

witnessed Bob's work to bring collaborative quality research to Texas Tech through his determined efforts to establish the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Plant Stress and Water Conservation Laboratory in Lubbock. Bob traveled to Washington on a regular basis to testify before the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and to explain the need for an ARS laboratory in Lubbock that would focus on the plant and crop needs in semiarid production environments such as in West Texas. I am pleased that after all of his hard work, funding was provided for this important facility, which is now nearly constructed and that houses research initiatives between ARS and the University. Thanks to Bob's efforts, scientists have used this facility for research critical to plant science which will keep our farmers the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world.

I know Bob will be missed by faculty and students alike, but his support and enthusiasm for Texas Tech and agriculture will endure. Bob has always been a Red Raider, and he always will be in the future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor and pleasure today to express in this public forum my thanks to Dr. Bob Albin for his outstanding service to Texas Tech University and American agriculture and wish him all the best in his retirement.

ANOTHER CHURCH ATTACKED IN
INDIA

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, recently another Christian church was attacked in India. The Associated Press reported on February 17 that about 50 militant, extremist Hindu fundamentalists attacked a Catholic church on the outskirts of Bangalore. Unfortunately, this is just the latest incident in a long-standing campaign of repression against Christians and other religious minorities in India, which appears to be tacitly supported by the government. Last year, a cabinet member was quoted as saying that everyone who lives in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. This is part of the Hindutva ideology of the ruling BJP and its parent organization, the RSS, which was founded in support of the Fascists.

This latest incident seems to mirror with so many other actions perpetrated by Hindu militants under the umbrella of the RSS. They have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned churches. They have attacked Christian schools and prayer halls. It was Hindu militants under the RSS umbrella who burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death while they slept in their jeep, all the while chanting "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. India subsequently threw Mr. Staines's widow out of the country rather than let her continue his work providing health services for the downtrodden. The RSS itself published a booklet on how to file fake criminal cases against Christians and other religious minorities. Indian police used gunfire to break up a Christian religious festival. More than

200,000 Christians in Nagaland have been murdered by Indian forces. In the face of this pattern of repression, abuse, and tyranny, Prime Minister Vajpayee told an audience in New York, "I will always be a Swayamsewak," invoking the self-designation of RSS members.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the Indian government has done little to stop or prevent these acts of violence. If the abuse and repression of Christians were the only story, it would be bad enough, but it is not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities have faced repression also. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs, over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and many thousands of other minorities, including Tamils, Dalit "untouchables," Bodos, Assamese, Manipuris and others. According to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners, and we know the numbers the government admits to are generally low. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners.

To make it worse, Mr. Speaker, it was reported in the January 2 issue of the Washington Times that India is sponsoring cross-border terrorism in the province of Sindh to destabilize Pakistan, which has been a solid, strong ally in the war on terrorism. In addition, India's aggressive military maneuvers have forced Pakistan to shift troops away from the border with Afghanistan to the Indian border, possibly creating an escape for Taliban and Al Qaeda terrorists. In effect, India's actions are abetting the Al Qaeda terrorists.

In light of all this repression and terrorism America must make a strong stand. We must make it clear that such practices are unacceptable for countries that proclaim democratic principles and for countries that seek U.S. support. To do so, we should stop U.S. aid to India until these abuses are ended and we should publicly support the freedom movements within India's borders by calling for a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Independence for Kashmir, Khalistan, predominantly Christian Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India. These measures will help shine the light of freedom on everyone in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Associated Press article into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Associated Press, Feb. 17, 2002]

POLICE: HINDU EXTREMISTS HIT CHURCH

BANGALORE, INDIA.—About 50 Hindu hardliners attacked a Roman Catholic church in southern India on Sunday and injured several worshippers, police said.

V.V. Bhaskar, the police chief in the city of Mysore, declined to say how many people were hurt in the attack, which happened on the outskirts of the city.

The assailants threw stones at the church before forcing their way inside, breaking furniture, smashing windows and attacking worshippers.

The men demanded the priest end what they said were efforts to convert local villagers, who are mainly Hindu, Bhaskar said.

Christians make up only a tiny fraction of India's 1 billion-plus population. About 80 percent are Hindus.

Some Hindu extremist groups have accused church officials of trying to attract poor Hindus with promises of money and jobs.

The worst attack against Christians in India took place in 1999, when an Australian missionary and his two children were burned alive by a mob.

TRIBUTE TO COACH JOE DASARO
AND THE GRISSOM HIGH SCHOOL
WRESTLING TEAM

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Coach Joe Dasaro and the Grissom High School Wrestling team from Huntsville, AL. Earlier this month, they took home the 6A State Wrestling Championship, a title they haven't held since 1997. The Tigers won their sixth state championship title in the 19 years that Coach Dasaro has been leading the team. Grissom High School has always upheld the highest standards of excellence in all its endeavors, and this team of outstanding athletes is no exception.

The Grissom team scored 140 points—26 points above any other team in the tournament. Coach Dasaro has called the team solid and consistent, and I am proud of this group of athletes who have maintained an attitude of distinction in all that they do. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Coach Dasaro for his leadership and each member of the Grissom High School wrestling team for their commitment to achieving the championship title.

MIDLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM WINS STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 26, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join Midland and Permian Basin in congratulating the Midland Christian School football team in their great victory in the Class 4A state championship title in the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. Their November victory over Denton Liberty Christian is an accomplishment that is truly deserving of recognition and praise.

The Midland Christian School football program has been built upon a solid foundation of hard work, dedication, and sportsmanship. The Mustangs have shown what today's youth can accomplish when teamwork and determination are applied. They will forever hold a place of honor in the pages of Texas athletics.

It is with great pride that I recognize the members of the Midland Christian School football team and their coach Greg McClendon for this accomplishment. I would also like to recognize the administration and fans that carried them through to victory. Thanks to their tremendous efforts, Midland, TX, is now home to the 2001–2002 Class 4A State Champions for the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. I congratulate the Midland Christian Mustangs for bringing home a state football title.