

Former Brady Aide John Alvis Killed in Azerbaijan

By Suzanne Nelson

John Alvis, the chief strategist for Rep. Kevin Brady's (R-Texas) first House campaign and a former regional political director for the Republican National Committee, was killed by an unknown assailant Nov. 30 at his home in Baku, Azerbaijan. He was 36.

Alvis was living in the former Soviet republic as a resident director of the International Republican Institute, a Washington-based non-profit that assists emerging democracies. He had spent the past four years in Azerbaijan and Georgia, where Brady visited him in 1999. The two became close in 1996 during Brady's maiden Congressional bid, and the lawmaker credited Alvis as being a key figure in his subsequent re-election.

"I saw first-hand the difference John Alvis was making in the world," Brady said in a statement. "He was the best America could offer to advance democracy. Many people whose names we don't know and faces we can't see will one day enjoy greater freedom because of John."

"The brutal murder this week in Azerbaijan of my close friend John Alvis both saddens and angers me," he said. Brady has been in close contact with Azerbaijani Ambassador Hafiz Paschayev and the U.S. ambassador to

Azerbaijan, Ross Wilson, trying to expedite a thorough investigation. Azerbaijan officials haven't yet speculated about whether his work on the country's elections two weeks ago was related to his stabbing.

The fact that he was to return home soon is perhaps the most difficult aspect of the tragedy for Alvis' family. "He was finished with his assignment," his sister, Debbie Reid, said from their parents' home in the Woodlands, Texas.

"When I spoke to him this past weekend,

'He was the best America could offer to advance democracy.'

Rep. Kevin Brady

he was just so ready to return home to his friends and family in Texas," said the Congressman. "He was an idealistic, effective, happy warrior for democracy who, of all

people, didn't deserve this violent end."

Before going overseas, Alvis ran a political consulting firm. He received a 1988 political science degree from Texas A&M University. He loved his work, but his greatest passion was his family, friends and his Dalmatian, Jersey.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the John Alvis Memorial Scholarship Fund, care of Scott Howell & Co. Inc., 2211 N. Lamar St., Suite 100, Dallas, Texas 75202.

Churchill, Lincoln Top the Quote Charts

Continued from page 14

2,000 speeches he read when he put together his last work, "In Our Own Words: Extraordinary Speeches of the American Century," which he coedited with Andrew Carroll.

Released in 1998, that book made The New York Times best-seller list and Torricelli listed \$15,000 in earnings from that book contract on his 1999 financial disclosure forms.

On those same disclosure forms, Torricelli listed \$9,000 in income for his anthology of quotations.

Torricelli refused to provide any other de-

tails on the financial arrangements for his current project (published by Rutgers University Press) and said "no decision has been made" as to whether he plans to accept any royalties on the book or donate the proceeds to charity.

Birthday Greetings

DECEMBER 11
Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), 59
Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), 57

DECEMBER 13
Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.), 58

DECEMBER 14

Rep. Ily Dickry (R-Ark.), 61

DECEMBER 15
Rep. Wes Watkins (R-Okla.), 62

DECEMBER 16
Rep. Norm Dicks (D-Wash.), 60
Rep. Jim Gibbons (R-Nev.), 56
Rep. Bill Young (R-Fla.), 70