

IN RECOGNITION OF HANK CARTER ON THE OCCASION OF THE COLER-GOLDWATER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL AND NURSING FACILITY'S NAMING OF THE HANK CARTER REHABILITATION CENTER IN HIS HONOR

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 2004*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Hank Carter, who has single-handedly transformed the Color-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility's Rehabilitative Medicine Department into one of the best-equipped in the nation. In honor of his remarkable achievements, the hospital has decided to rename the department the "Hank Carter Rehabilitation Center."

New Yorkers are truly fortunate that Henry "Hank" Carter chose to devote his life to raising money for wheelchairs and other equipment for the disabled, but it was a tragedy that led him to that decision. In 1968, his best friend Al Fogle was shot and left paralyzed from the waist down. Mr. Carter stayed with his friend through his recovery and rehabilitation. When he discovered how difficult it was for him to obtain a wheelchair, Mr. Carter raised the money to pay for it. For some, the effort would have ended there. Hank Carter looked around the hospital and saw dozens of other individuals whose lives had been struck by tragedy, and he made it his life's mission to help them.

To the surprise of the hospital administrators and doctors, he asked if the hospital could provide him with a space for his fundraising efforts. Asking nothing in return, he has selflessly raised millions of dollars to help the hospital and its residents. A large portion of the funding comes from the Wheelchair All-Star Basketball Classic he organizes at Madison Square Garden each year featuring top NBA basketball players.

Over the last 30 years, he has made the difference for thousands of people—helping them to become independent, and providing the means for them to connect with the world.

He has helped make Color-Goldwater Hospital one of the premier centers for rehabilitation. Thanks to Hank Carter, Color-Goldwater gives more wheelchairs to patients than any other facility in the country.

Realizing that rehabilitation requires more than wheelchairs, Mr. Carter branched out, raising funds for exercise and physical therapy equipment, computers that can be used by the severely handicapped, technology that enables machines to speak for those who have lost the capacity to communicate, four wheelchair accessible buses and a rehabilitative greenhouse. His enthusiasm and hands-on attitude toward philanthropy make him a beloved fixture at Coler-Goldwater, recognized by every patient and staff member in the hospital. Best of all, he has spent time with them and knows most of them.

It is truly an astonishing record—one all Americans should be very proud of. For the disabled, a wheelchair means independence, selfreliance and the freedom to explore the world. There is nothing more important than giving someone the gift of mobility or giving them back their voice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise to pay tribute to Hank Carter. He is truly an American treasure.

VAISAKHI DAY: GREETINGS TO THE SIKH NATION—COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN ISSUES VAISAKHI MESSAGE TO SIKH NATION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 25, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, next month the Sikhs will celebrate one of their most important holidays, Vaisakhi Day. On this day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh constituted the Sikh Nation. He issued a blessing of sovereignty to the Sikhs, a blessing they are looking to reclaim.

Vaisakhi Day is one of the most important Sikh holidays and there are over 500,000 Sikhs in this country, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish them all a happy Vaisakhi Day. Hopefully, they will use the occasion to work for freedom for their people.

It is an interesting coincidence that Vaisakhi Day happens to fall on the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, author of our Declaration of Independence, who wrote: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute new government, laying its foundations on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Mr. Speaker, the Indian government has done everything it can to destroy the safety and happiness of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities living within the country. Is it any wonder that all these groups are seeking their freedom from India's brutal rule?

India has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past 20 years. It holds over 52,000 of them as political prisoners. More than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered by the Indian government, and Christians seem to be targets everywhere else in India too. India has killed over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and that doesn't count the thousands who have been killed in places like Gujarat.

Yet India continues to proclaim loudly that it is a democracy. As Jefferson noted, the central principle of a democratic state is "the consent of the governed." How can India claim to have the consent of the minorities it governs so brutally while killing tens of thousands of them? It doesn't make sense to me. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

We must do what we can, Mr. Speaker, as a country dedicated to the principle of liberty. We should stop U.S. aid to India until it respects human rights and we should use whatever influence we can to get India to hold a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence, under international observation.

The Council of Khalistan has issued a very informative letter in honor of Vaisakhi Day, which contains a lot of useful information about the occasion and the atrocities that have been committed by India against the Sikhs and others. Therefore, I would like to put it in the RECORD now, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

VAISAKHI DAY MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION:

(By Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

In 1699 on Vaisakhi Day, 305 years ago, Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." It is this spirit instilled in the Sikh Nation by Guru Gobind Singh that led them to fight tyrants like lions until they defeated them. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

Punjab is the gateway to India. Many invaders have come from the West—the Moguls, the Afghans, and others—to conquer and established their rule in Delhi. Sikhs saw this unprecedented persecution at the hands of invaders and rulers. Banda Singh Bahadur established the first Khalsa Raj in Punjab in 1710, lasting until 1716. Then the Sikh missals again established their rule in the various regions of Punjab in 1765. Maharajah Ranjit Singh established Sikh Raj with Lahore as its capital in 1799, 100 years after the initiation of the Khalsa Panth. Sikhs ruled Punjab under Maharajah Ranjit Singh in the true Sikh tradition, the well being of everybody (Sarbat Da Bhalah). Hindus, Muslims, and Christians were all part of the Sikh government. The Sikh army included Hindus, Muslims, and Christians. A Christian, General Ventura, was in charge of the infantry. The period from 1799 to 1839, when Maharajah Ranjit Singh died, was the Golden Age of Punjab. The sovereign Sikh state of Punjab was recognized by China, Russia, and the European countries. It was the dominant power in South Asia at that time. Sikhs conquered Kashmir from Afghanistan in 1819, making it part of Punjab.

The British conquered us in 1849 with the help of their planted agents the Hindu Dogra brothers, Pahara Singh, etc., who connived with the British and betrayed the Sikh Nation. As a reward to the Dogra brothers for their betrayal, the British sold them Kashmir for Rs400,000. At the time of independence in 1947, the Sikh leadership was fooled into taking their share with India by the dishonest Hindu leaders Nehru and Gandhi, while the Muslims got their own sovereign country, Pakistan. Nehru and Gandhi promised that Sikhs would have the glow of freedom in Punjab, but instead we got unprecedented persecution at the hands of the Indian government. In June 1984 they attacked the Golden Temple and 127 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. If Sikhs cannot protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, then the Sikh Nation cannot survive as a nation.

The Golden Temple attacks set off a wave of repression and genocide that resulted in the murder of over 250,000 Sikhs at the hands of the Indian government. Over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then cremated by being declared "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Over 52,000 Sikhs sit in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial, many since 1984.