

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Elsa F. Anderson today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has and the ability to impart wisdom as eloquently as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of friends, family and happiness.

HONORING THE JOHN BOY AND
BILLY RADIO SHOW

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the John Boy and Billy radio show. I have known John Boy, Billy, their producer Randy, their guest coordinator Marci, and their entire staff for many years. In fact, I knew them long before they became famous. They have been a great help to me by informing their listeners about important issues that face Congress.

Recently, the John Boy and Billy "Big Show" has been keeping their listeners informed about the War on Terror and the status of our troops overseas. As their listeners know, John Boy and Billy are the two funniest guys you will ever meet, but they are very serious when it comes to supporting our troops. The "Big Show" deserves to be recognized because they set up a United Service Organization (USO) care package drive to help support our troops during the 2003 holiday season.

Through their efforts they helped the USO collect more than \$75,000 from more than 1400 of their great listeners. I commend both the John Boy and Billy radio show, and the "Big Show" listeners, for supporting the troops and providing for them during the 2003 holiday season. Due to their efforts, our troops will receive care packages to let them know that they are supported back home, and that we appreciate what they are doing to protect us.

TAIWAN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has been a close and valuable ally of our nation since its inception as the Republic of China in 1949. In contrast to the People's Republic of China, both democracy and capitalism have flourished in Taiwan, as demonstrated by its peaceful transition to a multi-party political system and its thriving free market economy.

I support the notion of a united China, but not if it means the assimilation of Taiwan into anything resembling the current People's Republic. Rather, I look forward to the day when both peoples are united in a truly democratic state, and are able to share in the political and economic freedoms of Taiwan. Until this is possible, the United States must use the tools at our disposal to maintain the status quo, guaranteeing the people of Taiwan the freedom they currently enjoy.

Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian has called for a nationwide referendum in March

regarding China's deployment of hundreds of missiles aimed at Taiwan. Asking the Taiwanese people whether Taiwan should purchase more anti-missile defenses in response to this obvious threat does not represent an escalation of tensions with China. On the contrary, this "defensive referendum" is an affirmation of Taiwan's democratic system. We must support this exercise of the right of free expression, which is consistent with our own values.

In this instance, China's inflammatory statements, not Taiwan's referendum, threaten to upset the delicate balance that exists in the region. The United States must remain firm in its support for the people of Taiwan. And until China is ready to adopt a democratic system of government and a free market economy, that means maintaining the status quo.

HONORING MYRA MACK

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Myra Mack, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Mack is a centenarian and at 101 has lived a full life.

Myra was born in London, Ontario and attended St. George's School. She left school to attend the Army, but joined the women volunteer services instead. She worked as a telephone operator. Following school, she worked as a box girl in a dry goods store. Myra said the happiest event in her life was when she married her husband Joseph. She is most proud of her eighty plus trophies she won over the years in dance competitions.

After 101 years, Myra says she enjoys sitting on her front porch and doing her sewing. Her best advice for young people is to enjoy themselves and play while they are young.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Myra Mack today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of friends and neighbors.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SAN BERNARDINO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to honor the 25th Anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino and the leadership of Bishop Barnes.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI created the Diocese of San Bernardino. Serving over 1,000,000 Catholics in ninety-seven parishes, the Diocese has served as the moral compass and religious center to the citizens of San Bernardino.

Not only has the Diocese of San Bernardino served the Catholic citizens of San Bernardino, its thirty-four Catholic schools

have provided quality education to 8,500 students of all faiths and its two Catholic hospitals continue to save lives and keep the residents of San Bernardino healthy.

Since 1996, Bishop Gerald Barnes has led the Diocese of San Bernardino. Always a devoted teacher and educator, Bishop Barnes has also dedicated himself to fighting against the injustices that people of all races and backgrounds face.

Under the guidance of the founding Bishop, Phillip Straling and then Bishop Barnes, the Diocese has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all citizens of San Bernardino.

I am pleased to honor the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino and the leadership of Bishop Barnes.

NEW YEAR'S WISHES FOR
FREEDOM FOR THE SIKHS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, issued a New Year's message to the Sikhs. In it, he took note of the progress that has been made towards freedom for the Sikhs and other minority nations in South Asia. He also wrote that the effort to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, must continue.

As you may know, the Sikhs declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987. They named their country Khalistan. Since that time, tens of thousands of Sikhs have been murdered to suppress the Sikh freedom movement and tens of thousands more have been held as political prisoners.

Dr. Aulakh noted that seminars on Khalistan were held openly last year. He noted the ceremony honoring Sikh martyrs Satwant Singh, Beant Singh, and Kehar Singh. He wrote about recent initiatives by the Khalsa Panchayat to move the cause of freedom for the Sikhs forward.

Mr. Speaker, the right to self-determination is the cornerstone of democracy. It is time for the United States, founded on the principle of self-determination, to support self-determination for the Sikhs. We can do this by cutting off our aid to India until the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the minorities enjoy full rights and freedom and by putting the Congress on record in support of self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place Dr. Aulakh's letter into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO THE KHALSA PANTH
WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Happy New Year to you and your family and the Khalsa Panth. May 2004 be your best year ever.

The Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation. ("In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi.") The Sikh Nation must achieve it. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The fire of freedom still burns strong and bright in the heart of the Sikh Nation. 2003