

About life, and sacrifice . . . in courage's light!
 Touching all hearts, and souls . . . as left, this night . . . his heart burning bright, burning bold!
 A Marine's, Marine!
 A hero, who once upon battlefields of honor was seen . . .
 Leading Marines, leading men and women of honor . . . upon the scene . . .
 As wherever he convened . . .
 Strength in Honor . . .
 As what his fine life has meant!
 As to all others, and this our world he has so Heaven sent . . .
 Such inspiration, to this his our great nation . . . to this his United States Marines!
 As into the face of death, he went . . .
 Then, to lose his two fine legs, as then . . .
 To fall down into such deep dark pain, and not wain!
 To get up, To rebuild where no lies left . . . as is this his this heroes quest!
 As he teaches us, all about America's Best!
 There! In his darkest of all days, a smile upon his face so conveys!
 Courage's Quest! America's Best . . . as Joshua Bleill amazes us all no less!
 A man who brings such tears to eyes . . . who our world will bless!
 As we watch and learn . . .
 As our hearts for him so burn . . .
 As we watch him stand taller each and every day!
 Running, with his heart all the way . . . needing not his two fine legs!
 As his heart . . .
 Can not be stopped, nor can so be swayed!
 As we watch, as we learn . . . from our Lord's fine son, as our hearts so discern this day!
 The Path To Heaven's Way!
 In our lives, and in our lights . . .
 We but have the shortest of times, to so burn bright!
 But, some . . . high above all others do so shine . . . upon this our world tonight . . .
 Are all of those who are, but the brightest of all our Lord's lights!
 A Joshua Tree!
 The True Fine Measure, of all a heart can be!
 A presence, who upon battlefields of honor . . . was so struck down indeed . . .
 Yet, but would not so concede . . . to rise was he!
 Growing ever taller, ever stronger . . .
 As the days got longer, this champion touching all hearts so indeed . . .
 Could we? Would we? Ever have such courage, to so shine as much light as he in our time?
 As this bright light grows ever stronger, and this Joshua Tree of life . . . grows taller everyday indeed!
 A Bright Light!
 While, there in The Darkest of All Possible fights!
 Can so over come all so indeed!
 This our Lord's Joshua Tree!

PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the government of Pakistan has recognized the Anand Marriage Act of 1909. This act covers Sikh marriages. I commend the Pakistani govern-

ment for this show of tolerance and religious freedom.

There are only about 15,000 Sikhs in Pakistan. When is India, with its 22 million Sikhs, going to recognize the same act? It has been on the books for almost a century.

India refuses to enforce or even recognize the Anand Marriage Act. Instead, it records all Sikh marriages as Hindu marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act. This constitutes a refusal of "secular", "democratic" India to recognize Sikhism as a separate religion. Instead, they seek to subsume it under Hinduism.

The fact that Guru Nanak, who began the Sikh religion, was born Hindu no more makes Sikhism a part of Hinduism than the fact that Jesus was Jewish makes Christianity part of Judaism. The Indian government is simply trying to eliminate the Sikh religion by subverting it and forcing Sikhs into Hinduism. Where is the freedom of religion in India?

Madam Speaker, this is unacceptable! America can and must do something to protect the rights and freedoms of all people in South Asia. We can start by stopping our aid to India and our trade until such time as it learns to respect the rights of all people regardless of ethnicity, religion, or social status. And we should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the others who seek freedom. India will not allow such free and fair votes, belying its self-proclaimed democratic principles. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on the Anand Marriage Act into the RECORD.

PAKISTAN RECOGNIZES ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 6, 2007.—The government of Pakistan has formally recognized the Anand Marriage Act, which governs Sikh marriages. The act was adopted in 1909.

Even though there are only about 15,000 Sikhs in Pakistan and there are millions of Sikhs in India, India still refuses to recognize the act. While Sikhs conduct marriages in accord with the Anand Marriage Act, the Indian government will not certify them under the act. Instead, they are recorded under the Hindu Marriage Act. The Indian government is trying to destroy the Sikh religion. Its failure to recognize the Anand Marriage Act is one more way that it is carrying out this effort. Sikh marriages are different from Hindu marriages. Hindu couples circle around a fire. Sikh couples circle around the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, four times.

"I would like to thank the Pakistani government for its recognition of the Anand Marriage Act, which is almost a hundred years old," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for freedom. "Pakistan's action has shown a level of tolerance that supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India has never shown," he said. "That is very telling. It shows the true face of India," he said. "There is no place for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, or other minorities there."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

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, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

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! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

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.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will allow the Sikhs of Punjab and the other people of the subcontinent to live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. Let us join together and free Khalistan."

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. STEWART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the memory of Admiral William H. Stewart, a devoted family man, model officer and dedicated community leader.

A native of Gulf, Texas, Admiral Stewart graduated from Austin High School in 1943. He attended the University of Texas at Austin for two years before leaving to attend the Coast Guard Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in marine engineering and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Admiral's distinguished Coast Guard career spanned almost four decades. His first assignment was as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Tampa* based in Mobile. He then went on to serve as operations officer aboard the cutter *Newell* in Honolulu. In 1954, he was assigned to the Fifth Coast Guard District in Norfolk, Virginia, as chief of the Military Personnel Branch of the Personnel Division.

Admiral Stewart returned to Mobile in 1957 as executive officer of the cutter *Blackthorn*. He was sent to Washington, D.C. in 1959 to

attend George Washington University, where he received his master's degree in public administration. Following graduation, he was assigned as chief of the Material Management Branch of the Office of the Comptroller at Coast Guard Headquarters.

In 1964, Admiral Stewart returned to the Gulf Coast as executive officer of the cutter *Sebago* based out of Pensacola, Florida. He was then assigned as chief of Personnel Division K of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami. In 1967, he was named commanding officer of the cutter, *Androscoggin*, a cutter he took to Vietnam in December of 1967 to participate in Operation Market Time. The *Androscoggin* remained on station in Southeast Asia until August 1968.

Following this tour of duty, then-Commander Stewart returned to Washington, D.C. and served as special assistant to the commandant of the Coast Guard before serving as administrative aide to the commandant. Then-Captain Stewart was transferred back to Honolulu to the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, where he served as chief of the operations division and then chief of staff. He once again returned to Washington, D.C. in 1976 as deputy chief of staff at Coast Guard Headquarters. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the rank of rear admiral and was named chief of the office of personnel, a position he held until 1981, when he was assigned commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans, Louisiana.

As commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District, Admiral Stewart worked tirelessly to prevent illegal drug smuggling. In 1983, he testified before the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control. During this time, he also served as an advisor to then-Vice President George H.W. Bush before his retirement on June 28, 1985.

Admiral Stewart earned an impressive list of medals and awards over the course of his distinguished career, including: the Coast Guard Achievement Medal; the Combat Action Ribbon; the Bronze Star Medal (with Combat "V") and the Gold Star; the Meritorious Service Medal (with two Gold Stars); the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Gold Star; and the Legion of Merit.

Admiral Stewart's retirement certainly was not the end of his service to his community, state or nation. Following his retirement from the Coast Guard, he served as a Kiwanian, a founding member of the board of trustees of the National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico, a member of the board of governors of the Bienville Club, a past president and member of the Mobile Council for the Navy League of the United States, a member of the board of directors of the Veterans Day Commission, a past chairman and member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce, a past division chairman of the United Way, a past chairman of the Disaster Service Committee of the local Red Cross Chapter, and a member of the board of directors of the Alabama Military Hall of Honor at Marion Military Institute.

As a homeowner on Alabama's Dauphin Island since the 1950s, the island was of great importance to him. Admiral Stewart served as a member of the board of directors of the Property Owners Association for eight years and president for five years. He was a mem-

ber of a Task Force which brought together Islanders and the Auburn University Economic Development Institute in the late 1980s. He was also founding director as well as second and current chairman of the Dauphin Island Foundation.

Admiral Stewart was married to Laura Hamilton Stewart for more than 40 years before her untimely death from cancer. Together they raised two children, Edward Wilson, who preceded his father in death, and Karla Stewart Bohn.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Admiral William H. Stewart loved life and lived it to the fullest, and his passing marks a tremendous loss for all of south Alabama. He will be deeply missed by many, most especially his wife, Paulette Gerhardt Stewart; his daughter and step-daughters; his grandchildren; his extended family; as well as countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND
SECURITY ACT OF 2007

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise with disappointment in the lack of pro-energy and pro-consumer provisions contained in the Democrat energy bill being considered on the House floor today. I strongly oppose passage of the House Amendment to H.R. 6 and urge my colleagues to join me in defeating this bill. We should work in a bipartisan manner to pass real solutions for America's growing energy needs.

The American economy has ups and downs. But overall it continues to grow, producing jobs for American workers. To keep pace with our economy, more reliable and sustainable sources of energy are needed. Conservation, innovative and efficient energy technologies, renewable forms of energy and of course traditional sources of energy all must play a role in our energy future.

I am pleased the bill included an increase in fuel efficiency standards from 25 miles per gallon to 35 miles per gallon by 2020. As a cosponsor of H.R. 2927 that would increase the corporate average fuel economy, CAFE, standards for automobiles, I believe we must not waste any more time in making our vehicles more fuel efficient. I support increasing the CAFE standards and hope we can work together with the private sector to achieve this worthy goal.

Unfortunately, the Democrat's closed-door energy bill containing more than 1,000 pages is not the kind of solution the American people deserve. Rather than work together to pass a more complete and comprehensive plan to address our energy needs, Democrat leadership has chosen to forego their pledge to work with Republicans on important policy matters. The result is an energy bill that will lead to higher

electric utility bills, drive up gasoline prices at the pump, discriminately raise taxes on manufacturers of domestic energy and depress exploration efforts to find additional sources of domestic energy.

The bill fails to include proven, reliable energy production methods such as nuclear energy for lowering emissions into our atmosphere. Instead, the House Amendment to H.R. 6 mandates a one-size-fits-all Renewable Portfolio Standard for some electric utility companies while exempting other electric utilities. I support utility companies investing in and offering renewable energy to customers, and I support incentives for increased production of renewable energy. Many Kansas farmers and landowners are already participants in wind and bio fuel production, and Kansas has potential to do even more.

But Congress must exercise great caution when attempting to mandate levels of renewable fuels that must be used by electric power companies. Many of our Nation's electric companies are presently investing billions of dollars in renewable energy projects—not because they are mandated by the Federal Government, but because market forces have led them to do so. By mandating higher levels of renewable energy for power generation than the market naturally supports, ratepayers are going to be stuck with higher electric bills.

I cannot think of a single constituent who has asked me to support higher electric bills. This Democrat bill is not an energy solution that is good for Kansas, and it is not a good solution for America.

Great harm will particularly fall upon America's poor and middle class customers as a result of increased electric rates. Senior citizens who are living on fixed incomes and families on tight budgets should not be forced to suffer because of ill-thought Federal mandates on select electric utilities and their customers.

Another section of the House Amendment to H.R. 6 mandates a Federal Renewable Energy Standard that will require unrealistic quantities of biofuel. For example, the Democrat energy bill mandates that 100 million gallons of cellulosic biofuel be included in our fuel supply by 2010. However, commercially viable production of cellulosic fuel is only projected to be 27 million gallons by 2010. As a strong supporter of cellulosic biofuel, I hope American ingenuity will help us surpass current projections. The Federal Government should encourage private-sector innovation that has long been a hallmark of America's history.

But the Federal Government should not be mandating on the private sector requirements that are not commercially tested and far exceed industry projections. Reckless mandates will result in increased fuel costs for consumers.

I am also disappointed that the House Amendment to H.R. 6 contains more than \$21 billion in tax increases that will negatively impact American jobs. By raising taxes on the oil and gas industry, we are driving up manufacturing costs making domestic companies less competitive. Raising taxes on oil and gas companies will not reduce prices at the pump, and it certainly will not help ease our dependence on foreign oil. If anything, it will make