

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to travel delays, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Rollcall No. 394, "Yes"; rollcall No. 395, "Yes"; rollcall No. 396, "Yes."

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Tim Friedman on the occasion of his retirement from the House after 30 years of faithful service. Tim is a native of Lackawanna, NY, a suburb of Buffalo. He arrived in Washington in 1976 and started his career in the House of Representatives on July 19, 1976 under the patronage of the Hon. Dan Rostenkowski.

He worked as a Doorkeeper under the Hon. James T. Molloy from 1976 to 1982. In 1982 he transferred to the office of the House Sergeant at Arms. Tim was appointed as Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom in 1985 by the Hon. Thomas P. O'Neill, Speaker of the House.

Tim married Colleen Early in 2003. They are avid golfers and are building a home in Wallace, NC. I hope they have a splendid retirement in Down East, NC.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Tim Friedman, a great friend a great public servant. Next month, Tim will officially retire from the House of Representatives following 30 years of outstanding public service.

Tim grew up in Lackawanna, New York, and came to Washington, DC in 1976. That year, he began his distinguished career with the U.S. House of Representatives under the former Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Dan Rostenkowski. Tim served as a Doorkeeper in the Democratic Cloakroom for the Honorable James T. Molloy from 1976 until 1982, when he began working for the Honorable Jack Russ. In 1985, Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill appointed Tim as the Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom.

In 2003, Tim married his wife, Colleen Early. Tim and Colleen are dedicated golfers and are building a home in Wallace, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, it is a little-known fact outside of Washington that the Democratic and Republican Cloakrooms are vital to Congress' functioning. Dealing with Members of Con-

gress on a daily basis is not an easy task, but Tim has kept our members running on schedule, kept us fed, and kept us smiling for years now, and he will be sorely missed.

I am grateful to Tim for his tremendous service to the House of Representatives, and I wish Tim and Colleen the best of luck in his well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO GAYLA GRAHAM
HEGEMAN**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the life of a wonderful lady, Gayla Graham Heggeman, who passed away June 27, 2006, in a tragic car accident.

An accomplished businesswoman, Gayla was a tremendous asset to Alabama and was adored by many friends and family members. Among other things, Gayla co-owned C&G Boat Works and Graham Gulf Incorporated with her brother Janson Graham. The two, along with their mother, also owned Silver King, a 142-acre golf club. Their businesses spanned across much of lower Alabama achieving not only financial success for the family but providing several contributions to the entire area.

To all who loved her, Gayla was a trusted friend and confidant. Moreover, few things were more important to her than her family and friends. Not surprisingly, Gayla garnered a tremendous amount of respect throughout the southern Alabama community.

Gayla is survived by her mother, Sybil Graham-Radford, her stepfather, Harry Radford, and her brother, Janson. In addition, countless friends, business acquaintances, and fellow community members mourn her passing. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join with me in recognizing the many achievements of Gayla's life.

BOOK ON INDIAN FREEDOM
STRUGGLE HONORED**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was interested to note that the London Institute of South Asia recently held an event to honor Professor Gurtej Singh for his interesting book *Tandev* of the Centaur. It expounds the theory that the Indian freedom movement was an act of collaboration with the colonialists.

As Professor Gurtej Singh says "As a part of my narration [for the book], I found myself suggesting a theory indicating the spurious nature of India's struggle for freedom. I am aware that it renders the main activities of the Congress Party and its leaders to an exercise in collaboration. But I am in good company in coming to that conclusion. Michael Edwards, in his *The Myth of the Mahatma*, has clearly shown that the British really feared the 'Western style revolutionaries' whom Gandhi effectively neutralized. The Administration considered Gandhi as an ally of the British as a neutralizer of rebellion."

Professor Gurtej Singh has written previously about the false nature of Indian secularism. His book, *Chakravayuh: Web of Indian Secularism*, exposes the truth that behind its mask of secularism, India is a repressive, theocratic state where minority rights are not respected.

Mr. Speaker, this is unacceptable. We must take strong action to protect the freedom that is the birthright of all people. Self-determination is the essence of democracy. That is why we should put the Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslim people of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagalim, and all the peoples of South Asia. We should also stop our aid and trade with India until basic human rights are respected. India is not a friendly country and it has a long record of anti-American activity. Now it wants to be our partner in fighting terrorism, while it practices terrorism and tyranny against its own people. America should not stand for that.

SEMINAR AND LISA BOOK AWARD—2006

LONDON, June 26, 2006.—London Institute of South Asia (LISA) Seminar on the subject of Separate Electorate was held in London on June 24, 2006 with Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President Council of Khalistan, in the chair. Separate Electorate was introduced by the British in India in 1905 to give fair representation to all of India's many faiths and castes. Separate Electoral rolls for them provided for effective local government for decades. However, when the same was proposed under the Communal Award in 1932 for state assemblies, the high castes—who constituted only 15 per cent of India's population—saw their dominant position threatened. The Congress party started a campaign against the proposal alleging that the British were playing a game of "divide and rule". The Muslims under the leadership of Mr. Jinnah accepted "Separate Electorate" but Mr. Gandhi was able to persuade the leader of the Untouchables, Dr. Ambedkar, by starting a "fast unto death", to reject the British offer. By a deal signed with the Congress Party (Poona Pact of 1932) the Untouchables accepted Joint Electorate with the Hindus. Mr. Gandhi claimed that India was a Hindu country. With perpetual majority assured, the Hindu leadership of the Congress Party set upon the task of denying all the faith and caste identities and their fair share in power.

In the states where the Muslims were in majority, Joint Electorate suited them better but they took a principled stand for the sake of the minorities. Separate Electorate and the Muslim majority states in the East and the West being grouped into regions were the two Muslim demands. If those had been accepted there would have no partition in 1947 and all the faiths and castes would have had their fair share in power. But that meant the Hindus would have got only 15% in contrast with the Muslims who were 25% of the population and the Bahujan (i.e. native majority who are Untouchables) would have been the largest group in the parliament. The Hindus preferred partition over accepting Separate Electorate to give fair share in power to all faiths and castes. The irony is they have the temerity to blame the Muslims and Mr. Jinnah for the partition and continue to do so. The fact is that the Hindu leaders of the Congress Party forced the partition by rejecting every fair formula for sharing power. After having tricked the Untouchables into accepting Joint Electorate with them, they hoped to rule over India in perpetuity.

The Seminar was addressed by Mr. V.T. Rajshekar, Editor of *Dalit Voice*, Bangalore,

who explained how the dominance of the Brahmin has been challenged by Bahujan. He said that by his thesis that the best way to fight discrimination is to strengthen the caste identity, has helped the castes to consolidate their vote banks to help their own kin to win elections. The result is that the Bahujan parties have won power in several states in India. The rejection of the fair system of Separate Electorate has backfired on the Brahmin. He is looking for new ways to restore its grip over power. The new method is to embrace Communism. They have organized Communist parties and groups all over India. They have captured power in West Bengal and Kerala through elections but in most other areas they operate as terrorist groups under the title of Naxalites or Maoists. The landlords in much of rural India are Thakurs—a caste one level below the Brahmin—and the farm labour is from Untouchable castes. The humiliation of the caste system piled upon exploitation by forced or unpaid labour makes rural India a hell hole. In this charged environment, the Brahmin cadres have started their Naxalite Movement. Given a gun the irate labourers shoot and kill the land lord and end up in prison or on the gallows; the Brahmin secures confirmation as “revolutionary leader”. The Brahmin schemes are so complex and diabolical that it is hard to fathom the truth. But the low castes in India are waking up, says Mr. Rajshekar. They can now act wisely and devise a new polity that recognizes rather than denies the multiplicity of India’s faiths, castes and states to give them their due and obtain internal harmony and peace with all the neighbours.

Three more papers were read at the Seminar. Brigadier © Usman Khalid, Director of Lisa, said that the system of Separate Electorate is necessary for India to give justice to minority faiths (like in Pakistan)—Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Parsis and Jains. But the decision is for the majority to make. They may prefer to extend the protection of Separate Electorate to the top 5% high castes instead. As for the Sikhs in the Punjab, the Muslims in Jammu and Kashmir, and the tribal peoples of Assam, they are separate nations who have struggled for freedom for many decades; they should be allowed to exercise their right of self-determination. Professor Gurtej Singh, explained how “reservation” of seats in education and employment has not provided justice to the oppressed low castes but has made them subject of hate further isolating them. He proposed that reservation should be extended to all faith communities and all castes.

Dr. Aulakh in his presidential address at the end exposed the truth about India, which practises the worst form of apartheid under minority rule. The Brahmin keeps inventing new gimmicks and tricks to maintain his hold over power. He made a powerful case for a sovereign state for the Sikh nation in the Punjab which has been endorsed by the resolutions of Sarbat Khalsa and reinforced by the massacre of the Sikhs in the Punjab and other parts of India in the wake of the assault and desecration of Durbur Sahib in 1984. He supported the struggle for freedom of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, of Nagas and other peoples of Assam.

The seminar was followed by a ceremony for “Lisa Book Award” given every year to a book by an author from South Asia that has made a difference. The award in 2006 was given to “Tandev of the Centaur—Sikhs and Indian Secularism” by Professor Gurtej Singh. It was presented to him by the winner of the same award last year—Mr. V.T. Rajshekar. The citation read:

“This book shows that the ‘freedom struggle’ of India was in fact a struggle for succession to hegemony. The British had repeat-

edly said they were preparing India for self rule and would leave once the job was done. The Muslims took notice and declared that the Brahmin not the British were their main adversary. Since the Muslims were concentrated on the periphery and were sparse in numbers in the rest of India, they wanted autonomous Muslim majority regions and Separate Electorate. This would have protected the rights of all faiths and castes. They demanded Pakistan after failing in every attempt to get their due share in power by constitutional guarantees prior to Independence. The effort of the Hindu leadership was to try and build a majority around the idea of ‘Secularism’ and ‘Joint Electorate’. Under the Poona Pact of 1932, the Bahujan compromised their identity when they agreed to be included on the electoral rolls with the Hindus.

“The Sikhs believed that the British would not leave until thrown out and thus played into the hands of the Hindus to become the vanguard of the armed struggle against the British making thus making the most sacrifices. The Sikhs were promised their separate state; that was a false promise they call ‘Raj Neeti’. All those who trusted M.K. Gandhi and relied on Congress ‘promises’ now feel betrayed. The book reveals that India is founded on a polity of paranoia; it is united only in fear and hate. The Hindu leaders feared the Muslim and wanted the partition even more than the Muslims. After the Muslim majority left and went to Pakistan the Sikhs are seen by them as a threat. The wanton use of force against them for a decade in the wake of the assault on Durbur Sahib in 1984, the Sikh Nation virtually stands expelled from the Indian Union. A sovereign Sikh state is only a matter of time. This has become inevitable due to the clarity of vision of scholar leaders like Sirdar Gurtej Singh.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JOHN EULER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Euler, a Vietnam veteran, retired U.S. marine, and tireless public servant.

After retiring as the Deputy Director of the Torts Branch, Civil Division of the Department of Justice, John thought he was finished working for the Federal Government. However, in January of 2004, John’s sense of duty compelled him to volunteer for 6 months in Iraq as Director of International Counsel. His 26 years of experience with the Department of Justice and his extensive legal career gave him all the tools necessary to help the new Iraqi Government build a new legal system from the ground up. John faced many challenges in Iraq, including the fact that all legal records were destroyed by war. Despite the difficult task, John helped the Iraqi Government to build an entirely new court system and to defend itself in over 70 international cases. His service has helped the Iraqis to live in a society operating under the rule of law, a protection that many Americans take for granted.

John’s strong passion for civil service has again called him to Iraq. He is currently serving as the Deputy Legal Counsel for the U.S. Department of State. In this new position, John advises the United States Embassy in Iraq on issues relating to the new Iraqi Government. His experience in creating the Iraqi

legal system makes his counsel invaluable to the embassy’s team.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John Euler for his extensive service to the United States and for his dedication to the rebuilding of the Iraqi Government. His bravery and support during these trying times serve as a model for us all. I thank him for his perseverance and his service.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE OPPORTUNITY CENTER-EASTER SEAL

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request the House’s attention today to recognize the mission of the Opportunity Center-Easter Seal located in Anniston, AL. On September 6, 2006, the Opportunity Center will reach a 50-year milestone for having served people with disabilities in and around Calhoun County.

The Opportunity Center acts as a rehabilitation, training and employment facility designed to aid disabled people to achieve their highest potential. The mission is important, and should be commended for helping rehabilitate those who have been disabled from birth and those who have become disabled. The Opportunity Center-Easter Seal seeks to help those with barriers to employment maximize their employment potential, an important resource for many across East Alabama.

Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a proud achievement for the Opportunity Center. I congratulate those who built and have maintained this fine facility, and thank the House for its attention to this important matter today.

HONORING TIM FRIEDMAN

SPEECH OF

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 24, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career contributions of Mr. Tim Friedman, Assistant Manager of the House Democratic Cloakroom and a public servant of the highest degree. For 30 years, Mr. Friedman has served our country in some capacity within the walls of Congress and he has served these years with dignity and decorum.

As Mr. Friedman prepares to retire, I congratulate him and wish him the best. He has certainly earned the opportunity to kick up his heels, enjoy some time with his wife, and play a few rounds of golf. But as a Member of Congress, I must say that it is sad to see him go. For 20 years, he has been a fixture in the Cloakroom—an institution as significant as the Cloakroom itself.

Mr. Friedman will be missed, but his work ethic will continue on, through his co-workers who admire him, through the many pages who have looked to him for guidance over the years and through the Democratic Members of Congress themselves.

I thank Mr. Friedman for his service and his commitment to the Democratic Cloakroom.