

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Tara traveled that path with her head held high and a smile on her face the entire way. I have no doubt that her kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the voters of district 14.

Tara is one of those people that leave a huge impact on her community. For many years her efforts to better Chautauqua County have left a lasting impression not only on the county itself but on its residents. Her face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the legislature. Our county and our residents are better for the undying work Tara did during her tenure.

A true testimony to Tara can be found in many areas of the county and in many people whose lives she touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. In the future Tara will continue to better Chautauqua County as she raises her two sons and provides a strong education to her students at Jefferson Middle School.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Tara is one of those people and that is why Mr. Speaker I rise to honor her today.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT W.  
LAZAR

**HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Robert W. Lazar, a man who has made tremendous contributions for small businesses throughout the state of New York, and our nation. Mr. Lazar has graciously served our business community through the New York Business Development Corporation (NYBDC) for the past 35 years.

Mr. Lazar carries with him an extensive and impressive record of helping small businesses across the state of New York. He began his service with the NYBD in 1971, and since that time he has successfully operated in a number of roles within the organization. Since 1987, Mr. Lazar has served as the President and CEO and has been credited with leading his company to unprecedented growth.

With over 1.7 million small businesses in New York, the NYBDC serves a vital role in our state by assisting these businesses in obtaining the financial assistance they so desperately need to start and grow an enterprise. In addition, NYBC also provides much needed credit opportunities to the increasing number of minority and women-owned firms—many of which have difficulty in accessing these types of options elsewhere.

The contributions he has made to our state's small businesses during his tenure at NYBDC have been endless. I have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Lazar in both my capacity as a Member representing Brooklyn, and as the Ranking Democrat on the House Small Business Committee. Some of my fondest memories over the past years include visiting small business owners together, hearing about the aspirations, dreams, and challenges our local businesses are facing, and working to help meet their needs. Small busi-

nesses throughout New York have been fortunate to have such a dedicated, and successful, advocate as Bob working to ensure firms have access to capital and opportunity—and we are lucky that his efforts on behalf of small businesses will continue forward.

Throughout the years, Mr. Lazar has created a long list of accomplishments and has received numerous awards for his services. Mr. Lazar has been a steadfast advocate for small business legislation both in New York and Washington. Because of his efforts, the Small Business Administration's (SBA) 504 lending program, one of the most widely used small business loan programs, is now a more viable source of small business lending for entrepreneurs throughout the nation. In addition, as the President of NYBDC, he has played a key role in helping to expand the use of SBA programs, and in contributing to the development of new loan programs through public-private partnerships. These accomplishments benefited not only New York small businesses—but also entrepreneurs nationwide.

In 2000, he was recognized as the "Small Business Advocate of the Year" in the state of New York by the Empire State Development Corporation. He was named as "Entrepreneur of the Year Award" in 2004 by Capital District Business Review, and has been honored with several leadership awards over the past few years. The truth is that Bob could have been recognized as "Small Business Advocate of the Year" every year.

He has served New York's small businesses with tireless dedication, effort and success. The doors he has opened for women and minority business owners, and the assistance Mr. Lazar has granted to aspiring entrepreneurs across the state have been an invaluable asset—and these achievements have set the path for the future small business owners of New York. I know that Bob's contributions to entrepreneurs will not end with his retirement—and that small businesses in New York and across the nation will continue to benefit from his dedication.

I hope that the U.S. House of Representatives will join me today in recognizing Mr. Robert Lazar on his retirement—and in honoring and thanking him for his work and dedication to small businesses in both New York, and the nation.

TRIBUTE TO MATT CUNNINGHAM

**HON. MIKE PENCE**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2005 at the annual Firefighter Holiday Dance & Awards in Anderson, Indiana, firefighter Matt Cunningham was named Anderson's Firefighter of the Year. Mr. Cunningham, thirty years old and a lifelong resident of Anderson, was honored with this award because of his dedicated service to the community and outstanding record within the Anderson Fire Department and Engine Co. 6. The award, a medallion for his dress uniform, was presented by the Evening Exchange Club of Anderson.

Mr. Cunningham exemplifies all that is good with this Nation's local first responders. During this year alone, Mr. Cunningham has assisted with or single-handedly pulled four individuals

from burning structures. His courage, selflessness and devotion are to be commended and serve as an example to us all.

Only in his third-year of firefighting, Mr. Cunningham clearly has found his calling. At the awards ceremony he stated that firefighting "was something I stumbled into and I'm elated I did." He continued, "I love being in Anderson. I love it. The fire department in Anderson stays busy."

Mr. Speaker, it is wonderful to hear such enthusiasm. Matt Cunningham serves his community as a firefighter of the highest caliber, and I am proud today to honor and recognize him for being named Firefighter of the Year in Anderson, Indiana.

HONORING TONY CLARK ON THE  
COMPLETION OF HIS INTERNSHIP

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions Tony Clark has made while interning in my Washington, D.C., office. Tony has been a wonderful addition to the office and has performed many great services to the constituents of Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Tony now must return to Tennessee for his final semester at Vanderbilt University. In May, he will graduate with a degree in Technology and Public Policy Studies. Tony has made the Dean's List every semester, an accomplishment that comes as no surprise to me after witnessing the dedication that goes into every task he undertakes.

During his internship, Tony has been a tremendous help to me and my staff as he has assisted us in various projects. He has addressed constituent concerns, created booklets to let teachers know about educational resources available from federal agencies and endeared himself to visitors as he guided them through the U.S. Capitol.

I hope Tony has enjoyed his internship as much as my staff and I have appreciated his hard work and eager attitude. I wish him all the best in the future.

AKALI LEADERSHIP BETRAYS  
SIKH NATION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on November 17, leaders of the Akali Dal, the predominant Sikh party, walked out of a seminar in Lahore after Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, Preside: of the Council of Khalistan, predicted that India will break up. The Akali leaders said "We came to unite, not to divide India."

In front of an audience of about 1,500 people, Dr. Aulakh predicted that Kashmir will soon be free and India will break into five or six separate countries, including Khalistan. Former Home Minister L.K. Advani, President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has said that "if Kashmir goes, India goes." Steve Forbes of Forbes magazine predicted in his magazine

that India will break apart as the Austro-Hungarian Empire did.

The Akali leaders who walked out were clearly representing the Research and analysis Wing (RAW), the intelligence operation of the Indian government. Yet as Inderjit Singh Jaijee reported in *The Politics of Genocide*, more than 250,000 Sikhs were murdered by the Indian government, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy. Another 52,268 are being held as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of these political prisoners have been held since 1984.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has apologized for the November 1984 Delhi massacres in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed. This establishes the guilt of the Indian government beyond any doubt. If he really wants to make amends, he should end India's occupation of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

India has also killed over 300,000 Christian in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others. Tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians have been killed in other parts of the country. India is not a single country, but a multinational state that cannot hold together. We must do our part to see that this happens peacefully by supporting self-determination for all the people of South Asia. We should also cut off our aid to India and our trade as well until basic human rights are observed fully and enjoyed by all.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan's recently issued a press release about the betrayal of the Sikhs by the Akali Dal. I would like to put this release into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues and the people.

#### AKALIS AGAIN BETRAY SIKH NATION

WASHINGTON, DC, NOV. 22, 2005.—On November 17, 2005, the Akali Dal again showed its true colors, as its leaders walked out of a seminar in Lahore after Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, predicted the breakup of India during a speech in support of liberating Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. The Sarbat Khalsa passed a resolution on April 29, 1986 for a free Khalistan and established the Panthic Committee. The Panthic Committee declared Khalistan's independence on October 7, 1987, forming the Council of Khalistan to lead the independence struggle.

About 1,500 people attended the seminar. Dr. Aulakh predicted that Kashmir will soon be free and India will break up into six or seven countries' and Khalistan will be free. The Akali leaders said, "We came to unite, not to divide India." This was a clear indication that those leaders were representing RAW, not those of the Sikh Nation. True Sikhs pray every morning "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa" ("the Khalsa shall rule.") Former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh has said, "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human rights groups and reported in the book *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjeet Singh Jaijee. It has also killed more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, and thousands of Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country, as well as tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits ("Untouchables," the dark-skinned aboriginal people of South Asia), Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities.

The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Amnesty International reported that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Cases were registered against dozens of Sikhs for raising the Sikh flag at the Golden Temple on the anniversary of the Golden Temple attack in the presence of over 30,000 Sikhs. Warrants have been issued for their arrest. The flag of Khalistan was also raised on Republic Day, January 26. 35 Sikhs were arrested at that time. Some of them have been denied bail.

Recently, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh formally apologized to the Sikh Nation for the genocide against the Sikhs in November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were killed just in Delhi and surrounding areas while Sikh police were locked in their barracks and Indian radio and television called for more Sikh blood. This apology establishes the Indian government's responsibility for the genocide against the Sikh Nation. India must end its occupation of Khalistan, which is the root cause of this genocide. Sikhs are a sovereign nation and they are fighting for their freedom.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries. Steve Forbes, writing in *Forbes* magazine, said that India is doomed to disintegrate like the Austro-Hungarian Empire. "India is not a homogeneous state," Forbes wrote. "Neither was the Austro-Hungarian Empire. It attacked Serbia in the summer of 1914 in the hopes of destroying this irritating state after Serbia had committed a spectacular terrorist act against the Hapsburg monarchy. The empire ended up splintering, and the Hapsburgs lost their throne." India is doomed to fall apart just as Austria-Hungary and the others did.

"We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must continue to press for the liberation of Khalistan," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. India claims to be a democracy. It is time it recognized the right of self-determination for all people in South Asia."

#### HONORING VIVIAN TAYLOR FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE JAMESTOWN CITY COUNCIL

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vivian Taylor, a resident of Chautauqua County for his service to the people of Jamestown as a member of the Jamestown City

Council. Vivian has had the opportunity to serve as a strong member of the council and an active member of the community for many years.

The campaign trail is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Taylor traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Jamestown.

Vivian is one of those people that leave a huge impact on his community. For many years his efforts to better Jamestown have left a lasting impression not only on the city itself but on its residents. His face, voice, opinions and successes were a staple in the council. Our city and our residents are better for the undying work Mr. Taylor did during his tenure.

A true testimony to Vivian can be found in many areas of the county and in the many people whose lives he touched. One doesn't have to look far to see what a strong work ethic can do. What a true honor it must have been to pass the torch along to his grandson, Michael Taylor, as he ascended into the council. The Taylor family legacy is one to be respected and I'm sure it will continue for years to come.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Vivian is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT REFORM ACT OF 2005

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 13, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, throughout this year, myself, my colleagues, and our staff have been bombarded by physician lobbyists desperate to prevent a 4.4 percent reduction in Medicare payments scheduled to go into effect in January 2006. While I can empathize with their desire for more money—who doesn't want a raise?—I think it's time that we quell this fevered pitch with a dose of reality and a few facts. That is why I am introducing the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act today.

Without Congressional intervention, physician fees will decrease 4.4 percent next year and an estimated 5 percent reduction for many years thereafter. This is due to what is widely agreed upon to be a flawed formula in the payment system known as the sustainable growth rate (SGR).

That being said, it is important to note that even if the cuts go into effect next year, total spending for physician services would more than likely increase. This is because physicians have been steadily providing more services, and more intensive services, in recent years. While some growth may be desirable—for example providing additional preventive services—data show that much of the current growth has no clinical benefit or may even be harmful. Although I agree that our current SGR mechanism is flawed, I have serious reservations about repealing it without putting