

farmers. This is the kind of long-term help the Federal Government can and should provide to American farmers in the 21st century, without turning back the clock to Depression-era programs that had Washington bureaucrats telling farmers what to plant and where to plant it. By passing this legislation, establishing strong foreign markets, reducing burdensome regulations, and improving access to affordable financing for farmers, I believe our government can give farmers the tools they need to compete in a world market. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2559.

HONORING STEPHEN PROCTOR

HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephen Proctor, Chief Executive Officer for Presbyterian Homes, Inc., who is stepping down from the chairmanship of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. I am proud to be able to pay tribute to a man who has such a strong commitment to assisting in the care of the elderly.

For the last two years, Stephen Proctor has served as the chair of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA). AAHSA consists of over 5,300 organizations for care of the elderly such as non-profit nursing homes, assisted living, senior housing facilities and community service organizations. Everyday, Mr. Proctor contributed to serving one million older persons across the country through his chairmanship of this organization.

In 1971, Mr. Proctor began his career with the aging as a Director of Nursing for the Schock Presbyterian Home but soon became its Administrator, a position that he served until 1975. The following year, Mr. Proctor became the Administrator at the Oxford Manor Presbyterian Home where he worked for three years before becoming the Chief Operating Officer for Presbyterian Homes, Inc. in 1979. After 16 years in this position, Mr. Proctor became the Chief Executive Officer in 1995, a position that he currently holds.

In addition to having begun his career in long-term care as a nurse, Mr. Proctor has dedicated himself to serving elders in many official capacities. He became an accomplished member of the Pennsylvania Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging, becoming its president in 1982. Beginning in 1983, he chaired the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare's Medical Assistance Advisory Committee's Long-Term Care Subcommittee, an honor that he served for eleven years. Furthermore, Mr. Proctor currently holds a position on the Pennsylvania Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Stephen Proctor as he steps down from his chairmanship of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. I commend him not only for his many accomplishments but also for his continuing service for the elderly. I send him my very best wishes for his future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 22, I had to return to North Carolina due the death of my father and was absent for votes the remainder of the week.

During my absence, on September 22, 23, and 24, 1999, I missed rollcall votes 430 through 447. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcalls 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, and 435, "yes" on rollcalls 436 and 437, "no" on rollcalls 438, 439, 440, 441, and 442, "yes" on rollcalls 443 and 444, "no" on rollcalls 445, "yes" on rollcall 446, and "no" on rollcall 447.

POLICE STILL KILLING SIKHS IN PUNJAB

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, on September 22, Burning Punjab reported that Devinder Singh, a young Sikh, died in police custody at the Ropar police station on September 18. A witness said that third-degree methods were used to extract "false information" from him. His brother and two associates said that he died of injuries inflicted by the police. The two associates were unable to walk due to injuries from torture.

About a week earlier, another young Sikh was killed by the police in the Sarhali police station. On August 16, Lakhbir Singh Lakha was tortured to death in police custody at police post, Chohla Sahib. Mr. Inder Singh, father of the deceased said they had to wait for the body as his son had died 48 hours earlier. Gurpreet, a 17½-year-old Sikh girl, was abducted and raped repeatedly by the son of a Punjab Akali minister and his brother-in-law. Another Catholic priest was murdered in Orissa by allies of the governing party.

The Indian government says that there are no more human-rights violations occurring in Punjab, yet incidents like these keep coming to light.

These terrible incidents are just part of a pattern that has seen the Indian forces allegedly murder over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, as well as more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1948, over 65,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and thousands of other minorities such as Tamils, Manipuris, Dalit "untouchables," and Assamese people.

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing these terrible incidents to my attention. These incidents show that for minorities like the Sikhs and others, there is no security in India. That is why the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and others seek their independence.

I call on my colleagues to support an internationally-supervised plebiscite in Punjab on the question of independence. These people should be given the same opportunity that citizens of Puerto Rico and Quebec have received—the chance to decide their political future and status in a democratic vote.

Many believe that the breakup of India is inevitable. Since India now has nuclear weapons, the democratic countries of the world, led by the United States, must work to make sure that if this happens, it happens peacefully like in Czechoslovakia (now the Czech Republic and Slovakia), not violently like in Yugoslavia. We can prevent another Yugoslavia type crisis from breaking out in South Asia by encouraging the democratic process in the subcontinent. Let us take this stand and help ensure democracy and stability throughout the region.

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF VERN AND NORMA BATES

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 30, 1999

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Vern and Norma Bates on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary celebration. The Bateses were married in my home town of Bay City, Michigan, on June 3, 1950, thus beginning the marriage which would see them to the close of this century, and into the next millennium. During this half century together they have developed a marriage which remains one that all of us in the Fifth Congressional District aspire to and admire.

In July 1950, Vern and Norma Bates began their married life together in Caro, Michigan, where Vern established his own barber business, and together, the couple began their many civic contributions. During these early years, they were blessed with a kind and loving family, with the arrival of their three children, Annette, Timothy, and James. Today, the Bateses are proud grandparents of Chad, Eric, Jodi, and Scott.

In 1962, Vern Bates accepted a position with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulation, first as a barber, and later as a hearing officer. He remained there until his retirement in April 1992. For 12 years, Mr. Bates was a member of the Caro School Board, where he served as President.

In 1988, Norma Bates was elected County Commissioner for the Village of Caro, Indian Fields and Wells Townships. Previously, she had served as Board Chairperson as well as on numerous other boards and committees in the community. She is currently serving in her fifth term in office.

Vern and Norma Bates have contributed greatly to the Caro community. They are active members of the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Caro, where both have held numerous offices and positions. They are leaders in the local Little League. Their civic contributions to the community and public service are exemplary. Indeed, Vern and Norma Bates are beloved by their family, honored by their neighbors, and venerated by the Caro community.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that you will agree that both Vern and Norma's many life accomplishments can be attributed to their great commitment to each other, to their commitment to a marriage which weathers any storm and upholds all sacred vows. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and our colleagues to join with me in honoring Mr. and Mrs. Vern and Norma Bates, on this celebration of their 50 years of marriage.