

may reduce the prevalence of asthma attacks but are not guaranteed to reduce the incidence of new cases of asthma. There is evidence that dust mites, cockroaches, cat dander, spores of the common airborne mold, and Alternaria (a type of fungus) play an important role. It seems reasonable to clean homes, workplaces, and schools to reduce exposure to these triggers. This may not prevent all asthma attacks, but it may lessen their frequency and/or severity;

Asthma is a very manageable disease. Much of the current morbidity and mortality is avoidable;

Many asthmatics and their doctors do not take the disease as seriously as they should; Clinical guidelines for asthma treatment need to be followed;

Better disease management is the strategy most likely to yield benefits for asthmatics at this time. Better disease management will result from specific programs to educate physicians and patients along with programs to ensure better access to care for all asthmatics.

IN HONOR OF DR. LUTHER
BLACKWELL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bishop Luther Blackwell and to celebrate his half century of service to his church, his faith, and the greater Cleveland community.

Mr. Speaker, the ministry of Dr. Luther Blackwell, senior pastor of Mega Church in Cleveland, Ohio, is known throughout the world. Dr. Blackwell has spent his career traveling extensively as a lecturer, teacher, and guest speaker. He has been featured in some of the country's most prestigious and life-changing spiritual conferences, sharing his knowledge and faith to help bring positive change to the lives of thousands.

Dr. Blackwell has had a very distinguished and proud career. After graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Music Education from the Conservatory of Music at Baldwin Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, Dr. Blackwell went on to teach for four years in the Cleveland Public School System. There, he received numerous awards for his service, including be honored as one of Cleveland's finest teachers. Dr. Blackwell has also received his Masters and Doctor Degrees of Biblical Studies from Christian Leadership University in Elma, New York, as well as a Doctor of Ministry from Vision Christian College in Romona, California.

Dr. Blackwell faithfully served fifteen years as Vice President of the International Congress of Local Churches, and most recently held seminars on the Biblical application of money and on the Black believer.

Mr. Speaker, of Dr. Blackwell's numerous outstanding accomplishments I would like to specially honor the ten year anniversary of Dr. Blackwell's founding of the Mega Church in Cleveland, Ohio. The Mega Church has been among the national leaders in the area of racial reconciliation, demonstrating the ability of using faith to bring people of different races and cultures together.

Dr. Blackwell represents the very best of Cleveland, and his long and very distinguished career deserves the highest of praise.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in rising to honor this truly remarkable man, and his half century of service to his fellow man. Dubbed the pastor's pastor, Dr. Blackwell is a man of the highest standing and an example for all to follow.

ARRIVAL IN U.S. OF TAIWANESE
PRESIDENT CHEN SHUI-BIAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, as Republic of China President Chen Shui-bian reaches his first anniversary in office, I would like to commend him for his successful leadership and steadiness of purpose. President Chen has expertly handled cross-strait relations due in part to his emphasis on the formation of mutual trust between Taipei and Beijing through economic and cultural integration. President Chen recently expressed his vision for a lasting peace with the mainland by noting the importance of ensuring channels of communication. "I understand that only through resumption of constructive cross-strait dialogue and normalization of bilateral relations can permanent regional peace be ensured."

President Chen's leadership within the Republic of China exemplifies a record of which he should be proud. He presides over a democracy characterized by free and fair elections, a free press, and an unquestioned respect for human rights and the rule of law. Yet President Chen's capacity to guide economic success is as strong as his commitment to democratic values. The 5.25% growth forecast for the ROC economy in 2001 is higher than that of the U.S., Japan, Germany, or the U.K., and the ROC enjoys a lower level of unemployment than each one of the aforementioned economic powerhouses.

I am delighted that President Chen will have the opportunity to make two transit stops in the U.S. and to meet with Members of Congress during his upcoming visit to the Americas. Secretary Powell's spokesperson noted that such meetings "would be a good thing," and I could not agree more. This will be an important visit for President Chen and for the U.S.—the first time a Taiwanese leader has been permitted to stopover in New York. I hope President Chen's transit visit brings fruitful discussions with my colleagues as well as a chance to enjoy the Texas steakhouse, baseball game, and New York museum on his agenda. Most importantly, I hope President Chen's transit visit signals the strong ties and friendship between the U.S. and the Republic of China.

INTRODUCTION OF MAERSK Mc-
KINNEY MOLLER

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a great leader in the maritime community, Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller, owner of the A.P. Moller Group—a

global transportation provider whose fleet of ships make it the world's largest shipping company and also the largest US-flag carrier. When Germany invaded Denmark in 1940, the company's fleet numbered 46 ships and many of those vessels were used by the United States and its allies during WWII. Maersk Moller and his wife spent the war years in the United States. After almost eight years in America, Maersk Moller and his father faced the daunting challenge of rebuilding their company. A number of ships were purchased from the United States government and slowly the company was rebuilt. A.P. Moller has made significant contributions to the U.S. economy over the years. The company's United States headquarters was founded in 1943, and in 1947 a notable affiliate—Maersk Line, Limited—was chartered in Delaware. Today Maersk has 10 United States corporate entities devoted to terminal operations, trucking, rail transportation, and third party logistics and it generates employment for approximately 9000 Americans. Maersk serves more than 30,000 US exporters and importers dedicated to international trade. Today A.P. Moller is the largest carrier in the world. It operates approximately 250 ships including container vessels, tankers, bulk carriers, supply ships, car carriers, and drilling rigs. 53 of these ships fly the Stars and Stripes and are owned, operated or chartered by Maersk Line, Limited. It is the largest U.S. flag carriers serving the foreign trades of the United States. Allow me to recognize some other important contributions. Maersk Line, Limited ships were the first vessels to arrive in Desert Storm and off-load critically needed Marine Corps supplies and equipment. Space on Maersk commercial ships was provided free of charge to the U.S. government so we could load much needed supplies for our troops during the sustainment phase of the operation. Prior to Desert Storm, Maersk Line, Limited obtained a secret clearance from the Department of Defense and now has a top-secret clearance to operate ships for the U.S. Navy. This important mission and valuable program continues today.

Mr. Speaker, I am very interested in strengthening a cost effective U.S.-flag fleet that is dedicated to the foreign commerce of the United States. The Maritime Security Program (MSP) will soon have to be reauthorized for our nation to maintain a U.S.-flag presence. It is important to recognize that during a contingency, companies participating in MSP like Maersk Line, Limited are contractually obligated to the statutorily mandated Voluntary Intennodal Sealift Agreement (VISA). Combined, Maersk and other U.S. vessels provide the intennodal infrastructure that includes terminal, truck, rail and sealift capacity the Department of Defense (DOD) would rely on to lift critically important military equipment during a conflict. Without the MSP it would cost the taxpayers billions of dollars in DOD spending to replicate what MSP carriers, like Maersk, provide. A strong, competitive commercial U.S.-flag presence in international trade is therefore vitally important. It is important we recognize that in order to maintain a strong, reliable and available fleet of MSP vessels the program must understand and meet carrier operating costs. It should be indexed to keep abreast of inflation and we should make sure that MSP benefits flow to the U.S. corporate citizen providing VISA assets to our military. I look forward to working with my colleagues

and improving the Maritime Security Program. Mr. Speaker, Maersk Line, Limited plays a critical role in both the national security interest of the United States and the transportation of goods in and out of the U.S. I am proud to recognize Maersk Mc-Kinney Moller for the services his company provides and for his dedicated leadership in the maritime arena. He is a true friend of the United States of America.

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
BIRTHDAY OF DR. ANDREI
SAKHAROV

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues the 80th anniversary of the birth of the late Dr. Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov, one of the truly great figures in the struggle for human rights in the 20th century. On May 21 of this year, Dr. Sakharov would have celebrated his 80th birthday.

A brilliant physicist, Dr. Andrei Sakharov enjoyed the respect of his colleagues and the material privileges provided by Soviet officialdom for his work in helping to develop the Soviet atomic bomb. He could easily have continued to enjoy his elevated status in Soviet society, but his conscience would not permit it. He became deeply convinced that the arms race was pointless and a threat to mankind. When he protested privately to Soviet authorities, he was ignored. In 1968, Dr. Sakharov circulated his groundbreaking essay entitled, "Thoughts on Progress, Peaceful Co-Existence and Intellectual Freedom," in which he drew the connection between human rights and international security. For this challenge to the system, he was barred from military research, and when he continued to protest, he was fired from his work. In 1975, Dr. Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, but Soviet authorities would not allow him to travel to Oslo to receive the award. In January 1980, without any legal procedure, let alone a trial, Dr. Sakharov was picked up on the streets of Moscow by KGB agents and spirited off to exile in the city of Gorky.

At the same time, the Kremlin, under the leadership of former KGB chairman Yuri Andropov, launched a crackdown on Soviet dissidents. In 1984, Dr. Sakharov's wife, Dr. Elena Bonner, was convicted of "defaming the Soviet political and social system" and sentenced to join him in exile.

Even in these dark hours, Dr. Sakharov continued to speak out against the war being carried out by Soviet forces in Afghanistan, to defend persecuted human rights activists in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and to address vital issues of disarmament and peace. On three occasions, Dr. Sakharov went on a hunger strike to protest the mistreatment of his friends and colleagues in the human rights movement. During his confinement, his notes and his manuscripts were stolen from him by KGB thugs. President Reagan declared his sixtieth birthday, May 21, 1980, "Andrei Sakharov Day."

In December 1986, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev lifted Dr. Sakharov's exile and "in-

vited" him to return to Moscow. In 1989, Dr. Sakharov was elected to the Congress of People Deputies, an organization that had previously been the rubber stamp legislature for the Soviet Union. In the short time that he served, Dr. Sakharov joined a handful of other elected leaders to press for real reforms in the Soviet Union. On December 14, 1989, the world was saddened to learn of this great man's death.

In its coverage of "the 100 Most Important People of the 20th Century," Time magazine noted that, "By the time of his death in 1989, this humble physicist had influenced the spread of democratic ideals throughout the communist world. His moral challenge to tyranny, his faith in the individual and the power of reason, his courage in the face of denunciation and, finally, house arrest—made him a hero to ordinary citizens everywhere."

Although Andrei Sakharov has passed on and the Soviet Union is no more, the issues that he and his colleagues confronted still challenge us today. "Small wars," like the bloody conflict in Chechnya, have replaced the big Cold War. Human rights continue to be violated. Arms control and security issues are high on the agenda.

Several years ago, Dr. Bonner bequeathed Dr. Sakharov's papers to an American university bearing the name of one of our country's greatest jurists—Justice Louis Brandeis. This is a priceless gift not only to Brandeis, but to our entire nation. A generation of young people who have grown up since the fall of the Soviet Union, will be able to study Dr. Sakharov's writings on civic responsibility, non-violence, ethnic and religious intolerance, and other aspects of human rights and what we now call the human dimension.

Mr. Speaker, on this, the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Andrei Sakharov, I urge Americans young and old to acquaint themselves with Dr. Sakharov's struggle for peace and human dignity, and to support educational efforts such as the Sakharov archive at Brandeis to preserve the legacy of an intellectual and humanitarian giant of the 20th century.

THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS
ARREST FATHER NGUYEN VAN,
A NEW ROUND OF RELIGIOUS
PERSECUTION IN VIETNAM

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, this morning, Vietnamese communist authorities arrested a highly respected Catholic priest Father Nguyen Van Ly, a former Amnesty International "prisoner of conscience," accusing him of fomenting unrest against the government. Father Ly was detained in his parish of Phu An, near Hue, under a criminal law for failing to obey surveillance rules and agitating followers to cause public disorder.

"He was arrested for spreading propaganda against the government," said a spokesman for the secret police of Phu An commune. The propaganda charges Ly faces carry penalties of 10 to 12 years in prison. A longtime critic of the government, Ly has previously spent nearly 10 years in prison.

On Wednesday, Ly led a religious service of about 150 people in which police said he dis-

tributed leaflets. The government said the leaflets were anti-communist. Ly, 54, had previously been under heavy police surveillance and in March was denounced by official media as a "traitor" for urging the United States to link religious freedom to ratification of a bilateral trade agreement with Vietnam. "(Ly) continued to carry out behavior that affected public security and obstructed production and normal life of the people," the spokesman said.

Father Ly's arrest came amid growing criticism of Hanoi for persecution of religious groups—Christians, Buddhists and, Cao Dai. Ly's detention coincided with a report that a dissident Buddhist leader, Thich Quang Do, was summoned for questioning in Ho Chi Minh City. The Paris-based International Buddhist Information Bureau said that 73-year-old Thich Quang Do received a summons demanding he appear before a Communist kangaroo court tomorrow to explain "a number of wrongful acts" he has recently committed." The move could be related to Do's recent letter to the Vietnamese leadership in which he called for the release of another dissident monk, the group said. Do is the second-highest monk in the banned Unified Buddhist Church of Vietnam. The movement's patriarch, Thich Huyen Quang, 83, has been imprisoned for 19 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Hanoi regime insists it grants full religious freedom to its citizens. This is a blatant lie. Given the simultaneous mass persecution of our former allies, the Montagnard tribes people in Vietnam's Central Highlands, this body should link an end to religious and ethnic persecution to the ratification of the bilateral trade agreement between the United States and Vietnam. I also call on the United States embassy in Hanoi to aggressively make every possible effort to demand the release of Father Ly and an end to religious persecution and rampant human rights abuses in Vietnam.

NATIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WEEK

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 17, 2001

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Biotechnology Week, to commend the biotechnology community for its many contributions to science, healthcare, and technology.

Biotechnology has contributed enormously to the success of the United States as the global leader in research and international commerce. It will unquestionably be an important vehicle for high-tech job creation throughout the 21st century.

Today, biotechnology is widely used in many fields, including agriculture, food processing, and energy production. It has been largely responsible for improving quality of life all around the globe through its utilization in water quality protection, conservation of topsoil, and improvement of waste management techniques. Through its many innovations in pharmaceuticals from penicillin to AIDS drugs, biotechnology has paved the way for finding cures to many of the world's devastating diseases.

Mr. Speaker, I commend and thank the biotechnology community for its many contributions to our nation and the world.