

He also was a voting member of a U.S. Food and Drug Administration advisory committee that influenced the way the agency reviews drugs during the approval process.

Most recently, he was involved in the AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition, a national coalition of activists working to end HIV and AIDS by advancing research.

Mr. Martinez was born in Harlingen, Texas in 1953 to Luis and Teresa Martinez. He was salutatorian of the class of 1970 at Brownsville High School. A Rice University graduate, he earned a law degree from the Columbia University School of Law in New York in 1977.

He was an associate at Vinson & Elkins for six years before going into private practice in 1983. He re-evaluated his life after he was diagnosed with HIV in 1987. In the early 1990s, the focus of public information on HIV and AIDS was on prevention and not on treatment and research. Mr. Martinez set about to improve public information by making numerous presentations on HIV and AIDS and by writing many articles in English and Spanish on research and treatment of the disease. His significant influence on HIV and AIDS research and treatment helped so many people affected by the disease.

I know my colleagues join me in honoring Joel Martinez for his exceptional life and passionate activism. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and friends especially to Vann Vaughan, his life partner of twenty-two years, his mother Teresa, his sisters Rebecca and Zoe, and his brother Harry. Joel Martinez was a great American who fought tirelessly for those in need. His important work must continue until a cure for HIV and AIDS is found.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER FOR
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to create the position of Chief Financial Officer for the Government of the Virgin Islands. It is my hope and intention that by temporarily placing the reins of fiscal management of the Virgin Islands government outside of the political arena we will be able to end years of crisis management and place the islands on sound financial footing for the long term.

Mr. Speaker, my beloved community, has been plagued over the years and several administrations, by one economic or fiscal crisis after another. If allowed to continue or recur, they have the potential of forcing us into total fiscal collapse.

The factors which have caused these crises are numerous and include among other things: the decline in our tourism sector due to the demographic shift from cities of the Eastern Seaboard to areas in the West and Midwest; being hit by as many as 6 catastrophic hurricanes since 1989; and the fact that the territory's geography mandates a large government workforce and necessitates the replication of many basic services.

When the current administration of Governor Charles W. Turnbull took office in January of 1999, the territory was in a fiscal state of enormous and alarming proportions.

While Governor Turnbull is to be commended for his response to that crisis and the succeeding ones he has faced, because of the special and unique burdens we face, history informs that the necessary political resolve to put measures in place to address these problems, some of which will call for public sacrifice, is best found and sustained outside of the political process.

It is for this reason that I am introducing the Virgin Islands CFO Act today. The CFO will be empowered to oversee and approve all spending of the government of the Virgin Islands and be authorized by law to disapprove items of spending which would send the government into financial deficit. The CFO position would sunset after five years and while he or she would be appointed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands from a list of names selected by a search commission, and confirmed by the Legislature, he or she will not be an "at-will" employee of the government and could only be removed for cause.

Mr. Speaker, this is not an easy bill for me to introduce, but it is a necessary one at this time. It is an action that I feel is in the best interest of all of my constituents and the responsible course of action for me to take. I ask for my colleagues support.

CONGRATULATING EDWARD
ROBINSON

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and enthusiasm that I rise to congratulate Mr. Edward Robinson on his retirement from The Community Hospital in Munster Indiana, where he served as the Hospital Administrator for 37 years. Mr. Robinson has been a substantial fixture of the health care community in Northwest Indiana and he will be greatly missed.

Ed Robinson attended the University of Pittsburgh after receiving a highly competitive four-year scholarship from the American Legion. After the completion of his undergraduate college degree he was designated as a Distinguished Military Graduate by the United States Air Force in 1950, when he received his commission.

With his commission, Ed served as a Captain in the United States Air Force for three years and was stationed in Korea with the Fifth Air Force and was also a staff officer for the personnel at the headquarters of the Eighth Air Force, Strategic Air Command.

Knowledge has always been something valued by Ed. He holds a Master's Degree in Hospital Administration from the Graduate School of Public Health of the University of Pittsburgh, as well as a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the same institution. Mr. Robinson was awarded on Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Calumet College in May 1997.

Ed's career as a health care professional has been multifaceted and world-renowned. He has been published in numerous professional journals and received first prize in the "Hospital Topics" editorial National-wide competition for his thesis on "Nursing Staffing Pattern in an Intensive Care Unit." Ed is also a

Fellow of the Royal Society of Health in London, England. As a member of the program committee of the Atlantic Economic Conference, an international group, he has presented papers in Paris, Rome, Puerto Rico, Scotland, and Munich on various hospital economic topics. He has been a presenter at numerous seminars with John Goodman and Associates regarding Hospital Based Heart Centers.

Nobly, Ed has committed a life of service to Northwest Indiana through his work in the health care community. He has received the Meritorious Service Award from the Munster Board of Trustees and a Special Award for Outstanding Leadership from the Munster Medical Research Foundation. He is also a founding member of the Board of Directors of Community Foundation, Inc. and the President of the Board of Directors of Hospice of the Calumet Area. He has also shared his time with Board of the Northwest Indiana Symphony, as well as serving as Co-Chairman of the Community Veterans Memorial Park in Munster.

Mr. Speaker, Ed Robinson will be greatly missed at The Community Hospital by all of those who have served with this caring and compassionate man. At this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Robinson for an outstanding career, not only in health care, but also in service to his community. Ed's leadership and passion for his career are to be commended, and his professional absence from the Northwest Indiana community will surely be missed.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM (BILL)
LYONS, JR.

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Secretary William (Bill) Edward James Lyons, the V for his service to our Nation and to his community. Bill was born in Modesto, California to William, the IV, and Mary Lyons on July 4, 1950. He attended school at Modesto High School in Modesto, California. Bill then attended college at California State University, Chico where he received his bachelor's degree and secondary teaching credential.

Throughout his career Bill has become a well-respected leader in the field of agriculture and is consistently sought out for his expertise. Appointed by Governor Gray Davis and confirmed by the California State Senate, Bill Lyons, Jr. served as the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, from January 1999 to November 2003. As a rancher and businessman, Bill brought nearly three decades of leadership and business expertise to the department. As Secretary, Bill was responsible for a Department of 2,300 employees, and a budget of \$250 million. Secretary Lyons' key responsibilities included policy development and implementation of programs that support California's \$27 billion agricultural industry. He was responsible and successful in implementing the marketing campaign of the "Buy California" program in the state. While Secretary, Bill served as president

of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture, chair of the Specialty Crop Task Force for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and chairman of the Agricultural Worktable for the U.S.-Mexico Border Governors' Conference.

In California's great Central Valley, the Lyons family has been engaged in production agriculture for more than 75 years. Secretary Lyons managed the 6,000-acre ranch located in the Modesto area from 1976 to 1999. The ranch produces a number of crop and livestock commodities.

Bill currently serves as a member of the California Water Commission and on the Board of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. From 1993 to 1999, Bill served as chairman of the USDA's Farm Service Agency state committee. Bill was also appointed by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to serve from 1996 to 1998 as founding director of the East Stanislaus and Toulmne County USDA Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service Committee, and the Stanislaus/San Joaquin Counties' Cattle-men's Association.

Bill is a widely respected member of his community and has greatly contributed to his state and nation. The USDA has honored Secretary Lyons on three occasions: in 1998 with a certificate of appreciation; in 1997 with an award for excellence; and in 1996 with a national environmental award. In 1995, the California Farm Bureau Federation recognized him with a service award. The United States Jaycees named him the Outstanding Young Man of American in 1984 and both the City of Modesto and Stanislaus County has awarded him with various service commendations. In addition, California State University at Chico awarded Bill in 2000 with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Secretary Lyon's illustrious career also includes various elected office positions in Stanislaus County such as: Member of the Central Catholic High School Board of Directors, Chairman, Doctors Medical Center, and Director, Modesto Irrigation District. Bill also worked as a Religion teacher at Saint Stanislaus elementary school, in Modesto California.

Throughout his lifetime, Secretary Lyons has demonstrated a deep commitment to community service. Throughout the years, he has worked with countless community organizations such as the Salvation Army, United Way, American Cancer Society, the Modesto Chamber of Commerce, and Camp Sylvester, a local youth camp. Additionally, he has coached sports teams for nearly two decades.

It is my pleasure to join the Stanislaus community in recognizing Secretary Bill Lyons, Jr. for his commitment to his community, state and nation. I have personally known the Lyons family for over two decades. Bill Lyons, Jr. and the entire Lyons family have a passion for California agriculture and for the values of hard work and community service in the San Joaquin Valley. Bill is a trusted and dear friend. I look forward to our continued friendship and to his wise counsel, and know that Bill's future path will continue to benefit California agriculture and all of us in the San Joaquin Valley. It is a pleasure to represent Bill and the entire Lyons family in the 18th Congressional District of California.

FLAWED ELECTIONS IN THE CAUCASUS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the end of session, I would like to take note as Helsinki Commission Chairman of a very disturbing trend in the Caucasus republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. At this very moment, thousands of Georgians are engaging in a campaign of civil disobedience in the wake of the November 2 parliamentary elections. Georgian and international monitors registered large-scale falsification and ballot stuffing, not to mention the exclusion of many thousands of eligible voters. When the Central Election Commission gave the largest tallies to President Shevardnadze's party and the nominally-opposition but Shevardnadze-allied Revival Party, opposition leaders organized large demonstrations in Tbilisi's main street. There, in the rain and cold, protesters spent days demanding the President's resignation and new elections.

Their efforts, born of rage and despair, have been peaceful and the authorities have so far acted with restraint. But Georgia faces a genuine crisis, make no mistake. After ten years of growing frustration at official incompetence and corruption, the country's impoverished public has begun to resist business as usual. Eduard Shevardnadze, still lionized in the West for helping to end the Cold War as Soviet Foreign Minister, has long been deeply unpopular at home. Demands by successive U.S. administrations and international financial institutions to curb pervasive corruption have gone unheeded. And the November 2 election was a harbinger of the presidential race in 2005, when Shevardnadze will not be eligible to run. All participants and analysts agree that the outcome of this year's parliamentary contest will influence the coming succession.

How the Georgian drama will play itself out is hard to predict. But it is clear that Georgia is not alone in suffering through a crisis of trust and legitimacy. On October 17, Azerbaijan held presidential elections that, according to OSCE observers, did not meet international norms. Serious clashes between opposition backers and the authorities erupted in which at least one person was killed and hundreds were injured. Law enforcement agencies arrested hundreds of opposition activists; though most have since been released, according to human rights groups, many were beaten in detention. The Azerbaijani election, moreover, marked the transfer of power from President Heydar Aliiev to his son, establishing the first family dynasty in the former Soviet Union. But Ilham Aliiev has begun his term under a shadow, tainted by an election seen as unfair inside and outside the country and marred by the accompanying violence.

Earlier this year, Armenia held presidential elections in February and parliamentary elections in May that also fell short of OSCE standards. In February, thousands of protesters marched in the snowy streets of Yerevan; perhaps their numbers kept President Robert Kocharian from claiming a first round victory and forced him into a runoff—a first for a sitting president in the Caucasus. Between the two rounds, however, the authori-

ties detained some 200 opposition campaign workers and supporters. On election day, they did whatever was necessary to win in a landslide. The final judgement of the OSCE election observation mission was that "the overall process failed to provide equal conditions for the candidates. Voting, counting and tabulation showed serious irregularities, including widespread ballot box stuffing." The Armenian Assembly of America on March 18 noted that "the people of Armenia deserved nothing less than the declared aim of their government for free, fair and transparent presidential elections. As reported in depth by the OSCE, this achievable standard was not met."

There was some improvement in the May parliamentary contest, concluded the OSCE, especially in the campaign and media coverage. Nevertheless, the election "fell short of international standards . . . in a number of key respects, in particular the counting and tabulation of votes."

In sum, Mr. Speaker, a discouraging and disturbing record for all three countries, marked by a consistent pattern of election rigging by entrenched elites who have learned that they can "get away with it." The international community is prepared to register disapproval, by proclaiming these elections—in diplomatic language, to be sure—short of OSCE norms. But there have never been any other consequences for subverting the democratic process. Nor have opposition parties anywhere been able to annul or change the official results of a falsified electoral process, or even compel governments to negotiate with them.

Perhaps Georgia, where the state is relatively weak and discontent widespread, will prove the exception—although it is alarming that President Shevardnadze has sent his sometime rival Aslan Abashidze, who runs the region of Ajaria like a Central Asian potentate, north to gain Moscow's support. The prospect of Russia propping up a shaky, illegitimate Georgian Government should send shivers down the spine of any American. But until and unless an opposition movement registers some tangible success, the men in charge of the destinies of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia have no reason to change course. What they are doing works and it benefits them, even if it harms their countries' chances of developing democracy.

Even worse, there is little reason to expect changes for the better. For years, optimists maintained that however discouraging things were, time and constant pressure from Washington and the international community would bring gradual change. As we approach 2004, the 13th year of independence for the former Soviet republics, that prognosis seems increasingly pollyanish. The consolidation of ruling groups, determined to remain in power, in control of the state's law enforcement and judicial agencies, and disposing of significant wealth, makes gradual evolution towards a genuinely democratic mentality and practices ever less plausible. Instead, we see evolution towards what some analysts call "semi-authoritarian" states and others, with reference to the Middle East, term "liberal autocracies."

Mr. Speaker, this admittedly depressing analysis leads to several worrisome conclusions. First, political opposition and publics in the Caucasus have concluded that electoral processes are hopelessly corrupted and offer no prospect of fairly competing for power or