

The Right to Know School Nutrition Act represents a simple commonsense solution that empowers individual parents and children to decide for themselves what they will eat. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill in order to protect our children from the potential dangers of irradiated food products and to preserve consumer choice.

TRIBUTE TO STARS BICYCLE  
REPAIR PROGRAM

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress today to honor an outstanding community program. The Grand Junction Parks and Recreation STARS Bicycle Repair Program collects old, used bicycles, repairs them, and places them in the hands of children who would not otherwise know the joy of owning their own bicycle. In the process, the program teaches the children of our community both responsibility and community service. It is for these notable accomplishments that I recognize the STARS Program here today.

The idea for STARS originated in the Central High School El Pomar Youth in Community Service Club. This club helped to enable the STARS Bicycle Repair Program and enabled the program to collect bikes, repair them and distribute them to needy individuals and families. There is simply no substitute for the joy in a young child's eyes when he is the recipient of one of STARS' refurbished bikes.

The STARS program allows the children to learn, hands-on, how to repair and maintain bicycles. More than that, they learn that there are many ways that everyone, even children, can help the community.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in honoring the Grand Junction Parks and Recreation STARS Bicycle Repair Program. Through STARS, the children of our community learn responsibility and the excitement of being a positive force in the community. Recognition for this program is long overdue, and I am privileged to honor the STARS Bicycle Repair Program here today.

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN C. SPERRY

**HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Mr. John C. Sperry. John is retiring from the United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 324 after 30 years of dedicated service. He is the second most senior International Vice President in the UFCW.

When President Arthur Berland retired in 1973, Local 324 had 12,000 members with wages at \$187.30 per week. John C. Sperry was elected by the Executive Board to succeed Berland. I was a member of Local 324 myself, and was employed at the SavOn drug store in Anaheim—scooping ice cream. I was a very good ice cream scooper, and was thrilled to be a member of the UFCW.

John started as a Box Boy (now called "Courtesy Clerk") at age 15. He worked part-time at a Safeway Market. He then worked as a Box Boy and Produce and Food Clerk at Alpha Beta, A&P, Shopping Bag and Hiram's—the latter being subsequently bought by the Lucky supermarket chain. He was hired on May 4, 1959 as a Union Organizer, and then elected (the practice at the time) as Union Representative. He was confirmed as President of Local 324 in 1975, and has been re-elected unanimously 10 times since then—quite a record of longevity and leadership.

John has served as the acknowledged leader and official spokesperson of the UFCW in Southern California for 28 years. He has served for decades on the food industry's Joint Labor Management (JLM) Committee, is one of two rank-and-file officials in the National JLM, and was for 20 years Chairman of Food Benefits Trust and Secretary of the Pension Fund.

With John as the spokesperson and chief negotiator for all Southern California UFCW Locals, wages have gone from under \$200 per week when he became President to the current \$716 for Clerks and \$767.20 for Meat Cutters. In addition there have been vast increases in Health and Welfare and Pension benefits; establishment of weekly hour guarantees; establishment of the Defined Contribution Plan; creation of the "Golden 85 (full retirement benefits for active participants with 30 full-time credited service years at age 55); establishment of the Housing and Educational Fund; and combining of the Food and Meat Agreements to increase the Union's bargaining Power. John was the force behind the UFCW work stoppage of 1978 that resulted in significant increases in wages, night premiums, health benefits and pensions for union members.

From its earliest years, Local 324 has participated in many community activities, with the goal of improving the quality of life of all those who live in Southern California. Under President Sperry, the Union Local has earned a reputation as one of the most general philanthropic organizations in the state for its consistent financial support of worthy causes.

With some 24,000 members, UFCW Local 324 is the eighth largest Union Local in the UFCW. No other sister Local in the United States or Canada enjoys a better or more strictly enforced collective bargaining agreement, a statement that has been true primarily as a result of the leadership of John C. Sperry.

We will all miss John, but know that he will continue to be of counsel to not only Local 324 but also the national union. I will miss him as my union president, and count him not only as a leader, but a valued friend and advisor.

STATE DEPARTMENT TERRORISM  
VIDEO OFFENSIVE, MUST BE  
WITHDRAWN

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently the State Department put out a video called "Terrorism: A War Without Borders" that is offensive. The video portrays all Sikhs as terrorists.

This characterization is inaccurate. It is also offensive to any fair-minded person. How can the State Department portray an entire group as terrorists? Secretary Powell should order the immediate withdrawal of this offensive video. This kind of stereotyping is simply unacceptable.

There are more than half a million Sikhs in the United States. Are they all terrorists, Mr. Speaker? They are active in all phases of American life, from law to medicine to agriculture to information technology. These are people who contribute a lot to America's way of life. Many of them were attacked after September 11, yet they still believe in America.

To label all Sikhs terrorists demeans the Sikh people, their faith, and their national aspirations and culture. This is extremely unfair. Yet the video consistently labels Sikhs as "terrorists" while ignoring the brutal atrocities carried out against minorities by the Indian government. For example, the video's description of the attack on the Golden Temple in June 1984 simply refers to "Sikhs," thus condemning all Sikhs as members of a terrorist organization.

What the video ignores is that Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and many other Sikh leaders took refuge in the Golden Temple to protect themselves from the atrocities that the Indian government was already carrying out. They had been threatened with violence for peacefully speaking out on behalf of the rights of their people.

Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed over that three-day period in June 1984 as the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh Gurdwaras throughout Punjab to frighten the Sikhs and end their movement to free themselves. Instead, just as Bhindranwale predicted, they laid the foundations for an independent Sikh state called Khalistan, which finally declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Let me be among the first to congratulate the Sikhs on the upcoming anniversary of that event.

Mr. Speaker, we all seek good relations with India. But it is offensive and inappropriate to suppress atrocities and spread inaccurate propaganda to achieve this objective. Why is our government placing the derogatory label of terrorist on an entire people? This is not something the government of the United States, which was founded on tolerance, should be doing.

The State Department should immediately remove this from circulation immediately so that it can either be corrected or withdrawn. Fairness demands that we stop labelling entire peoples with derogatory characterizations like "terrorist."

Our government should stop American aid and trade with India until the Sikhs, the Nagas, the Kashmins and all the people of South Asia enjoy full freedom and democratic rights and we should strongly and actively support these peoples in their effort to have self-determination in free and independent states.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the recent letter from International Sikh Organization to Secretary of State Powell about this video into the RECORD.

GURU GOBIND SINGH JI, TENTH MASTER

*Washington, DC, July 29, 2003.*

Hon. COLIN POWELL

*Secretary of State, Washington, DC.*

DEAR SECRETARY POWELL: On behalf of the 25 million strong Sikh Nation and over