

so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity.

Sincerely,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JORDAN
APPLEHANS

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Jordan Applehans of Parker, Colorado. Ms. Applehans has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Applehans has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Jordan Applehans, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BERNICE KING-HILL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it was with deep sadness that I learned of the passing of Mrs. Bernice King-Hill on July 18, 2006. For more than 30 years Bernice "Bea" King-Hill faithfully served the community of her church and the city of Richmond, California. For her church group, Mrs. Hill was a social worker and teacher of great capacity and compassion. For the people of Richmond and Contra Costa County, she was a dedicated leader who gave of herself to the community with sincerity, commitment, and strength.

Bernice Hill was born on August 31, 1924, in Mobile, Alabama, and raised, along with her four siblings and their nine cousins, by the late Joe West and Georgia King-West. For her advanced degree, Mrs. Hill attended the Nannie H. Burroughs Religious School in Washington, DC, and the Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama. By 1955, Mrs. Hill had moved to Oakland, California, in the San Francisco Bay Area and begun what was to be a 30-year career of service. Since 1955, Mrs. Hill worked for our community in the various capacities of service, education, non-profit work, administration, and religious counsel.

For 5 years, Mrs. Hill owned and operated B-Nolas Fine Foods which served the schools and the medical centers in the community of Berkeley. Since then, Mrs. Hill held many different positions within the community beginning with her work as founder and director of the non-profit Senior Extension Center in Richmond, California. She was also a manager for the Contra Costa County nutrition program for several years during this period. Mrs. Hill served on the Advisory Council for Aging as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Ladies

Auxiliary, 761st Tank Battalion, Post 8399, for which she was the president.

More recently, Bernice Hill served on the Board of Children's Council in Richmond, California, and as the Administrative Assistant to Senior Legislators of California under Carolyn Ashe Stokes. Mrs. Hill was also the Chairperson of the Progressive District Association and Senior Citizen Department as well as a teacher for the California State Baptist Convention.

During these many years, Mrs. Hill pursued her religious service with the same devotion and selflessness that marked her professional work. Her service to the religious community at the Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church included passionate and dedicated work as a teacher for the church's Sunday School, the Baptist Training Union, and the Ester Circle of the General Missionary Society.

Throughout her many years of service to the people of our district, Mrs. Hill maintained her direction and independence. She was hard-working with a unique honesty and heart yet she was never afraid to challenge those who sought to exploit her or her effort. She believed in self-responsibility and forgiveness and she not only built her work on these values, but also inspired them in others. Her goddaughters Leona Sims and Nola Pyle are fine examples of her commitment and integrity. Her home will go to the Senior Extension Center to continue her legacy.

To Bernice Hill's family and friends, I extend my heartfelt condolences. Their loss is shared not only by those who knew Mrs. Hill but also by all those who have been touched by the work she has done. We will be forever grateful for the courage, compassion, and integrity with which she sought to make our community, and our country, a better place for all of us. We are so grateful to Mrs. Hill's family and church for sharing her with us for so many years.

REMARKS ON CONDEMNING THE
ACTIONS OF THE LIBERATION
TIGERS OF TAMIL EELAM (LTTE)

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on June 26, 2006, a homicide bomber drove his explosive-laden motorcycle into a car carrying Major General Parami Kulatunga, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Sri Lanka Army, killing him instantly. While they deny responsibility, this act mirrors many terrorist attacks carried out by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

This is another unfortunate event in the constant struggle between the Government of Sri Lanka and the LTTE. Sri Lanka and the United States share a good friendship, with Sri Lanka as Asia's oldest democracy. While on the other hand, the LTTE is a group that the Secretary of State has designated as a Foreign Terrorist Organization.

One possible step in mitigating this violence is for the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamil Tigers to renegotiate a cease-fire agreement. This must be done in a successful manner so the hostilities do not resume. However, with the LTTE's refusal to renounce violence, this peace process is constantly in jeopardy. Tragically, the number of violent acts the

LTTE has committed since the peace agreement with Government of Sri Lanka has only increased.

While it has been the United State's policy to encourage peace through negotiation, if the violence continues, the State Department should consider taking more aggressive steps in aiding the Government of Sri Lanka's fight against the LTTE. It is in the interest of the United States to ensure that the LTTE renounces violence, primarily so all Sri Lankans can live in peace, but also so the LTTE's reign of terror does not spread. Reports have indicated that the LTTE had ties with al Qaeda. Furthermore, the LTTE has at least a dozen oceangoing vessels with which they have honed waterborne terrorist tactics not unlike what occurred with the USS *Cole* bombing.

The Government of Sri Lanka is a friend to the United States, and I stand by the commitment to ensure that friendship lasts well into the future.

IN RECOGNITION OF GARY E.
HARVEY

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to Mr. Gary E. Harvey, a constituent of mine who has dedicated his life to serving our Nation in uniform. Mr. Harvey was born and raised in Windsor, Ontario, and served from 1958 to 1961 as a member of the Royal Canadian Armored Corps. In May 1961, Mr. Harvey enlisted in the United States Army and was commissioned at the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1965.

Mr. Harvey has served two tours in Vietnam. He has also worked as Executive Officer at the Anniston Army Depot; Assistant Professor of Military Science at Marion Military Institute; Operations Officer at the U.S. Army Chemical School; and Deputy Director and Director of Plans, Training, Mobilization, Security and Reserve Component Support and Base Transition Coordinator at Fort McClellan in Alabama.

Mr. Harvey has received numerous awards and decorations including the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device with three oak leaf clusters, Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, and Vietnam Campaign Medal with five campaign stars.

I salute Mr. Harvey for his continued efforts today to help serve and protect our country, and for proudly serving our Nation for the past 45 years.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
RAMON TORRES

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Ramon A. Torres upon retiring from his position as Executive Director of the Multilingual Multicultural Education Office in Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Torres was raised in Coamo, Puerto Rico where he attended the Barrio Pedro Garcia School from kindergarten to seventh grade. At age 11, he moved to Cleveland to join family members and attend St. Augustine Elementary School. With limited proficiency in English, Mr. Torres overcame many challenges in order to assimilate to life in the United States. His hard work and perseverance enabled him to attend Cleveland State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Education and a Masters of Education in Secondary School Administration and Supervision.

During his career as an educator, Mr. Torres served and inspired students in the Cleveland Public Schools for 29 years. In the community, Mr. Torres assumed responsibilities such as Project Manager and Education Teacher Consultant of Bilingual Education Programs and Latin American Cultures. Mr. Torres also served as President of Woodmen of the World Fraternal Lodge and on the Hispanic Steering Council at Cuyahoga Community College.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ramon A. Torres. After making many notable contributions to education and the community, may he enjoy a peaceful and rewarding retirement.

DAL KHALSA USA HOLDS
SEMINAR ON KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently, Dal KHALSA USA held a seminar in support of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. It was a significant demonstration of the continuing support that the Sikh people have for freedom for their homeland. Paramjit Singh Sekhon and Gagandeep Singh, who lead Dal KHALSA USA and organized the seminar, are to be congratulated. Speakers, included Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Dr. Ajit Pal Singh Sandhu, and Dr. Arjinder Singh Sekhorn.

Freedom is a dream that people all over the world share and we should be encouraging it, Mr. Speaker. Both here and in Punjab, support for Khalistan is on the rise and getting more visible.

As the beacon of liberty in the world, it is our duty to encourage people who are reaching for freedom. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. But in India, all that elections do for minorities is to change the faces of the oppressors. The time has come to go on record in support of a democratic vote on freedom for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the minority nations of South Asia. And we should stop our aid to India and our trade until human rights are respected.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release on the seminar. I would like to add it to the RECORD.

DAL KHALSA USA HOLDS SEMINAR ON
KHALISTAN

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Dal KHALSA USA held a seminar on Khalistan in Fremont, California

from August 25 to August 27, The seminar focused on the need to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, from Indian occupation. Khalistan is the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Speakers included Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, Dr. Ajit Pal Singh Sandhu, Colonel Arjinderpal Singh Sekhon (US Army Reserve), and others. The seminar was organized by Sardar Paramjit Singh Sekhon, President of Dal KHALSA USA, and Sardar Gagandeep Singh, General Secretary of Dal KHALSA USA.

The speakers addressed the need for the Sikh Nation to reclaim its lost sovereignty and escape from the oppression of the Indian government, which has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, as well as more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipurals, Tamils, and other minorities.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra 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. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to Justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The only witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police, including having been arrested for trying to hand a piece of paper to then-British Home Secretary Jack Straw. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian governments murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Last year, 35 Sikhs were charged and arrested in Punjab for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistan flag. "How can making speeches and raising a flag be considered crimes in a democratic society?" asked Dr. Aulakh.

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the

Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Recently, militant Hindus from the Bharatiya Janata Yuva (a youth movement affiliated with the BJP and the Fascist RSS) attacked the Convent of Loreto and the school there. 13 Catholic schools remain closed and a spokesman for the BJP, Mr. H. Dikshit, demanded an investigation of the school!

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984. The most important mosque in India, the Sabri Mosque, was destroyed by militant Hindu fundamentalists who have never been held responsible for their actions.

"I am honored to be a speaker at this seminar and very pleased that Dal KHALSA USA is holding these activities to focus the attention of America and the world on the plight of the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan and the need for a sovereign, Independent Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh.

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, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said.

Dr. Aulakh stressed his commitment to the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan. "The only way that the repression will stop and Sikhs will live in freedom, dignity and prosperity is to liberate Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHELBY
INGLE

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Shelby Ingle of Centennial, Colorado. Ms. Ingle has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Ingle has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Shelby Ingle, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.