

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and humility that I rise today to commemorate the lives of the thousands of victims and heroes of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. I extend my heartfelt condolences to the loved ones of those whose lives were needlessly cut short on that day. In addition, I rise to pay tribute to those who have died at the hands of the same threat which brought the September 11th attacks. From 1983, with the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon killing 241 American service members, to the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, killing six, Islamic fascists have continued with attacks against the United States at the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, our embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and the USS *Cole* in Yemen. I mention these events because it is essential for Americans to remember that the threat responsible for perpetuating these attacks is the same unending threat against which we are fighting today in the Global War on Terror. This enemy is methodical, patient, determined, and bound by one unifying purpose: the complete annihilation of all who do not subscribe to their warped vision of Islam by pursuing a murderous ideology.

While some setbacks have occurred in our efforts, we have made tremendous progress in confronting this threat, head-on. We must acknowledge the steadfast resolution of the Administration and the commitment and diligence of those in our intelligence community. Over the past 5 years, the Republican-led Congress has spent over \$150 billion on homeland security. Congressional action on a variety of policies has provided those in our intelligence community with the critical tools needed to prevent future terrorist attacks on our homeland. Today, our service men and women are engaging the enemy abroad so the terrorists will not bring their violence to America. Because of the exemplary service of those in our military, the terrorists can no longer establish safe havens in areas of the Middle East where they once roamed freely.

Our message to the families and friends of those who fell on September 11th, is that America remains united in ensuring your sacrifices and those of your loved ones were not made in vain. America will always cherish the memories of these heroes and will remain committed to defending the principles for which this Nation stands, including principles as fundamental as individual liberty, justice, and the rule of law.

IN HONOR OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Ohio (HCCO), as they celebrate 25 years of promotion and support of the economic growth and development for Hispanic business owners.

The HCCO was formed in 1981 to address the glaring absence of Hispanic-owned businesses in American society. Concerned, motivated and determined, a small group of Hispanic business owners united forces to incorporate the HCCO as a recognized non-profit in 1983. The membership and scope of services of the HCCO has grown, yet the mission has remained the same—to focus on providing assistance, services and support to local Hispanic business owners.

Over the past quarter century, HCCO has vastly evolved from its diminutive beginnings to a viable coalition of business owners that represent the interests and memberships of more than 7,500 Hispanic-owned businesses in the State of Ohio. The HCCO provides a wide range of support services, including: the sponsorship of seminars, workshops and networking luncheons and dinners; technical assistance and support; discounts on medical and dental benefits; and a wide range of support services for individuals interested in starting their own business.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Ohio, as they celebrate 25 years of service and promotion of economic justice for Americans of Hispanic heritage. As they work together to create avenues of business opportunity for Hispanic Americans, the pathways to economic security and stability for every American is elevated from a vision, to reality.

IN HONOR OF LUIS ALEJO

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Luis Alejo on being awarded the 2005 Democrat of the Year for Santa Cruz County, given by the Democratic Central Committee, DCC, of Santa Cruz. Luis is an amazing young man with many attributes that make him a perfect candidate for this special award. He is a passionate, zealous, and intelligent person with a drive to educate and assist those who need it the most.

Luis' academic achievements help him work to better the community and residents of

Santa Cruz County. Luis, a native of Watsonville, California, received dual B.A. degrees from UC Berkeley in 1997 and his Juris Doctorate (JD) from UC Davis School of Law in 2001. He received his master's degree in education from Harvard University in 2003. His academic accomplishments led him back home, where he has been an active member of the community.

After graduating from Harvard, Luis came back to Watsonville where he became a staff attorney for California Rural Legal Assistance, CRLA. While working at the CRLA, Luis worked on education, housing, public benefits and civil rights cases on behalf of low-income families and residents. Luis has always been a champion for empowering those who feel their rights have been violated. Luis has also worked to educate people on the rights given to them as laid out in the Constitution.

Luis brought his passion into the classroom as a high school teacher in Watsonville. As a former teacher he continues to inspire Watsonville youth as the director of the Student Empowerment Project. Luis later became a member of the California advisor committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, of which he was nominated by a former California Supreme Court Justice, Cruz Reynoso. As a civil rights activist, he has been the point person for distributing valuable information to Watsonville residents about the process and requirements to become naturalized citizens.

As a member of the DCC, Luis has worked tirelessly to modify by-laws and endorsement policies and procedures within the organization. He is currently in charge of the endorsement program for all the political races for 2006 in Santa Cruz County. As the Watsonville representative of the DCC, Luis has effectively organized Watsonville residents in order to unite them on Democratic causes through the creation of the Pajaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club.

Luis is currently the chair of the Pajaro Valley Cesar Chavez Democratic Club. The Pajaro Valley community points to Luis as the key person who has brought inspiration and resources to Watsonville. He also spearheaded a registration drive targeting voters in order to educate them on how to get their voices heard.

Mr. Speaker, for all of these reasons, it is with great pleasure that I acknowledge Luis Alejo. He has proven himself to be a person who works for the people of the community, and his hard work has changed Santa Cruz County for the better. He continues to educate people, and for that I acknowledge him today.

DR. G.S. AULAKH WINS INTERNATIONAL PEACE PRIZE AWARD

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Khalistan, whom many of us know, has been awarded the International Peace Prize Award by Dal Khalsa USA. It was awarded for his tireless efforts in support of peace in South Asia and freedom for the Sikh nation. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Aulakh on this prestigious award and congratulate Dal Khalsa on selecting such a worthy honoree. Dr. Aulakh has worked for over 20 years to free the Sikh nation from oppression that has taken the lives of more than a quarter of a million Sikhs and left over 52,000 as political prisoners. He has worked with many of us here in Congress on both sides of the aisle to expose this repression and free his people.

Mr. Speaker, we should help this struggle by declaring our support for a free and fair plebiscite in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and wherever they are seeking the kind of freedom that we enjoy, and we should stop giving aid and trade to India until it stops oppressing its people.

I would like to insert the press release on Dr. Aulakh's award into the RECORD.

DR. AULAKH RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 12, 2006.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, received the International Peace Prize Award on August 27 from Dal Khalsa of America, headed by Sardar Paramjit Singh Sekhon. The award was presented at a ceremony at the Fremont Gurdwara in Fremont, California. He was nominated for this prestigious award by Dr. Awatar Singh Sekhon, Managing Editor of the International Journal of Sikh Affairs. According to a Dal Khalsa USA press release, he was given the award "for his tireless service to preserve peace in South Asia in particular and the world in general." The release cites Dr. Aulakh for "continuing the Sikhs' struggle to regain their lost sovereignty, independence, and political power, by peaceful means."

The award was presented for Dr. Aulakh's continuing efforts to internationalize the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent Sikh struggle for independence and the human rights violations against the Sikhs in India. He has been a tireless worker for the cause of Sikh freedom. Dr. Aulakh has raised awareness of the massive human-rights violations in India.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikh infants, children, youth, men, women, and elderly since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures

of the last few years the murder of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

The MASR report states that 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial, mostly under a repressive law known as the "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984! There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. "We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners," said Dr. Aulakh. "Why are there political prisoners in a democracy?"

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Missionary Joseph Cooper was beaten so badly that he had to spend a week in an Indian hospital. Then the Indian government threw him out of the country. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

"Sikhs and other minorities cannot live under Indian rule," said Dr. Aulakh. "The actions of the Indian government have made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs or other minorities such as Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and others in India's Hinduocracy," he said. Dr. Aulakh took note of the charges filed against 35 Sikhs for making speeches and raising the Khalistani flag. "Clearly India is scared of the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement for freedom inside and outside Punjab, Khalistan," he said.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and raise the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO JORDAN PITTMAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Jordan Pittman of Littleton, Colorado. Ms. Pitt-

man has been accepted to the People to People World Leadership Forum here in our Nation's Capital. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the People to People program founded by President Eisenhower in 1956.

Ms. Pittman has displayed academic excellence, community involvement and leadership potential. All students chosen for the program have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Jordan Pittman, and wish her the best in all her future endeavors.

VALLEJO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra as it celebrates its 75th season, 2006–2007.

The mission of the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra, VSO, is to present performances of symphonic music of the highest possible artistic excellence for the citizens of Vallejo and all of Solano County; to cultivate and nurture the appreciation and enjoyment of classical music in people of all ages; and to serve and shape the musical, cultural, and educational interests of the people of Vallejo and Solano County. The VSO engages guest artists of national and international renown so Solano County residents can enjoy them in live performance. The VSO sends its musicians to perform in public schools so children may experience and learn about live classical music.

The Vallejo Symphony, seventh oldest symphony orchestra in California, traces its roots to the early days of the Great Depression, when a small group of community leaders determined that local musicians needed a showcase for their talents and that other members of the community would be enriched by attending live performances of timeless music. On February 21, 1931, a 60-piece orchestra conducted by Julius Weyland made its debut in the auditorium of the city's newly dedicated Veterans Memorial Building. Concerts were presented throughout the decade with Mr. Weyland and George Trombley conducting the orchestra during these formative years.

Activity lessened, then ceased during World War II until 1946, when the Vallejo Symphony was revitalized under the auspices of the Vallejo Recreation District and the Adult Education Department. Dr. Orley See became its conductor at that time. In 1951, Viril M. Swan took the conductor's baton to lead the orchestra until 1961, when Dr. George Wargo began his 21-year career as music director and conductor. The sixties saw the independence of the orchestra established, a subscription concert series launched, and supportive fundraising activities begun by the Symphony Association's board of directors. During the following decade, artistic goals for the orchestra were set, and an annual Major Gifts Campaign was established to support a professional orchestra and expand the concert season.

The 1980s saw a dramatic improvement in the quality of the orchestra and programming