

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, November 29, 2004.

Col. CARL R. BAKER,  
Chief of Police, Chesterfield County Police Department, Chesterfield, VA.

DEAR CHIEF BAKER: As you know, on November 24, a gas station owned by Sarabjit Singh and Sukhjinder Singh, two Sikhs, was set on fire. Graffiti, including "Go back to Bin Laden," "F\*\*\* Arab gas," and "Never Again Indian Monkey N\*\*\*\*," was sprayed on a dumpster behind the charred station.

This is clearly a hate crime and it is unacceptable. I urge you to prosecute this crime to the fullest possible extent. Do not let the people who perpetrated this crime think they can get away with it.

This would be an unacceptable crime if the owners of the stations were Muslims, as the perpetrators apparently thought they were, or members of any other group. But they are not. They are Sikhs. Sikhism is an independent, monotheistic, revealed religion that believes in the equality of all people, including gender equality. It is not part of either Islam or Hinduism. The perpetrator of this crime didn't even hit the target he intended to hit!

Sikhs are religiously, culturally, and linguistically distinct from any other people in the world. The Sikh Nation has declared its independence from India and is currently under Indian occupation. Sikhs are working to free our homeland, Khalistan.

The incident at the gas station is a setback for the American ideal of freedom for all people and those responsible must be fully and swiftly punished to protect these Sikh businessmen and protect the system of freedom under law.

I urge you to take all appropriate action to bring the criminals to justice.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
President.

RECOGNIZING DONALD SHERMAN  
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF  
EAGLE SCOUT

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Donald Sherman of Independence, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 82, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Donald has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Donald has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Donald Sherman for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

IN HONOR OF THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF ST. COLMAN PARISH

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the leaders and members of St. Colman Parish, of Cleveland, Ohio, as they celebrate 125 years of faith, guidance and support, embracing generations of citizens throughout our westside Cleveland community.

In 1880, St. Colman Parish was formed to serve the spiritual and cultural needs of the Irish-American residents of this neighborhood. Since that time, St. Colman's has evolved into a parish community that reflects the racial and cultural diversity of the community it serves, wholly embracing and celebrating the brilliantly diverse mosaic that is the rich fabric of the people of this parish.

St. Colman's historical and bright legacy of social justice, community outreach, cultural preservation, educational programs and spiritual guidance, continues to emanate along these streets, offering tangible services and assistance to citizens of all ages. Restoring broken homes and broken hearts is the continuing legacy of St. Colman's Parish.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of every leader and member of St. Colman Parish, as they celebrate 125 years of cultivating faith, hope and heritage for generations of families within our Cleveland community. We also rise in honor and memory of the struggle, sacrifice and triumph of the founding members of this parish, who journeyed to America with little more than faith, hope and the grit to survive. Love and faith still radiates from St. Colman Parish, encircling this neighborhood with light, strength and hope rising on the dawn of a brand new day.

OSSIE DAVIS AND RUBY DEE:  
AMERICAN ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the life and work of Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee, two prolific artists whose achievements have immeasurably impacted the livelihood of African American artists and the African American community as a whole. Together, they helped to knock down the exclusionary barriers placed upon minority artists, effectually ushering in a new age of American art and culture in which the contributions of African American artists have been, for the first time in our history, recognized and appreciated. The pair were recently honored at the annual John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, in celebration of their life's work.

Appearing in more than 20 films, the talented Ruby Dee has enthralled audiences in notable stage appearances such as her role in *A Raisin in the Sun* and *The Balcony*. The recipient of countless cultural awards, Ms. Dee continues to push the boundaries of the pre-

conceived notions of women in film and theater. She has written plays, musicals and several books of poetry, eventually turning her stories into the 1998 critically acclaimed one-woman show, *One Good Nerve*. Truly a trailblazer in her own right, Ruby Dee has played a vital role in the progression of the arts in our country.

An actor, playwright, producer, screenwriter and director, the impressive career of Ossie Davis spans more than half a century. Having written and directed such memorable films and plays as 1970's *Cotton Comes to Harlem* and 1961's contentious exploration of segregation, *Purlie Victorious*, the works of Mr. Davis are long-lasting in depth and scope. A gifted actor, Ossie Davis has shown his versatile talents in a bevy of roles and memorable performances.

In a time of limited opportunities for African-American actors, both Ms. Dee and Mr. Davis sprung from the Harlem cultural scene before meeting on Broadway and forging their legendary partnership, later on pledging their lives to one another as husband and wife. Together, Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee have appeared in more than 50 films, featured in several Spike Lee efforts, including *Jungle Fever*, *Get on the Bus*, *School Daze* and the classic *Do the Right Thing*. Also appearing in *Malcolm X*, Mr. Davis plays himself, reprising his passionate eulogy at the funeral of the slain civil rights leader.

Ossie Davis and Ruby Dee have presided as vanguards of political activism. They have been tireless proponents of the civil rights movement in America as well as staunch opponents of the McCarthyism witch-hunts; the duo has unquestioningly worn the mantle of public defenders for the past several decades. They helped organize and then graced the dais of the first fundraising dinner held by the Congressional Black Caucus and gave us, in Ossie's speech, the direction we have since sought to follow. Ossie told us that "It's not the man, it's the plan," and that admonition has sustained us and created an institution that has grown and prospered through many changes in leadership over the years.

I am personally indebted to Ossie and Ruby for their many contributions to my own Harlem community, including Ossie's service as chairman emeritus of the Board of the Apollo Theater Foundation. Without their efforts, there is no question that our Nation would be less committed to the great moral challenges of our lifetime. The African-American community, as well as the country as a whole, owes them both a debt of gratitude.

HONORING CONGRESSMAN JACK  
QUINN

**HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 7, 2004*

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Congressman JACK QUINN of Hamburg, New York, as he retires from the U.S. House of Representatives after 12 years of exemplary public service.

Throughout his time in the U.S. House of Representatives, JACK represented both his constituents and the institution with grace and integrity. He loved his country, his community