

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CELEBRATES THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF B.P.O.E. JAMESBURG ELKS LODGE 2180

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to recognize the Jamesburg Elks Lodge 2180's 40th anniversary. This organization continues to make lasting contributions to the local community through its hard work and dedication to those in need.

The Jamesburg Elks began serving the community upon the approval of their local charter on July 13, 1960. The first Exalted Ruler of the Elks, Stanley Wzorek worked diligently to set the standard by which the Elks continue to serve the community today. In 1975, the Elks were joined in their efforts with the formation of the Jamesburg Elks Ladies Auxiliary.

The Elks contributions to the community take many forms. Through their donation of space they help groups such as the Girl & Boy Scouts of America. They allow organizations for disabled veterans to host weekly events in their lodge such as lunch, bingo and health check clinics. Recently, the Elks donated cellphones to local school crossing guards in case of an emergency.

One of the greatest efforts of the Jamesburg Elks is to host an annual Charity Ball to benefit local children with disabilities. In the summer months, the Jamesburg Elks, in conjunction with state assistance, send local children with disabilities to Camp Moore for a weeklong outdoor experience.

Jamesburg Elks Lodge 2180 is a great asset to Central New Jersey. I urge all my colleagues to join me today in recognizing its dedication to community service and Central New Jersey.

IN HONOR OF JOSE L. LINARES' APPOINTMENT TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jose L. Linares for his appointment to the Superior Court of New Jersey. Mr. Linares will be sworn in on December 13, 2000 in Newark, New Jersey.

Jose L. Linares was born on November 30, 1953 in Havana, Cuba, and at the age of 13, immigrated to the United States. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Jersey City State in 1975 and his J.D. from Temple University Law School in 1978.

Mr. Linares began his exceptional career in law as the Examining Attorney at the New

York Department of Investigation, where he supervised white collar crime and corruption. A short time later, he took a position as trial attorney with Horowitz, Bross, Sinnins & Imperial, P.A. In 1982 Mr. Linares founded his own firm, now called Partner, Linares, Coviello & Santana, which specializes in product liability.

Mr. Linares has achieved numerous awards, honors, and memberships, including the Exces County Bar Association Civil Trial Attorney Achievement Award; Essex County Ethics Committee; NJ Supreme Court Board on Trial Attorney Certification; past President of the NJ Hispanic Bar Association; Essex County Bar Vice Chair; New Jersey Association of Trial Lawyers; National Association of Trial Lawyers; and the NJ State Bar Association Products Liability Committee.

Mr. Linares has earned this appointment through his lifelong pursuit of justice and his dedication to America and its laws. As a judge, he will serve with continued distinction and honor.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Jose L. Linares not only for his appointment to the Superior Court of New Jersey, but also for the wonderful example he has set for the Hispanic community.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN TALLEY

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to pay tribute to an individual who first came to my Congressional office and who has served the past three years as Chief of Staff for the Committee on Education and the Workforce. Kevin Talley is a very talented individual who has served other Members of Pennsylvania's delegation and me in a variety of capacities.

Kevin's first position in Congress was with Hugh Scott, the Senate Minority Leader, whom Kevin served as Press Secretary. He came to my office in 1977 in a similar capacity and stayed for four years, becoming my Chief of Staff and overseeing all operations in my Washington and district offices.

The management skills he acquired in those roles were expanded further when he joined Senator John Heinz as Chief of Staff. In addition to handling administrative and public responsibilities with Senator Heinz, Kevin developed legislative initiatives on targeted jobs tax credits, Social Security Reform, campaign finance reform, and unemployment compensation provisions.

In 1985, Senator Heinz demonstrated his confidence in Kevin by naming him as his deputy at the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

In 1987, Kevin decided to try life in the private sector, focusing on public affairs. He stayed in touch, and I kept my eye on him, even though he was no longer working in Congress.

I became Chairman of the Education and Workforce Committee in 1995. When I had an opening for the Committee's Chief of Staff in 1997, I asked Kevin to come back to Congress to help me accomplish what remained to be done before I finished my Congressional career.

During Kevin's tenure as Chief of Staff, the Committee passed more than 45 significant education and workforce bills. It was the Committee's most productive period in the last 20 years. We made significant improvements in Head Start, child nutrition, job training, and worker protection programs. We succeeded in shifting the focus from process to results, and from quantity to quality.

Kevin Talley was a key participant in those successes, and for that, I will always be grateful. More importantly, Kevin is a friend, and I am glad that my upcoming retirement will not change that.

THE COMMODITY FUTURES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2000

**HON. THOMAS W. EWING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 which provides us with an historic opportunity to modernize the U.S. futures and over-the-counter market laws.

The time is now to ensure that the United States continued to be the world's financial leader. We have two of the three largest futures exchanges in the world, however, our antiquated laws and regulations prevent them from being as efficient and effective as possible to compete in global markets. The legal uncertainty surrounding the U.S. over-the-counter markets must be removed to prevent domestic business from migrating overseas and causing our share of these \$90 trillion markets to shrink.

The Commodity Futures Modernization Act of 2000 contains the major provisions of the House passed H.R. 4541. These provisions are in titles I and II of the legislation and provide regulatory relief for the domestic futures exchanges, legal certainty for over-the-counter products, and allow for the trading of single stock futures.

This latest version of the legislation adds two new titles not included in the original House passed bill. Title III, Legal Certainty for Swap Agreements, provides guidelines for the SEC's role in regulating swaps.

Title IV, the "Legal Certainty for Bank Products Act of 2000", excludes identified banking products from the Commodity Exchange Act. It provides guidelines to determine the proper regulator for hybrid products. If the regulators do not agree on who should regulate a product, the court will decide.

Senator LUGAR and Senator GRAMM have worked tirelessly in the Senate, with the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

House, and with the Administration to make this bill possible.

Secretary Summers in coordination with Chairman Rainer and Chairman Levitt and countless numbers of their staff put in many hours working through this language to reach agreement.

Finally, I would like to thank Chairman COMBEST, Chairman LEACH, Chairman BLILEY and all the Ranking Members who have worked so hard on this legislation, particularly to pass the H.R. 4541 version of this bill through the House, and to produce the final package we have presented today. Everyone involved and their staff should be commended for their extraordinary efforts.

It is my hope that this legislation will enable America to continue being the world leader in financial markets for decades to come.

## AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 5, 2000*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that H.R. 5640 included a provision, originally included in my bill H.R. 3637, that makes certain technical corrections to the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998. Although there is no specific effective date attached to the provision, it is the expectation of Congress that lenders subject to sections 402 (b) and (c); 405 (a) and (b); 406(c)(2) will have a reasonable period of time to effect compliance with the terms of these sections. Those sections offer guidance on specific products and processes that are not addressed in the original law. Lenders will need time to make systems changes and conform administrative processes to the new provisions. This flexibility is especially important because the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 does not authorize a federal agency to provide implementing regulations and guidance.

## RECOGNIZING "FALUN DAFA WEEK"

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, in May of 1992, Mr. Li Hongzhi had an idea—one that would promote better health and moral living in the people of China and those around the world who chose to partake in the ancient practice of Falun Dafa.

The phenomenon quickly swept the country and eventually the world as men and women rediscovered their ancient Chinese culture. Through simple exercises, practitioners strove to renew their senses of Truthfulness, Compassion and Forbearance that serve as a foundation for their happiness and spiritual satisfaction. Ultimately, individuals found strength, physical well-being and peace as they embraced the simplicity of this self-improvement practice.

But despite the recognition that Mr. Li gained throughout the world and despite the thousands of practitioners scattered all over the globe, a crackdown occurred—a crackdown that denied the right to freedom of religion to thousands of Chinese citizens.

Apparently through fear of losing control over its citizens, the Chinese government started a crusade to persecute those practicing Falun Dafa. Characterized as an "evil force," the Chinese government worked tirelessly to suppress the practice of Falun Dafa by enacting anti-cult laws and committing human rights abuses.

Although Falun Dafa believers lead peaceful lives and emphasize nonviolence, practitioners found themselves being persecuted, beaten and imprisoned for simply practicing their beliefs. Numerous men and women have been the victims of torture, suffering and death, and many individuals feel that these attacks on Falun Dafa practitioners are unconscionable and unwarranted. They fly in the face of freedoms that we in the United States all too often take for granted.

Mr. Speaker, all people should have the right to practice their religious and philosophical beliefs without persecution or prejudice. Therefore, in honor of those men and women who have risked their lives for the practice of Falun Dafa and in honor of the emotional and physical benefits that Falun Dafa has given to thousands of practitioners worldwide, I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning this abuse of religious freedom. Let us recognize those who choose to participate in the Falun Dafa movement and commend the contributions, spiritual fulfillment and happiness that it has offered to many individuals worldwide.

## HONORING DR. HOWARD D. CLARK

**HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Howard D. Clark, a constituent of mine from Morton, Mississippi, for receiving the "National Country Doctor of the Year" award for the year 2000. This award is sponsored by Safe Care, Inc., a national physician association based in Irving, Texas. Dr. Clark was selected for this award from 501 nominees submitted from 41 states. Safe Care defines a "country doctor" as one who serves a community with a population of 25,000 or less. Morton's population is approximately 3,000 people. Dr. Clark, who has been practicing in Morton since 1965, is truly an "old time family doctor" who still makes house calls and knows his patients as people and friends, not strangers.

Dr. Clark's philosophy has always been that if he was going to be someone's doctor, he was going to be it 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In the early days of his practice, he would make rounds at the hospital, work at his clinic all day, and then pick up his house calls for the nights, working as late as 10 p.m. each night.

Dr. Clark, at the age of 73 shows no signs of slowing down his service as a physician. He sees an average of 60 patients a day, cares for about 20 more in the hospital, and 110 in

the local nursing home. Twice a week he works the 12 hour night shift at the Scott Regional Hospital emergency room. Twice a month, he handles the 36 hour weekend shift at the emergency room.

The commitment of Dr. Clark to the town of Morton, Scott County, and the surrounding area is legendary. In a letter to the "Country Doctor of the Year" nomination committee, Morton's Mayor Charles Steadman wrote that "Dr. Clark has served the local high school as the Doc on the sidelines at all ball games at no charge, having missed only one game in 48 years because he was delivering a baby. In the past few years, he had heart surgery on a Tuesday and was at the game with the team the following Friday night." Michael Edwards, Administrator at Scott Regional Hospital wrote that in 1994, "Dr. Clark had cervical surgery one Monday morning after making his morning hospital calls. He checked out of the hospital Tuesday morning and saw patients in his clinic on the way home. He saw patients daily in his clinic and in the hospital during his post-operative days. Not once, did I ever hear Dr. Clark complain."

Dr. Clark's undergraduate degree is from Mississippi State University and his medical degree is from Tulane University. He and his wife, Jackie, together have 13 children, 22 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren. Six of the children were born to Dr. Clark and his first wife, Mildred, who passed away 33 years ago. In the Morton area, Dr. Clark has delivered more than 4,500 babies.

Sid Salter, Editor of the Scott County Times newspaper stated that "Dr. Clark is most deserving of this award because of his generosity, stamina, bedside manner, dedication to community, and his medical ability." Further, he said that Dr. Clark has been the complete package in his county—serving his patients, his town, his country, his state and nation, and his fellow man faithfully and true for decades.

Thus, it is an honor indeed for me to recognize and bring to the attention of Congress a fine Christian gentleman, my constituent from Morton, Mississippi, Dr. Howard D. Clark, the National Country Doctor of the Year. Congratulations Dr. Clark.

## THE MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY CELEBRATES A CENTURY OF SERVICE

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call to the attention of our colleagues the Centennial of the Thrall Library in Middletown, N.Y. On January 12, 2001 the Middletown Thrall Library will celebrate 100 years of service to our community.

The Thrall Library was first constructed at the turn of the century with funds donated by Mrs. Sabra Maretta Thrall. Mrs. Thrall gave the City of Middletown \$30,000 with the instruction that the money was to be used to build a public library. It was important to Mrs. Thrall that all residents have access to the library and that it remains open to the public.

At the time Mrs. Thrall made her donation, Middletown was a thriving, vital railroad center

in the midst of rich, productive farm land. Stately mansions sprang up in Middletown as a result of the fortunes which were made in the boom economy brought about by the explosion in industry and transportation which touched most parts of our nation. Mrs. Thrall was a widow whose late husband had made his fortune as a grocer, both in Middletown and in New York City.

Although Mrs. S. Maretta Thrall was a private person, it can be deduced that her generosity may have been inspired by Andrew Carnegie, the man who became a millionaire in the steel industry and who donated millions of dollars to construct libraries in over 1,400 communities throughout the United States.

Mrs. Thrall's obituary was published on July 7, 1897. She was about 65 years of age at the time of her passing, and was a widow preceded in death not only by her husband but also by her only brother and only child. Her obituary stated that she had "a naturally bright and sunny disposition, and was surrounded by friends." The obituary went on to say that she could not enjoy her fortune because "disease laid its stern hand upon her."

Prior to her death Mrs. Thrall had left money and land to the City of Middletown for what were known as Thrall Hospital and Thrall Park. The provisions for the Thrall Library were included in a codicil to her will. The library was built on a city owned lot on Orchard Street.

Now a century old, the Thrall Library has made a great amount of progress throughout the years. When its doors first opened it was simply just a quiet place to research and read. However, the Thrall Library has evolved into so much more. It is now a resource center for the community. The library houses meeting rooms for local groups to gather at. As well, the library has instituted a number of programs for children to take part in. Located at the library are several computers that provide free Internet services to its patrons. Often, we fail to realize just how important our libraries are, and how much they offer.

On February 13, 1995, the Thrall Library officially opened for business at its new location, the old Erie Railroad Station at 11-19 Depot Street in Middletown—just a few steps from its original building on Orchard Street. In this modern, new location, the Thrall Library prepared to meet the challenges of the communications and education explosion which would usher in the new millennium.

Public libraries are extremely important to our communities. They enlighten and enrich all of the patrons that choose to take advantage of the vast resources that they have to offer. Public libraries educate all walks of life, and stand as a common ground for all those who want to learn. S. Maretta Thrall realized this.

Today's libraries work hard to reach out to the cultural, social, and educational needs of their patrons. The Thrall Library is constantly looking for new ways to aid our community. With over seventeen thousand card holders to date, the number of members continues to rise.

In 1983, I had the honor of placing the Thrall Library on the list of Federal Depository Libraries. Since then, Thrall Library has been one of two libraries in my Congressional District to be provided with all federal government publications.

In honor of their 100th anniversary and all of the great work that the Thrall Library has

achieved over the years, the members of the library plan to commemorate this milestone event throughout the coming year.

This momentous occasion will be celebrated by the good people of Middletown, N.Y. with a series of events. An illustrated history of the library is being compiled and will be published as a journal. The Library is also planning to allot each month of the year 2001 a different theme, drawing patrons to the library for a variety of celebrations. While honoring their years of service, the library will also be honoring the community and all of its members.

As we celebrate this centennial, we especially salute and thank the current Board of Trustees of the Thrall Library: Ms. Marlena F. Lange, President; Mr. Richard Bell, Vice President; Mr. Ralph Russo, Secretary; Mrs. Gertrude Mokotoff; and Mr. Stephen Shaw. We also salute and thank Mr. Kevin Gallagher, the current library Administrator.

The work that is being done by the Thrall Library and other public libraries like it throughout the country is amazing. Thrall has been bringing its patrons together and enriching their lives for a century. We are proud of the significant strides made by such this great institution.

Mr. Speaker, some of the fondest memories of my younger life were days and nights spent reading at the Thrall Library. While our society has changed in many ways since those years, one thing which has remained constant is the constant quest for knowledge, the insatiable curiosity, which motivates all of our young students. It is to them that we dedicate the centennial of the Thrall Library, with the promise of much greater knowledge to come in the future.

One of our nation's founding fathers, the architect of our Constitution who went on to serve as our fourth President, James Madison, once stated: "Learned institutions ought to be favorite objects with every free people. They throw that light over the public mind which is the best security against crafty and dangerous encroachments on the public liberty."

As the 100th anniversary of the Middletown Thrall Library approaches, let us recall these words of James Madison and appreciate the national treasure which is our public library system.

INDIAN POLICE TRY TO STOP  
SIKHS FROM VISITING RELI-  
GIOUS SHRINE IN PAKISTAN—  
SIKHS REALIZE NEED FOR INDE-  
PENDENT KHALISTAN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, many of us have spoken to the House about the oppression of Sikhs and other minorities in India. I am distressed to have to report yet another incident.

Last month, thousands of Sikhs gathered from around the world to celebrate the birthday of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nankana Sahib, in his birthplace, Nankana Sahib, which is in present-day Pakistan. My good friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, was among those in attendance. The government of Pakistan had issued 3,200 visas for Sikhs from Punjab to come across

the border and visit Nankana Sahib for this very important religious occasion. At the Attari, railroad station on the border between India and Pakistan, a group of 6,000 police with sticks called lathis charged the 3,200 Sikhs. They sprayed them with tear gas. Only 800, one-fourth of the number granted visas, were allowed to go to Nankana Sahib. Three-fourths were prevented from attending this religious event.

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is purely a religious event. There was no politics involved. It was an observance of a religious occasion at a religious shrine, not a rally against the government of India. There was no good reason to prevent these Sikhs from attending this religious event except to intimidate them and create a climate of fear because of their religion. Freedom of religion is one of the essential freedoms of a democratic state, yet this action makes it clear again that religious freedom does not exist in India. It may exist in theory, it may be written in Indian law, but in actual fact there is no religious freedom for Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. In practice, the real policy of the militant Hindu nationalist Indian government, no matter who is in charge, is to create a Hindu state and wipe out all other religious expressions. As former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar pointed out, there is no difference between the ruling BJP and the opposition Congress Party. The effect for religious minorities is the same.

Since 1984, according to Inderjit Singh Jaijee's *The Politics of Genocide*, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered in India. India has killed more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of other minorities. There is only one way to put an end to the killing and the oppression, as the Sikhs who were attacked at the Attari station can tell you. It is to allow the people of Khalistan, the people of Kashmir, the people of Nagaland, and all the nations of South Asia to live in freedom.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to tell the truth about India. Despite its pretense of democracy, it is a theocratic Hindu state where human rights for minorities are a matter of personal whim and political expediency. Such a country must be declared a violator of basic religious rights, with all the penalties that entails. It must be declared a terrorist nation, as 21 of us wrote to President Clinton earlier this year, and a hostile country, as 17 of us wrote in another letter. Given this abysmal record the United States must stop its aid to India and demand a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Nagaland, and throughout India to decide the future of these Indian-held states in a democratic way. These measures will help to ensure that the glow of freedom can finally shine on all the people of South Asia.

I would like to submit the Council of Khalistan's open letter on this incident into the RECORD at this time. It is very informative, and I urge everyone to read it.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

*Washington, DC, December 7, 2000.*

POLICE HARASS SIKH PILGRIMS TO DISCOURAGE THEM FROM VISITING NANKANA SAHIB

THERE IS NO PLACE FOR SIKHS IN INDIAN "DEMOCRACY"—PROFESSOR DARSHAN SINGH SAID AT NANKANA SAHIB, "IF A SIKH IS NOT A KHALISTANI, HE IS NOT A SIKH"

KHALSA JI: Last month, it was my privilege to attend the 531st birthday celebration

of Guru Nanak Sahib. I would like to thank everyone involved for their hospitality. However, some Sikh pilgrims from Punjab who tried to attend this important religious event were not so cordially treated. A majority of the Sikhs were stopped at the Attari railway station on the border by 6000 police with lathis. 3200 pilgrims were beaten by the police and tear gas was used. Only 800 were allowed to visit Nankana Sahib. It was very clear to the Sikhs that the Indian government does not want Sikhs to visit Guru Nanak's birthplace. These Sikhs from Punjab realize that they need a free and independent Khalistan so that no one can ever again stop them from participating in the birthday celebration of Guru Nanak in Nankana Sahib.

This harassment of Sikhs shows us again that we need a sovereign, independent Khalistan to visit our holy shrines, to protect our rights, our security, and our dignity. Under Indian rule, Sikhs are not even allowed to visit Guru Nanak's birthplace to celebrate his birthday. Sikhs are slaves under Indian rule. As long as India continues to occupy our homeland, our slavery will continue. There is only one solution: a sovereign, free, and independent Khalistan. Only in a free Khalistan can Sikhs live in freedom, dignity, prosperity, and peace. Without political power, nations perish. Professor Darshan Singh Ragi, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." We must reclaim our lost sovereignty. If the BJP wants Hindu Raj, then why does it object to Khalsa Raj?

The Sikh Nation is sovereign and ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British took over. Punjab was recognized by most of the world's major powers at that time. It was a truly democratic, truly secular state, rule of the Punjabis, by the Punjabis, for the Punjabis. Maharajah Ranjit Singh had Muslims and Hindus in his cabinet and among his generals. Under his rule, religious shrines of all religions were built, with his support. This is the kind of state that India claims to be, but is not. Behind the pretense of secular democracy, India is a Hindu theocratic state that oppresses Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others.

The Sikhs outside India are Khalistanis. They are the ones who will free Khalistan. The present Akali leadership is under Indian government control. India will only allow Akali leaders to come out of India if they toe the line of the Indian government. These Akali leaders are not welcome in foreign countries.

None of the political parties will lead Punjab, Khalistan to freedom. The Shiromani Akali Dal, under the leadership of Chief Minister Badal, is in political coalition with the militant Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is part of the RSS, an organization founded in support of Fascism. Badal has not even kept the modest promises that he made to get elected: to free the political prisoners and to hold police officers responsible for their actions in the genocide against the Sikh Nation. Gurcharan Singh Tohra, leader of the All-India Akali Dal, worked with the Indian government prior to the attack on the Golden Temple and surrendered to the Indian forces when they came into the Sikh Nation's holiest shrine. Simranjit Singh Mann was elected to Parliament with the support of Badal after promising not to mention Khalistan. At the Sikh Day Parade in New York, Mann would not join in when the crowd chanted "Khalistan Zinbabad." Even U.S. Congressman Major Owens joined in. Yet Mann would not do so. This revealed his true colors. In 1989, he wrote to the Chief Justice of India pledging his support for India's constitution and territorial integrity.

The Congress Party is no better. It is the party that conducted the invasion and desecration of the Golden Temple. Recently, former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that there is no difference between the BJP and Congress, and he is right.

India's genocide against the Sikh Nation highlights the problem the Sikh Nation faces without our own raj. The Indian government continues its effort to try to wipe the Sikh religion out of existence. A free Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh Nation.

There are still 50,000 Sikhs rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Yet the Sikh leaders have remained silent. According to *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government according to the Punjab State Magistracy, yet the Sikh leadership remains silent. Why can't they start a *Shantmai Morcha* to free the Sikh political prisoners?

The massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithi Singhpora shows that without sovereignty, the Indian oppression of the Sikh Nation will continue. Two exhaustive investigations have proven that the Indian government is responsible for this massacre. Now the Indian government has even admitted that the alleged militants they killed were innocent. This atrocity underlines the need for a sovereign, independent Khalistan. The Indian government has demonstrated that it can conduct massacres of Sikhs whenever and wherever it wants. The Khalsa Panth must answer this wake-up call and free Khalistan.

Punjab is a police state. None of the political parties will bring us Khalistan. If we do not show courage and liberate Khalistan, the coming generations of Sikhs will also live in slavery. They will not forgive us if we do not liberate our homeland.

In Panjab, they will not procure your rice crop. Farmers are forced to buy fertilizer at extremely high prices; then the government buys up all their produce at artificially low prices to keep the farmers poor even though Panjab, with just two percent of the population, produces over 60 percent of India's wheat and rice reserves. The farmers of Punjab should not have to live that way. In a free Khalistan, we can sell our produce anywhere in the world to maximize our profit. We will not have to have our water diverted to non-riparian states. Free Khalistan will bring economic prosperity for the farmers of Punjab in particular and other Punjabis in general. Indian rule only means economic deprivation and slavery.

India claims that it is a democracy, but there is more to democracy than elections. Democracies don't commit genocide. If India is a democracy, then why won't it allow the people of Punjab, Khalistan, Kashmir, and the other minority nations it occupies to vote on their political status in a free and fair plebiscite?

India is very unstable. India is on the verge of disintegration. It will disintegrate by the year 2010. Kashmir is going to be free from Indian control soon. As soon as Kashmir is free, Khalistan will follow it. The only way to escape Indian slavery is to liberate Khalistan. New Sikh leadership must emerge to free the Sikh Nation. They should demand self-determination. They should raise the slogan "India Quit Khalistan" and start *Shantmai Morcha* until we achieve freedom. We have now seen how the India government controls Sikh institutions and the entire Sikh leadership in Punjab.

Unless the Sikh Nation brings back the Sikh spirit and fight for truth and justice as practiced by Guru Nanak, the Khalsa Panth will not prosper. Remember Guru required the Khalsa to remove evil. Only in a free Khalistan will Sikhs be able to live as required by the Guru. Only in a free Khalistan

can the Sikh religion flourish. Only then can the Sikh Nation finally enjoy the glow of freedom that is our birthright. Let us join hands to accomplish our goal of a free Khalistan by 2010.

Khalsa Ji, the responsibility is ours. We must start a Khalsa Raj Party and begin a *Shantmai Morcha* to liberate Khalistan. We must stop supporting leaders who are under the control of the brutal Indian government. We must remember our heritage, "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah." Let us commit ourselves to liberate Khalistan and control our own destiny so that the Sikh Nation can flourish and prosper. Support only those new leaders who are honest, dedicated, fearless, and committed to freedom for Khalistan. Any other course is support for keeping the Khalsa Panth in slavery.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,

President,

Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO ALLAN HOWE (D-UTAH), FORMER MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. JAMES V. HANSEN

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 14, 2000

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to pay special tribute to a gentleman whom I—and many of my colleagues—knew and respected for many years. Our good friend Allan Howe (D-Utah) passed away today, December 14, 2000, after a valiant struggle with heart disease. Some of you may recall Allan from his service in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1975–77. Earlier this year, Allan retired from his position as Washington Representative for the National Park Hospitality Association after decades of valuable service. At NPHA, Allan worked tirelessly to make sure that we in the Congress understood the concerns of the many businesses, large and small, that work as partners in serving the millions of visitors to our National Parks. We are grateful for those efforts. We also salute his years of public service, starting back home in Utah, where he worked as a city, county and state attorney, as Executive Director of the four Corners Regional Development Commission, and as an aide to the governor. Here on Capitol Hill he served the people of Utah as well, as an administrative assistant to Senator Frank Moss, and then as a Member of Congress himself, serving on what are now the Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure Committees. After leaving the Congress, he remained in Washington and worked on a variety of important issues, including solar energy, prior to focusing on National Park matters.

Allan's career was marked by a deep love of this country and a strong appreciation of its magnificent natural wonders, both nurtured from his earliest days as a boy in Utah. That love of country and the great outdoors served him and the people of this country very well for very many years. So, thank you, Allan, and Godspeed.

PERSONAL SOCIAL SECURITY  
ACCOUNT ACT OF 2000**HON. JOHN R. KASICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. KASICH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Personal Social Security Account Act of 2000." Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has provided financial independence and retirement security for millions of senior citizens. Unfortunately, Social Security is on the road to bankruptcy. Just fifteen years from now, Social Security will not collect enough payroll taxes to pay promised benefits. This is not a temporary problem limited to the retirement of the baby boomers. Americans are living longer and having fewer children. There will be fewer workers to support each retiree even after the baby boomers are gone.

Social Security faces a cash shortfall of more than \$130 trillion over the next 75 years. While these deficits will not affect today's seniors, our children face three choices—raise payroll taxes by 50%, reduce promised benefits by 30%, or face a crushing burden of debt. We must not let Social Security's tidal wave of red ink be our legacy to America's children. We must find a way to protect our seniors' retirement security without sacrificing our children's standard of living. That's why I have introduced the "Personal Social Security Account Act of 2000." This legislation would increase future benefits by prices instead of wages, and it would allow workers to create their own personal savings account.

Under current law, initial benefits for new retirees are increased each year by the growth in wages. As a result, over the next 75 years, promised benefits will nearly double, even after adjusting for inflation. Under this legislation, benefits for workers under the age of 55 will be increased by the consumer price index. Switching from wage indexing to price indexing will eliminate the Social Security shortfall and avoid future payroll tax increases while at the same time guaranteeing today's level of benefits for future retirees.

Workers under the age of 55 will also be given the option to invest an average of 2% of their wages in their own personal savings account. The exact amount each worker can invest will be related to their wages in order to maintain the progressivity of the current Social Security system. Based on historical rates of return, most workers who choose to set up a personal account will earn far greater benefits than the government could ever afford to provide under current law.

Today's economic prosperity provides us with an historic opportunity to preserve Social Security for three generations—our parents, ourselves, and our children. We must seize this opportunity and build a bipartisan consensus for Social Security reform.

## HONORING JOANNE LOTHROP

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Joanne Lothrop, a longtime community ac-

tivist in San Leandro, where she has served on the city council since 1996.

Her involvement in public service began nearly 22 years ago as a volunteer with the Girls, Inc. program. As a staff member, she learned the importance of being a role model to youth and understood the importance of introducing life skills to young women to foster leadership and independence. She was a program director of Health Initiatives for Youth and has an extensive background in community organizing. Whether advocating on behalf of inter-city children, farm workers, or HIV positive youth, Joanne's focus is unwavering and her commitment is exemplary. Joanne is always available to lend a hand be it fundraising, advocacy, legislation, education, or community organizing.

As a San Leandro City Councilwoman, Joanne has worked toward a regional cooperative approach in the areas of environmental justice and sustainable communities. She brought together citizens, business leaders, and environmental interests to form the West San Leandro Advisory Committee to study the environmental impacts of both industrial and residential development. Joanne has demonstrated leadership in maintaining the jobs-housing balance in San Leandro and adjacent communities. She has worked to retain high wage employers in the city and attract new businesses to increase job opportunities for San Leandro and East Bay residents.

Joanne has received numerous awards and special recognition including five National Girls Inc Outstanding Program Awards. I join her colleagues in thanking her for her community service as well as her contributions to the city of San Leandro during her tenure on the city council. Joanne has chosen not to run for another term on the city council. Her voice on the council will be missed but we look forward to many more years of her dedicated community service.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE IN  
ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, the Institute of Medicine will shortly release a publication entitled, "Improving the Quality of Long-Term Care." A committee of our nation's leading experts in the area of long-term care compiled information on quality in various long-term care approaches, including assisted living.

The report finds that there are few studies of outcomes and quality in assisted living facilities, primarily because of the lack of a uniform definition of this category of facilities. Assisted living facilities can have enormous variation in services and environment, and the varying definitions from state to state make comparisons difficult.

The report also finds that the small body of research that does exist illustrates that "residential care facilities, including assisted living, present a mixed picture in terms of both quality of care and quality of life. Some offer individualized, high-quality care in facilities that afford privacy, dignity, and individualization. However, others appear to lack adequately trained staff, and offer neither sufficient

amount of care nor privacy and 'homelike' settings. Also, there are indications that consumers may receive too little information to make informed choices regarding these facilities and the services provided."

Many consumers are drawn to the philosophy of assisted living, a model developed to combine the care of other long-term care settings with an environment promoting dignity and independence. This upcoming IOM report, though, highlights the disconnect that exists between the philosophy of assisted living and its implementation. It references a study that found only 11 percent of facilities provided high levels of both privacy and service, the philosophy of assisted living. On the contrary, the majority of assisted living facilities, 65 percent, offered low levels of service (e.g., no full-time registered nurse on staff) and 40 percent offered low levels of privacy.

Another disconnect between assisted living philosophy and practice is the concept of "aging in place." Despite the marketing claims of consumers being able to live out their lives in their assisted living homes, consumers are finding out they may not be able to obtain needed services or be allowed to stay if they develop conditions that require more care. The IOM report references a survey of assisted living facilities that found 76 percent of assisted living facilities would discharge anyone who needed skilled nursing care for more than 14 days, and 72 percent had already done so within the past 6 months.

The wide variation in definitions of assisted living facilities also poses problems for states in developing regulations that ensure quality. Some states view assisted living as an alternative to nursing home care while others view assisted living as a model for people with less serious conditions than nursing home residents. These differing perceptions as to what constitutes assisted living leads to varying standards from state to state. In my view, there needs to be a more consistent approach to ensuring quality and protections for the residents in these facilities.

IOM provides further support for the need to focus on quality of care in assisted living facilities. I introduced H.J. Res. 107, calling for a White House conference for conducting a national dialogue on this issue and for developing recommendations. I hope that my colleagues will join me in ensuring the safety of our nation's elderly in their assisted living homes and make this an important effort of the 107th Congress.

## HONORING THE LATE GINA VEGA

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today I Honor a devoted wife and mother of six, Gina Vega. It is with much sadness that we mark the passing of such a great person who graced this world and the lives of all those who were close to her, especially her husband Felipe.

Gina exemplified compassion, family values, and dedication. She gleamed with joy at the thought of her children and would go to the ends of the earth to ensure their security and comfort. She never questioned the needs of others and was always willing to help out where ever she could. She was and will remain such a tremendous person in our thoughts and in our memories.

Gina was never the type of parent to push her children, but instead offer her support. Her eldest child, Raquel, blind from birth, was blessed with a voice from heaven and has used that voice for the good or her culture. Since the age of 14, Raquel has been singing with the Inland Empire Mariachi Youth Foundation and has plans to someday teach children just like herself. Raquel could not have done this without the devotion of her mother. Gina devoted her time and efforts to the success of her daughter as well as the success of the group.

This past May, in an effort to expose Washington to the culture of Mariachi music as well as provide an opportunity for the children to experience our Nation's Capitol, I brought these talented children here to Washington, DC. Gina gave up her opportunity to go on the trip so she could stay at home to take care of her other children and prepare the group for their journey.

This is exactly the type of person Gina was. She never complained and was willing to give up large portions of herself to the needs of her children as well as the needs of the entire group as a whole.

Gina lived a fulfilling life graced by her husband and her children. Not only was she blessed with Raquel, but she was blessed with five other children that are just as talented and beautiful as the first. Vanessa—age 16, Tatiana—age 14, the twins Felipe and David—age 11, and the youngest Steven—age 5, all stand as a reminder of the excellence and selflessness that was Gina.

I join with all of those who loved Gina in extending our prayers to the family and hope they find peace and comfort during this time of sorrow.

God Bless.

COMMENDING IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE NEW AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL AWARD FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I commend and congratulate Irvington High School in Fremont, California for receiving a New American High School Award from the United States Department of Education.

The U.S. Department of Education New American High School Award is given to high schools that demonstrate a commitment to ensuring that all students meet challenging academic standards and are prepared for colleges and careers. This program is part of the Department of Education's effort to reform our schools.

Irvington High School was one of only 27 schools in the country to win this award for

2000. Irvington High School won this award by making a schoolwide effort to refuse to accept subpar schoolwork from any student. To make sure all students can earn good grades, the school offers extra help to pupils with academic difficulties. To aid these students, the teachers help the student identify their weaknesses and develop a pact for rectifying them. The school also fosters responsibility to one's community by requiring students to complete a minimum of 40 hours of community service as a requirement for graduation.

Finally, the school requires that all seniors participate in a "personal quest" by doing a research project and oral presentation on a subject that fascinates them. Students have embarked on "personal quests" to learn about careers that they want to pursue after graduation. These quests have ranged from one student learning about becoming a photographer to another learning about becoming a marine biologist. Each student must work with a school advisor and must gain actual work experience in the occupation in which they are interested.

This combination of innovative teaching and emphasis on public service has made Irvington High School a shining example to other schools across America on how to educate our students to thrive in the 21st century. Again, I want to extend the highest commendation and congratulations to Irvington High School for its outstanding performance in educating our children. This award recognizes what the citizens of Fremont, California have always known, that the faculty and students of Irvington High School are first rate in every aspect.

### ELIMINATE RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN HEALTH CARE

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 14, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Medical Care Research & Review recently released a special issue, compiling ten articles from our nation's leading researchers in the area of racial and ethnic health disparities. Taken altogether, these investigations add to a growing body of evidence that leaves little doubt as to the pervasive and persistent presence of racial and ethnic disparities in health insurance coverage and access to care.

Many variables are thought to contribute to racial and ethnic disparities in health care, such as status of health care coverage and income level. Yet across each investigation, regardless of outcome measured, racial and ethnic disparities persisted—even when the effects of income, health care coverage status, and other individual characteristics were controlled.

As our country continues to diversity, with growing populations of African Americans, Latinos, Asians & Pacific Islanders, and Native Americans, we, as a nation, must be responsive to the needs of all citizens. As reflected in the following findings, this special issue of Medical Care Research & Review highlights areas that need to be addressed to ensure equitable health care access for everyone.

People of color are far more likely to lack health care coverage as compared to whites,

primarily due to lower rates of private health insurance coverage, especially employment-based coverage. In 1996, people of color comprised only one quarter of the non-elderly population, yet they represented 41% of the uninsured.

The effects of race and ethnicity extend beyond insurance coverage to encompass the entire treatment process. For example, the referral process for invasive cardiac procedures involves multiple steps and decisions. At every step, ranging from the initial recognition of symptoms by the patient to obtaining referrals for coronary angioplasty or coronary artery bypass surgery, race and ethnicity issues can (and often do) enter into the equation.

Hispanics and African Americans are much more likely to lack a usual source of health care and less likely to use ambulatory care as compared to whites. The disparities are greatest for Hispanics—for whom the probability of lacking a usual resource of care increased from 19.9% in 1977 to 29.5% in 1996. By way of contrast, this figure represents twice the risk faced by whites in 1996.

Race and ethnicity are also factors in the likelihood of being hospitalized for a preventable condition, which is an indicator of limited access to primary care. When preventable hospitalizations are compared across minority groups and whites, those that fare the worst are Hispanic children, African American adults, and Hispanic and African American elderly. Even among elderly Medicare beneficiaries, all of whom have equal health insurance coverage, the odds of minority beneficiaries requiring a preventable hospitalization are 6 to 21% greater than for white beneficiaries.

These many differences are not simply due to unresponsive attitudes of a few individual physicians, but the health care delivery system as a whole. People of color are twice as likely to say that racism is a major problem in health care. Two-thirds of African Americans and more than half of Latinos believe they receive lower quality care than whites, but most whites believe everyone receives the same quality of care. Not surprisingly, those patients who perceive more racism and who are more distrustful of the medical system are less satisfied with their health care.

These findings illustrate the importance of delivering culturally competent health care at the provider level and throughout the health care delivery. One model, presented in this special issue of Medical Care Research & Review, illustrates how cultural competency is comprised of nine major components, including interpreter services, recruitment and retention of bilingual and bicultural health care professionals, and the inclusion of family and community members throughout treatment. As a result of these techniques, positive changes in clinician and patient behavior, such as improved communication, increased trust, and expanded understanding of how cultural and environmental factors affect patient behavior, can occur. Such positive changes can lead to the provision of more appropriate health care services and better outcomes—not just in health status but also in quality of life, well being, and satisfaction across all ethnic groups.

These findings further support the need for eliminating disparities that persist in health care and treatment. In order to truly be an inclusive society, we must continue to work toward an equitable and fair health care system.

The Minority Health and Health Disparities Research and Education Act (S. 1880), which was signed into law this year, along with health disparities provisions in the possible Balanced Budget Act relief legislation are two

positive steps in that direction. I hope we can build on these successes in the upcoming Congress and I look forward to working with my colleagues on this important endeavor.