

current domestic and foreign policies are unacceptable to its neighbors, to the international community and to many of its own citizens.

President Putin must be made to understand that fairness towards his political opponents and critics, the release of political prisoners and Russia's constructive engagement with its neighbors in Asia, the Middle East and Europe, are the standards by which his Government will be judged. Russia must meet these standards of justice, freedom and of internationally acceptable diplomacy if it wishes to remain a member of the G8 and of the community of democratic nations.

Today, Russia is moving in the wrong direction.

With the re-imposition of state control of the media, the nationalization of the YUKOS Oil Company, the abolition of elected governors, overt and covert meddling in the affairs of Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, Lithuania and outright support for the dictatorship in Belarus, the new NGO law restricting the work of human rights groups and other non-government organizations in Russia, and the imprisonment of political opponents like Mikhail Khodorkovsky and Mikhail Trepashkin, the Government of Russia is deliberately turning back the clock.

We appeal to the G7 leaders to raise these issues directly with President Putin this weekend in St. Petersburg. And we salute those who are in Moscow today, meeting in a hostile and dangerous environment to prove that a democratic Russia, "The Other Russia," does indeed exist.

Signatories: (Institutions are listed for purposes of identification only.)

Dimitar Abadjiev—European Parliament Observer, Bulgaria;

Dr. Patrick Aeberhard—President, Medecins du Monde;

Vo Van Ai—President, Forum Asia Democracy;

Doron Arazi—Historian;  
Timothy Garton Ash—Oxford University, UK;

Brian Atwood—Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, US; Former US Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator;

Paul Berman—Writer, US;

Carl Bildt—Former Prime Minister of Sweden;

Roberta Bonazzi—Director, European Foundation for Democracy;

Elena Bonner—Honorary Chair, The Andrei;

Sakharov Foundation;

Michael Bourdeaux—Founder/President, Keston Institute, Oxford University, UK;

Pascal Bruckner—Philosopher, France;

Ian J. Brzezinski—Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for European and NATO Policy;

Hans Christoph Buch—Writer, Germany;  
Vladimir Bukovsky—Cambridge University, UK;

Leos Carax—Film director, France;  
Patrice Chéreau—Film and theater director, France;

Daniel Cohn-Bendit—Member, European Parliament, Germany;

Pierre Daix—Writer, France;

Prof. Nicholas Daniloff—Northeastern University, US;

Ruth Daniloff—Writer, US;

Fertilio Dario—Comitatus libertates;  
Franco Debenedetti—Senator, Italy;

Martin Dewhurst—University of Glasgow, Scotland;

Freimut Duve—Former member of the German Bundestag; Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Representative;

Dr. Marek Edelman—Former dissident, Leader of the Warsaw ghetto uprising;

Humphry Crum Ewing—Chairman, The Standish Group;

Edouard Fillias—President, Alternative Liberale, France;

Paolo Flores de Arcais—Director, Micromega, France;

Carl Gershman—President, National Endowment for Democracy;

André Glucksmann—Philosopher, France;

Alex Goldfarb—Foundation for Civil Liberties, US;

Adam Gopnik—Writer, US;  
Veronique Nahoum Grappe—Anthropologist, France;

Andrew P. Grigorenko—President, General Petro Grigorenko Foundation, Inc;

Robert Halfon—Political Director, Conservative Friends of Israel;

Daniel Hamilton—Johns Hopkins University, US;

Arthur Hartman—Former US Ambassador to the Soviet Union and France;

Satu Hassi—Member, European Parliament, Finland;

Roger Helmer—Member, European Parliament, UK;

Mary Holland—New York University, US;

Marie Holzmann—President, Droits de l'homme in China, France;

Robert Hunter—Former US ambassador to NATO;

Toomas Hendrik Ilves—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Bruce P. Jackson—President, Project on Transitional Democracies;

Kjell Olaf Jense—President, Pen Club, Norway;

Alan Johnson—Director, Democratya, UK;

Tunne Kelam—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Bogdan Klich—Member, European Parliament, Poland;

Bernard Kouchner—Former UN ambassador to Kosovo; Founder, Medecins sans Frontières, Medecins du Monde, France;

Irina Krasovskaya—President, We Remember Foundation, Belarus;

Guntars Krasts—Member, European Parliament; Former Prime Minister of Latvia.

William Kristol—The Weekly Standard, US;

Girts Valdis Kristovskis—Member, European Parliament, Former President of the Lithuanian Parliament;

Vytautas Landsbergis—Member, European Parliament, Former President of the Lithuanian Parliament;

Bernard Henri Levy—Philosopher, France;

Ekkehard Maass—German-Caucasian society, Germany;

Giwi Margwelschwili—Schriftsteller, Germany;

Cliff May—President, Foundation for the Defense of Democracies;

Michael McFaul—Stanford University, US;

Alan Mendoza—Executive Director, Henry Jackson; Society, UK;

Marianne Mikko—Member, European Parliament, Estonia;

Tim Montgomerie—Editor, ConservativeHome.com;

Martin Palouš—Permanent Czech Republic; Representative to the United Nations; former Czech Ambassador to the US;

Carlo di Pamparato—Children of Chechnya Action; Relief Mission (CCHARM), UK;

Richard Pipes—Harvard University, US;

Daniel Pipes—Writer, US;

Daniel Pletka—American Enterprise Institute (AEI), US;

Oksana Ragazzi—UK;

Josep Ramoneda—Philosopher, Center of Contemporary Culture, Spain;

Vanessa Redgrave—Actress;

James Rogers—Executive Secretary, Henry Jackson Society, UK;

Jacques Rupnik—Professor of political sciences, CERI, France;

Prof. Aloyzas Sakalas—Member, European Parliament, Lithuania;

Randy Scheunemann—President, Committee for the Liberation of Iraq;

Gary Schmitt—American Enterprise Institute (AEI), US;

Jorge Semprún—Former Minister of Culture of Spain;

André Senik—Philosopher, France

Andrew M. Sessler—Emeritus Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory;

Andrzej Seweryn—Theater director, Comédie Française, France;

Dr. Brendan Simms—Co-President, Henry Jackson; Society, UK;

Robert Singh—Birkbeck College, University of London, UK;

Aleksander Smolar—Historian, France/Poland;

Bart Staes—Member, European Parliament, Belgium;

Konrad Szymanski—Member, European Parliament, Poland;

Andres Tarand—Member, European Parliament, former Prime Minister of Estonia;

David Trimble—1998 Nobel Peace Laureate;

Prof. Inese Vaidere—Member, European Parliament, Latvia;

Ari Vatanen—Member, European Parliament, France;

Mark von Hagen—Columbia University, US;

Stuart Wheeler—UK;

Richard Wilson—Harvard University, US;

Henryk Wozniakowski—Director, ZNAK, Poland;

Tatiana Yankelevich—Director, Sakharov Program on Human Rights, Harvard University, US;

Ilyos Yannakakis—Professor, France.

#### CONGRATULATING AUGUST PIAZZA AS HE RETIRES FROM THE WYOMING VALLEY WEST SCHOOL DISTRICT

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 13, 2006

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to my good friend Mr. August Piazza, of Jenkins Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, upon the occasion of his retirement as superintendent of the Wyoming Valley West School District.

Mr. Piazza received his Bachelor of Science degree from Mansfield University and his Master of Science degree from Wilkes University. His post-graduate work includes principal certification and a superintendent's letter of eligibility from Temple University.

Mr. Piazza began his career with Wyoming Valley West School District in 1971. Over the past 35 years, Mr. Piazza has taught elementary grades ranging from kindergarten through sixth grade in subject areas including mathematics, social studies and reading.

He was an instructional support specialist, head teacher and department chairperson. He served as assistant principal and principal of the Wyoming Valley West Middle School.

Mr. Piazza was appointed as superintendent of schools in the Wyoming Valley West School District. He also holds the position of adjunct professor at Wilkes University Graduate School.

Mr. Piazza currently serves on the Luzerne County Community College Foundation Board of Directors and the Luzerne County Convention Center and Arena Board of Directors.

His service organization affiliations include the Knights of Columbus where he is a Third Degree Knight, and the Wilkes-Barre Chapter of UNICO, an organization where he once served as president. He is also a charter member of the Kingston Kiwanis Club.

Augie and his wife, Corine, have two children, Jeffrey and Maria.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Piazza on a distinguished career in the field of education. His exceptional record of service and dedication to duty is an inspiration to both his peers and to the students for whom he worked tirelessly to prepare for adult life. Mr. Piazza's contribution to the greater Wyoming Valley community has left a lasting mark and has had a positive effect on improving the quality of life.

#### TRIBUTE TO RICHARD S. ELSTER

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career at the Naval Postgraduate School will soon come to an end. Mr. Richard Elster has announced his official retirement after 37 years of service.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1962, Richard pursued his M.S. in Industrial Relations, and his PhD in Industrial Psychology. By 1967, Richard had finished with school and become a project scientist at Litton Industries.

Dr. Elster became associated with the Naval Postgraduate School in 1969 when he joined the faculty as an assistant professor. During his tenure, he served as an associate professor, professor, Chairman of the Department of Administrative Sciences, Dean of Instruction, and the Provost and Academic Dean.

Throughout his career at Naval Postgraduate School, Dr. Elster served in several high ranking Pentagon positions. Starting in 1975, he served as special advisor to the Secretary of Defense for manpower and reserve affairs. Dr. Elster also held positions as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower, Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Resource Management and Support.

Dr. Elster was recognized for meritorious civilian service as Provost and Academic Dean at the Naval Postgraduate School, from July 1995 to December 2005. Because of his leadership, the Naval Postgraduate School attained unprecedented stature in the defense establishment and the academic community. It was recognized in 2005 with the highest score for military value of all Department of Defense education commands by the Education and Training Joint Cross Service Group.

The Naval Postgraduate School is respected as a world class research university due in part to Dr. Elster's leadership, strategic vision, and devotion to public service. Much of the academic work of the school's students and faculty responds directly to real world defense mission needs.

As Dr. Richard S. Elster prepares for retirement, I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing appreciation for his dedication to the Naval Postgraduate School and will wish him well in all the days ahead.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote Nos. 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, and 369.

Rollcall vote No. 364 was on ordering the previous question. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 365 was on agreeing to the resolution. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 366 was on a motion to instruct conferees. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 367 was on the Kanjorski of Pennsylvania substitute amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

Rollcall vote No. 368 was on final passage of H.R. 2990, the Credit Rating Agency Duopoly Relief Act. Had I been present, I would have voted, "yea."

Rollcall vote No. 369, was on the motion to suspend the rules and pass, as amended. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### CITY OF HICKORY CREEK RANKED IN TOP TEN

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a community within my district for being acknowledged as one of the "Top Ten Best Places to Live in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex" by D Magazine, a regional monthly publication. This top honor went to the town of Hickory Creek for its excellent schools, affordable housing, low crime rates, and its small town ambience.

Every 2 years, the magazine ranks some fifty plus suburbs of the Dallas-Fort Worth region, the State of Texas' largest metropolitan area. The town of Hickory Creek received the number nine spot on the list and is also recognized as a place for "quiet, hassle-free, safe living." Also worth mentioning, the town of Hickory Creek was acknowledged as having the "best value for quality of life." For this, it received the honor of the first spot on list of "Best Deals" in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex as rated by D Magazine.

With a population of 2,400 and an annual growth rate of 1.5 percent, the town of Hickory Creek is the smallest suburb to make the Top Ten. In 1996, the town's annual sales tax revenue was \$30,000. Today, that number is closer to \$1 million.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mayor John Smith and the City Council of Hickory Creek for building the town of Hickory Creek into a distinguished community. I am proud to represent such a vibrant place to live.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MICHAEL  
M. DUNN

### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 13, 2006*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a distinguished career has come to an end. LTG Michael M. Dunn is retiring from the U.S. Air Force.

Lieutenant General Dunn received his Bachelor of Science degree in astrodynamics from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, in 1972. After graduating fourth in his class in June 1972, General Dunn flew the F-106 at Castle Air Force Base, CA. Following various duties in Washington, DC, Florida, and Alabama, he transitioned to the F-15, which he flew in the Far East. He is a command pilot with more than 2,500 flying hours.

In 1976, he went to the Squadron Officer School and later received his Master of Science degree in systems management at the University of Southern California in 1981. In 1983, he attended the Air Command and Staff College in Maxwell AFB, AL, and three years later attended the Air War College. In 1989, Lieutenant General Dunn attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, DC.

Lieutenant General Dunn commanded the 1st Operations Group at Langley Air Force Base, VA. He was the Senior Military Fellow and is currently a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He has served in four joint tours, including the Headquarters U.S. European Command, the Office of the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the Headquarters United Nations Command and U.S. Forces Korea, and the Joint Staff. In Korea, he was the lead negotiator with the North Korean Army at P'anmunjom.

Most recently, Lieutenant General Dunn served as president of National Defense University. He has provided strong leadership, coordinating the several schools with the National Defense University. During his tenure, the professional military education of our military made great strides forward.

Lieutenant General Dunn's awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, with oak leaf cluster, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, with three oak leaf clusters, and Air Force Commendation Medal, with two oak leaf clusters.

Throughout his career, LTG Michael M. Dunn has served the Nation well. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Lieutenant General Dunn all the best in all the days ahead.

#### SUPPORTING INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS TO TRACK TERRORISTS AND TERRORIST FINANCES

SPEECH OF

### HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 29, 2006*

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, last week when we voted on H. Res. 895, a