

against the Russian Federation that occurred in late August and early September 2004.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL
HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of this week's anniversary of independence of numerous Latin American countries, of our country's National Hispanic Heritage Month, and in special recognition of Latinos in my district and throughout our country.

Today, September 15, five Latin American countries commemorate their independence, including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. I join these nations in mutual celebration of liberty, democracy and freedom, values which we hold so dear.

Today also marks the beginning of our country's National Hispanic Heritage Month. During this month, America celebrates the culture and traditions of our friends and neighbors who trace their roots to Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

I am proud that my district is the home of more than 100,000 residents of Hispanic or Latino descent. This community is comprised of individuals who cherish their various ethnicities, national origins, and opinions. And yet, the Hispanic-American community is united by the importance that they place on faith, family, hard work, and the hope of sharing in a better America. We in Congress must re-dedicate ourselves to ensuring that our friends and neighbors in the Hispanic community have the opportunity to build their businesses, take full advantage of our schools and universities, and unite their families across borders—a task upon which my colleagues in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have endeavored for many years.

Mr. Speaker, the Hispanic community is a vital part of my district and our country. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in support and celebration of the many Latin American countries celebrating their independence this week, of the beginning of our great National Hispanic Heritage Month, and of all our Hispanic brethren.

HONORING 115 YEARS OF HISTORY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the West Morris Area YMCA, in Randolph Township, Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant community I am proud to represent! On September 17, 2004, the good citizens of Randolph and neighboring municipalities are celebrating the West Morris Area YMCA's One-Hundred-Fifteenth Anniversary.

One hundred and fifteen years ago, the West Morris Area YMCA was founded in the

town of Dover. The year 1889 was the beginning of a YMCA that established itself today as one of the area's distinguished community organizations.

The First Methodist Episcopal Church in Dover was home of the first YMCA. Known then as the YMCA of Dover, The "Y" soon attracted nearly 200 of the area's youth per day.

In 1908, the YMCA expanded beyond Dover to include Succasunna, Wharton, Whippany, Rockaway, Chester, and German Valley, now Long Valley. For the next four decades the Y maintained its popularity, occupying various locations on or near Blackwell Street in Dover.

As membership continued to grow, after World War II, there was a need for a more permanent facility. In 1951 the YMCA headquarters on Route 46 at the corner of North Bergen Street was dedicated.

By the late 1970's the need for a building, which offered a gymnasium and a pool, was becoming evident. Expansion of the Dover building was possible but parking was a problem as the Y began to attract more and more participants from the growing residential areas outside of Dover, including Randolph Township.

In 1976, the name West Morris Area YMCA was established to reflect this expanding service area and ground was broken for a new facility on Dover Chester Road in Randolph in 1977. The brand new YMCA, offering a pool, gymnasium, fitness equipment, racquetball courts and program space was officially opened in 1979.

The YMCA is dedicated to helping all people, regardless of age, race, religion, sex, or economic status to reach their fullest potential. It is with great pride we all look upon the volunteers and staff of the past and present that are the true strength of this remarkable organization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating West Morris Area YMCA on the celebration of its one-hundred-fifteen years serving the western part of the Morris County!

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT
DAVID WEISENBERG AND SPE-
CIALIST BENJAMIN ISENBERG

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, scripture tells us that for everything there is a season; there will be times of planting, times of harvest, times of peace, and even times of war. And yet, my heart is heavy when we bury our children. Staff Sergeant David Weisenberg and Specialist Benjamin Isenberg were killed in an ambush in Taji, Iraq yesterday. These two proud soldiers were patrolling the frontier of hope—ready, willing, and able to stand up for the freedoms of people they never really knew. These two men were Oregon's future. They were brave, idealistic, and passionate men—united in the belief that their individual sacrifice might hasten the day that all people could enjoy the sweet blessings of freedom and liberty.

In his Gettysburg Address, Lincoln explained that there was nothing he could say that would matter as much as what the fallen

had done—that his words were spoken on hallowed ground, ground made sacred by the purity of self-sacrifice. Friends, colleagues, fellow Americans—his truth endures today. Both men were dedicated professionals that came from families accustomed to public service, individual sacrifice. I am blessed by their example; I am proud, touched—forever changed by their humble act of courage.

Taji is not Sheridan, it is not Portland—the Iraqi civilians they gave their lifeblood for were not their neighbors, friends, or family. That didn't matter to them. It never does for heroes. The citizens of Taji were people in need, and that was good enough for David and Benjamin. These men did their duty because they believed in the spirit of America; they wore the uniform and accepted the risks because they knew that long journeys result from small steps. David and Benjamin were more than Oregon Patriots—though patriots they were. David and Benjamin were the face of the very essence of what it means to be American.

So today, I ask that we recommit ourselves to the ideals of our democracy; that we renew our personal investment in the America that David and Benjamin were willing to fight and ultimately die for. It is to them and those that follow that we owe our time, talent, and treasure. It is to them that we owe a solution that brings honor to their sacrifice.

Let us do these things and bring about the kind of society that David and Benjamin wouldn't just be willing to die for, but a community of liberty they would celebrate.

SIKHS CELEBRATE 400TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THEIR HOLY
SCRIPTURES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month Sikhs around the world celebrated the 400th anniversary of the first installation of their holy scriptures, known as the Guru Granth Sahib. The Guru Granth Sahib, written in the lifetimes of the 10 Sikh Gurus, contains the writings of the Sikh Gurus as revealed to them and some writings by other saints who share their basic philosophy. When the Indian military attacked the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine, in June 1984, they shot bullet holes through the Guru Granth Sahib.

There was a major celebration of the anniversary in Amritsar, which was attended by the Indian President, Abdul Kalam; by the Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh; and by the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Buddhism, among many others. Apparently, India was trying to maintain its false front of secularism. But the people of South Asia know better.

The Guru Granth Sahib established Sikhism as a monotheistic religion that believes in the equality of all people. Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the Sikh Gurus, who consecrated the Guru Granth Sahib, made independence a basic principle of the religion.

As you know, India continues to oppress the Sikhs. Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Hindu militant Indian government. In addition, the Indian regime has murdered over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens