

deep appreciation for his brave service and sacrifice.

Arick is survived by his fiancée, Stefani Greco; his parents, Richard and Jennifer; and his two brothers, Tanner and Wyatt, all of Litchfield, NH. He also leaves behind a caring extended family. This young hero will be missed by all.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to please join me in honoring the bright life and brave service of PFC Arick Tarr.

INTENT TO OBJECT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Norm Eisen to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic at the Department of State for the following reasons.

I object to the proceeding to the nomination because of Mr. Eisen's role in the firing of the inspector general of the Corporation for National and Community Service, CNCS, and his lack of candor about that matter when questioned by congressional investigators. The details of Mr. Eisen's role in the firing and his misrepresentations about that matter are detailed in the Joint Minority Staff Report of the House Committee on Government Reform and the Senate Finance Committee, dated November 20, 2009. I would also ask unanimous consent that a letter of January 12, 2011, sent by myself and Congressman ISSA to Mr. Bauer, then counsel to the President, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2011.

Hon. ROBERT F. BAUER,
Counsel to the President, The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. BAUER: We write to express our objection to the President's use of a recess appointment to install Norman L. Eisen as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. As you know, we objected to Mr. Eisen's nomination on the grounds that he attempted to constructively remove the Inspector General (IG) of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) without the prior notice required by law and that he misled Congressional investigators.

It is our concern that the President's decision to force through such a nominee without the advice and consent of the Senate signals a departure from his recent pledge to work cooperatively with Congress.

The President announced Mr. Eisen's nomination on June 28, 2010. On September 27, 2010, Senator Grassley provided public notice of his intention to object to the nomination. Senator Grassley referred to "Mr. Eisen's role in the firing of the Inspector General of the Corporation for National and Community Service and his lack of candor about that matter when questioned by Congressional investigators."

During that investigation, a bicameral group of investigators learned Mr. Eisen personally delivered an ultimatum to former CNCS IG Gerald Walpin demanding that he resign or be terminated within one hour. At the time he delivered the ultimatum, no notice had been provided to Congress as is leg-

ally required by the Inspector General Reform Act (IG Act). As you know, the IG Act requires the President to communicate in writing the reasons for removal of an IG to Congress not later than 30 days prior to taking action.

During an interview on June 17, 2009, Mr. Eisen refused to answer at least 12 direct questions. He did, however, assert on that date that the CNCS Board of Directors unanimously supported the removal of IG Walpin. He also asserted that the White House conducted "an extensive review" in response to concerns raised by the Board about IG Walpin's fitness following a May 20, 2009 CNCS Board meeting. According to Mr. Eisen, his "extensive review" substantiated the Board's concerns and informed the decision to remove IG Walpin.

Our investigation found that, contrary to Mr. Eisen's assertions, the Board had not unanimously expressed a desire to have Mr. Walpin removed prior to the decision. Moreover, we could find no evidence that Mr. Eisen's "extensive review" consisted of anything more than simply asking the CNCS General Counsel to document the Chairman of the Board's concerns about Mr. Walpin. Mr. Eisen did not interview the CNCS Directors. He did not provide Mr. Walpin or anyone else in the Office of Inspector General an opportunity to be heard. He took action based on incomplete information provided only by individuals who had adversarial relationships with the IG.

Mr. Eisen has had several opportunities to address our concerns and has yet to do so. He failed to be forthcoming and responsive during his initial meeting with our staff on June 17, 2009. He again demonstrated a lack of candor in response to Questions for the Record following his nomination hearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on July 22, 2010.

In the interest of allowing Mr. Eisen to address our concerns, we scheduled a meeting with our staff for December 16, 2010 at 11:30 A.M. At approximately 11:15 A.M., the White House postponed the meeting until 2:15 P.M. At approximately 2:00 P.M., the meeting was canceled by the White House Office of Legislative Affairs without further explanation. By calling off a face-to-face meeting in favor of a recess appointment, the White House sent the message that the President is not interested in hearing the concerns of Republican Members of Congress.

In short, Mr. Eisen took action on behalf of the President that ran afoul of the IG Act and subsequently misled Congressional investigators in lieu of conducting a fair, thorough, and responsible investigation. Senate confirmation, under the advice and consent clause, is one of the strongest checks on executive power. Recess appointments are meant to fill vacancies that arise during a long recess, not to bypass the confirmation process. We are troubled by the Administration's circumvention of that process, especially in this instance. The vacancy arose on January 20, 2009, and yet the President waited eighteen months before making an appointment. Given that there had already been considerable public controversy over Mr. Eisen's actions in this matter at the time of his appointment, issues with his confirmation should have been easily anticipated. For these reasons, we believe that a recess appointment of Mr. Eisen to serve as a United States Ambassador is particularly inappropriate.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with the White House toward our mutual goal of identifying and deploying qualified individuals of the highest integrity to serve American interests abroad.

Sincerely,

DARRELL ISSA,

Chairman, U.S. House
Committee on Over-
sight and Govern-
ment Reform.

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
United States Senator.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise to join my fellow Coloradans, my colleagues in the U.S. Congress, and others across the country to celebrate and acknowledge the many accomplishments and contributions of the Hispanic community in the United States and especially in Colorado. I have come to the floor on several occasions to highlight the long history of Latinos in Colorado. The community's presence in our State precedes its statehood and Hispanic heritage continues as a vibrant part of Colorado's cultural and social landscape every month of the year. Today, I would like to specifically highlight the contributions Colorado's Hispanic community have made and continue to make to Colorado's economy and to our current economic recovery.

More than 150 years ago, a gentleman by the name of Dario Gallegos established Colorado's longest running general store in San Luis, CO. The store has served Colorado's oldest town consistently for well over a century and today continues not just as an important fixture in the San Luis Valley, but also as a part of Colorado's cultural heritage. The efforts of entrepreneurs such as Mr. Gallegos and those who followed, serve as an example of the entrepreneurial spirit that drives Colorado's Hispanic community to provide valuable services to their communities that enhance all Coloradan's quality of life. Today, Hispanic-owned businesses of all sizes and type dot the Colorado landscape in every part of our state, whether rural or urban. I am proud of the success these businesses have been able to find in Colorado and equally proud that the Latino community continues to be a vibrant part of Colorado's cultural and social landscape.

Hispanic businesses are a driving force in both urban and rural economic growth. Minority-owned businesses in the United States have increased twice as fast as all other U.S. businesses, and in Colorado, the number of Hispanic-owned firms increased by 40 percent from 2002 to 2007. This increase in Hispanic-owned businesses in Colorado has continued since 2007 and has helped sustain our State economy as well as stimulate job growth across the entire State's population. Minority-owned businesses are especially important to Coloradans because they provide jobs to Coloradans as well as valuable services that meet the needs of Hispanic and non-Hispanic communities alike.

I was pleased that the Minority Business Development Agency and the U.S. Department of Commerce worked to establish the Denver Minority Business Center earlier this summer. This center shows the increased commitment to