

The fact that Vaisakhi Day this year coincided with the Jewish celebration of Passover, which celebrates the escape from slavery, and the Christian celebration of Good Friday and Easter, celebrating the triumph of life over death, should underline the importance of freedom, life, and basic human rights for all people.

American is the hope of the world. It is the land of freedom. We must take a stand for freedom. It is time to stop American aid and trade with India until it respects basic human rights. Also, it is time to declare our support for self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the other nations seeking their freedom. This would be a great way to celebrate Vaisakhi and Easter, by doing our part to bring freedom to all the people and nations of the subcontinent.

I am including the Council of Khalistan's press release on Vaisakhi Day in the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

A TIME FOR FREEDOM

Washington, D.C., April 9, 2001—Citing the words of Guru Gobind Singh, who said "Recognize ye all the human race as one," Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, extends Happy Vaisakhi Day wishes to the Sikh Nation, Happy Easter wishes to the Christian community, and Happy Passover wishes to the Jewish community. "It is interesting that these celebrations and the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, author of the American Declaration of Independence, all come together at this time," Dr. Aulakh said. The Council of Khalistan is the organization leading the Sikh Nation's struggle for freedom for its homeland, Khalistan.

Vaisakhi Day, which marks the formation of the Khalsa Panth by guru Gobind Singh in 1699, falls on April 13, which is also Mr. Jefferson's birthday. This year, April 13 is also Good Friday in the Christian calendar. April 15 is Easter. The Jewish holiday of Passover started this past weekend and runs for eight days, concluding this coming weekend.

Passover celebrates the Jewish people's escape from slavery in Egypt. Good Friday is the observance of Jesus's death on the cross, followed on Sunday by the Resurrection. It celebrates not only the resurrection of Jesus, but also the triumph of life over death and the resurrection of spirit in every person.

"The coming-together of these important occasions is a time to celebrate freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "As the Jewish community celebrates the escape of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt, let us rededicate our efforts to the cause of freedom for the Sikh Nation," he said. "As Thomas Jefferson wrote, when a government becomes destructive of the inalienable rights of any people, 'it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.' Guru instructed the Sikh Nation to oppose tyranny wherever it is found. Let us step up the struggle against the tyranny that engulfs our own people," he said. "As Christians celebrate the triumph of life, let us devote ourselves to protecting the life of our Sikh brothers and sisters and the Sikh Nation by liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation."

Dr. Aulakh called on the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan to observe Vaisakhi as a day of prayer and introspection, not working or doing business with the Indian government, but taking a day to go to the Gurdwara and celebrate the lives of the Gurus and remember their words. He also urged them to pray for freedom for the Sikh Nation and also for every other people in the world.

"India is not a democracy for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities," said

Dr. Aulakh. "Congressman Rohrabacher was right when he said that for minorities 'India might as well be Nazi Germany.'" Police witnesses have confirmed that the police tortured and murdered the former Jatheadar of the Akal Takht, Gurdev Singh Kaunke, and human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra.

Sikhs ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan for his people, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikh would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India and the Sikhs took their share with India. Sikhism was not even recognized in the Indian constitution as a separate religion, while Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc., were recognized. Discrimination against the Sikh Nation took place in every sphere. After the Golden Temple attack, the Sikh Nation stepped up its struggle to achieve its God-given right to the free. Tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Sikh Nation demands freedom for Khalistan.

The government of India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1947, over 70,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipurals, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." Government-allied Hindu militants have murdered priests, and raped nuns. Hindu radicals, members of the Bajrang Dal, burned missionary Graham Stewart Staines and his two sons, ages 10 and 8, to death while they surrounded the victims and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "India should stop the repression and allow a plebiscite on the future status of Kashmir, Nagaland, and Khalistan," he said. "Only freedom will bring peace and justice in South Asia."

TRIBUTE TO DOUG STRUYK

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend our sincere congratulations to Doug Struyk, President and CEO of the Christian Health Care Center of Wyckoff, New Jersey. He is being honored as the Wyckoff Family YMCA's Man of the Year for 2000 at the nineteenth annual Friends of the Y Banquet to be held on May 3, 2001.

Mr. Struyk is receiving this award because of his vision and humane leadership of the Christian Health Care Center and in creating a state-of-the-art, on-site day care center. The day care center is operated by the Wyckoff YMCA. We all know that quality childcare is vital for working families. When that childcare is available at the workplace it makes it even more valuable. Knowing that their children are in a safe, learning, and loving environment allows parents to perform better at home and at work. In addition, having the childcare on-site at the workplace allows the parent to have lunch with their child or just "pop in" for a visit.

Mr. Struyk's work at the Christian Health Care Center has truly been amazing. He joined the Center in 1990 as chief financial officer and moved up to CEO and president in 1994. He has created a dynamic and caring organization that has served the surrounding community for many generations. He has inspired many with his personal touch in caring for the elderly.

I speak from personal experience. My beloved mother, Margaret Scafati, was cared for with compassion and professionalism of the highest quality.

In addition to all of this, he is actively building a partnership with the federal government to address many issues facing our society. On April 25, 2001, Mr. Struyk joined us in Washington, D.C. to participate in the first annual Faith-Based Summit. Hundreds of faith-based leaders from across the nation came together at the Summit. Mr. Struyk is a leader in the area and his knowledge and experience was greatly appreciated and of great value.

The Center is a private, non-profit institution, that was established in 1911 by members of the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches. The mission of the Center is to provide a continuum of high quality services consistent with the Christian principles on which the institution was founded. Care is provided to those in need of long term care, mental health care and residential living in a compassionate loving environment. The Center consists of a 251 bed skilled nursing home, a 40 unit supportive senior housing complex, a residential living facility and a psychiatric hospital. The most recent construction is the 80 unit Longview assisted living facility that includes the new child care center.

Doug Struyk's leadership and dedication is continuing the well deserved reputation of the Christian Health Care Center as one of the finest of the kind in our great nation. Our hearts and prayers go with him and his dedicated staff.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN TAX ACT:
TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO CLARIFY THE AMOUNT OF THE CHARITABLE DEDUCTION ALLOWABLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join my colleagues from Ohio, TONY HALL, in introducing the "Good Samaritan Tax Act", a bill that has been introduced in the two previous Congresses. The purpose is to help meet the demand for food for the needy. The economic boom of recent years has not eliminated the need to feed the hungry. In fact, as more and more citizens are removed from the welfare rolls many turn to food banks for help.

A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report indicated that in 1999, 10 percent of American households, comprising 31 million individuals (including 12 million children), suffer from hunger. According to a recent Conference of Mayors report, demand for emergency food has increased, and over 13 percent of this demand goes unmet.