

were about to arrest the two men, two more men pulled up from behind and held the agents at gunpoint. They were kidnapped and subsequently murdered by these drug-traffickers in an abandoned shack near the checkpoint.

Upon hearing about the kidnapping, nearly 400 law enforcement officers participated in the search for the missing agents in one of the largest manhunts in Southern California. Eventually, the bodies were found, and all four of the men involved in the crime were later arrested. Two of the men convicted of murder were sentenced to life in prison.

In honor of these two agents, the Commissioner of the Border Patrol presents annually the Newton-Azrak Award to the agent that provides services or accomplishments reflecting unusual courage or bravery in the line of duty. This is the highest award for valor and bravery in the Border Patrol.

This country lost two dedicated law enforcement officers 37 years ago. The deaths of Agent Newton and Agent Azrak are a lasting reminder of the perils our law enforcement officers face each and every day while protecting our nation. I am grateful for their service and dedication to this great nation.

I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to honor the anniversary of the passing of Agents Theodore Newton and George Azrak and recognize the loss suffered by their families. I would also like to recognize all the brave men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol and their family members who, like our military families, have loved ones putting their lives at risk for our security.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MYRON DUKES, LAUREN DUKES, CHRISTOPHER DUKES, AND JAUNTRICE DEADMON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow and sadness to mourn the loss of Myron Dukes, Lauren Dukes, Christopher Dukes and Jauntrice Deadmon, who died yesterday at the Fort Worth Water Gardens while attending the National Baptist Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. This is a profound loss for the Chicago community.

Mr. Myron Dukes, his 8-yr. old daughter Lauren, his 13-yr. old son Christopher, and 11 yr. old Jauntrice, were all members of the Antioch Baptist Church, located in the Englewood community that I represent, the First Congressional District of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dukes did what any father would have done: try and save his children from drowning in a deep swirling pool. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his heroic efforts with his life. As we approach Fathers Day, I ask that this Congress and the entire nation join the members of the Antioch Baptist Church in mourning the passing of this loving family. The City of Chicago and the world pray that God will give all the family members strength to endure this horrific tragedy in the coming days, and to know that they lived their lives in the service of our God.

CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES TURNS BROWNSFIELDS SITE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to my attention a creative project by the Clearwater, Florida Neighborhood Housing Services which was turned an abandoned and polluted junkyard into an affordable housing site.

This is the type of innovative program that can solve two problems for a local community. First, it cleans up an environmentally dangerous brownfields site and second it provides a source of much needed affordable housing. Through a combined effort between Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, the city of Clearwater, and the city's Economic Development Department, an 11-year-old junkyard is now the site of two single-family homes.

Mr. Speaker, following my remarks, I will include a story from the June 15, 2004 edition of The Petersburg Times which provides more details about this project with the hope that other cities around the country will use it as a model to clean up abandoned properties and fulfill the dream of homeownership for some fortunate families.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, June 15, 2004]

VISION, TOIL TURN 'JUNKYARD' INTO NEW HOMES

(By Lorri Helfand)

CLEARWATER.—A rusted bus was parked on the lot. Scrap wood, tires, auto parts and metal drums were heaped all around. Pesticides, waste oil and hazardous chemicals were stockpiled there, too.

It was a far cry from the American dream. But, over the course of a decade, Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, the city and environmental protection agencies cleaned up the junkyard and transformed it into a couple of cozy stucco homes with manicured lawns.

The houses in the North Greenwood neighborhood are the first single-family homes built on a brownfields site in the city of Clearwater. Brownfields sites are basically abandoned properties where environmental contamination or potential contamination complicate redevelopment efforts.

"It was a junkyard. I'm happy we're seeing contamination going out and families coming in," said Isay Gulley, president and chief executive of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, as she prepared to tour one of the new homes for the first time.

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services is a nonprofit organization that provides housing and economic development services in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. North and South Greenwood are its two target communities.

One house has been sold already to a 38-year-old single mother. The woman, who works as a nursing assistant, asked that she not be identified. But she said that it's a blessing to be able to progress this far and have a home.

A prospective buyer is interested in the other, which will sell for about \$139,000, though nothing has been completed, said Jennifer Smethers, home ownership center manager for Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The buyer will be eligible for up to \$30,000 in down payment assistance from the city, which will not require repayment as long as the owner resides in the home, Smethers said. The buyer also will be eligible for an \$8,000 low-interest loan from Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The three-bedroom, two-bath house is about 1,300 square feet and has a two-car garage. Beige tile lines the foyer and deep sand-colored carpet covers the floors throughout the home. Like all of the projects Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services develops, both houses have refrigerators, dishwashers and stoves.

Neighbor Rhonda Cole, 55, came by to check out the homes, which were showcased as part of National NeighborWorks Week, an event that mobilizes community awareness of the need for affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization efforts. "I think this is wonderful. I think our neighborhood is finally turning around. It's going to be a place where anybody would want to live," she said.

Problems on the site date back to 1993, when it became a junkyard. The city eventually declared a house and a two-story storage building on the lot as unsafe. The home was demolished in 1996. But when demolition began on the storage facility, workers found a mysterious liquid leaking from beneath the garage door. Petroleum, metals, contaminated soils and an underground storage tank with waste oil had to be removed so demolition could continue.

The city forgave about \$38,000 in liens that accumulated with the demolition and efforts to rid the property of hazardous waste on the condition that the owner, Larry Bunting, donate the property to Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The city's Economic Development Department, through the City Brownfield program, provided about \$150,000 in state brownfields monies for environmental assessment and cleanup of the site.

Ground was broken on one of the homes last fall. Construction on the second began a few months later. Both were completed by spring.

Gulley said her nonprofit organization has three goals: housing assistance, economic development and educational opportunities.

The organization has built about 200 affordable houses for low- and moderate-income families within the city since 1991.

"Please know we have accomplished many things but we have a long way to go," Gulley told government officials, business leaders and community members at an event last week to showcase the homes.

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services is currently planning a small residential subdivision on Tangerine St. and plans to transform a neighborhood bar into a Head Start day care center, ice cream parlor and professional offices, Gulley said.

SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF H.R. 4323 AND H. CON. RES. 260

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of two bills enacted by the House that will go a long way to helping our troops and providing some comfort and peace of mind to their families.

I was pleased to vote for H.R. 4323, which helps the Department of Defense speed up the delivery of critically important equipment

like bulletproof vests and armored vehicles to our troops in the field. Our brave men and women in uniform depend on these resources to carry out their mission and minimize loss of life.

I have heard from many deeply concerned families in my district about equipment deficiencies. One of my constituents, Dr. Donald W. Walsh, is the father of a soldier in the 933rd MP Company. Like so many parents, Dr. Walsh is very proud of his son but he is also worried about his son's safety due to the shortage of body armor and armored Humvees.

Given all the strains on the troops and their families as a result of overextended tours and uncertainty, the last thing they need is to worry about their loved ones engaging in hostilities with outdated vehicles and insufficient body armor. I am glad that Dr. Walsh came to me with his concerns. I promised him that I would do all I can to help his son. Supporting this legislation is a step in that direction.

Also, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 260, which recognizes and honors the service of non-active duty personnel who participate in funeral honor guards for deceased veterans. In times of war, there are not always enough active duty honor guards available to perform funeral services for our distinguished military personnel. These services are very important to the families of the deceased, and we should honor those who volunteer their time to provide these patriotic services.

In recognition of their contributions, the House recently passed this bill with unanimous support. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to these dedicated men and women who bring comfort and honor to our deceased veterans and their families.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT SITING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to legislation that would significantly weaken the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

The bill on the floor today exempts any federal agency from considering alternatives when assessing the environmental impact of renewable energy projects. It eliminates input from local communities, states and the public.

I strongly support wind, solar and other clean, renewable energy projects. They are critical to our clean energy future.

I have cosponsored legislation that permanently extends the wind energy tax credit. This tax credit will spur additional windmill development in Minnesota.

I have cosponsored legislation that increases the use of biodiesel and ethanol. Minnesota is a national leader in producing these renewable fuels.

The Republican leadership, however, isn't allowing these bills to be considered today.

Renewable energy projects can adversely impact our environment and public health if not designed and operated properly. We have rules that ensure that all energy projects on public lands are subject to a full environmental and public health review required by NEPA.

Congress must recognize the renewable energy development is key to our energy future. We must not pass legislation that fails to ensure that environmentally important renewable energy development occurs in a timely manner, in the right locations, is subject to the terms that fully protect the public interest and that there is ample public input.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill today.

HONORING ARC-DIVERSIFIED AS THE USDA'S JWOD CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arc-Diversified for being named the Department of Agriculture's Javits Wagner O'Day Contractor of the Year. Arc Diversified is located in Cookeville, Tennessee, which I have the pleasure of representing in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Arc-Diversified is a truly remarkable organization that specializes in the employment and training of people with disabilities. Currently, Arc-Diversified employs 183 such people. These workers provide a valuable service to the community as they manufacture foods for military feeding programs, the USDA and commercial and prime vendors.

Not only does Arc-Diversified manufacture quality products, but it also provides quality training to its employees. The workers learn valuable industrial skills and have access to a wealth of vocational services such as on the job training, job coaching and supported employment.

The USDA award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the employees and the administration of Arc-Diversified. They are the sort of people who make Middle Tennessee such a fine place to call home.

SIKHS REMEMBER 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACK ON GOLDEN TEMPLE—FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN WILL END THE BRUTALITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Sikhs observe the twentieth anniversary of India's brutal attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of their religion, this month. From June 3 to 6, 1984, the Indian military brutally attacked the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras all over Punjab. This brutal and devastating attack, carried out by the Indira Gandhi government, which was always proudly proclaiming its commitment to secularism, killed over 20,000 Sikhs.

This attack made it clear that even when the secular parties are in power, the minorities in India are not safe and they have no real rights, despite what is written in India's constitution. Whether the Hindu nationalist BJP is in power or the secularist Congress Party is in

power, the policy of killing the Sikhs and other minorities in the futile effort to preserve what India considers its territorial integrity marches brutally on.

Among those killed in the Golden Temple attack were major Sikh leaders like Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Bhai Arrikk Singh, General Shabeg Singh, and many others. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, were shot full of bullets from the guns of the Indian military. Sikh boys were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan. Then they were shot to death. Khalistan, of course, is the name of the independent Sikh homeland.

There is no place for Sikhs or other minorities such as Christians and Muslims in India despite its claims of secularism. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan formally declared its independence. If India is the democratic country it claims to be, why not simply decide the issue in a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the subject of independence? Isn't that the democratic way? I was under the impression that in democracies, things were decided by votes. The United States allows the people of Puerto Rico to vote on independence every few years. Canada has held democratic plebiscites on the status of Quebec. In 1947, India promised to settle the Kashmir issue by plebiscite, but it has never allowed that vote to be held. Why not simply put the question to a democratic vote? That is self-determination and self-determination is the essence of democracy.

The Sikh Nation was independent from 1765 to 1849. The Sikhs were supposed to receive sovereignty when India became independent. Although the Indian constitution was adopted in 1950, more than half a century ago, to this day no Sikh representative has ever signed it. How can India claim that it holds sovereignty over the Sikh Nation?

Unfortunately, the Sikhs are not the only victims of India's repressive tyranny. More than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the Indian government since 1947. They have seen priests murdered, nuns raped, schools, prayer halls, and festivals attacked—the government even shut down one festival with gunfire—missionaries murdered, beaten, and thrown out of the country, and so many other atrocities carried out against them. Almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims have fallen victim to India's brutal tyranny since 1988. Another 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were massacred in Gujarat with the connivance of the government. And these are just a few of the atrocities committed against minorities by the Indian forces.

Mr. Speaker, we must do something to stop these atrocities. If real democracy and real freedom is going to come to all the people of South Asia, the United States must take a stand. It is good that a Sikh is now Prime Minister. He must know the feeling of India's brutality against his people. Therefore, I call on him to use his office to release all of India's political prisoners and bring the persons who carried out these atrocities to justice. We must stop our aid to India until it shows that it is willing to act like a democracy and protect human rights. We are setting up a democratic government in Iraq with a new President and a new Prime Minister. Isn't it time that real democracy finally came to India?

In addition, it is vital for the Congress to declare its support for a free and fair plebiscite