

to bring donated toys to RFK Stadium and receive a free set of signed player cards. The toy drive is just one of the United's four community outreach programs. Kicks for Kids provides 10,000 disadvantaged youth with free game tickets, meal vouchers and promotional items; United donates much-needed items such as youth soccer equipment and school supplies to area non-profit organizations; and team coaches and players run six free children's soccer clinics each year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Congress to recognize D.C. United for its spirit and excellence on and off the field, as the nation's capital celebrates the Major League Soccer Champions.

COMMEMORATING THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN AT KANSAS CITY

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commemorate the services of the Consulate General of Japan at Kansas City to the six-state region of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota and to note, with sadness, the closing of the Consulate as of December 31, 2004.

Since the Japanese Pavilion at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair first intrigued and delighted tens of thousands of visitors, the links between Japan and the heart of the American Midwest have grown in strength and diversity. As investment, trade and educational exchanges have increased over the last 50 years, so too have the number and scope of contacts and contracts between these six states and Japan.

The Japanese government has been proud to host Governors from the six-state region as honored guests, along with United States Senators and Representatives, business leaders and leading scholars. In return, Ambassadors, Diet members, and even the Emperor and Empress of Japan have visited the heart of America. But there is much more to the relationship than VIP visits and official statements. The Consulate General of Japan at Kansas City has served the six-state region for 25 years in promoting economic development, fostering cultural exchange and understanding, and in providing consular services to the Japanese citizens and U.S. citizens in this region.

More than one hundred Japanese companies have operations within the region and the Consulate has been a significant factor in facilitating and encouraging such investments to the economic benefit of the region through increased employment and economic activity. These companies employ over six thousand Americans. Exports out of the region to Japan exceed \$900 million per year.

The Consulate has actively promoted and sponsored cultural fairs and activities throughout the region to foster better cultural understanding and exchange. Examples of cultural activities are the Annual St. Louis Japanese Festival and the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival. The Consulate has assisted almost three hundred regional educators to experience Japan first hand through the Fulbright Memorial Teachers Program. Over eight hun-

dred Americans have participated in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. Nearly 100 university and graduate students have participated in scholarship programs provided by the Ministry of Education of Japan. Currently, almost 2,000 Japanese university students are enrolled in public and private universities throughout the 6-state region. In addition, the Consulate has coordinated cultural gifts in the form of gardens, gateways, and statuary to numerous local communities. The Consulate has supported and promoted 28 different sister cities and sister state relationships.

The Consulate has provided consular services to the 4,500 Japanese nationals living in the six-state region and, over the years, the Consulate has issued more than 30,000 visas to American citizens wishing to work, study, or live in Japan.

Over the last 25 years, the Consulate has been active in working to resolve trade issues specific to the region and, as an example, the current Consul General, Takao Shibata, has been actively involved in efforts to resolve beef trade limitations imposed out of concern for BSE exposure.

Since arriving in Kansas City in July 2002, Consul General Takao Shibata and his lovely wife Mieko Shibata have become a valuable part of our community. They will be missed by me and the citizens of Missouri's Fifth Congressional District.

The people of Kansas City and the six-state region regret the closing of the Consulate, but we look forward to a continuation of our close relationship with Japan, and the provision of consular services by the Consulate General of Japan at Chicago.

STAKES IN THE UKRAINIAN ELECTION

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, history unfolds at an unpredictable pace. While we've been preoccupied with "Iraq and our own elections at home, dramatic events have shaken Ukraine for the past fortnight. They must not be overlooked or their implications misunderstood.

Once again in the former Soviet empire, we are witnessing the courage of the human soul and the lengths to which oppressed people will go to seize freedom.

In Ukraine, a country besieged in the last century by two of mankind's greatest 'isms' of hate—fascism and communism—a populace has risen against another kind of 'ism'—corruptionism. We are now witness to the power of the individual standing up against forces of injustice and oppression. We are also witness to the continuing saga of a people aspiring to shape its own destiny, clear of the shadows cast for centuries by powerful neighbors.

At issue is the question of freedom and its transforming effects. Democracy implies more than elections. It implies integrity of process, and when that integrity is lacking, the charade of stolen elections can be more debilitating than unabashed authoritarian rule.

There are geostrategic as well as philosophical dimensions to the Ukraine situation that need to be understood in the broad context of the region and its history.

Geopolitically, Ukraine is a large expanse about the size of Texas, with a population of nearly 48 million people, stretching from the wheat fields along a line between Warsaw and Moscow to the palm trees of Yalta, on the Black Sea. The Ukraine was the breadbasket of the old Soviet Union; today, it is an economic and political hinge between the European Union and NATO on the one hand, and the Russian Federation and the Asian landmass, on the other. The western, Ukrainian-speaking half of the country looks to Warsaw and Berlin, Paris and Washington; eastern Ukraine, with its Russian-speaking population, looks more to Moscow. Language creates cultural divisions, but the forces of political cohesion are strong. Both population groups are committed to independence and undiluted Ukrainian sovereignty.

So, in addition to democracy, at issue is Russian imperialism. Instability in Ukraine can only strengthen the hand of an increasingly authoritarian Kremlin. By contrast, a genuinely free election in Ukraine would not only enhance national solidarity but encourage democratic forces in the rest of the former Soviet Union, not least within Russia itself.

Those committed to democracy anywhere in the world should not hesitate to identify with aspirations of the Ukrainian people. Ukraine may be on the distant side of Europe from the United States, but our countries are bound by a common heritage and an inalienable urge for freedom. As Taras Shevchenko, the 19th century Ukrainian poet, wrote: "It makes no difference to me / If I shall live or not in Ukraine / Or whether any one shall think / Of me mid' foreign snow and rain / It makes no difference to me . . . It makes great difference to me / That evil folk and wicked men / Attack our Ukraine, once so free / And rob and plunder at will / That makes great difference to me."

So far courageous Ukrainians have succeeded in halting a fraudulent election. Sensing political winds blowing from a new direction, the once docile supreme court has, startlingly, done an honest job, erasing an injustice and calling for a new election. But the outcome is still in doubt. There is plenty of opportunity before the court-ordered runoff for status quo authorities to attempt, once more, to subvert the democratic process. There can be little doubt they will try to do so. For the KGB alumni who dominate the Kremlin, Ukrainian democracy is more than an embarrassment. It is a threat to their power and wealth and, for some, to their dream of restoring the Russian empire.

No one wishes to poison relations with Russia, but free elections are not an issue on which the United States should or, indeed, can compromise without sully its principles. Nor need we respect the threat of those who are so fearful of losing power that they hint of promoting a division of Ukraine into western and eastern parts. Separatism mis-serves the Ukrainian people. It is a trend that Russia, grappling with Chechnya and other non-Russian regions, can only endorse at great risk.

Differing with Russia may be politically awkward, but once the flame of freedom is ignited, the U.S. and other western democracies have no ethical choice except to stand up in support of the people of Ukraine. The march to freedom in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other former communist-bloc countries has shown that the risk of an outbreak of destabilizing violence is far greater in situations where the

popular will is suppressed than in those where it is allowed to find full expression.

The Ukrainian election set for December 26 is one of the seminal events of this new century. As members of the American people's House, we are obligated to express our support for the aspirations of Ukrainians.

REFLECTION OF EIGHT YEARS
SERVICE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, after serving in the People's House for the past eight years, and having the honor of being the voice of Southeast Texas in Congress, I now finally have time to reflect on the accomplishments I've been able to achieve. These are goals that came both from my personal service, and from the work I've been able to do to make the communities within Texas's 9th Congressional District a better place to live.

None of the things I have done would have been accomplished without a true team effort. The local communities, through their leaders, were able to build a communications network that allowed my work here to reflect the needs and interests of the people within the 9th Congressional District. It's been an honor to do that and we did so successfully.

Some of those successes include my work on transportation issues. As southeast Texas's only Member of the House Transportation Committee, I'm especially proud of being able to help bring hundreds of millions of dollars to the region to create jobs and improve the area infrastructure. This includes the work I did to prevent coastal erosion, where I was able to help initiate studies by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine what's causing erosion along upper Texas coast, and how we can slow or stop the loss of protected wetlands, and the potential adverse impact on sports and commercial fishing activities, which impacts the livelihood of many southeast Texans.

We were also able to do a great deal of work to improve highways, airports and airways, waterways, and railways, all of which are important and have provided a better quality of life and economic development opportunities for my constituents. The salt water barrier on the Neches River, which allows for the deepening and widening of Sabine Neches Ship Channel, will further strengthen our waterways while also protecting the Big Thicket National Forest. These activities will also further improve and strengthen the area's petrochemical industry, an important part of both the southeast Texas and national economies, and an industry that provides thousands of good, solid jobs for hard-working Texas families.

I am also proud of my work on the House Science Committee, and to serve as the ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics. My primary work was to promote development of space, and I also introduced the Space Exploration Act in the beginning of my third term. The goals of this initiative were picked up by the President and set before this Nation as a national initiative, which gives me great deal of pride. NASA

needs a larger, important vision to work on, and my proposals always had this concern in mind. We need to continue seeing a growth in civilian space exploration and research. Such activity has the exciting potential of increasing our advances in medicine, technology, education, and the overall positive growth of our great nation. We must always emphasize research and development of science and mathematics, and I can think of no better way to achieve this than through our future in space.

Child safety legislation has also been a top priority from my first days in Congress. My biggest success was the creation of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, which I founded following the tragic death of a young girl, Laura Kate Smither, in the Friendswood part of the 9th Congressional District. We passed legislation that created the Cybercrime Center, passed many bills like the Amber Alert program, and introduced the Bring Our Children Home Act in the 106th and 107th Congresses, and this year that bill received a hearing by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee. I'm very proud of our efforts to reach out to countries around the world for children of parents of dual nationalities. I wrote and delivered a resolution regarding the development of a best practices guide on the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, which was a further step in encouraging compliance with international treaties and allies. One of the most important accomplishments of the Caucus is raising awareness with law enforcement and communities nationwide on the issues of child safety and Internet safety. I hope to see this good work continue in future Congresses, as the bipartisan cooperation and spirit with the Caucus always led me to believe that Members of both parties can find common ground on many problems facing our country. With last year's creation of the Senate caucus on child safety, I know this issue will continue to receive that important attention even after my last day here.

I also want to thank my hard-working staff both in Texas and Washington, who fought hard and effectively served the people of southeast Texas. These talented and diligent individuals supported me on every level, and made it possible for me to have one of the most effective constituent services operations of any Member's office. My staff assisted numerous constituents with getting issues resolved with Social Security and disability, Veterans Affairs benefits, and immigration cases. It truly is wonderful to support retired Americans, new Americans, and Americans who have proudly served in the armed forces to protect our freedoms. I am so proud of all that my staff has done for the people of southeast Texas, and know that they will all go on to wonderful and bright professional futures.

I also want to thank my family for their support and, of course and most importantly, their willingness to let me take the time to fight for our communities. I appreciate their love and support of my efforts so much, for without them none of what I did in Congress would have been possible. We come from a family of teachers, with my wife teaching special education at Vincent Middle School in Beaumont. Both my daughters are trained teachers as well; Hillary, who's currently not teaching because of her family and children, and Stephanie who's a 6th grade math teacher also in

Beaumont. Our family understands what education means to all of us and our opportunities, and as a family we have made a commitment to help other families have easier access to educational opportunities.

In closing, let me say that this is not an ending to my public service. I've spent the last 34 years of my life doing things to make my communities better—my goal now is to help all citizens of our country, particularly those who I represent in southeast Texas, to focus on issues that impact us daily, and to see what all of us can do to make our communities better places to live. So as I say my final words on the House floor, let me echo the words of one of our country's greatest leaders, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, who said, "It is from numberless diverse acts of courage and belief that human history is shaped. Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and . . . those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance." Thank you, and God bless.

TRIBUTE TO REPRESENTATIVE
CALVIN DOOLEY

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay homage and respect to my retiring colleague Congressman CAL DOOLEY of California. So much can be said of CAL, but he is a true leader in the Democratic Party.

It was CAL who was at the forefront of the New Democratic Movement in our country. He saw the opportunity to say that the issues of business and the values of the Democratic Party are not in direct conflict. While he may not be the household name of a Bill Clinton—it is the ideas and organization of CAL DOOLEY that helped this country create a President Bill Clinton, a new 21st Century Economy and usher in a return of a Democratic Party disciplined to bring about economic benefits and quality for life changes for people while recognizing that Government is not always the solution.

He was a true pioneer in creating the New Democrats in Congress and making them the powerhouse they are today—a respected organization of people who think outside of the box for real solutions to real problems to help real Americans. CAL was a leader in making our party more globally focused, encouraging free trade and recognizing the benefits to all parties of open economic borders. Whereas isolationism was in the past the default policy of Democrats, he worked to pry us onto a new path—a path of economic globalism. The result—the USA is an even stronger economic powerhouse than in the past.

While the people of his district have been recognizing him and thanking him for his leadership on their issues for 7 straight terms now we in Washington are now realizing our loss to this Chamber and to the thinking of our Party. We thank you and we appreciate you and less, we are still listening to you.