19, 2007*

Mr. WICKER. Madam Speaker, I would like to share information with my House colleagues about the application of the rule of law and free market economics in Russia. While economic growth has been positive since the 1998 financial crisis, Russia's legal and political system has regressed, threatening the development of a diverse economy based on market principles and the rule of law. The Russian government's 2003 expropriation of the YUKOS Oil Company raises concern about the stability of the economy and continues to remind us that investing in Russia is still very risky.

As Co-Chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus Russia Working Group, I would point out that the same legal system that has undermined the civil and human rights of former YUKOS head Mikhail Khodorkovsky and his business partner Platon Lebedev, also caused the company's downfall. In the YUKOS case, the Russian courts failed to adhere to basic principles such as private property rights protection, independent judges, due process and equal application of the law.

YUKOS, once Russia's largest oil company, was forced to declare bankruptcy in August 2006, when it could not pay claimed back taxes. After a series of auctions, YUKOS' remaining assets fell into the hands of the state-owned company, Rosneft. On November 22, 2007, Russia's Federal Tax Service announced it had completed YUKOS' bankruptcy procedure and that the company had ceased to exist as a legal entity.

In contrast to their experience in the Russian judicial system, Khodorkovsky and Lebedev have won several court rulings in other countries. The first favorable decision came in August 2006, when a Dutch court refused to give the Russian receiver of YUKOS, Eduard Rebgun, full control of its Dutch unit.

In August 2007, the Supreme Court of Switzerland ruled that the case against Khodorkovsky and Lebedev was politically motivated and refused to release bank documents to Russia in connection with the case.

Shortly afterwards, in October 2007, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that Russia had violated the rights of Lebedev during his arrest and pretrial detention, and the Russian government was ordered to pay him compensation.

However, in the most recent and significant ruling on October 31, 2007, a Dutch court ruled the YUKOS receiver did not have the right to sell off the firm's foreign assets in a bankruptcy auction in August. The court nullified all actions taken in that auction. The court also ruled that YUKOS was denied a fair trial to establish how much back taxes it owed to the Russian government.

The Dutch court ruling is important because it highlights three vitally important issues: First, the ability of Russian officials to appoint their own managers to run YUKOS; second, the bankruptcy of YUKOS and the process used to achieve it; and third, the validity of the original tax claim against YUKOS.

This decision, like many others before it, raises concerns about the legitimacy of the Russian court rulings in the YUKOS case. When the European Court of Human Rights along with courts in Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and other jurisdictions all reach the same conclusion, it strongly indicates that there is something very wrong in the application of the rule of law in Russia.

I want to share details of the October 31st Dutch court judgment relating to this case, and would like to submit for the RECORD the "Decision" section of that ruling.

JUDGMENT

District Court of Amsterdam, civil law division, case number/docket number: 355622/HA ZA 06-3612.

Judgement dated 31 October 2007 in the case of 1. David Andrew Godfrey, resident in London (United Kingdom); 2. Bruce Kelvern Misamore, resident in Houston, Texas (United States of America); 3. the private company with limited liability YUKOS Finance B.V., with registered seat in Amsterdam; claimants, procurator litis: Mr. R.J.