

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DANCE WEEK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring National Dance Week, which is being celebrated April 28 to May 4, to the attention of my colleagues.

National Dance Week is an annual celebration sponsored by the United Dance Merchants of America to increase public awareness and appreciation of dance. National Dance Week encourages all forms of dance including not only classical dance, but also lyrical, hip hop, ethnic, jazz, and modern. The goal of National Dance Week is to encourage growth and development of dance in America by raising the level of public consciousness and focus on the value and importance of the contributions of dance to our daily lives and culture.

Established 15 years ago, this celebration of dance has grown out of a grass roots campaign. Everyone who works on National Dance Week is a volunteer working to spread their love of dance to others. Today, a national steering committee enlists the talents of many prominent figures in dance manufacturing, publishing, worldwide dancing competitions, teachers, and choreographers. Regional managers are working with the local communities in order to coordinate events occurring during National Dance Week.

Local events are the core of National Dance Week because they bring the most recognition to the art of dance. Some dance schools are sending cards of congratulations as well as gift certificates for dance classes to the parents of new born babies in their communities. Other dance communities are holding demonstration classes in schools and community centers to showcase the different types of dance as well as a show much fun dancing can be. Other events include dance festivals and parades. There is also a nationwide poster contest for National Dance Week. In all, dance instructors across the country are working diligently to create an awareness of dance and to bring a new vision of dance to the American public.

In today's society it is important to give our children outlets to express their energy and creativity. Dance is just such an outlet. As Marianne Prinkey, the National Dance Week Chair, put it, "[Dance] enriches the body with discipline, activity and feelings."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the hard work that dancers, not only in New York City, but across the country have put into National Dance Week. Let us help them celebrate dance and the contributions that this wonderful art gives to society. Congratulations and best wishes to all for a most successful week and a most successful year of dance.

NAOMI FRANK

HON. ROBERT S. WALKER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to bring to your attention a special constituent of mine, Naomi Frank, of West Chester, PA. Born in Sharpsville, PA, on April 29, 1915, Naomi Frank moved to Farrell, PA, when she was 3½ years old. From an early age, Naomi had learning impediments that would prevent her from keeping up with her classmates. After many starts in the public schools, her parents realized the problems and had Naomi enrolled in the Woods School in Langhorne, PA. Naomi then worked with Dr. Frederick Martin and participated in a speech seminar at Ithaca College in New York. While on her way home to Farrell, in August 1934, she was involved in a serious car accident.

After much rehabilitation, Naomi enrolled in 1938 to attend the Devereaux School where she would learn to be independent. As part of her education, Naomi learned to play the baritone D-flat horn and participated in the school band. The Devereaux School had a camp for its students on Emden Lake in the State of Maine. In 1942, 1943, 1944, and 1946, Naomi was selected as one of the young women to spend her summer in Maine. Naomi stayed at the Devereaux School working and learning until 1983, when she was forced to leave school because she could not earn enough to pay the tuition herself.

Upon leaving the Devereaux School, Naomi moved to Coatesville, then Brandamore, PA, and in 1990 she moved to the Wentworth Home in West Chester, PA—located in my congressional district. She took a job at the West Chester library, while also volunteering her time at the Chester County Hospital. In 1993, Naomi received her 500-hour volunteer pin and in 1995 her 1,000-hour volunteer pin.

In October 1987, Naomi Frank began to prepare for her bat mitzvah. She was encouraged to do that by Rabbi Charny, and on October 27, 1988 was bat mitzvahed. Currently, she has just completed her autobiography entitled "Book of My Life".

Naomi Frank, throughout her life, has shown that a strong will and hard work can improve not only one's own life, but the lives of others. Naomi Frank has overcome many obstacles in her life and in doing so has touched the lives of countless others. I rise today to salute Naomi Frank for her perseverance and determination for I believe she has been an example of self-reliance to many people.

TUNISIA AT 40

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, March 20, 1996 marks the 40th anniversary of the inde-

pendence of the Republic of Tunisia. I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting the people of this important North African country on this significant milestone.

Tunisia, first, under President Bourguiba, and since 1987, under President Ben Ali, has played a key role in preserving peace and stability in often turbulent North Africa and in providing leadership for the entire Arab world.

This country of 9 million people is located between Libya and Algeria on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. It has a tradition of playing an important regional role. For 11 years until 1990, Tunisia hosted the Arab League, and for 12 years from 1982 to 1994, Tunisia was the home of Yasir Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization. In that time, the Tunisians worked hard to moderate policies of the PLO and to promote the peace process.

More recently, Tunisia has been a leader in promoting the peace process. Tunisia was the first Arab state to host a U.N. multilateral meeting of the peace process and to welcome an official Israeli delegation. And on January 22 of this year, Israel and Tunisia agreed to establish diplomatic relations, and I understand that interests sections will open in Tunis and Tel Aviv by mid-April, 1996.

At home, Tunisia has been a leader in its region. Tunisia has taken steps toward democracy. It has opened up both its economy and its political system, despite the pressures of extremism with which Tunisia and its neighbors must contend. Tunisia's budget has the right priorities. Defense spending is reduced. Education is a top priority, and it is reflected in Tunisia's 60 percent literacy rate.

Tunisia still has some distance to go in achieving a full democracy and full protection of human rights. This year's Department of State human rights report notes that some serious problems remain. The government continued to stifle freedoms of speech, press, and association. Some improvement on human rights has occurred, and I hope that Tunisia will take note of these concerns and address them in a positive way in the months ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in saluting Tunisia for its moderation, its leadership, and its continued strong partnership with the United States. I hope that United States-Tunisian relations continue to expand and deepen and that Tunisia continues to grow as a leader in promoting peace, stability, and economic and political openness.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH BIRTHDAY OF JAMES J. MANCINI

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to pay tribute to my good friend, Ocean County Freeholder and long-time mayor of Long Beach Township, James J. Mancini.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Freeholder Jim Mancini, as chairman of the Ocean County Office on Aging, serves the largest senior population in the State of New Jersey. Ocean County's nutrition sites, transportation programs for the elderly and senior outreach programs are considered among the finest in our State. Freeholder Mancini has worked closely with me through the years in our effort to preserve and protect such programs as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. His support has been invaluable.

As liaison to the Ocean County Library Commission, Freeholder Mancini has worked tirelessly to expand the system to 17 branches throughout the county.

A former member of New Jersey's General Assembly, he continues to serve as mayor of Long Beach Township, a position he has held for 28 years. This dedicated public servant also serves as chairman of the board of Southern Ocean County Hospital and as vice president of the Long Beach Island St. Francis Community Center. The civic associations to which he has devoted many hours are too numerous to mention.

All these associations and activities were carried out while always putting his wife, Madeline, and their nine children first.

The residents of Long Beach Township pay him a great tribute by dedicating their municipal facility in his honor and name.

Jim Mancini represents what is so very good about our country—he is an honorable man, a family man, a man who is willing to go the extra mile for what is right. He has proven the point of the old saying, "If you want something done, give the job to a busy person."

I offer him my personal thanks and the gratitude of all those he has so faithfully served throughout the years.

As he celebrates his 70th birthday among family and friends, I wish him all the best that life can offer.

GREECE AND THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 25, we will once again be celebrating the anniversary of the beginning of the effort by the Greek people to liberate themselves from oppression. Every year, I join with some of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to make special note of this occasion. We do this because we recognize that it is absolutely vital that citizens of democratic nations the world over do not take the freedom we enjoy for granted.

On March 25, 1829, Greek patriots began their struggle for freedom and independence from the Ottoman Empire. Though the intervening years have been filled with trials and tribulations, the ultimate success of democracy in Greece is a testament to the courage and fortitude of her people.

Throughout world history, freedom of expression, of assembly, of government elected by the people, have been the exception rather than the rule. The concept of democratic government established by Greece laid the foundation for the most promising alternative to the autocratic forms of government that have pre-

dominated for much of history. From the Homeric tradition to Alexander, through the birth of the Socratic method, Aristotelian logic and countless artistic and architectural endeavors, the Greek people have left an indelible impression on civilization.

I am proud, once again, to congratulate the Greek people on their monumental achievement. Democracy has persevered against many threats to its continued existence. That is why it is important that we recognize this date every year. In national cemeteries across the Nation as well as those in foreign lands lie thousands of Americans who gave their lives so that the shining light of freedom would not be extinguished. That light was lit in Greece. It is proper that we recognize the occasion of Greek Independence Day. From it was the ideal of America borne.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FALLS CHURCH NEWS-PRESS ON ITS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, the local newspaper of any town is a very important link in the community, from praising the town athlete to reporting the events of the big city, it allows the neighborhood to keep an open communication. It is that communication that maintains the character of the community and loyalty of the residents.

Today I rise to applaud one such paper that provides the communication lines of a city in my district, the Falls Church News-Press. The News-Press is celebrating 5 years of service as a definitive link in the community.

This paper's commitment to the city of Falls Church is underscored by its many awards and accomplishments. In 1991, it was honored by the Falls Church City Council and named recipient of the Council's Business of the Year.

The News-Press helped initiate, and testified on behalf of, legislation passed in the Virginia General Assembly in 1992 that set out criteria for nonpaid distribution newspapers to carry official legal notices. Subsequently, the News-Press became the first newspaper in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia to receive court authorization to publish official legal notices as a nonpaid distribution newspaper. As a result, the News-Press was the first nonpaid distribution newspaper in the history of the Commonwealth to be accepted as a full, voting member of the Virginia Press Association.

The News-Press' owner/editor-in-chief, Nicholas Benton, served 2 years as president of the Greater Falls Church Chamber of Commerce and was the recipient of the Chamber's Pillar of the Community Award in 1992.

Please join me in wishing the Falls Church News-Press best wishes on their future endeavors.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND INDIA

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, Amnesty International recently issued a report called Amnesty International and India detailing India's violations of fundamental human rights.

On the very first page of this report, Amnesty International states that "violations such as torture, including rape, and deaths in custody remain endemic, and * * * political prisoners continue to face unfair trials." The report goes on to tell us that "human rights violations affect most segments of Indian society, with people from some groups, particularly the socially or economically disadvantaged, being particularly disadvantaged." The record bears this out. More than 150,000 Sikhs have been killed since 1984, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947 and in excess of 43,000 Moslems in Kashmir since 1988. Tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, and others have been killed, as have thousands of Dalits or black untouchables.

The amnesty report cites the extensive use of disappearances as a way to circumvent the rights of detainees. Records of detentions are not maintained, allowing the regime to claim that the detainee died in an encounter, a form of extrajudicial execution. "Thousands of people remain detained under the provisions of the now lapsed Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act," the report says. Many of us have spoken about the brutality of TADA. Amnesty reports that "torture of detainees in police and military custody remains endemic." According to the report, "the most common method of torture is beating with lathis (canes). Other methods included suspension by the wrist and electric shocks. Reports of rapes indicate that it is used as a method of torture." According to the report, "in 1995 at least 100 people died in the custody of police or security forces throughout India, as a result of torture and medical neglect."

In the face of this kind of repression, no Sikh ever signed India's constitution. Instead, the Sikh Nation reasserted its claim to freedom on October 7, 1987 by declaring the independent, sovereign nation of Khalistan. Many Sikhs who are working peacefully to free Khalistan are denied their human rights by India. Human rights groups estimate that more than 100,000 Sikhs have been tortured, raped, killed, or made to disappear. Another 70,000 languish in India prisons without charge or trial, according to human rights groups. According to Amnesty International, "lawyers and relatives are routinely denied access by police to people held in custody." The report tells us that "most torture and ill-treatment in India occurs during the first stage of detention in police custody, when access to outsiders is routinely denied."

Amnesty International sharply criticizes India for these repressive practices. "Whatever imperatives the Indian state has to maintain internal peace and security, the violation of rights protected by the Constitution of India as well as by human rights standards is avoidable," the report says. Strong action by free countries of the world is called for. There are two bills in the House that address these concerns. H.R. 1425, the Human Rights in India

Act, would cut off United States development aid to India until basic human rights are respected, and House Concurrent Resolution 32 calls for a plebiscite in India under international supervision to let the Sikh nation have a free and fair vote on its political future. The sooner we pass these bills, the sooner the people of South Asia can live in freedom, security, and dignity. I call upon my colleagues to pass these bills as soon as possible.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND INDIA

This report is an introduction to Amnesty International and its concerns in India. It answers basic questions about Amnesty International: its role as a non-governmental international human rights organization; its worldwide membership, its mandate for action, its campaigning methods; and its work and membership in India.

The bulk of the report deals with human rights violations that Amnesty International has documented in India over several decades. It shows that violations such as torture, including rape, and deaths in custody remain endemic, and that political prisoners continue to face unfair trials. It highlights a legal and judicial system that facilitates these and many other abuses, often allowing the perpetrators to act with impunity. Even the safeguards that do exist are regularly disregarded. The report also summarizes human rights abuses committed by armed opposition groups.

Human rights violations affect most sections of Indian society, with people from some groups, particularly the socially or economically disadvantaged, being especially vulnerable. In a complex society of approximately 920 million people, speaking dozens of languages and dialects, living in 25 states and seven union territories, not everyone has equal access to justice or an equal chance to be allowed to live in safety and with dignity.

TRIBUTE TO KIM PUTENS

HON. JAMES A. HAYES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation publicly for the excellent job that Kim Putens has done the last 3 years as executive director of the National Wetlands Coalition. Kim departed her position on March 15 to move to the next exciting professional chapter in her life.

The National Wetlands Coalition was formed in September 1989 by a broad cross-section of trade associations, companies, public entities, and individuals that are directly affected by the Federal Wetlands Regulatory Program, either because they own or live on land that is considered Federal jurisdictional wetlands or because they undertake economic activities that encounter wetlands. The group was formed to participate in the anticipated debate over how to achieve President Bush's goal of no overall net loss of wetlands. Longstanding concerns about the program, coupled with issuance of the 1989 manual that greatly broadened the description of lands that are Federal jurisdictional wetlands, expanded the debate to one over the entire wetlands permitting program under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Mr. Speaker, this House, on May 16, 1995, by a vote of 240 to 185, adopted a number of

reforms that are very similar to those that have been advocated by the National Wetlands Coalition since 1990. In fact, this was the first time since 1977 that either the House of Congress has adopted a comprehensive set of reforms of the section 404 program.

Kim Putens made a major contribution to the wetlands regulatory reform victory in the House. We all know that no victory on a major issue in the House of Representatives is achieved easily and without an enormous amount of work. There are 435 of us and our staffs to educate on the issues; there are innumerable inquiries to which to respond; there are press inquiries and the need to keep private sector coalition participants informed and coordinated in their activities. Obviously, Kim did all of these tasks successfully and for the first time in 18 years, a House of Congress took action on this controversial regulatory program.

Mr. Speaker, again I thank Kim for her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE
SERVICE DELIVERY TO VETERANS

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation to enable VA to provide health care to Medicare-eligible veterans who cannot now gain access to VA care.

The VA's health care system serves a veteran population made up almost exclusively of veterans whose eligibility for care is based either on their income or on their service-incurred disability. Under tight budgets that for years have not fully kept pace with rising health-care delivery costs, most VA facilities have shut their doors to veterans with income exceeding VA's means test—approximately \$21,000 in the case of a veteran without dependents. While eligible for VA care, these veterans have neither an entitlement to care nor sufficient priority to assure them access. Many, however, are former VA patients, locked out of a system on which they once depended. VA now provides care to only a small number of these individuals. In all, only 2 percent of VA's patients are higher income veterans.

While large numbers of veterans who routinely receive VA care are also Medicare-eligible, VA is barred under existing law from receiving Medicare reimbursement for their care. Veterans' advocates have, understandably, long bristled at what appears to be VA subsidization of the Medicare trust fund. This has prompted calls for legislation to reimburse VA for care provided Medicare-eligible non-service-connected veterans.

This bill provides for Medicare payments to VA only for higher income, Medicare-eligible veterans who are largely shut out of the VA system today. The bill would further limit the circumstances under which VA could receive Medicare payments—to covered veterans who enroll in a VA managed-care plan. My legislation would provide a long-sought avenue for former VA patients to regain access to VA care. At the same time, it could actually lower Medicare costs, as proposed in pending Medi-

care reforms, by encouraging numbers of Medicare beneficiaries to abandon the traditional fee-for-service Medicare Program in favor of enrollment in a lower cost managed-care plan administered by VA.

REMEMBERING THE TRAGEDY OF
THE "LEOPOLDVILLE"

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to pay tribute to 802 brave American soldiers who lost their lives while defending freedom during World War II. Until recently, the tragic story of the 66th Infantry Division remained untold in U.S. history. These men made the ultimate sacrifice for their country and are worthy of a much greater tribute than the statistics or the footnotes in history books that have already been granted to them. As the worst troopship loss in World War II, and the third worst naval disaster in U.S. history, the story of the sinking of the *Leopoldville* deserves full recognition.

On Christmas Eve, 1944, 2,235 American soldiers were crossing the English Channel as reinforcements to fight in the Battle of the Bulge, when their Belgian troopship, the *Leopoldville*, was torpedoed and sunk 5½ miles from Cherbourg, France. The result was a tremendous loss of lives—almost one-third of the division was killed. There were 493 bodies that were never recovered from the English Channel. Most of the soldiers who lost their lives were young boys, from 18 to 20 years old, barely out of high school. They represented 46 out of the 48 States that were part of the Union at the time.

However, the most tragic and troubling part of this story is the American public's general ignorance of the facts. All of us, and particularly the family members of the lost soldiers, should be told the full story of their loved ones' valiant efforts in their fight to preserve democracy.

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and honoring those that gave their lives in protecting the ideals that all Americans cherish. I would also like to remind my colleagues that this story should hold a special place in ever State's history. Simply put, the 802 soldiers that lost their lives deserve the proper respect and remembrance for their sacrifice, and those that survived need to be recognized for their valor.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF
FREDERICK MCKINNEY

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Frederick McKinney, who died on March 2 in Decatur, IL, at the age of 66. Frederick lived a full life, giving not only to his family and friends, but to his country and community. I would like to send my condolences to his wife, Louise, as well as to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild, and let them know that the city of Decatur has lost a dear friend.

Originally from Chicago, Frederick served in numerous capacities, beginning with the Army during the Korean conflict from 1951 to 1952. He worked for A.E. Staley Manufacturing Co. as a draftsman for 25 years, retiring in 1992. His dedication to Decatur society was vigorous, including over 3 years as president of the Decatur Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [NAACP], in which time he pushed hard for increased minority hiring by the Decatur School Board and was a tireless proponent of affirmative action. Frederick was an integral part of St. Peter's African Methodist/Episcopal Church, where he sang in the senior and male choirs, served as secretary of the trustees department, was in charge of black history, and participated in the official board of the church.

Mr. Speaker, Frederick touched lives in his various roles, and it is obvious that he cared a great deal not only for his immediate circle of acquaintances, but tried to spread good works to all he could. This kind of love and commitment to community is not as prevalent as it should be, and I am grateful that Decatur had such a role model as Frederick for so many years. Frederick has been described as "effective and forceful" without being loud and antagonistic." I would ask that we all try to emulate his example. I am proud to have represented Frederick in the U.S. Congress, and I will remember the way he represented the city of Decatur.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN
THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I am offering an amendment to H.R. 2202, the Immigration in the National Interest Act, as part of this en bloc amendment to correct an injustice done to the Polish community during the 1995 diversity visa process.

During the visa lottery, the State Department committed an error which resulted in 49,895 Poles being notified that they were eligible for visas. These individuals were not told that a maximum of 3,850 visas were available, or how many of their countrymen they were competing against. Thousands sent in the \$130 fee, only to be denied a visa.

For all other nationalities, approximately two to four times as many applicants were notified as there were visas distributed. More than 12 times as many Poles were notified than the quantity of visas designated for this nationality.

The State Department's error was completely preventable and never should have occurred. Therefore, my amendment would require the Department of State to refund the \$130 fee paid by the thousands of Polish applicants who did not receive a visa. In addition, the Department would be required to review and revise its procedures to ensure that this type of situation does not happen again—to Poles or anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in pursuing justice for the thousands of Poles who were the victims of this bureau-

cratic bungle. I urge a vote in support of this en bloc amendment.

TRIBUTE TO TRINITY ASSEMBLY
CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Trinity Assembly Church in Algood, TN, on recent completion of their new Sanctuary Complex. In the life of a church and a community, this is a monumental event. It is a testament to the years of hard work and dedication of this congregation.

The completion of the new sanctuary complex is not only of great benefit to the congregation at Trinity Assembly, but to the entire community of Algood. This new facility greatly enhances the ability of Trinity to conduct community outreach. This complex will allow Trinity to provide greater counseling and help to those in need.

Trinity Assembly was established in 1966 by Rev. W.F. Carlile. In 1983 there were 40 parishioners. Now, only 13 years later, there are over 1,200 parishioners at Trinity Assembly. The current pastor of Trinity, Eddie Turner, has displayed an expertise in leadership that is to be commended. His hard work and devotion has been instrumental in the growth and prosperity of this church. It is a credit to the entire community that this church has experienced such phenomenal success.

I offer my best wishes for many more years of growth to the congregation of Trinity Assembly.

AMERICAN RED CROSS: MEETING
THE TEST OF A TOUGH WINTER
IN RHODE ISLAND

HON. JACK REED

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. REED. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to let my colleagues know about the outstanding work of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross during the terrible winter of 1995-96.

Even though spring is now officially here, it will be a long time before Rhode Islanders forget this past winter.

The harsh weather shattered all previous records for Rhode Island winters. We had the heaviest cumulative snowfall in recorded Rhode Island history, 93.2 inches; 75.6 inches was the previous record. Starting with last November 13, Rhode Island had 37 days of snowfall, with 11 major snowstorms rolling through our State.

In addition to the harsh weather, this past winter has also brought terrible environmental and human tragedy to Rhode Island.

On January 19, the oil barge *North Cape* ran aground on a southern Rhode Island beach, spilling over 800,000 gallons of home heating oil into our State's pristine coastal environment. Once this disaster began, it set into motion an emergency response and cleanup

process that lasted days and involved over 1,000 Federal, State and local officials, private contractors, and U.S. Coast Guard personnel.

In terms of human tragedy, this past winter has been a season of terrible home fires in Rhode Island. According to the office of Rhode Island's Fire Marshal, the winter of 1995-96 was a time when the loss of life and destruction of property in Rhode Island due to fire showed a marked increase over previous years.

The one constant throughout all of Rhode Island's winter hardship was the hard work of the staff and volunteers of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross.

The Red Cross was there during all the winter storms. When a snow plow hit an electrical transformer, knocking out power to a Bristol nursing home, the Red Cross helped evacuate the nursing home residents. When Pawtucket snow removal crews working round-the-clock needed cots to rest on before going back out on the road, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross got it done.

The Red Cross was also there during the *North Cape* oilspill. Throughout the cleanup, 110 Rhode Island Red Cross Chapter volunteers were on the scene providing over 8,500 meals, enabling work crews to stay at their jobs from sunup to sundown.

And the Red Cross was there for all of Rhode Island's tragic winter fires. From last November until the end of winter, the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross helped an estimated 400 Rhode Islanders get back on their feet after a total of 125 fires.

It is in the aftermath of a fire that Rhode Island's Red Cross Chapter provides perhaps its most valuable ongoing service to our State. Last year, 26 Rhode Islanders died as a result of fire. When this tragedy does occur, the Red Cross is there with counseling for survivors and for emergency response crews. The volunteers and staff of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross also provide food, shelter, and clothing—often in the middle of the night—for Rhode Islanders whose homes have been destroyed by fire.

The Rhode Island Chapter of American Red Cross performs all these tasks, with a small staff, a very limited budget and an army of dedicated volunteers. I commend the chairman of the board of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross, Richard Moore, its executive director, Barbara G. DeCesare, and the entire staff of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American Red Cross, for all their hard work. Most of all, I would like to thank all of Rhode Island's Red Cross volunteers, for helping our State make it through a difficult winter.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN
THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, as the House of Representatives begins debate on our comprehensive immigration bill today, I would like to focus on the human costs of our current immigration policy to highlight our most compelling argument for reform.

I grew up in San Diego County, who can actually see our neighbors across our border with Mexico from his own backyard, I brought a unique perspective from San Diego to Washington when elected to Congress.

Specifically, I was interested in educating Washington about its failed immigration policies, and the financial costs and human tragedies that these policies produced.

I would like to enter into the RECORD the following news articles from my hometown paper, The San Diego Union Tribune. These are headlines that me and my constituents see every day. The news stories are a common occurrence, appearing with the same predictable regularity as our weather reports.

Let me read you a few.

From March 29, 1995: "Fall kills border agent in foot chase."

From May 5, 1995: "Alien smugglers are packing cars for perilous treks."

From January 26, 1996: "Border crosser, told to pack no provisions, dies in mountains."

From February 22, 1996: "31 immigrants caught in stolen vehicles."

And just this morning: "Immigrant-document counterfeiting plant raided; 12 arrested."

Most illegals who enter our country are seeking a better life, however, this motivation leaves them vulnerable. In San Diego, illegals will literally risk life and limb running up I-5 during rush hour traffic.

Illegals crossing the Mexico border starve before losing their way, or die of exposure in the mountains. We hear constant reports of the horrific, filthy, inhumane conditions they endure at the hands of smugglers, or "coyotes."

Alien smugglers make money from their human cargo, and often entangle drug smuggling and other criminal activities in this enterprise. Illegal aliens are robbed and murdered; women and girls are brutally raped and abused by those involved in this insidious activity.

As someone who grew up on our border with Mexico, someone who has pulled the corpses of illegals who drowned trying to cross the Tijuana River, I would like to tell you that this country's immigration system is broken, as these tales of tragedy and loss illustrate.

I hope that our debate does not focus on intentions. Those who seek a better life in the United States should not be vilified.

However, we must remove the attractive nuisance of public benefits which are available to illegal immigrants; we must give employers a way to verify the legal status of new employees, we must eliminate the backlog of legal immigrants waiting to be granted access—those who wish to abide by our laws but are frustrated by the pace of assimilation, and thus inclined to break the law to enter the United States.

These are the distorted set of incentives that current immigration law has created.

These distorted incentives reward those who break our laws, and frustrate those who wish to abide by them.

Our current immigration system antagonizes and is contradictory to the very basis of the American dream. The American dream is based upon freedom and hard work.

However, if those who wish to be American citizens enter our country illegally, they cannot expect to enjoy the benefits of our freedom; they cannot legally work to support them-

selves and their families; therefore they cannot hope to leave a better future for their children.

I hope that my colleagues will join with me to reform our immigration laws to create a more compassionate system, and eliminate the incentives in our current laws which cause so much suffering.

IMMIGRANT-DOCUMENT COUNTERFEITING PLANT RAIDED; 12 ARRESTED

(By Leonel Sanchez)

SAN YSIDRO.—U.S. Border Patrol agents brought down a one-stop illegal immigration service operating out of an apartment here yesterday, confiscating more than 3,000 fake documents.

Agents arrested 12 people at the apartment and seized material used to make phony immigration documents, including "several official Mexican and United States immigration seals and stamps," a Border Patrol spokesman said.

The noontime raid came as illegal border crossings in the San Diego area were on the increase. A phony legal U.S. residence card, also known as a "green card," can cost up to \$500, Border Patrol spokesman Jim Pilkington said.

"Our agents disrupted a substantial and sophisticated false-document ring and dealt a serious blow to a very sophisticated organization," Pilkington said.

He said the investigation continues and more arrests are expected.

The raid followed a two-month investigation by agents assigned to "Operation Wildcat," which targets smugglers in San Ysidro.

Agents hit pay dirt when they executed a search warrant at an unidentified apartment near Interstate 5. They found eight men and women who had recently crossed the border illegally and were waiting to be transported north. Pilkington said they were to be deported.

The four others arrested at the apartment were U.S. citizens and legal U.S. residents. At least three of them are facing felony charges of immigrant smuggling and counterfeiting.

Agents initially reported finding only 200 phony documents in the apartment but later said they found many more in different places.

In all, they found 2,000 immigration documents, including Mexican passports; travel permits; border crossing, legal residency and work authorization cards; and California driver licenses.

Agents also seized \$5,000, four cellular phones and special scissors, glue, "and numerous photographs" that were to be material to make fake documents.

FALL KILLS BORDER AGENT IN FOOT CHASE

(By Leonel Sanchez)

A midnight dash after illegal immigrants cost a Border Patrol rookie his life yesterday. It was the first local death in the agency in 20 years.

The agent, Luis A. Santiago, 30, fell from a steep cliff while chasing a group of people near a dam in Otay Lakes.

"It was just a tragic accident that could have happened to any of our officers," said local Border Patrol Chief Johnny Williams. "It points to the dangers of doing this job." Sheriff's and Border Patrol investigators said Santiago's death was accidental.

It comes at a time when the Border Patrol is cracking down on illegal immigration along San Diego County's border with Mexico, where more illegal crossings occur than anywhere else along the 2,000-mile international boundary. Part of that crackdown has included an unprecedented influx of rookie agents fresh from the agency's training academy in Georgia.

Santiago was among 279 new agents who have arrived here since the October start of Operation Gatekeeper.

The ex-military man had been on the force less than 10 months, the past six at the Chula Vista station. Agents at the station patrol the area east of Heritage Road, which in recent months has become the sector's hot spot for illegal crossings.

A concentration of agents to the west had shifted the illicit traffic in their direction.

At 12:40 a.m. yesterday, Santiago and three other agents—including a training officer—were patrolling a canyon area near Lower Otay Reservoir when they saw a group of 15 to 20 illegal border crossers.

The people scattered when they saw the agents approaching. Santiago raced up a canyon rim after some of them, leaving his fellow agents behind.

The area on top has grass that quickly gives way to loose rocks.

That time of the morning, the grass is quite damp from dew and slippery," Williams said. "He tried to step around a rock and lost his foothold."

Santiago fell at least 100 feet down a hill with jagged rocks.

The other agents heard a scream and rushed to find him.

He was lying about 150 yards south of the dam. They immediately tried to resuscitate him.

Soon they were joined by paramedics. But they, too, were unable to revive him.

He died from head injuries, Border Patrol spokeswoman Ann Summers said.

Agents apprehended at least two illegal crossers in the canyon, but they could not be linked to the group that Santiago was chasing. They were expected to be deported.

Santiago was to have completed the 10-month training period next week and then would have been eligible to take a two-hour written and oral examination to become a permanent Border Patrol agent.

He lived in Chula Vista and is survived by family members in his native Puerto Rico.

Human rights activists have questioned whether the agency in its haste to deploy agents on the line rapidly, is allowing sufficient training time.

Border Patrol officials defended the training, saying safety is stressed at all times.

"No one is going to do anything to endanger their life or anybody else's life, not intentionally," Summers said.

New recruits spend four months at an academy in Glynco, Ga., where they undergo weapon training and study Spanish and immigration law.

Afterward, they are sent to one of the agency's sectors for an additional six months of training. They are teamed up with experienced agents and learn about the area's terrain, particularly the key paths used by the illegal crossers.

Santiago was the first agent in the sector to die in the line of duty since Glenn A. Phillips was killed in a vehicle accident on the border in July 1974.

And he was the second agent to die on the job this year along the southern border. An agent was killed in a vehicle accident while patrolling in south Texas, officials said.

The mood among agents in the San Diego sector was somber yesterday. It was in stark contrast to the previous day, when morale ran high as 45 new agents arrived.

The U.S. flag flew at half-staff at the sector's headquarters in San Ysidro, and agents wore black ribbons around their badges.

Agents usually worry more about confrontations with illegal crossers than about falling while running, said Brent Johnson, 33, who has been on the force eight years.

"You can prepare yourself for the confrontations, but there's little you can do to

prevent an unforeseen accident," Johnson said.

Most of the serious injuries involve vehicle accidents on hilly and bumpy roads. Agents also pay a physical price while running after the crossers.

"Sometimes it's just a sprained ankle, a stubbed toe, a broken finger, scrapes and cuts," Summers said. "It's not uncommon for agents to get injured, seriously injured. We've been fairly lucky."

BORDER FUGITIVE PLUNGES TO DEATH

(By Stacy Finz)

Repeating a tragedy in the dark, a man trying to evade a U.S. Border Patrol agent plunged to his death and five other men were injured when they ran off a 120-foot cliff near Otay Lakes Dam Saturday night.

The cliff is about 50 yards from the place where a Border Patrol agent fell to his death last year while chasing illegal border crossers.

The FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office are investigating Saturday's events because of reports that the agent may have fired his gun, panicking the group.

The agent, whose name has not been released, has denied firing his weapon. He has been assigned to administrative duty pending the outcome of the investigation.

Robert Walsh, the FBI special agent in charge of the San Diego office, said the agent's gun is being tested to determine whether it was fired.

At a press conference yesterday, Border Patrol Chief Johnny Williams said the agent was near Otay Lakes Dam when he spotted a group of 15 suspected illegal crossers and hid in the brush until they passed.

He began tailing the group, and then ordered them to stop, said Border Patrol spokesman Ron Henley.

Nine complied. Six broke into a run, Williams said.

Shortly thereafter, the agent heard cries and screams and found that the six men had fallen off a sheer cliff, Williams said.

"We see a lot of things in the course of our duty," said Henley, who helped give medical aid to the injured men. "But to see this was like seeing a herd of cattle that had just fallen off a cliff."

Henley said the men apparently didn't see the rugged drop, which is filled with boulders and jagged rocks. The incident happened about 9:40 p.m., according to the Border Patrol.

An agent also was injured in the rescue operation and was taken out of the area by helicopter.

Four of the injured men have been released from area hospitals and are being questioned, Williams said. They, and the nine men who surrendered, are being held on suspicion of entering this country illegally.

Officials would not release their names, but said they are men in their 20s and 30s who came from all parts of Mexico.

U.S. Attorney Alan Bersin said smugglers should be blamed for Saturday's death. Officials said they believe the 15 men paid a minimum of \$300 each to a guide, who brought them to the isolated area, only about four miles from the border.

"The people who led these people here, and one man to his death, have to be dealt with," Bersin said. "As a matter of public safety we must stop the smuggling of human beings. These people are profiting off the misery of others' poverty."

Bersin praised agents for what he called bringing law back to the border. Regarding the investigation into whether the agent fired his gun, Bersin said: "Allegations are just allegations at this point."

Saturday night's incident was reminiscent of rookie Agent Luis Santiago's fall to his

death last March, when he slipped from a cliff while chasing a group of suspected illegal crossers near the Lower Otay Reservoir. Santiago, 30, had raced up a canyon rim after them and plunged 100 feet down a hill with jagged rocks.

No warning signs have been erected since the first accident.

31 IMMIGRANTS CAUGHT IN STOLEN VEHICLES

(By Maria C. Hunt)

Thirty-one illegal immigrants who caught a ride through the East County in stolen vehicles were captured by authorities in two separate operations early yesterday.

Those apprehended by the Border Patrol and other authorities were sent back to Mexico voluntarily after the incidents that began in Dulzura and Pine Valley.

While it is not uncommon for Border Patrol agents to capture that many in two hours, a spokesman said they usually don't see vehicles so crammed with people.

"The fact that they were all in stolen vehicles, that's unusual," said spokesman Mark Moody. "And they both came out of East County. That's where everything is taking place."

Border Patrol agents working near the pine Valley Road exit of Interstate 8 pulled behind a suspicious pickup truck and tried to get it to stop about 5 a.m. When the driver did not comply, the agents ended the pursuit for safety reasons. They had lost sight of the truck for a few minutes when they spotted a cloud of dust ahead.

The truck had left the road and hit a guard rail of the Pine Valley creek bridge, coming to rest on the other side of the barrier. About 13 people got out of the truck and waited while agents went down the embankment to chase a few people who had tried to hide in the brush.

When the agents returned, a sheriff's deputy helped them extinguish a fire that had started in the truck. None of the 17 people captured needed medical treatment, Moody said. Although most of the people in the truck, which had been reported stolen from San Diego, were captured, authorities were unable to identify the driver.

About an hour later, Border Patrol agents arrested 14 people who had been traveling in a double-horse trailer pulled by a pickup truck, said spokesman Jim Pilkington.

Shortly after the truck was stolen from the owner's front yard around 6 a.m., someone drove it through the Highway 94 checkpoint without stopping. Agents in a marked Border Patrol car tried to get the westbound truck to stop, but the driver kept going, so they ended the chase.

Undercover agents were following at a safe distance as the truck drove onto northbound Interstate 805 and pulled to the median near Murray Ridge Road, Pilkington said. When the truck stopped, about 30 people spilled out of the trailer and truck and scattered across the freeway.

While 14 of those people were apprehended, the rest got away.

None was hit by cars and no collisions occurred.

BORDER CROSSER, TOLD TO PACK NO PROVISIONS, DIES IN MOUNTAINS

(By Leonel Sanchez)

ALPINE.—The medical examiner said José Luis Centeno died of natural causes.

But it was probably his ordeal in the East County mountains that killed the 35-year-old Mexican on Wednesday.

He was among a group of illegal border crossers whose smugglers told them not to pack any food or water because they would be hiking for only five hours, the Border Patrol said.

Centeno and a friend became separated from the group and spent four days wandering in the rugged mountains, where overnight temperatures dipped near freezing.

Border Patrol agents found the two men by the side of Japatul Road near Hidden Glen before dawn Wednesday.

Centeno was having difficulty breathing and went into cardiac arrest.

Paramedics tried to revive him, but he was pronounced dead an hour after being found.

His friend, Demetrio Moreno Esquivel, was interviewed later by the Mexican Consulate, but information on his whereabouts was not available yesterday.

Centeno died in a mountain area where agents from the Campo station are increasingly making arrests.

Campo agents made 2,735 arrests last month, compared with 853 in December 1994.

The Border Patrol's crackdown in the Imperial Beach area has deliberately pushed the illegal immigrant traffic east of the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

Thus, illegal border crossers are being forced to find new routes to enter the United States.

Some have paid the ultimate price.

On Saturday, a still unidentified illegal border crosser was killed when he and five others ran off a cliff near a dam near Otay Lakes while trying to elude a Border Patrol agent. A second man suffered head injuries and was in a coma yesterday at UCSD Medical Center.

In East County, agents said, they routinely find illegal border crossers who have been hiking for days to reach a point where they are picked up for their journey north.

Most carry food and water with them and do not suffer tragic consequences, said Jim Pilkington, a spokesman for the Border Patrol.

ALIEN SMUGGLERS ARE PACKING CARS FOR PERILOUS TREK

(By Leonel Sanchez)

The weekend crash that killed three people and injured 16 in Jamul has highlighted a dangerous trend in the smuggling of illegal immigrants through East County.

Smugglers are recklessly crowding people into vehicles and taking them on perilous rides on windy mountain roads in Jamul, Dulzura, Tecate and Campo.

"They don't care how they pack them in. All they care about is the money," said U.S. Border Patrol spokeswoman Ann Summers.

The Jamul crash underscored the risks illegal immigrants take to get North.

Thirty-six people were crammed in the Ford van that struck a pickup truck Saturday night on state Route 94. The crash killed the pickup driver and two van riders.

Agents were not surprised by what happened.

They have been seeing large groups of illegal immigrants, sometimes up to 100, congregated in the desolate stretches in East County near the border.

Many cross on foot, jumping or going around the steel fence near the Tecate border crossing, then board a van or truck waiting nearby to take them to Los Angeles. They pay as much as \$375 apiece.

In East County, state Route 94 has become the smugglers' preferred route to get to major roads and freeways, where they can blend into traffic.

From Tecate, state Route 94 leads to Jamacha, Otay Lakes, Honey Springs and Buckman Springs roads.

Guides familiar with the area's mountainous terrain are in heavy demand as are smugglers with access to large vehicles.

East County mountain residents are feeling the impact of the new traffic and are complaining to authorities.

Border Patrol officials have met with residents and re to meet again May 15 at the Dulzura Community Center.

"We've told them we're concerned about it too and are getting resources there to deal with the problem," Summers said.

Overtime pay has been approved for more agents to work in East County, she said.

Illegal crossings have risen there mostly because the U.S. Border Patrol has been effective in stopping illegal traffic farther west in the Imperial Beach-San Ysidro area.

Arrest records for the past seven months show the illegal crossing hot spots now are near Chula Vista, Brown Field, El Cajon and Campo.

Arrests in Imperial Beach were down 52 percent in April compared with the same month last year from 23,855 to 11,348, according to records.

Elsewhere in the 66-mile-wide sector, arrests continued to soar.

Arrests in Chula Vista, Broken Field and El Cajon rose 34 percent, 126 percent and 824 percent, respectively, in April compared with the same period last year.

* * * * *

Arrests were down from March, however, when 61,687 were made.

Immigration officials maintain that their strategy is working because the illegal traffic is shifting east to isolated areas where they are easier to apprehend.

Officials said they anticipated illegal crossings going up during the first quarter of the year because of seasonal labor patterns. The devaluation of the Mexican peso also has been a factor.

Would-be crossers are still arriving in Tijuana to probe the border there or hook up with a smuggler. Many now end up walking or riding to the border area in East County, said the CHP's Summers.

Some are trying to enter through the desert area near Calexico. In past summers, people have gotten lost there and died.

In East County, meanwhile, smugglers appear to be brazen and reckless in their attempt to move their human cargo north. Agents are foiling their trips near the border and as far north as Temecula.

In the past month, agents at that southern Riverside County check-point have intercepted five vehicles loaded with illegal immigrants, something that's relatively rare there.

The most recent happened hours apart Tuesday when agents found 97 illegal immigrants in two rental trucks. Agents found one of the trucks on the median of Interstate 15 with 38 people aboard.

In April, agents found a rental truck abandoned in De Luz Road in Fallbrook. Inside were 48 illegal immigrants. Three women who had fainted were treated for heat exhaustion and dehydration.

HONORING FRANK MOORE ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Frank Moore, a longtime resident of the 19th Congressional District of Pennsylvania, on his 100th birthday. Mr. Moore celebrated this momentous occasion surrounded by his loving family and many friends on March 4, 1996.

Mr. Moore was born in 1896 in Waynesboro, PA, and has lived in York since he was

6 years old. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during the First World War. A graduate of York High School, he married Emma Goodling. Their children blessed them with three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Mr. Moore's life has borne witness to world-changing events of the twentieth century. His life has been guided by important values: strong religious belief and work ethic, dedication and service to his country, respect for himself and others, and love of his family. He most certainly is a role model for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to honor Mr. Moore today. I pray God will grant him many more happy and healthy years. Happy birthday, Frank.

HONORING ALVARADO MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. JAY KIM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and salute Principal Hunt and the teachers and students of Alvarado Intermediate School in Rowland Heights for having been awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

Blue ribbon awards honor 266 secondary, middle, and junior high schools around the country for showing exceptional dedication to providing a top notch education to its students. Alvarado Middle School was the only school in the 41st district to achieve this special honor. Blue ribbon schools must show strong leadership, a clear vision and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school, high quality teaching, a challenging up-to-date curriculum, policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning, a solid commitment to parental involvement, and evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards.

Alvarado Intermediate School was selected through a highly competitive process in which State education departments, the Department of Defense Dependent Schools, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Council for American Private Education nominate schools which best meet the superior standards of the award. The selected schools are then visited and reviewed by a panel of 100 outstanding members of the education community. This panel then makes final recommendations to the U.S. Secretary of Education. Alvarado intermediate will be honored this spring at a national ceremony in Washington, DC where the school will be given a plaque and a special flag to fly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Alvarado Intermediate School for its uncommon dedication to preparing its students for the challenges they will face growing up in and around Los Angeles County. Behind this Blue Ribbon Award is a dedicated group of faculty, students, and staff whose commitment to education is an example for schools around the country to follow.

TRIBUTE TO MILWAUKEE'S COMMUNITY BRAINSTORMING CONFERENCE

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is with pride today that I celebrate an important event that will take place in the city of Milwaukee. On Friday, March 22, the Community Brainstorming Conference [CBC] of Milwaukee will gather to celebrate its 10th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the outstanding achievements of this remarkable coalition of leaders from a great community.

In February 1986, Samuel L. Johnson and Reuben K. Harpole, Jr., invited 13 people to a meeting at Saint Matthew's CME Church to discuss a series of vital issues facing Milwaukee's African-American community. The meeting was highly productive, and it was decided that a public forum of community activists should convene on the fourth Saturday of each month. The rest is history, and the CBC continues to fulfill its mission to this very day.

From day one, the CBC has represented the essence of grassroots political participation, and has made a significant impact at the local, State, and national level. Beyond the political arena, the CBC is actively engaged in a wide array of activities. In 1994, the CBC is actively engaged in a wide array of activities. In 1994, the CBC created its foundation to tap the creative talents of African-Americans, especially the young people in our community. To build on this progress, the CBC is moving aggressively to create new scholarship and fellowship opportunities.

Having personally taken part in CBC meetings and projects on many occasions, I can personally attest to its unflinching and dedicated membership. The men and women of the CBC consistently rise above and beyond the call of duty to make our community a better place to live. I am proud to have worked with the CBC and have come to rely on the policy expertise and good counsel of its membership. As we rapidly approach the 21st century, we need the CBC's voice today more than ever before.

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Milwaukee's Community Brainstorming Conference. I join with the city of Milwaukee in wishing this outstanding organization a happy 10th anniversary, and wish the CBC continued success in our community.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MAX WRIGHT

HON. ANDREW JACOBS, JR.

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. JACOBS. Mr. Speaker, as can be seen by the following, Max Wright was a superlative human being. He was a minister of the gospel, a labor leader, an auctioneer and a delightful musician. The loss of Max Wright is a loss to us all.

MAX WRIGHT HAD WORKED WITH AFL-CIO
Max F. Wright, 80, Beech Grove, a retired labor leader, Church of Christ minister, singer and auctioneer, died March 15.

He was secretary-treasurer of the Indiana State AFL-CIO from 1958 until his retirement in 1985.

"The death of Max Wright is a loss for all citizens of Indiana." Gov. Evan Bayh said in a statement. "Max was a pillar of the union movement in our state . . . He was a constant advocate of worker causes for his entire career."

Chuck Deppert, president of the Indiana State AFL-CIO, said Mr. Wright dedicated his life to helping others.

"He did everything he could to help you with your problem," Deppert said, "That's the way I'll remember him."

A sheet metal worker by trade, Mr. Wright was elected business agent of Sheet Metal Workers Local 7 in Terre Haute in 1943. He served in that capacity until being elected to the state labor position 15 years later.

After he retired, he was given the title secretary-treasurer emeritus, and the AFL-CIO state headquarters's in Indianapolis was named after him.

As a minister, Mr. Wright preached to Church of Christ congregations throughout Indian. He was a member and elder of Fountain Square Church of Christ, and he was a former elder at Farmersburg Church of Christ. As a gospel music singer, he performed with the Melody Boys Quartet.

Mr. Wright also was a licensed auctioneer. He was active in the sale of livestock at 4-H exhibitions, including the Sullivan and Vigo county fairs.

He served on numerous civic and public boards and commissions, including the Indiana Employment Security Board, Indiana Vocational Education Board, Ivy Tech State College board, Goodwill industries, the Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Indiana board and executive committee, the Maryvale Senior Citizens Retirement Home, Indiana Council on Economic Education, Indiana Emergency Training Committee, Governor's Youth Unemployment Committee, Indiana Private Industry Council and Indiana Council on Aging.

He also was Indiana's delegate to the White House Conference on Aging in 1961, 1971 and 1981.

Mr. Wright received the City of Hope's "Spirit of Life" award in 1974. He was named Sagamore of the Wabash by Govs. Matthew Welsh, Edgar Whitcomb, Otis Bowen, Robert Orr and Bayh.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Max F. Wright Memorial Education Fund, c/o Citizens Bank of Central Indiana, Greenwood.

Services: 1 p.m. March 18 in Fountain Square Church of Christ. Calling: 2 to 9 p.m. March 17 in Little & Sons Funeral Home, Stop 11 Road, and from noon to 1 p.m. March 18 in the church.

Survivors: wife Lanore Elwood Wright; children Diane Hauser, Marcia Payne, John M., David J., Lloyd Wright; brother Leo Paul Wright, sister Marietta Riggs Schumann, 15 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren.

FISCAL YEAR 1996 OMNIBUS
APPROPRIATIONS BILL

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud my colleagues in the Senate for adding by voice vote an amend-

ment to the fiscal year 1996 omnibus appropriations bill that repeals the requirement that all HIV-positive members of the military be dismissed. In a show of bipartisanship, the appropriations bill was passed by the Senate 79-21, and was supported by Senators CONNIE MACK, JOHN MCCAIN, and SAM NUNN among others.

The HIV provision, which was included in the fiscal year 1996 Defense authorization bill that was signed by the President on February 10, discharges within 6 months the 1,049 dedicated HIV-positive men and women who have been serving their country without fail for years. Half of these servicemembers are married and, on average, have served in the military for more than a decade.

This provision immediately cuts off health care benefits to the servicemembers' dependents. Therefore, this new policy will not only deprive many men and women of their livelihood, but will leave their families—their spouses and children—without health care.

All of the individuals who will be impacted by this provision are able to perform their jobs. They are senior officers, lawyers, computer specialists, intelligence officers, missile specialists, doctors, mechanics and others. Replacing them and retraining new servicemembers is not only unjust, it is inefficient.

This unnecessary measure was neither sought nor supported by the Department of Defense. Both the Assistant Secretary for Force Management Policy and the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel have stated that the provision would do nothing to improve military readiness while depriving the Armed Forces of experienced individuals who are ready and able to perform their assigned duties.

Furthermore, the number of servicemembers infected with HIV is small, comprising less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the active force. Current law already requires that such individuals be separated or retired when their condition makes them unfit to perform their duties.

This provision is unwise and unjust—it hurts not only those men and women who are serving our country with distinction but also their families. This provision kicks HIV-infected servicemembers when they are down and I hope that this body will follow the Senate's lead and repeal it.

TRIBUTE TO NEW YORK CITY
MAYOR ABE BEAME ON HIS 90TH
BIRTHDAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Honorable Abe Beame, Mayor of New York City and dedicated public servant. Today, March 20, 1996, we are happy to celebrate the 90th birthday of Mayor Beame and we remain forever grateful for his many years of service to New York City.

Abraham David Beame became New York City's first Jewish Mayor in a landslide election

in 1973. At the time he entered office, the City had a \$12 billion budget and \$1.5 billion deficit. At the end of his administration, in 1977, New York City had a cash surplus of \$250 million. Under his guidance, New York City also regained its reputation as a national center—it was the host to the Democratic National Convention and the Bicentennial's Operation Sail. During his tenure, he convinced the United States Open to remain in Flushing Meadows.

These successes are largely attributable to his many years of experience as the City's Budget Director and Comptroller. Because of the dire fiscal situation and Washington's refusal of support, Mayor Beame was forced to take drastic economic measures. Mayor Beame cut the City's spending by \$100 million, reduced the work force by 65,000, and he convinced the trustees of the five pensions funds to buy nearly \$4 million in New York City bonds. Such drastic measures, born of fiscal experience and skill and sound management procedures, returned New York City to the road to fiscal health.

Mayor Beame had begun his public service in 1946 with a position in the budget office of Mayor William O'Dwyer. He eventually rose to Budget Director and was later elected to the position of City Comptroller. Describing himself as a New Deal Liberal, Mayor Beame won the Democratic party nomination for Mayor in 1965, but was defeated by John Lindsay. It was not until 8 years later, in 1973, that Mayor Beame would declare victory and become the 104th Mayor of New York City.

Ninety years ago today, on March 20, 1906, Abraham David Beame was born in the East End of London. His parents were fleeing from Warsaw, Poland where his father had participated in an underground movement against the Russian Czar. They were en route to New York City, and the cold water tenement on Stanton Street in the Lower East Side, where Mayor Beame would spend his childhood.

While in the seventh grade at P.S. 160, Abe Beame began working after school in the paper factory where his father was foreman. He would continue working at the factory and contributing part of his paycheck to his parents throughout high school and while attending Baruch College at night. In February of 1928, the same month he graduated from college, Abe Beame married Mary Ingerman, whom he had met over a game of checkers at a gathering of the University Settlement, a community organization. The Beames moved to Brooklyn, where they had two sons and where they began a life heavily involved in City politics. Before joining Mayor O'Dwyer's budget office in 1946, Abe Beame was an accountant and public school teacher in Brooklyn, and a member of the Madison Democratic Club. Mary Beame was to remain devotedly at his side for 67 years. Since leaving office, Mayor Beame's commitment to public service has continued through his participation in dozens of philanthropic organizations that benefit the city and nation.

Today, on his 90th birthday, I am very pleased to recognize Mayor Abraham David Beame's contribution to the great City of New York and thereby to the Nation. I ask that my colleagues join with me in this celebration by paying tribute to his nearly 70 years of accomplishments and dedication to public service.

WAGES

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 20, 1996, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

WAGES

The issue of stagnant wages for American workers has moved to the top of the political agenda. It has become a leading issue in the 1996 presidential campaign, the focus of speeches by congressional leaders, and a prime topic for magazine covers and news features. Some believe that it will be the dominant national political issue in the U.S. for years to come.

The concern is understandable. Adjusted for inflation, the wages of middle-class Americans have basically not increased for years. People are working hard, being responsible, and trying to make things better for their families, yet they face rising prices and mounting bills and few increases in pay. They are holding second or third jobs, and both parents often must work, and that means less time for community involvement, reading to their kids, or Little League games.

On top of this, workers have been shaken by AT&T's layoff of 40,000 employees, and most Americans have a family member or friend who has lost a job to corporate downsizing. People expect to see layoffs and frozen wages during tough economic times, but they can't understand why all this is happening when the U.S. economy is growing, unemployment is low, companies are seeing record profits, the stock market is soaring to record levels, and compensation for CEOs is skyrocketing.

All of this has led to acute job insecurity and concern about the future. Far too many Americans believe that hard work and company loyalty are no longer being rewarded, and that the American promise of opportunity and a better future is slipping away. They are not proponents of big government, but they wonder if they will get any help out of Washington.

EXTENT OF THE PROBLEM

The problem of stagnant wages is getting a lot of attention now, but it is not new. The wages of American workers basically doubled between 1947 and 1973, with some of the strongest gains among moderate-income workers. But since 1973, hourly wages for the average American have lagged some 10-15% behind inflation. The situation is slightly better now than a few years ago, but wage growth is still weak. Moreover, since 1979, 98% of the growth in income in the U.S. has gone to the top 20% of U.S. households. Some people have been doing very well in today's economy, but not the average American worker. This is not just a personal problem for those families affected; it will ripple across the economy if our workers cannot afford to buy the products we make.

While some economists are fairly optimistic about future wage increases—citing rising productivity, falling prices, tighter labor markets—others are worried. The greatest concern is over the impact of global competition and technology on less skilled, less educated workers.

NO EASY ANSWERS

The national attention to stagnant wages is healthy and long overdue, but we must address the problem carefully rather than jump at the first solution offered. The problem has

been with us for twenty years and the causes are complex; it will not be solved overnight. Indeed, some of the proposals could make things worse. For example, given the importance of exports to states like Indiana, the proposal for a stiff tariff on imported goods could boomerang and devastate many of our industries, particularly agriculture.

ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM

Several steps can be taken to help workers. Among the most important is to create opportunity for them by providing them the tools to succeed in the new economy. Education and job skills are essential. We simply have to put into place effective low-cost college loans, school-to-work apprenticeships, training vouchers for laidoff workers, and effective vocational and adult education.

We also need to make work pay for people at the bottom of the income scale. Work is better than welfare or unemployment. We need to raise the minimum wage and keep the earned income tax credit for working families. We also need to ease the transition from job to job. Health insurers should not be able to cut someone off who loses a job, pensions should be portable, unemployment insurance, job search assistance, and job training should be available at one-stop career centers.

But of course most of the effort has to be by individuals and private companies. Each person must make the most of the opportunities offered, and private companies must do everything they can to help workers make a transition. We certainly need more business investments that make even low-skilled workers productive, and investments in people like the GI Bill that upgrade the workforce. We should end the myriad of subsidies and tax breaks for particular companies and industries that provide no public benefit. Corporate welfare in the United States totals billions of dollars each year.

I am skeptical of sweeping measures to prevent job loss or protect laid-off workers. If we go too far we will deter firms from hiring and discourage the unemployed from finding new work.

Nothing is more important than raising the economic growth rate. The solution to economic anxiety in the country is to expand jobs and opportunities. There is no substitute for sound macroeconomic policies. In the present context that means cutting the deficit, expanding markets, cutting government spending, reducing regulation, increasing productivity by investing in people, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and technology, and running a monetary policy to allow for faster economic growth.

CONCLUSION

One of the toughest challenges today is how to make sense of what's happening in the American economy, with the new and often alarming economic reality. This economy has produced record profits for some corporations, but it has produced pink slips and falling wages for many workers. On many broad measures, it's one of the healthiest economies we've had for several decades with many Americans living better, but there are too many Americans working harder just to keep up and they have many concerns about the financial security of their families. Our nation is struggling today to find the right way to deal with the discontent of the American worker. Few challenges have higher priority.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 20, I was at home in Illinois for the Illinois primary election and I was not present for votes on rollcall Nos. 68 through 76.

Had I been able to be present and voting, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 68, "yea" on rollcall vote 69, "yea" on rollcall vote 70, "no" on rollcall vote 71, "no" on rollcall vote 72, "yea" on rollcall vote 73, "no" on rollcall vote 74, "yea" on rollcall vote 75, and "no" on rollcall vote 76.

FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF
TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today is the 40th anniversary of independence of the Republic of Tunisia. With increasingly strong ties between our two governments, the American people congratulate today the people of Tunisia on this historic anniversary. For the last 40 years, Tunisia has been a model of economic growth and the advancement of women in society.

It may be difficult for many Americans to appreciate Tunisia's situation. Its only two neighbors are Algeria, which has been racked by civil war for several years, and Libya, whose dictator has supported the most nefarious and subversive kinds of terrorism. Mr. Speaker, this is not a good neighborhood.

Nevertheless, Tunisia has maintained internal stability—not without its own controversies—in the face of external chaos. At the same time, years of hard work have produced one of the highest standards of living in the region. Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and join the developed world. For these accomplishments, Tunisia should be applauded and supported.

In addition, Tunisia has taken positive, cautious steps in the diplomatic realm, particularly in the Arab-Israeli peace process. In January of this year, Tunisia and Israel announced the planned opening of interest sections in each country, to be completed by April 15. This development will be a welcome realization of forward progress in Israel-Tunisia relations. We were also extremely pleased to learn from the Tunisian Foreign Minister that Tunisia plans to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel by the end of 1996.

The United States and Tunisia have also moved closer over the years. Yesterday, officials from our Department of Defense concluded a meeting of the Joint Military Commission with Tunisian officials, evidence of our ongoing visible support of strong United States-Tunisian relations.

Mr. Speaker, on this special day for Tunisia, I urge my colleagues reflect on our strong commitment to our friend in North Africa.

VIDEO EXPOSES INDIA'S TORTURE,
RAPE, AND MURDER OF SIKH
NATION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recommend to my colleagues the outstanding new video "Disappearances in Punjab." This video was produced by Ram Narayan Kumar, a Hindu human rights activist, and Lorenz Skerjanz, an ethnologist from Austria. It paints a graphic picture of India's state terrorism against the Sikh Nation in Punjab, Khalistan. I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan, for sending it to me.

This video highlights the abduction of Jaswant Singh Khalra, the general secretary of the Human Rights Wing (Shiromani Akali Dal), by the Indian regime. Mr. Khalra reported that more than 25,000 young Sikh men had been abducted, tortured, and killed by the regime. Then the regime tried to hide this fact by listing the bodies as unidentified and cremating them. For this he was silenced. According to several other human rights activists, including Inderjit Singh Jaijee, Colonel Partap Singh, Justice Ajit Singh Bains, and General Narinder Singh, over 100,000 Sikhs have disappeared at the hands of the Indian regime.

But the Khalra case is only part of a pattern of repression of the Sikh nation by an Indian regime the New York Times described on February 25 as "a rotten, corrupt, repressive, and anti-people system." This documentary video also exposes other cases of Indian repression. It shows witnesses to the repression talking about what they have seen. This is important new evidence of India's brutal record. After watching the video, the viewer will conclude that India is the kind of police state that America spent many years and billions of dollars fighting.

It is time for the U.S. Government to speak out against this tyrannical regime. Only our pressure will cause India to begin acting like the democracy it proclaims itself to be. The time has come for the United States to cut off its aid to India until human rights are respected, as the Human Rights in India Act provides.

This video shows the bloody, violent repression which fuels the drive of Sikhs, Kashmiris, and other minority groups to be independent. I recommend it to all my colleagues and anyone else who is interested in promoting and expanding freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce the transcript of this video into the RECORD.

DISAPPEARANCES IN PUNJAB

On 31 August 1995, Punjab's Chief Minister Beant Singh was assassinated in a suicide mission of bombing carried out by a Sikh militant organization at the State government's Secretariat in Chandigarh. Beant Singh of the Congress party has taken office in early 1992 after winning the elections to the State Legislative Assembly, which the main Sikh political groups had boycotted to pursue their decade long agitation for a radical measure of autonomy for Punjab. As the Sikh electorate, constituting the majority of Punjab's population stayed away from the polling, the Congress party won the elections, without a real contest. But the gov-

ernment formed by the Congress party under Beant Singh's leadership projected the election results as the democratic mandate to stamp out the Sikh agitation, promising to implement the mandate by all possible means. Reports of human rights violations became widespread.

The leaders of Hindu public opinion in Punjab argued that the due process of law was a luxury, which Indian could not afford while fighting the secessionist terrorism:

[Interview with Vijay Chopra, publisher and editor of Hind Samachar group of newspapers, who brings out the three most popular language dailies in northern India.]

Only the human rights groups and the individuals, with little influence on the working of the government, expressed indignation against the reports of police atrocities.

[Interview with Satish Jain, Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.]

Many inside observers of Indian politics, including the former President of India Zail Singh, admitted that the highhanded methods of the security forces, instigated the separatist terrorism.

[Interview with Zail Singh.]

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE SIKH
SEPARATIST UNREST

Approximately twenty million Sikhs of India form less than 2 per cent of the country's population, but constitute majority in the agriculturally prosperous Northwestern province of Punjab, which had been divided between India and Pakistan in 1947. Prosperous Jat Sikh farmers dominate the Akali Dal, the main political party of the orthodox Sikhs, that launched the agitation of the radical measure of autonomy for the State in early 1982. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a charismatic religious preacher, who had already emerged on the scene as the messiah of "true Sikhs", rallied the discontented sections of the Sikhs, particularly the unemployed youth, to the Akali agitation. The Union government projected the agitation as a secessionist movement, and refused to negotiate decentralization of political power. The next two years of virulent violence, which also witnessed the rise of Sikh terrorism in the real sense, came to a head in June of 1984 when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi ordered the military to flush out Bhindranwale and his armed followers from the Golden Temple of Amritsar in which they had taken shelter. When the operation was over, hundreds of Sikh militants, including Bhindranwale, and a larger number of Sikh pilgrims, were dead. The Akal Takht, an important shrine inside the temple complex regarded as the seat of political authority within the Sikh historical tradition, was rubble. For devout Sikhs, Bhindranwale and his followers, who had died fighting the Indian military, became the martyrs of the faith. A section of Bhindranwale's followers now began to talk of an independent Sikh state.

The Parliamentary elections held at the end of 1989, returned many extremist candidates under the leadership of Simranjit Singh Mann, former police officer turned separatist politician. The results showed that the separatist cause now possessed a measure of popular support. Alienation of the Sikhs of Punjab from India's political system again became manifest when the overwhelming majority of them stayed away from the polling in early 1992, keeping with the call given by the main Akali groups to boycott the elections. The boycott helped the Congress party, under Beant Singh, to form its government in the State, and to embark on a highhanded policy to suppress the Sikh agitation without caring for the limits of the law. Many officials involved in the se-

curity operations privately admit that excesses, including custodial killings, do take place. But they argue that they have no other way to demoralize a secessionist movement, which enjoys a measure of sympathy in Punjab's countryside.

EVIDENCE OF STATE ATROCITIES

Interviews with Inderjit Singh Jaijee, Chairman, Movement Against State Repression, and Jaspal Singh Dhillon, Chairman, Shiromani Akali Dal's Human Rights Wing. [Photographic evidence of custodial torture and killings.]

[Interview with Ranjan Lakhnarpal, a lawyer who fights generally losing legal battles to enforce the rule of law, against the working of the Punjab police. Lakhnarpal introduces two women victims of custodial rape.]

Our own investigations in the Amritsar region reveal that the dealings of the security forces with the relatives of separatist militants, themselves unconnected with crime, are not only routinely illegal but also brutal. Apparently, the idea is to set an example of harshness that would discourage the rural folk from sympathizing with the extremist cause.

[Interview with Arjun Singh, grandfather of a known militant Paramjit Singh Panjwad, tortured in the police custody. Panjwad's mother was killed in custody.]

Many Sikh officers of the Punjab police privately corroborate these reports of police atrocities.

[Interview with one woman police officer, on the condition of anonymity: She told us about her experience of custodial torture, rape and murders at an interrogation center she was attached to. Photographic evidence of custodial torture and murders.]

Champions of human rights in Punjab are themselves vulnerable to persecution. Many have suffered long periods of illegal detention, torture in custody and even elimination. Sometimes their relatives become victims of police wrath. On 29 March 1995, lawyer Ranjan Lakhnarpal's ten year old son Ashish was run over by a police vehicle. The vehicle belonged to an officer whom Ranjan has accused of murdering a detainee in custody.

THE CASE OF JASWANT SINGH KHALRA

The more recent example comes from the case of Jaswant Singh Khalra, General Secretary of the Shiromani Akali Dal's Human Rights Wing, who got picked up by uniformed commandos of Punjab police from the porch of his house in Amritsar on 6 September 1995, six days after Beant Singh's assassination. Human Rights Wing has been focussing attention on unravelling the mystery of what happens to the large number of people the security forces illegally pick-up for interrogation. Jaswant Singh Khalra was associated with the investigations that led to the discovery that Punjab police have been cremating thousands of dead Sikhs illegally, by mentioning them in the registers at the cremation grounds as "unclaimed" and "unidentified." The investigations also established that these "cremated" Sikhs were largely those who had earlier been picked up for interrogation.

[Interview with the attendant of the cremation ground at Patti, a subdivisional town in Amritsar district.]

Equally incriminating evidence against the police comes from the hospitals where the police sent some bodies so cremated for postmortem.

[Interview with the Chief Medical Officer of the hospital at Patti: This doctor told us that Sarabjit Singh was still alive when the police first brought him for the postmortem. On being discovered alive, Sarabjit Singh was taken away by the police and brought back to the hospital the second time when he

was actually dead. The hospital gave the postmortem report the police wanted. The Chief Medical Officer of the hospital at Patti also offered us some astonishing information on how he helped the police to get the post-mortem reports they legally needed in all circumstances before cremating the dead bodies.]

Investigation carried out by the Human Rights Wing forms the basis of a petition that the Committee for information and Initiative on Punjab has filed before the Supreme Court of India. The issue of illegal cremations by the Punjab police is not being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation, on the orders from the Supreme Court. However, the order of the probe did not come before Jaswant Singh Khalra himself "disappeared."

[Interview with Jaspal Singh Dhillon: "Khalra was quite clearly told that he can also become an unidentified body. And today Khalra is not there."]

The guilty officials of Punjab police knew that, without Khalra's investigative resourcefulness in the Amritsar district, the Human Rights Wing could not have so conclusively exposed their ways of handling the Sikh unrest in Punjab. Khalra had also been providing legal counselling to victims of police atrocities, particularly the relatives of the "disappeared", which encouraged them to approach the courts to redress their grievances.

Khalra's whereabouts remain unknown. The chief of the Punjab police has categorically denied Khalra's abduction by the officers of his force. The Supreme Court of India has ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe the "disappearance" along with the issue of illegal cremations by the Punjab police. In ordering the probe, the court has neither extended protection to witness who might lead evidence to establish the truth, nor has asked the CBI to associate the human rights groups, directly involved in exposing the police atrocities, with the inquiry. It is evident that the Central Bureau of Investigation, as an investigating agency under the Union Home Ministry, lacks the necessary power and independence to determine the truth of allegations of serious human rights crimes, made against India's security forces.

Human right groups worldwide are seriously concerned about the disappearance of Jaswant Singh Khalra, which is seen as a warning to all those who are engaged in exposing police atrocities in the State. The Sikh groups in Punjab are agitating for Khalra's release. Many leaders of the Western countries, including the President of the United States of America have conveyed their concern about the case to the government of India. However, the information percolating from the police sources suggests that Khalra might already have been eliminated. Despair dominants the mood of the Sikh leaders in Punjab.

INDIA THREATENS WITNESS TO KHALRA ABDUCTION

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn a blatant abuse of power by the Indian Government. I join many other Members of the House who have spoken previously about the kidnapping of human rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra, who languishes in illegal detention more than 6 months after being

taken from his home in Amritsar on September 6. Last year, 65 Members of the House wrote to Indian Prime Minister Rao demanding Mr. Khalra's release. So far, we have been ignored. Mr. Khalra must be released immediately.

The March 6-12, 1996, issue of World Sikh News reports that a key witness to the Khalra kidnapping, Kirpal Singh Randhawa, secretary of the Punjab Human Rights Organization, filed a complaint in India's Supreme Court stating that "police had threatened to eliminate him and his family." It seems that the authorities will go to any length to keep Mr. Randhawa from testifying about Mr. Khalra's abduction. Mr. Randhawa also said that he feared that the Indian Government will file a false legal case against him to prevent him from testifying. I will be placing this article in the RECORD.

Such actions by the Indian Government are not unprecedented. In the State Department's 1996 country report on human rights in India, it is reported that "the brother of Surinder Singh Fauji was held for a week in incommunicado detention, apparently to persuade Fauji not to testify on extrajudicial executions he witnessed in 1993." How can India call itself a democracy when the police are so out of control?

Recently I received a chilling video documentary called "Disappearances in Punjab." It details murder, torture, and rapes of Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. I am introducing into the RECORD, a press release from the Council of Khalistan regarding this video.

In "Disappearance in Punjab," a female officer from the Punjab police is interviewed. Her testimony is frightening to anyone who cares about basic human freedom. This police officer says that she saw "atrocities—including those against women—that I cannot bear. Women suffer much. Male officers torture them. They also rape detainees. Some who had been picked up were in the interrogation center. Then I read that they had been killed in an encounter. But I had seen them in detention." The policewoman is asked, "What was their condition in custody?" "Their legs had been broken," she replies. "Could they have run away?," asks the interviewer. "They could not even have walked" is her chilling reply.

This video, and the threat against Mr. Randhawa, prove that India's claim to be a democracy is a complete fraud. Democracies respect human rights. Democracies do not threaten to kill witnesses or falsely detain their relatives. Democracies neither kidnap people nor arrest them for publishing reports that embarrass the government, as in Mr. Khalra's case. In short, democracies respect and practice freedom. India does not. It is against this background that the Sikh Nation declared itself independent on October 7, 1987. With that declaration, the independent country of Khalistan was formed. The Council of Khalistan, which brought these gruesome cases to my attention, was formed at that time to serve as Khalistan's government in exile. India's response to the Sikh Nation's exercise of its sovereignty has been to step up the repression, as these cases show. This repressive campaign of terror and genocide by the Indian regime has caused the deaths of over 150,000 Sikhs since 1984. Thousands of other non-Hindus have also been killed in Kashmir, Nagaland, and other areas struggling for human rights and self-determination.

The United States Government does not have to sit idly by and let India continue this brutal repression. There are two bills pending which address this situation. They are H.R. 1425, the Human Rights in India Act, which will seek to cut off United States development aid to India until India observes basic human rights; and House Concurrent Resolution 32, which seeks a plebiscite on independence in Khalistan under international supervision so that the Sikh Nation can freely choose its own future in free and fair vote, the way democracies make decisions. I urge my colleagues to support both of these bills. It is imperative that we assist the oppressed urge my colleagues to support both of these bills. It is imperative that we assist the oppressed Sikhs of Khalistan so that they too, can enjoy the glow of freedom, as we do here in America.

[From the World Sikh News, Mar. 6,-12, 1996]

KHALRA CASE THREATENED

AMRITSAR.—The secretary of Punjab Human Rights Organization, Mr. Kirpal Singh Randhawa, who is a key witness in the case pertaining to the alleged kidnapping of the human rights activist Mr. Jaswant Singh Khalra, last week alleged that police had threatened to eliminate him and his family.

In a complaint sent to Mr. Justice Kuldeep Singh of the Supreme Court who is hearing the case, Mr. Randhawa alleged that he had gone to Lopoke (Majitha) police station in connection with another case of police high-handedness where he was threatened of dire consequences by Mr. Jagdip Singh, SHO, and ASI Mr. Gural Singh Bajwa. The police also threatened Mr. Randhawa to withdraw security cover given to him by orders of the Supreme Court.

Mr. Randhawa told the Supreme Court that he apprehended danger to his life and his family or implication in a false case.

[Press Release From the Council of
Khalistan, Mar. 14, 1996]

"DISAPPEARANCES IN PUNJAB"

VIDEO DOCUMENTARY EXPOSES MURDER,
TORTURE AND RAPE OF SIKHS BY INDIAN POLICE

WASHINGTON, DC, MARCH 13.—A new video documentary entitled "Disappearances in Punjab" uncovers the truth about India's decade of brutal oppression against the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan. Produced by Ram Narayan Kumar, a Hindu human rights activist and Lorenz Skerjanz of the University of Vienna, the documentary shows "disappearances" and death in police custody as common occurrences in the Sikh homeland. Indian state terrorism against the Sikhs, the video shows, is part of its policy to violently crush the demand for Sikh independence—a policy widely supported by the government and Indian society at large. According to Dr. Satish Jain, Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, "There is a large section of [India] which approves of State atrocities. And, I think, the weakness of the Indian nation, the weakness of Indian society, really lies in this attitude."

According to "Disappearances in Punjab," the deceased Chief Minister Beant Singh spearheaded a government-backed campaign to crush all voices of dissent in Punjab regarding the demand for an independent Khalistan. Under Beant Singh and police chief K.P.S. Gill, tens of thousands of Sikhs were murdered. Reports of human rights violations became widespread. According to the Amnesty International report, *Determining the Fate of the Disappeared in Punjab*, "... the Punjab police have been allowed to commit human rights violations with impunity in the state." Indian journalist Iqbal Masud, called India's claims of having restored normalcy to Punjab a "bogus peace." "The

Beant-Gill duo," writes Masud, "committed mass incarceration and disappearances and called it 'normalcy'" (*The Pioneer*, Nov. 4, 1995).

Through a series of interviews with respected human rights activists, intellectuals, Punjab police officers, and eye witnesses, "Disappearances in Punjab" reveals the extent to which the so-called "world's largest democracy" has used brutal oppression to silence the voice of dissent in Khalistan. For over a decade, Sikhs have claimed that the Indian police have followed a *modus operandi* in which they abduct Sikhs, torture them and then kill them claiming that the victim was killed in an "armed encounter" with the police. In the following excerpt, a female police officer confirms these allegations.

Woman: "I work for the Punjab police. I joined out of patriotic sentiments, but what I saw, atrocities—including those against women—that I cannot bear. Women suffer much. Male officers torture them. They also rape detainees. Some, who have been picked up, were in the interrogation center. Then I read that they had been killed in an encounter. But I had seen them in detention."

Interviewer: What was their condition in custody?

Woman: Their legs had been broken.
 Interviewer: Could they have run away?
 Woman: They could not even have walked.
 Interviewer: Are you afraid disclosing this?
 Woman: No. I do not fear telling the truth.
 The Chief Medical Officer at Patti Hospital sheds similar light on the tactics of police in Punjab. He recalled the time when police officers brought the body of Sarabjit Singh into his hospital to acquire a postmortem report. However, there was a problem: Sarabjit Singh was still alive. Upon learning of this, the police officers took Sarabjit away and returned his body later when he was actually dead! During his interview, the Chief Medical Officer offered some startling information on how he assisted police in giving them the postmortem reports they legally needed to cremate the bodies of their victims:

I ordered that the [postmortem] lists be prepared. The lists must say where the deaths have taken place. Also, mention the time of death and say "death due to firearms." My boss said that postmortems should take time. I told him to do whatever he wanted. My example set the precedent in Punjab. Five minutes a portmortem, five minutes a postmortem.

After obtaining their postmortem reports, police cremate their Sikhs victims as "unidentified bodies" at municipal cremation grounds. An attendant at the cremation ground in Patti commented on the alarming rise such cremations:

Unclaimed bodies have continuously been burnt here. Previously, it used to happen once in awhile. In the last four-five years, it has been common. They only cremate. . . . No one cares to take away the remains.

"Disappearances in Punjab" also explores the case of Sikh human rights activist, Jaswant Singh Khalra. According to the findings of Mr. Khalra, police have killed and cremated over 25,000 Sikhs in the manner described above. Mr. Khalra arrived at this number by visiting municipal cremation grounds and tallying up the number "unidentified bodies" recorded on their registers. During a press conference announcing these findings, the Amritsar district police chief publicly threatened Mr. Khalra saying "We have made 25,000 disappear. It would be easy to make one more disappear." The police chief followed through on his threat. Mr. Khalra was abducted by Indian police in front of his home in the presence of witnesses at 9:15 AM on September 6, 1995. Amnesty International and other human rights

organizations have taken up his case. On October 19, 1995, sixty-five Members of the U.S. Congress sent a letter to Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao demanding Khalra's release. India has yet to respond. Mr. Khalra's whereabouts remains unknown.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, praises "Disappearances in Punjab" as a milestone in the movement for Sikh freedom. "This is a rare case in which the truth about Indian atrocities against the Sikhs has managed to find its way out of India. It shows that India is not the democracy it claims to be, but rather a repressive tyranny where the right of minorities are brutally violated. Now the world can see what the Sikhs have been enduring for over ten years. India has killed over 150,000 Sikhs and the time for an independent Khalistan is long overdue. After word of this video gets out to the international community, India will no longer be able to deny its policy of genocide against the Sikhs. Khalistan will be liberated."

AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN LU ON A FREE TAIWAN

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, a few days before the first free and democratic elections in Taiwan, Ambassador Benjamin Lu, the official representative of the Government of Taiwan here in the United States, made the following remarks to Members of Congress and others interested in a secure, free and prosperous Taiwan. I commend my colleagues' attention to his excellent remarks.

ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN LU

Distinguished guests, and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you all for joining us today. I am delighted that so many good friends and associates could be here to share in this exciting event.

The ROC has embarked on a path of political reform which is transforming Taiwan into a full democracy. Adding to the many institutions of personal freedom, human rights, popular elections, and a full-scale market economy which my country already enjoys, this week, on the 23rd of March, the people of Taiwan will conduct their first direct popular election for president of the Republic of China, an historic milestone in our democratization movement. At this very moment, there is a spirited campaign underway among four presidential candidates, including the incumbent President Lee Teng-Hui; a DPP candidate; and two others running as independents.

By any standard, the Republic of China is functioning today as a genuine pluralistic democracy, with ample political choices and fully representational government. This is an amazing transformation in just one decade. The stark contrast with deteriorating political and human rights conditions on China's mainland today could not be more obvious.

The Republic of China and the United States today share the same political ideology, principles and objectives. As fellow democracies with a closely intertwined history of friendship, cooperation and trade in this century, we have much in common. Moreover, there is much we can accomplish together for the sake of regional and international peace, freedom, and prosperity in the 21st century.

The 21 million people on Taiwan are grateful that the United States has responded to mainland China's military exercises and missile tests in the Taiwan Strait, and reassured that Americans share our concern for the region's stability. A continued American presence in the area will discourage unnecessary escalation of tension and will help advance those principles and goals which are championed by your country and mine, as prospering democracies. The success of Taiwan's democratic reforms hopefully can influence mainland attitudes toward political reform in a positive way by encouraging the establishment of democratic process and institutions. Only within the framework of democracy can reunification be eventually achieved.

Mainland China's coercive and hostile actions should cease immediately, allowing the process of democratic elections and free market commerce in the region to continue unimpeded. Let us work together to support the causes of peace and democracy throughout the Asia-Pacific region, and indeed throughout the world.

SUPPORTING THE KARENNI FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, Karenni freedom fighters are in battle today against the hired thugs of the Burma Army. Heavily outnumbered and outgunned, the Karenni are fighting to defend their homes along the Thai-Burma border from the inhuman onslaught of the SLORC regime. The SLORC regime is using air attacks and heavy artillery against the Karenni, a peace-loving Christian nation, who defend themselves with a few rifles.

Last year, thousands of SLORC troops attacked the Karen in neighboring territory. Then, the SLORC used brutal methods to systematically terrorize thousands of innocent hilltribe families. That tragic scene is now being replayed in the Karenni State.

Over 6,000 SLORC troops are relentlessly attacking less than 1,000 Karenni farmers, fisherman, and schoolteachers. These men and women are desperately fighting an honorable battle to defend their families, heritage, and identity. Although they may think that they are in the jungle alone, our spirit is with them. The heroes in the wilderness should know that we condemn the SLORC regime for its brutal aggression, and that we support their noble struggle for freedom and democracy.

In the past, the SLORC regime has justified aggression against the Karenni as a necessary first step before it could control the activities of Khun Sa, the infamous drug thug. Now, the SLORC regime has allowed Khun Sa to retire in luxury, while the aggression continues. It shouldn't surprise anyone that the SLORC regime was lying. Their entire system is based on lies.

I intend to visit the Karenni during the upcoming Easter break. Until then, I wish them success against their evil oppressors. Freedom loving people in the United States are on their side, and we will remember them in our prayers. Because they are striving for democracy and justice, they should know, that their victory is our victory.

HONORING BRIG. GEN. LEONARD F.
KWIATKOWSKI

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend Air Force Brig. Gen. Leonard F. Kwiatkowski, who is retiring after 29 years of distinguished service to his country. General Kwiatkowski is the program director for the Military Satellite Communications [MILSATCOM] Joint Program Office, Space and Missile Systems Center, at Los Angeles Air Force Base, CA.

General Kwiatkowski began his service to the Nation at a time when the space program was beginning to mature. He managed technology development programs that fielded some of the weapons systems we saw perform so well in the gulf war. In his first Air Force assignment, he was involved in the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program, at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, which is in my district. This began his highly successful and distinguished career, which has been primarily devoted to the development, acquisition, and fielding of our country's most advanced weapon systems. He has been directly associated with the development of the F-15 air superiority fighter and the delivery of the first F-100 engines for the F-15 and F-16 fighter aircraft. He has also been responsible for the development and fielding of our country's most technologically advanced command, control, communications computer, and intelligence systems supporting all of our Nation's services. Additionally, he served with distinction with our NATO allies while assigned to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe [SHAPE], Belgium. In these assignments he directly contributed to our deterrent posture during the cold war era and also was responsible for delivering key C4I systems to our forces during the gulf war. The systems General Kwiatkowski developed, enabled us to rapidly communicate reconnaissance information, vastly improving the combat effectiveness of our warfighters.

In this, his last, Air Force assignment General Kwiatkowski returned to Los Angeles AFB and the Space and Missile Systems Center to direct our Military Satellite Communications Systems. He managed the congressionally directed restructure of the MILSTAR communications system and has guided the program from its restructure through the Defense Department's acquisition decision process, through the launch of the first two satellites and the design and manufacturing of the restructured block II satellite.

General Kwiatkowski has been a leader in acquisition reform issues, as well. His efforts have been praised by TRW, the first level subcontractor building the MILSTAR communications satellites for the DOD. The first two satellites are in orbit now. They were launched on time, on budget, and are 100 percent effective. His efforts to reduce the number of military-unique specifications and requirements have encouraged TRW to find lower cost, less complex manufacturing requirements, and saved the taxpayers significant amounts of scarce Defense resources.

High-level TRW officials said they will miss General Kwiatkowski's innovations and close

working relationship, but they will miss his leadership skills most of all. He was one of the first Defense Department acquisition personnel to use integrated contractor/government development teams to assess areas of potential risk and word to reduce the risk as the system was designed. Knowing where to devote such risk reduction efforts is already paying dividends as the next-generation advanced military communications satellites are being designed.

The general has also served as mission director of the first MILSTAR launch and the Defense Satellite Communications System [DSCS] III launches. In the latter case, under his leadership, the Defense Department completed the full operational capability milestone of the DSCS III constellation. He has also been a vigorous, enthusiastic, catalyst in reforming and streamlining the acquisition process. Under his extraordinary leadership, the MILSTAR Program has underrun its budget projections by \$1.5 billion and is meeting all of the warfighters' requirements of our country's most complex, secure communications satellite system.

General Kwiatkowski has served his country in a truly outstanding manner. Combat aviators, sailors, and soldiers will be more informed, capable, and most important, more likely to survive any future conflicts because of him. That's legacy we can all admire. We all wish General Kwiatkowski, his wife, Carol, and his children, Karen, Michael, and David, the best as this career closes and a new one begins.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN SAM
GIBBONS OF FLORIDA

HON. OWEN B. PICKETT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Mr. PICKETT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives, today, to pay tribute to one of the House's most distinguished Members, Congressman SAM GIBBONS of Tampa, FL, who will retire at the end of this Congress.

He served in the United States Army for 5 years during World War II with the 501st Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He was in the initial assault force landing at Normandy and was awarded the Bronze Star.

SAM was among those honored during celebrations of the 50th anniversary of World War II last year and is a great example of heroism for us all.

During his service in the Congress, he has been a collegial friend and a hard worker. While he made a reputation for himself on the Ways and Means Committee as an expert on trade, he also showed his leadership abilities when he took the helm of the Committee in the spring of 1993, in the midst of intense debate over reforming our Nation's health care system.

This year, too, SAM GIBBONS, provided himself to be a tireless advocate to protect the interests of Medicare beneficiaries. He has been a persistent defender of the rights of senior citizens, a true representative of his constituents, and a credit to the United States Congress.

We will miss him very much.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN
THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT
OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 19, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I offer my amendment on behalf of approximately 800 Polish and Hungarian immigrants who legally entered this country between 1989 and 1991. My amendment will allow these 800 immigrants to adjust their status to permanent resident so that they one day may become full citizens of the United States.

This group of immigrants was paroled into the United States by the attorney general. Parole is a limbo status which gives them the right to live in the United States indefinitely, but denies them the opportunity to acquire permanent residency or citizenship. These immigrants have already endured much hardship and suffering. They came to the United States after living for years in refugees camps in Europe. All of the parolees were on the verge of gaining refugee status when U.S. refugee policy for those two nations changed. With the fall of communism in 1989, INS no longer accepted their refugee applications. In fairness to those who were far along in the application process, INS granted some of the applicants parole.

The parolees have now been living in the United States for more than 6 years. They are working and paying taxes. They have made new homes and adjusted to a new way of life. America is now their home.

Unfortunately, the parole status places strict limitations on these new lives. Without residency or citizenship, they lack some of the rights Americans take for granted. These include the ability to qualify for in-state resident tuition at public universities and the right to travel internationally at will. That's right, they have no international travel privileges which has prevented them from visiting families for years. They have missed both weddings and funerals.

INS predicted that the parolees would adjust their status through relatives in the United States who petition on their behalf through the family reunification program. Unfortunately, this has not happened. In many cases it is not possible to apply for adjustment through family members, and in other cases it could take many years. This is because U.S. immigration law allows permanent residents to petition only for their spouses and children. Citizens can additionally petition for siblings. Grandparents and cousins, regardless of status, can never petition.

Many of these parolees were brought here, however, by distant family members. Without passage of this amendment, these unlucky individuals will never be residents. Some of the parolees were brought by brothers and sisters, many of whom came as refugees and are not yet citizens. Under current law, a parolee would have to wait 5 years for his or her sibling to become a citizen, then another 9 years for a fourth preference petition to become current. It would take 14 years for this kind of parolee to become a resident. Then again, if the bill currently under debate passes, siblings will

not be allowed to petition for other siblings and therefore, the parolees would be without an avenue to adjust their status.

Mr. Speaker, these 800 parolees have suffered much. Let's make their life a little easier and provide them with an opportunity to be-

come full U.S. citizens. Please support my amendment.