

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JAMES MACDONALD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, James MacDonald has served our community as a police officer with the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office since 1995; and

Whereas, Deputy James MacDonald has been awarded a 2002 Distinguished Valor Award at Ohio's Law-Enforcement Conference; and

Whereas, James MacDonald is a hero who acted quickly and efficiently in July 2001, serving our community in the face of grave danger without hesitation or thought of himself; and

Whereas, James MacDonald is an asset to the Coshocton community in his preparedness, devotion to duty, and willingness to serve;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Deputy James MacDonald for his selflessness and heroism.

COLUMBIA MONTOUR HOME
HEALTH SERVICES CELE-
BRATING 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the service to the community provided by Columbia Montour Home Health Services, which is celebrating 35 years of serving residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

During the autumn and early winter of 1966, groups of interested citizens in Danville and Bloomsburg, identified a need in the community for requests which could be met through the services of a public health nurse. Some of the groups involved included the Danville Council of Churches, the Bloomsburg Business Professional Women's Club and the Red Cross.

In January 1967, representatives of Lutheran Social Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Health met with the local people and shortly thereafter a public meeting was held at the Court House in Danville to discuss a cooperative effort between Columbia and Montour Counties for the development of a Visiting Nurses Association.

The name chosen for the new organization was Columbia Montour County Visiting Nurse Association. By April 1967, a Board of Directors had been named and immediately began raising funds. Funds were secured from the local United Way Funds, the County Commissioners, other agencies and private individuals.

Nursing, physical and occupational therapy and social work counseling were the first services offered. In 1970, speech therapy was added. In 1971, the Homemaking Home Health Aide program was added. The Hospice program was developed in 1981 to care for the terminally ill and their families.

During the 1980s, the agency established health maintenance clinics in the housing complexes for older persons in Berwick, Bloomsburg, Danville, Millville and Catawissa.

A comprehensive rehabilitation team was established to provide the most up-to-date therapy in the home. The staff is continually educated to care for patients' problems involving simple to complex needs.

To meet the continued challenges of growth, the agency moved to new offices in Bloomsburg in December of 1996. It achieved accreditation from the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) in 1993 and is licensed as a home health agency and as a hospice by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The agency is led by Chief Executive Officer Jane Gittler, R.N., M.S.N.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the service to the community of Columbia Montour Home Health Services, and I wish its employees and patients all the best.

MAIL CENSORSHIP IN INDIA
BELIES ITS DEMOCRATIC CLAIMS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to find out that mail sent by the Council of Khalistan has not been reaching India for the past two months. The "world's largest democracy" is once again violating democratic principles by practicing mail censorship. It is violating the fundamental freedom of the people within its borders by prohibiting them from receiving information relating to the violations of the human rights of Sikhs and the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent effort to liberate Khalistan from Indian control.

This is in clear contravention of democratic principles, but that is not surprising from India. It has never been a democracy for the minorities within its borders, but only for the Brahmin fanatics. General Narinder Singh, a respected Sikh leader in Punjab, has said that "Punjab is a police state."

A few years ago, the late journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan was subjected to censorship of his mail and harassment, including telephone calls from unidentified persons saying things like "It is dangerous to write against the government." All this happened because Mr. Osan ran the outstanding news website Burning Punjab, which featured news about government corruption, until he died earlier this year.

These actions prove that India is not a democracy. It is a theocratic Hindu fundamen-

talist tyranny, and a supporter of terrorism in Sindh and elsewhere, as well as internal terrorism. Accordingly, it should not be a country that receives U.S. aid, yet it is one of the largest recipients despite its anti-Americanism.

We should stop our aid to India until it allows basic human rights such as receiving mail without content control and we should support basic human rights like self-determination. Self-determination is the very foundation of democracy. We should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other states seeking their freedom. This is the way to real freedom, peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent press release on this issue, which I would like to place in the RECORD at this time.

MAIL CENSORSHIP IN "WORLD'S LARGEST
DEMOCRACY"

MAIL FROM COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN IS NOT
BEING ALLOWED TO GET TO ADDRESSEES IN
INDIA

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 8, 2002—Mail censorship is again being practiced in India, which bills itself as "the world's largest democracy." Mail from the Council of Khalistan to addresses in India has not been received in India for the last two months. The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987. It has worked for 15 years to liberate Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, non-violent means and has specifically rejected militancy. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has talked to many people in Punjab who have not received any mail from the Council of Khalistan during the last two months. The Council has mailed two mailings to India in that time.

"This undemocratic action shows the true nature of India," said Dr. Aulakh. "Although it claims to be democratic, India has engaged in this kind of censorship before. It controls information and uses its control to whip up hatred and violence against Sikhs and other minorities," he said. "Is this what a democracy does, or is it what a tyranny does?" he said. "Why is a 'democracy' threatened by facts? Is this freedom of speech? These mailings included statements from the Congressional Record, press releases from the Council of Khalistan, and clippings from U.S. and international newspapers," he said.

A few years ago, similar mail censorship was imposed on the late Sukhbir Singh Osan, the journalist who founded the website Burning Punjab, which reported on Indian government corruption, tyranny, and human-rights violations against the Sikh Nation. Osan, who died of a heart attack early this year, also received a telephone call telling him that "it is dangerous to write against the government."

The Indian government controls both major Indian news services, Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI). India has used its control of media to generate violence against minorities. During the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs, Indian media called for the shedding of more Sikh blood.

• 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.