

the transition appears peaceful, it is not without its strains and stresses, even with the potential of the military stepping in like it has done repeatedly in the past. We can only hope that is not the outcome of this transition.

As an original participating State of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Turkey has accepted a broad range of human rights obligations. As head of the U.S. delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, I have worked with my parliamentary colleagues from Turkey to encourage protection for these commitments. With a new government not obligated to continue the ways of the old, there is a welcome opportunity for such initiatives to be undertaken.

There are a few specific matters that I urge the incoming government to address without delay. Four Kurdish members of the Grand National Assembly have been in prison since March 1994. I call upon the new government to free Layla Zana, Hatip Dicle, Orhan Dogan, and Selim Sadak and remove the trumped-up charges from their records. They were convicted for, among other things, speaking their mother tongue in and out of the parliament building. As Mr. Erdogan himself has said, such convictions should not stand.

Also, past efforts to return the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced Kurds to their homes in southeastern Turkey have proven ineffectual. The government should take concrete steps to ensure that refugees are allowed to return to their own homes in safety and dignity, which may well require the clearing of land mines and repairing of villages.

Mr. Speaker, without reciting the lengthy list of Turkey's human rights violations, including the use of torture, it is fair to say that Turkey's record of implementation of OSCE human dimension commitments remains poor. While progress has been made, the authority of police officials must be checked by the rule of law. All claims of torture must be seriously investigated, no matter where the investigation leads. It is important that anyone who commits torture—especially police, the security forces or other agents of the state—must be taken to court and tried for high crimes. The Forensic Medical Association should be allowed to carry out its professional responsibilities and act without fear in its attempts to document torture. Victims of torture should be paid due recompense by the state.

I am very concerned about the continuing difficulty no-governmental organizations face throughout Turkey, particularly the Human Rights Foundation of Turkey. The Human Rights Foundation exists in an uncertain environment, with arbitrary shutdowns and having its officials harassed, intimidated or arrested. Property has been seized and not returned.

Religious freedom in Turkey, whether for Muslims or other religious communities, had suffered from heavy-handed government involvement and control. The government allows Turkish Muslims to only attend state-approved mosques, listen to state-funded Imams, and receive religious education from state-funded schools. The Directorate of Religious Affairs, which regulates all of Turkey's 75,000 mosques and employs Imams, has been criticized for only promoting Sunni branch of Islam. I would encourage the new government to bring to a close its regulation of all religious institutions.

The wearing of headscarves has also been regarded as quite controversial since it is seen as a religious totem in a secular state. Women who choose this expression of religious conviction are denied the ability to attend state-run universities and work in public building, including schools and hospitals. The public sharing of religious belief in Turkey with the intent to persuade the listener to another point of view is severely curbed for both Muslims and Christians. A number of evangelical Protestant groups throughout Turkey have reported being targeted because of their religious free speech, which contradicts OSCE commitments on religious liberty and freedom of expression.

Turkey's Office of Foundations has contributed its own difficulties for faith communities, as it has closed and seized properties of "official" minority religious groups and unrecognized faith communities. Several religious groups, most notably the Armenian Apostolic and Greek Orthodox churches report difficulties, particularly on the local level, in repairing and maintaining existing buildings or purchasing new buildings. The continued closure of the Orthodox seminary on Halki Island remains a concern.

Furthermore, religious groups not considered "official minorities" under the Lausanne Treaty are provided no legal route to purchase or rent buildings to meet, and are thereby forced to hold meetings in private apartments. In response, provincial governorships, after receiving a letter from the Ministry of Internal Affairs last year, have initiated efforts to close these meeting places, leaving the smaller Protestant communities without any options. The lack of official recognition is an insurmountable hurdle for minority religious groups wishing to practice their faith as a community.

Turkey is at a critical crossroads. I am hopeful that the new government will take this opportunity to move forward, and craft policies which are consistent with OSCE commitments and protective of all peoples living in Turkey.

IN HONOR OF LINDA PAUWELS  
FOR HER ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE  
FIELD OF AVIATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to American Airlines pilot Linda Pauwels, a mother, a Latina, and a pioneer on behalf of female pilots throughout the world. Linda is an immigrant from Argentina who came to the U.S. when she was 6 with her 2 year-old brother and widowed mother. Through hard work and dedication, she began her flying career at the young age of 17. By age 25 she had become the youngest female jet pilot ever.

Since then, she has flown most major jets including huge C-130 transports and 707s. Just last year, she diverted tragedy when the MD-80 she was flying with 128 passengers experienced engine failure on its way to Chicago. Because of her experience and her ability to handle difficult situations, she was able to successfully perform an emergency landing in Sioux City, Iowa.

Linda is a dedicated wife and mother of two. She is also the only woman spokesperson for the Allied Pilots Association, and dedicates much of her free time to promoting women in aviation and encouraging Hispanics to work hard to fulfill their dreams.

Linda Pauwels is a striking example of the many hardworking pilots who are dedicated to making sure that the skies are safe for all airline passengers.

MAURICE A. AND RITA A. LUTZE:  
FORGING THEIR GOLDEN ANNI-  
VERSARY

### HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 14, 2002*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two very special friends, Maurice and Rita Lutze of Otter Lake, Michigan, as they celebrate fifty years of marriage and a loving commitment to each other and their three children. The Barcia family has known the Lutze family for many years. It has been especially heartwarming over the years to get to know such a loving couple and their children.

With Rita's brother Cliff and his wife Pat serving as witnesses, Maurice and Rita eloped and were married in Angola, Indiana, on September 13, 1952. Choosing to elope somehow seems appropriate for two people who have never been afraid of life's challenges.

Maurice served as a Marine in the Korean War, was wounded and received the Purple Heart. He later worked as a toolmaker at Northern Tool and Die and as a foreman at General Motors Corporation's Fisher Turnstead plant. He also served as a volunteer firefighter for the Beecher Fire Department, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Chief. Meanwhile, Rita worked to create a loving and nurturing home environment in which to raise their daughters, Carrie and Charlotte, and son, Kim. After the children were grown, Maurice and Rita literally put their house on a trailer and moved it to a 10-acre parcel in Otter Lake where they raised horses and cows.

From the day Maurice and Rita first met at the Red Lion restaurant in Bay City, they shared a special bond and a like-minded sense of humor. Friends and family are familiar with the story of that day at the Red Lion when Maurice and Rita couldn't stop laughing about a customer whose bald head was so shiny that Rita tried to fix her hair in the reflection. It was their mutual ability to find humor in everyday events that brought them together and that has kept them together through good times and more difficult circumstances.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Maurice and Rita Lutze for achieving a rarely reached milestone of fifty years of marriage. I am confident they will enjoy many more years of love and happiness.