

TRIBUTE TO DISTRICT RANGER
CHUCK JONES

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a dedicated member of the U.S. Forest Service as he concludes 32 years of service to his country. We are proud to have had this man serve as District Ranger in Jackson, Wyoming Ranger District for the past 10 years.

Mr. Charles G. Jones deserves this honor. We owe our gratitude for his contributions to the wise and sustainable use of our national forests and water resources.

Chuck Jones' personal and professional career accomplishments are as diverse as they are noteworthy. His loyal service and sacrifices for over three decades, working in the small communities of the Rocky Mountain west, are a testament to all who use and appreciate our public lands. I would like to take a moment to reflect on Chuck's career as he makes the transition to life beyond government service.

Upon graduation from Michigan Technological University in 1964, with a degree in forestry, Chuck moved west and began work as a timber forester with the Northern Pacific railroad and Seeley Lake, Montana. Two years later, and then married to the former Carolyne McCollum, he embarked on public service work as a forester with the Kaniksu National Forest in Newport, Washington.

Following a transfer to Noxon, Montana, and serving as a forestry specialist, he moved in 1971 to the Red Lves Ranger District in Saint Maries, Idaho, as a timber management officer. Helping further our nation's dependence on wood products from the national forests, he spent the next several years in Troy, Montana, and Mountain Home, Idaho, on the Boise National Forests respectively.

In 1982 Chuck was appointed as the District Ranger in Cascade, Idaho. Following five years of success in that position the Forest Service assigned Chuck as the District Ranger in Pinedale, Wyoming, a state where we appreciate his brand of leadership and his abundant talents. Quickly adapting to the unique life-style of rural Wyoming, he then became the ranger in Jackson where he has served with distinction for the past 10 years.

Chuck's last tour of duty has been as remarkable for its challenges as it has been for his ability to find solutions that mirror public interests. The Jackson Ranger District, located in close proximity to the Tetons and well known national parks, offers the most complex combination of multiple uses of the land and heavy public visitation of any district administered by the Forest Service. A well known and highly regarded member of the Jackson Hole community, Chuck's fairness and problem solving will be hard to replace.

Whether dealing with the catastrophic fires of 1988, coordinating with world class ski areas, managing heavy public use in the Snake River canyon, or hosting Presidential visits, Chuck always demonstrates the highest ideals of public service. I am especially proud to mention his initiative and compassion in bringing the nine families together for a me-

morial service the year after their loved ones perished on a tragic C-130 crash in the Gros Vente Wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to present these credentials of Chuck Jones before the House today. It is clear through his stated, and unstated, accomplishments that he has dedicated himself to furthering the benefits we enjoy from our public lands. All of his actions reflect a true leader with a sense of purpose, commitment, and conscience.

As Chuck departs from public service I ask my colleagues to join with me in delivering an appreciative tribute from a grateful nation, and best wishes to he and Carol for a productive and rewarding retirement.

CONGRESS CALLS FOR RELEASE
OF HUMAN-RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 4, 1998

Mr. TOWNS: Mr. Speaker, on July 31, several of my colleagues and I sent a letter to President Clinton asking him to get involved in trying to free some human-rights defenders in India. Those of us who signed the letter thank the Washington Times for its excellent coverage of it in the August 4 issue.

Jaspal Singh Dhillon helped Jaswant Singh Khalra put together his report on mass cremations in Punjab. He came to the United States in 1993 and visited the White House. The Indian government arrested him in 1993 but was forced by international pressure to release him. Now he has again been arrested on trumped-up charges. Not only that, but his attorney, Daljit Singh Rajput, has been arrested in the same case. It is virtually certain that they are being tortured.

Rajiv Singh Randhawa was kidnapped along with a friend of his in broad daylight. He was picked up because he saw the kidnapping of Mr. Khalra and had identified the police officers who were involved. This is what happens to you were you cross the police in democratic India.

Kuldip Singh is a former low-level police employee who heard the murder of Mr. Khalra. He reported the gruesome details to the press. He was getting some water for Mr. Khalra when he heard a shot and ran back. Khalra was bleeding and had stopped breathing. He, too, has to be protected from the police.

Human-rights workers like Jaspal Singh Dhillon and witnesses like Kuldip Singh should not live in fear of the police. The United States must take the strongest possible action to bring about the prompt release of these innocent Sikhs and to see to it that the Indian government prosecutes and punishes those responsible for these atrocities.

I am inserting the Congressional letter and the Washington Times article into the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read them carefully.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 31, 1998.

Subject: Arrest and fear of disappearance and torture of human-rights activist Jaspal Singh Dhillon and others.

Hon. Bill Clinton,

President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We are very disturbed by the July 23 abduction of Jaspal

Singh Dhillon, who worked with human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra on his report exposing the mass cremations of Sikhs by the Punjab police. Earlier the police abducted Rajiv Singh Randhawa, a key eyewitness to the kidnapping of Khalra. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, informed us that these individuals may be in danger of being murdered and listed as "disappeared" like tens of thousands before him, as Mr. Khalra documented.

Jaspal Singh Dhillon was picked up on a false charge that he was involved in a conspiracy to blow up the Buralil jail to free and alleged "militant." His vehicle was also seized. We are afraid that the police will plant false evidence in the vehicle. Jaspal Singh Dhillon has testified before the United Nations about the human-rights violations in Punjab. He has even been to the White House. Mr. Dhillon was picked up five years ago and severely tortured. It is only because you and other Western leaders intervened that Mr. Dhillon was released at that time.

Mr. Randhawa was picked up on July 15 from his home in Amritsar by plainclothes police who held a gun to his head, tied him up with his own turban, and took him away along with a friend of his. The police officials who kidnapped and murdered Khalra are due for a hearing on July 28. Clearly, the Randhawa kidnapping is an attempt to remove the one witness who can do the most damage to them.

In addition to these cases, a police witness, Kuldip Singh has had to turn to the Central Reserve Police Force for protection because he is afraid that the Punjab police will try to eliminate him. Kuldip Singh said that he was getting water for Jaswant Singh Khalra in the Chhabra police station when he heard a shot. He ran back and Khalra was bleeding. He had stopped breathing and he was dead. As you know Jaswant Singh Khalra was kidnapped in 1995 after he exposed India's policy of mass cremations of Sikhs.

In a democracy, human-rights activists like Jaspal Singh Dhillon and witnesses like Kuldip Singh and Rajiv Singh Randhawa should not have to live in fear of the police. We call on you to intervene with the government of India to ensure the release of Mr. Dhillon and Mr. Randhawa immediately and call on them to begin an immediate prosecution of those who abducted them. We strongly urge you to protect these innocent Sikhs and to work with the Indian government to make sure that those responsible for the crimes against these Sikhs are punished.

Sincerely,

Edolphus Towns, M.C.; Dan Burton, M.C.; Dana Rohrabacher, M.C.; Richard Pombo, M.C.; Frank R. Wolf, M.C.; Jack Metcalf, M.C.; Bill Redmond, M.C.; Wm. J. Jefferson, M.C.; Sheila Jackson-Lee, M.C.; Peter T. King, M.C.; Donald M. Payne, M.C.; Roscoe Bartlett, M.C.; Lincoln Diaz-Balart, M.C.; John T. Doolittle, M.C.; Jerry Solomon, M.C.; Cynthia McKinney, M.C.; Barbara Kennedy, M.C.; Gregory Meeks, M.C.; Bernard Sanders, M.C.; Wally Herger, M.C.; Dale E. Kildee, M.C.; Esteban E. Torres, M.C.; J.C. Watts, Jr. M.C.; Merrill Cook, M.C.; "Duke" Cunningham, M.C.; Duncan Hunter, M.C.; Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, M.C.; Phil Crane, M.C.; Bill Paxon, M.C.; Ron Lewis, M.C.; Sandford D. Bishop, Jr., M.C.; Ron Packard, M.C.