

same expenses as their active duty counterpart. In August 2000, the Marine Corps Sergeant Major Symposium recommended the payment of dislocation allowances to retiring members, who in the opinion of the Sergeants Major, bear the same financial consequences on relocating as those still on active service.

When active duty military members retire they must often seek employment not knowing what opportunities exist in the civilian world, where those opportunities are located, what the pay will be, or what possibilities are available for spousal employment. They are sometimes faced with the prospective employers who offer less wages knowing they are in receipt of retirement pay, and falsely believing that retirees don't need the same salary as civilians for the same position. Additionally, the new retiree will have to meet the same financial demands for mortgages, insurance, taxes, and food but on a smaller income.

For those reasons, I am reintroducing the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act. This legislation would help ease the transition into retirement by amending 37 USC 407 to authorize the payment of a dislocation allowance to all members of the armed forces retiring or transferring to an inactive duty status such as the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Reserve. The vast majority of these new retirees have given our Nation over 20 years of dedicated service. They have helped protect the very freedoms we all hold dear. Rather than simply pushing them out the door upon retirement, we should reward their service by providing modest assistance for their final change of station move. That is exactly what Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act does.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the Fleet Reserve Association for their outstanding work on this initiative. I am an honorary shipmate of the FRA and proud to be so because of their steadfast commitment to the men and women of the military services, in particular the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard family. FRA spent considerable time and effort towards the introduction and reintroduction of the Military Retiree Dislocation Assistance Act and I look forward to continuing our work together to see this important legislation enacted.

HONORING THE REMARKABLE CAREER OF THE REV. WOODROW MEDLOCK

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the remarkable career of the Rev. Woodrow Medlock. He has preached the gospel for nearly seven decades and continues to spread God's word with tireless dedication.

Rev. Medlock is an inspiration in my hometown of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. His ministry has touched many lives and spanned many communities. He has founded several local churches and has pastored at many others across the Middle Tennessee region. He has also been involved in the founding of a school and a children's home, as well as other worthy organizations.

Rev. Medlock shows no signs of slowing down, either, as he will turn 90 years young

on Friday, February 28. A prime example of Rev. Medlock's untiring service to the Lord is his upcoming trip to Jamaica in April. Once there, he plans to take the good Lord's message to the Caribbean island's prisons, nursing homes and orphanages.

The world is a much better place because of Rev. Medlock. His faith and humanity have influenced all who know him. I congratulate Rev. Medlock for all the good he has done and wish him the best in the years to come.

HONOR CESAR CHAVEZ: A FIGHTER FOR ALL AMERICANS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 963, legislation to rename the Southeastern Post Office, in San Diego, California, the "Cesar E. Chavez Post Office."

In San Diego, as well as across the Nation, the name Cesar Chavez symbolizes dignity, admiration, and devotion to equality and human rights. This man dedicated his life to ameliorating human rights in our country. In the 1950s and 60s, when minorities were given little or no respect or rights, Cesar Chavez cleared the path for equality.

In the early 1950s, after fighting in World War II, Chavez began his involvement in battling racial and economic discrimination against Chicanos. As his attention and personal interest focused on the poor working conditions of farm workers, he realized that his dream was to start an organization to aid these workers.

Having been a farm worker himself, he was far too familiar with the inhumane working conditions farm workers were forced to endure. In 1962, he founded the National Farm Workers Association (NFWA), and in 1965, the NFWA joined an AFL-CIO sponsored union boycott against major table and wine grape growers. Through this five year long, successful boycott that rallied millions of supporters, the NFWA merged with the AFL-CIO union and formed the United Farm Workers (UFW).²

From the beginning, the UFW followed the principals of nonviolence practiced by Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He organized peaceful demonstrations to bring attention to the farm worker's conditions. His slogan, Si se puede!, Yes, we can!, became known worldwide.

National attention to the farm workers came in 1968 when Senator Robert Kennedy visited Cesar Chavez in California after Chavez led a 25 day fast. Kennedy was right when he called Cesar "one of the heroic figures of our time."

Cesar continued to organize boycotts and strikes around the world against table grape growers in California. His efforts paid off when, in 1975, growers supported then California Governor Jerry Brown's collective bargaining law for farm workers, the 1975 Agricultural Labor Relations Act.

Cesar Chavez is remembered today for his continual efforts and dedication to justice and equality. As Cesar said, "There are many reasons why a man does what he does. To be himself he must be able to give it all. If a lead-

er cannot give it all, he cannot expect his people to give anything." The people of San Diego thank Cesar Chavez for always giving his all.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that recognizes such an honorable man by naming a San Diego Post Office in his honor.

NO SUPPORT FOR MIGUEL ESTRADA NOMINATION

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RYUN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 2003

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note that the other body has not acted on the judicial nomination of Mr. Miguel Estrada.

The constitution provides that the other body has the power to approve the President's choice of judges. This system has worked since the inception of our nation. But now the other body is being stopped from exercising its power to confirm or not confirm Mr. Estrada. In fact, they are conducting a filibuster to keep a confirmation vote from taking place.

To have a legislative body that is simply afraid to vote is not good for democracy. What do they fear? Is Mr. Estrada unfit? If so, they should simply vote "no."

In America, even our suspected criminals are guaranteed due process under law and a speedy trial. But Mr. Estrada, who the American Bar Association gave its highest rating and who has a top-notch record of fairness and respect for the law, is left to languish without even a hearing.

I urge the American people to call their Senators and tell them to give Estrada an up-or-down vote. They deserve nothing less than open and fair action.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAIR MINIMUM WAGE ACT

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to be joined by 73 of my colleagues in introducing legislation to increase the minimum wage. The legislation that we are introducing today provides for a \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage, in two steps. Our bill raises the minimum wage from its current level of \$5.15 per hour to \$5.90 sixty days after enactment and raises it again to \$6.65 one year thereafter. In addition, the legislation extends the applicability of the minimum wage to the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Our bill is identical to legislation introduced in the other body by the Democratic Leader, Mr. DASCHLE, and 34 of his colleagues.

The minimum wage has not increased from its present level of \$5.15 since 1997. A minimum wage worker who works 40 hours a week, fifty-two weeks a year earns \$10,712—almost \$7,500 below the poverty level for a family of four, more than \$4,300 less than the poverty level for a family of three, and \$1,200

less than the poverty level for a family of two. The real value of the minimum wage today is 30 percent below its peak in 1968 and 19 percent below where it stood in 1981 at the start of the Reagan Administration. Even if the minimum wage is increased to \$6.65 by 2004, the real value of the minimum wage will still be below its 1981 level. However, by enacting this legislation we will restore purchasing power to minimum wage workers, better enabling them to support themselves and their families and to more fully participate in our economy.

Raising the minimum wage to \$6.65 will lift the wages of seven million low-wage workers. While women makeup less than half of the workforce, sixty-one percent of the workers who will benefit from a minimum wage increase are women. One-third of the affected workers who benefit from a minimum wage increase are African American or Hispanic, though those groups together make up less than a quarter of the workforce. A minimum wage increase is especially beneficial to workers in low-wage industries and occupations, including those employed in sales, service, and food preparation, and especially those in retail trade.

A \$1.50 increase in the minimum wage will add \$3,000 to the annual income of full-time minimum wage workers. For a low-income family of three, \$3000 means 15 months of groceries, 7 months of utilities, or tuition for a community college degree. Enacting this legislation will restore purchasing power to minimum wage workers and better enable them to support themselves, their families and the economy. Work should pay. No one who works for a living should have to live in poverty.

Mr. Speaker, a fair increase in the minimum wage is long overdue. The failure of Congress to increase the minimum wage is driving more and more working families into poverty. We owe it to them and to the Nation to act quickly on this legislation.

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR
H.R. 966, DISABLED VETERANS'
RETURN-TO-WORK ACT OF 2003

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today on behalf of Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. EVANS, I am introducing H.R. 966, the Disabled Veterans' Return-to-Work Act of 2003. This bill reinstates a VA pilot program which expired on December 31, 1995.

H.R. 966 would ensure the availability of vocational training to newly eligible VA non-service-connected pension recipients. The program, open to those veterans age 45 years or younger, would provide disabled pension recipients the opportunity to receive training in order to return to the job market. There are many ways our veterans can and do contribute to the economy. Those veterans receiving non-service-connected pension are in effect discouraged from seeking employment because of the needs-based structure of VA's Pension Program, whereby every dollar they earn is offset from the amount of monthly pension they receive.

Mr. Speaker, I expect the Veterans' Affairs Committee to consider this bill during the 1st

Session of the 108th Congress. It is time to reinstate the pilot providing vocational training to certain pension recipients rather than requiring these veterans to rely solely on the VA pension program and health care system for the remainder of their lives. I believe the pilot program indeed will furnish data showing that many of these veterans desire independence from, not dependence on, the current non-service-connected pension program.

CANADIAN PLEA IN AIR INDIA
CASE COVERS UP GOVERNMENT
INVOLVEMENT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, the Canadian courts accepted a plea bargain from Inderjit Singh Reyat in a case related to the bombing of an Air India jet in 1985 that killed 329 people. The plea covers up the clear and strong evidence that the Indian government itself blew up the airplane.

The book *Soft Target*, written by Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, shows that the story agreed to by Mr. Reyat matches a story first suggested in 1985 by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). A Sikh named Lal Singh reported that he was offered "two million dollars and settlement in a nice country" for false testimony in the case. He turned down that offer. There are some questions about whether the evidence in Reyat's first trial was valid, according to the *National Post*.

Canadian Member of Parliament David Kilgour wrote a book called *Betrayal: The Spy Canada Abandoned* about a Polish-Canadian double agent who was approached by the Indian government to carry out a second bombing. *Soft Target* shows that the Indian Consul General in Toronto knew more than the RCMP and the Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) in the early hours of the investigation. Why did his daughter and wife, a friend of his who was an auto dealer, and the director of North American operations for the Indian government all cancel their reservations on the doomed flight at the last minute, Mr. Speaker?

Even if the Indian government's story that a Sikh carried the bomb onto the plane is true, it implicates them. The person they have identified is associated with a Sikh activist named Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, who was identified in the book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* as someone who has been supported by the Indian government and has worked at its behest, including cooperating with them on the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar in June 1984. Thus, even the Indian government's own version of the story places the blame squarely on the Indian government.

Back on July 26, 1992, the *India Monitor* reported the arrest in Bombay of a Sikh named Manjit Singh in connection with the Air India case. The RCMP, however, said it knew of no Manjit Singh and he was not a suspect. The Indian government has been desperately trying to pin its crime on the Sikhs for years.

The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent press release on the Reyat case. I

would like to place it in the RECORD at this time, Mr. Speaker.

CANADIAN COURTS COVER UP INDIAN
COMPLICITY IN BOMBING

REYAT PLEA MATCHES RCMP STORY SUGGESTED
IN 1985 QUESTIONING

WASHINGTON, DC., Feb. 12, 2003.—The recent plea bargain by Inderjit Singh Reyat in the 1985 Air India crash is the result of a concerted Indo-Canadian effort to cover up the Indian government's own responsibility for this atrocity that killed 329 innocent people, said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence.

The book *Soft Target*, written by respected Canadian journalists Zuhair Kashmeri of the *Toronto Globe and Mail* and Brian McAndrew of the *Toronto Star*, clearly established that the Indian government is responsible for the bombing. The book quotes an investigator from the Canadian Security Investigative Service (CSIS) who said, "If you really want to clear up the incidents quickly, take vans down to the Indian High Commission and the consulates in Toronto and Vancouver, load up everybody and take them down for questioning. We know it and they know it that they are involved."

Mere hours after the incident, while the CSIS and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were still retrieving the passenger list stored in the Air India computer, Indian Consul General Surinder Malik called the *Globe and Mail* to tell them to look for an "L. Singh" on the passenger manifest. How could Malik have known this? "L. Singh" turned out to be a Sikh named Lal Singh. Lal Singh told an Indian newspaper that he was offered "\$2 million and settlement in a nice country" to testify falsely against the three individuals that Canada has charged with the bombing, an offer he refused. Curiously, Consul General Malik knew more details about the case than the police did.

Malik had pulled his wife and daughter off the flight suddenly, claiming that his daughter had a paper to write for school. A Canadian auto dealer who was a friend of Malik's cancelled his reservation on the flight at the last minute, as well. So did Siddhartha Singh, head of North American Affairs for external relations in New Delhi. In addition the sister-in-law of the head of the Canadian wing of Dal Khalsa cancelled her reservations. Dal Khalsa is a political party formed by Zail Singh, who was President of India when Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister. How did all these people affiliated with the Indian government come to cancel their reservations at the last minute?

The story told in court in connection with Inderjit Singh Reyat's plea bargain matches in significant detail the story pressed upon him at the time of his initial arrest in November 1985, which he denied. An RCMP agent named Glen Rockwell told Reyat that he could get off the hook if he said that others hatched the bombing plot and sought his assistance and that he didn't know what he was doing. Reyat replied "I didn't help killing those people. No way." He said that Talwinder Singh Parmar, who has since been murdered by the Indian police, wanted to send some kind of explosive device to India. These details match the "statement of facts" at Reyat's trial.

The Indian Consul General planted a story in the *Globe and Mail* claiming that Reyat was given a parcel to carry onto the flight by Jagdev Nijjar, whose brother was in the inner circle of Jagjit Singh Chohan, who claims to be a Khalistani leader, but who was exposed in the book *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism* by Professor Gurtej Singh IAS in letters showing that he conspired with the Indian government in planning the attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar.