

an amendment to cut aid to India, Indian security forces attacked a Sikh church, which is called a Gurdwara. They claimed to be looking for a terrorist, but they had no search warrant and they did not ask the Gurdwara management to send the alleged terrorist out. Instead, they just stormed this house of worship and tortured six Granthis, the clergy of the Gurdwara.

India tells the world that it is a secular democracy. This raid on a Sikh house of worship proves otherwise. Clearly, Sikhs, among others, do not enjoy religious freedom under Indian rule. Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, puts it in perspective. On August 11, he told National Public Radio,

The Indian government all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with democracy, they have nothing to do with secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority.

This is the same Golden Temple that was subjected to a brutal military assault on June 4, 1984. To this day, it remains under police surveillance.

On June 29, a man named Gurdial Singh, who is the elected mayor of the village of Khiala Khurd, was stripped by the police in front of the people of his village. He was then held upside down while Indian forces beat and tortured him. All this happened to Gurdial Singh because he is a baptized Sikh.

The most revered mosque in Kashmir was subjected to an attack similar to the massacre at the Golden Temple. Many Muslim prisoners are force-fed pork, which is against their dietary laws. This is a form of emotional and spiritual torture.

India still enforces an old law against encouraging a Hindu to change his religion. This law expired years ago, but is treated as if it is still on the books. It is as if the United States still enforced the Alien and Sedition Acts of the Fugitive Slave Law. Some of the more militant Hindus even suggested that the late Mother Teresa might not be worthy of honor because the Sisters of Mercy persuaded some people to embrace Christianity. This is secular India.

Secular India is a land marked by the government-sponsored murders of over 200,000 Christians since 1947, more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, over 53,000 Muslims since 1988, and thousands upon thousands of other minorities. Here is a land in which religious persecution reigns.

America is the moral voice of the world, the bastion of freedom for the oppressed peoples all over this globe. It is our moral duty to do what we can to end this kind of oppression. We should formally declare India a country that practices religious oppression and impose appropriate sanctions, up to and including an embargo if necessary. We should stop providing monetary support for a government that practices religious persecution, violates human rights, and continues to develop nuclear weapons. And we should speak out strongly in support of the freedom movements in Punjab, Khalistan, in Christian Nagaland, in Kashmir, and throughout South Asia and the world.

Let freedom ring in South Asia.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 497 through 499. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on roll call No. 497, passage of H.R. 629, to grant the consent of the Congress to the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact; "yes" on rollcall No. 498, the Vento amendment to H.R. 901, to exempt sites nominated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance from the provisions of the bill; and "yes" on rollcall No. 499, ordering the previous question on H. Res. 262, the rule governing House consideration of the Senate amendments to the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. I ask unanimous consent to have this statement appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### TRIBUTE TO HENRY B. GONZALEZ

SPEECH OF

### HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 7, 1997*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my esteemed colleague, HENRY B. GONZALEZ. He has been an outstanding leader for San Antonio, the Hispanic community, and for all Americans due to his dedicated service to this Congress for 36 years. As the dean of the Texas delegation, HENRY B. has been a state leader who has represented our state with great commitment. Congressman GONZALEZ has truly been working for the citizens of this country his entire life. Starting a career of public service in 1945, he began working on critical issues for San Antonio. After a number of different community positions, he began a political career in 1953 with a position on the San Antonio city council, graduating to the State senate, and culminating with his long membership in this body beginning in 1961. Throughout his storied career he relentlessly advocated for veterans, small business, labor, housing, economic development, education, the environment, and civil rights. He took difficult positions and never wavered in standing for what was just and right.

Never shying away from responsibility, he took the helm of the House Banking Committee in 1989 and for 5 years dealt with the daunting problems of the savings and loan crisis, and other complex banking issues during his tenure. Currently, as the ranking member to the committee he has continued to be a voice of wisdom, bringing his expertise and experience to current issues. He has been a wealth of knowledge for all Members of this House and a source of inspiration for those new and old.

As a fellow Texas Congressman, I commend HENRY B. for his guidance, numerous accomplishments, and know that his career will be a benchmark for all of us to aspire to reach. Farewell and buena suerte amigo.

#### A TRIBUTE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVE JACK L. KUBIK

### HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant who serves some of the same constituents I do—State Representative Jack L. Kubik of Illinois.

After nearly 14 years of service in the general assembly Representative Kubik recently announced he was retiring at the end of his current term in 1998. He will be difficult to replace.

Representative Kubik was first elected in 1984 at the age of 28, bringing a youthful perspective to the Illinois House of Representatives. He quickly proved to be a true leader in the legislature as he worked to represent the needs of his constituents while reaching out to all of his colleagues, regardless of party, for the betterment of Illinois.

Representative Kubik has been a leader in the area of property tax reform, senior issues, judicial reform, and the rights of the disabled. He has sponsored legislation to increase penalties for car-jacking; limit property taxes; assist those seeking hospice care; crack down on gangs; and help the deaf and hearing impaired. He sponsored one of the most comprehensive stalking laws in the United States and has been a leader in working to improve the backlog of child support collection in Illinois.

Representative Kubik's leadership and political abilities have been recognized by his colleagues. He currently serves as an assistant house minority leader and chaired the house Republican campaign committee in 1994 that helped bring his party a majority in the legislature for the first time in more than a decade.

Representative Kubik, whose family has a long tradition of public service, has been recognized by numerous organizations for his efforts to improve his community and his State. These honors include the Suburban Area on Aging's Legislator of the Year Award; VietNow President's Award; the Illinois Press Association's Legislative Service Award; and the Illinois Hearing Aid Society Award.

Representative Kubik's retirement will afford him the opportunity to spend more time with his new bride, Aggie, and pursue his work in the public relations field and the family business, Life Newspapers.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Representative Kubik on his 14 years of public service and give he and Mrs. Kubik my best wishes for the future.

#### CAPE VERDEAN VETERANS HONOR THE MEMORY OF PVT. EDWARD ALMEIDA

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 8, 1997*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on November 10, the Cape Verdean American Veterans Association headquartered in New Bedford, MA will be holding a military ball, which will be an occasion of mixed feelings.