

A TRIBUTE AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALI RAZI

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and congratulate Mr. Ali Razi on his accomplishments during the past year as President of the Building Industry Association of California, Baldy View Chapter. As President and Member of the Board of Directors, Mr. Razi has toiled to meet the growing demand for quality, affordable housing for San Bernardino County residents.

A graduate of King's College, London University, Mr. Razi earned a degree in Civil Engineering, and later obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration. Following graduation, Mr. Razi went on to lecture at Tehran Polytechnic University, and in 2002 received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from California State University, San Bernardino. In addition to serving as a cardinal investor in higher education, Mr. Razi has distinguished himself as an eminent force in housing development and construction.

Prior to 1984, Mr. Razi served as Principal and CEO of Ira Engineering and Construction Company, heading the construction of large international projects. In 1984, Mr. Razi co-founded the Stratham Group, a major owner and developer of Southern California real estate. Since then, the firm has acquired and developed more than 10,000 apartment units, single family homes and parcels of land. Mr. Razi received personal recognition as Builder of the Year for 2000 by the BIA, Baldy View Chapter. In 2003, his company was acknowledged as building company of the year.

Throughout his career, Mr. Razi has held a series of prestigious titles. He has demonstrated diligence to education and dedication to successful land development. I am proud to recognize Mr. Razi's achievements and honor him for his steadfast efforts this year as President of the BIA of California, Baldy View Chapter and grant him my best wishes in his future development endeavors.

IN HONOR OF THE HONORABLE
BRUCE MCPHERSON

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated and passionate public servant, my friend, the Honorable Bruce McPherson. Senator McPherson recently left office after eight years representing California's fifteenth district in the California State Senate. He has served the residents of the Monterey Bay Area as a state senator since 1996, and had previously served two terms as a member of the State Assembly for the 27th district. Though term limits have ended his career as a State Senator, Bruce leaves behind a lasting legacy of service and bipartisanship that I wish to honor here today.

Senator McPherson spent twenty-six years in the newspaper business with the Santa Cruz Sentinel, always staying active in the

community that he loved. However, it was after I stepped down from my seat in the Assembly to run for Leon Panetta's seat in Congress that Bruce heard the call of elected office. After a successful campaign, he became the first Republican to represent Santa Cruz in the legislature since 1976, and since then has continued to win every local election in which he has run.

While in the legislature, Bruce has focused on several key issues, chief among them was education. In fact, while still a private citizen, he took the lead to enhance local education programs, such as creating a literacy program for the county while he was president of the local Rotary Club. This commitment continued as he worked to pass two state school bond measures, and worked annually to lower class sizes and keep them low. His position as Vice-Chair of the Senate Education Committee was a platform for him to work cooperatively within his chamber, as well as with the Assembly and Governor's office on difficult budget decisions.

As one of the Monterey Bay Area's legislators, Senator McPherson also put environmental issues in the forefront of his agenda. He supported the statewide ban on oil drilling off our coasts; helped with the purchase of over 7,000 acres in north Santa Cruz County for preservation; and authored legislation to protect water quality in our oceans.

Looking to take his message statewide, Bruce ran for Lieutenant Governor in 2002, a role he took on with a personal passion after the tragic loss of his son, Hunter. After this unimaginable loss for Bruce and his wife, Mary, they continued their positive and issues-oriented campaign in their son's name.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce McPherson leaves the California Senate having accomplished many goals for his constituency and for the state. As he looks forward to spending time with his family, I wish to honor his work and dedicated public service, and to wish him happiness and success for the future.

TRIBUTE TO MR. EDWARD O.
WAYSON, JR.

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend, a true American patriot, Mr. Edward O. Wayson, Jr.

Ed Wayson passed away on December 4, 2004 and his funeral was held today in his beloved city of Annapolis, Maryland. For all who attended today's service, it was clear that Ed was a man of incredible character and integrity. He was a man who touched so many lives personally and professionally through his humor and sheer joy of life. He believed in making the most of every moment he had and I speak for many when I say his moments were far too few in number.

Ed Wayson was a dear friend of mine and I would like to also pay tribute to his family. He is survived by his brother Boone, his wife of eight years Jeannine, his mother Ruth Ann, his first wife Beth along with their daughters Sarah and Anne, and his stepdaughter Kacey. Ed Wayson was a very successful man on many levels, but he was most proud of his

family. It was impossible to have a conversation with Ed without him mentioning Sarah or Anne. I would like to extend my sincerest thoughts and prayers from my family to his.

Ed Wayson was an active citizen who embraced the American democratic experience fully. Through political campaigns, local charities, lobbying, foundation work, and serving on boards including the Anne Arundel County Bar Association and the Annapolis—Anne Arundel Chamber of Commerce—Ed did not just talk about making a difference, he worked to make the world better for all of us.

During the funeral service today, it was said that this quote from Abraham Lincoln best describes Ed Wayson, and I would have to agree. "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing." Ed Wayson was the real thing and the world is a better place for him.

GAS STATION BURNED OUTSIDE
RICHMOND; CRIME MUST BE
PROMPTLY AND FULLY PROSECUTED

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn that on November 25, a gasoline station outside Richmond, Virginia was burned. It was owned by two Sikh brothers. From the graffiti that appeared on the charred remains, it appears that due to their turbans, the person who committed this horrible crime thought they were Muslims affiliated with Osama bin Laden.

It is important to note that whoever the victims of this brutal crime were, it is a terrible act that must be fully and quickly prosecuted. Blaming all Muslims for the terrorist acts of a few is unfair, bigoted, and intolerant. But it is interesting that the victims of this crime were not even members of the targeted group.

Sikhism is a distinct religion from any other, including Hinduism and Islam. It is monotheistic and believes in the equality of all, including equality for women. Our Sikh friends have made many contributions to this country as lawyers, doctors, engineers, farmers, computer specialists, and in many other fields. One Sikh, Dalip Singh Saund, was even a Member of this House from California, serving from 1959 to 1963. He was the first South Asian to be elected to Congress.

The President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, has written to the Chief of Police in Chesterfield County asking for a swift investigation of this incident. He received a prompt response from the police chief stating that the incident is being fully investigated and those responsible will be caught and prosecuted.

It is unfortunate that incidents like this still occur in America. Three years after September 11, people are still attacking anyone they perceive as foreign. This must be stopped. This kind of hate crime does not advance America or its ideals; it only harms our national unity at a time when we are most in need of it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place Dr. Aulakh's letter into the RECORD.