SIKH RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Sikh Religious Society of Indiana and its Board of Directors as they celebrate one of their most significant religious and historical events, Vaisakhi. The day will be commemorated on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at the Sikh Temple in Crown Point, Indiana.

The Sikh Religious Society is a non-profit religious and social organization that has served the Sikh community of Northwest Indiana since 1994. Each year the Sikh people celebrate Vaisakhi, a festival that commemorates the establishment of the ''Order of the Kahlsa'' or ''Pure Servants of God.'' In 1699, Sahib-E-Kamaal, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth guru, initiated the process of the conversion of the people of India into a morally receptive and disciplined army of the pure and courageous, whose main purpose was to overcome religious oppression and considerable human rights violations that were occurring in India at that time. He empowered the people of India by giving them a choice to control their own destiny, teaching them to stand unyielding to confront the forces of intolerance that had been placed upon them by the bigoted and cruel leaders of the time. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, in his courage to act, willingness to meet challenges, and ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty. On Vaisakhi day, Guru Gobind Singh Ji assigned a specific code of conduct to the Sikh followers—belief in one God, brotherhood of mankind, equality among all human beings, justice, peace, and truth. Sikh followers are encouraged to work hard, earn an honest living, and live a life of service to people in need. Today, the Sikh community holds high the beliefs that were brought forth on that day. The true meaning of Vaisakhi lives on in the Sikh people as they continue to pass on their peaceful beliefs and messages of equality through their unwavering strength and determination.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Sikh Religious Society of Indiana, its Board of Directors, and congregation, as well as Sikh followers throughout the world, as they celebrate and observe the religious and historic event of Vaisakhi. Through their words and teachings, these honorable individuals and organizations remind us all of the struggles and accomplishments of the Sikh people throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR DEEDRA L. ZABOKRTSKY—SCOTTSDALE HEALTHCARE'S ''SALUTE TO MILITARY'' HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of the Armed Forces from my home State of Arizona. Every month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members who perform diligent service to this country. For the month of April, they have recognized U.S. Air Force Major Deedra L. Zabokrtsky.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for her dedication and service to our country.

During her service, Major Zabokrtsky served as an Intermediate Ward Flight Commander with the 332d Expeditionary Medical Operations in Balad, Iraq. She led a team of 46 providers, nurses and medical technicians that cared for 920 patients in the course of 4 months. Under her outstanding leadership, the hospital achieved an astounding 98 percent survival rate for United States military casualties and set an example for high standards of care. For her superb achievements Major Zabokrtsky was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Currently, Major Zabokrtsky is stationed at Luke Air Force Base with the 56th Medical Group. She is assigned as a full-time faculty member at Scottsdale Healthcare for the Air Force Nurse Transition Program. Her accomplishments at Scottsdale Healthcare have significantly enhanced the hospital's military partnership training programs.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this outstanding Air Force officer for serving our country and caring for our fellow service men and women in combat.

HONORING THE 89TH BIRTHDAY OF MRS. MARTHA YUSEM

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Martha Yusem of Cherry Hill, NJ on the occasion of her 89th birthday.

Mrs. Yusem has long been admired by her community. She was was born April 5, 1921 in Vienna, Austria. Martha and her family lived through Krystal Nacht on November 10th, 1938. While many in her community were sent to the Dachau concentration camp, her family was able to remain hidden and protected. On February 16, 1939, at the age of 17, she emigrated on to the United States aboard the *Aquatania.* The day after the ship departed for New York, the borders closed and war broke out in Europe. This would also be the very last voyage of the *Aquatania* as it was torpedoed and sunk by the Germans on its return to Europe.

In America, Martha quickly picked up the English language and went on to attend Temple University. She proudly became an American citizen in 1944 and married an American psychologist and WWII veteran, David Yusem, in December, 1952. Together, they raised two sons, Paul and Joseph. Martha has worked as a tax preparer, a real estate salesperson and most notably, a senior bank teller.

In 1997, she moved to Cherry Hill, NJ where she lives today. Martha has, on more than one occasion, spoken to groups about her experiences in Nazi-occupied Europe. In addition to an active social life, Martha remains very involved in politics. Martha Yusem's story is one of great courage and determination. Our country is proud to have such a remarkable woman. I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing Mrs. Martha Yusem a very Happy 89th Birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GRAY, ONE OF SOUTH ALABAMA'S WORLD WAR II HEROES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I rise to note the passing of a noteworthy World War II veteran and a truly great American, Mr. John Franklin Gray, who recently passed away at the age of 87.

Named the 2007 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year, Mr. Gray was a remarkable man in every way imaginable.

He was a trailblazer as one of the first African Americans to be accepted into the United States Marines Corps. Trained at the Marine Corp's African American boot camp at Montford Point, Camp Lejune, N.C., he served more than a year and a half in a segregated unit while fighting in the Pacific.

John Gray's service was highlighted in the Ken Burns PBS television documentary, ''The War.''

Mr. Gray, like so many of America's ''Greatest Generation,'' helped our country win the war, and then returned home to Mobile, Alabama where he devoted much of the remainder of his working lifetime to educating our young people in the Mobile County public schools. After more than 50 years in the school system, he retired as assistant principal at Mobile's Shaw High School.

Those who knew him best said John Gray was proudest of his service to the students and his service to America. He was a Marine to the end and loved the Corps.

On a personal note, I considered it one of my great honors to have gotten to know Mr. Gray in the twilight of his life. Whenever he and I were together—whether it was at a Veteran's Day parade or at a welcome home ceremony for one of our units returning from Iraq or Afghanistan, Mr. Gray was always the epitome of a Marine's Marine, standing tall and proud for freedom and for liberty.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, and on the part of a grateful nation, I wish to thank Mr. John Gray for his distinguished service and his exemplary life. And I extend my condolences to his wife, the Rev. Edwina Gray, his six children, John Gray, Gordon Gray, Danielle Gray, Rhonda Gray, Alice Gray, and Gable Gray, as well as countless other friends and family.

They are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.