

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

when David Ramadanoff, a former associate conductor of the San Francisco Symphony and winner of the 1980 Leopold Stokowski Conducting Award, accepted the position of music director and conductor. Under his dynamic leadership, the Vallejo Symphony has developed into an urban orchestra of regional importance, attracting some of the finest musicians in the San Francisco Bay Area. In 1983 the VSO became completely professional. In 1993 the orchestra visited Vallejo's sister city of Akashi, Japan. In 1997 the VSO hosted the West Coast premiere of Hannibal's concert opera "African Portraits." Hannibal spent the week in Vallejo public schools with students.

The Vallejo Symphony now performs a four-concert subscription season and an annual Summer Pops concert each Fourth of July. As part of its commitment to the musical experience of Solano County's children, the orchestra performs youth concerts for the elementary school children of Vallejo, and presents its popular series of intimate, entertaining and educational mini-concerts in elementary schools throughout the county.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize the Vallejo Symphony Orchestra for its many contributions to the Vallejo community and wish its members many more years of outstanding performances.

REMARKS ON THE DEATH OF
SHAMIL BASAYEV

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on July 10, 2006, one of the world's greatest terrorists, Shamil Basayev was killed during a special operation by Russian Security Services. Basayev represented the radical aspect of the Chechen rebel movement. The movement began as a secular fight for independence and has become overrun by Islamic extremists. Russia claims that Basayev's efforts have now been supported by international terror networks like al-Qaeda.

For more than 10 years, Basayev, designated as a terrorist by both the United States and the United Nations, was the mastermind behind the most horrific attacks on the Russian people. His reign of terror includes the seizure of a hospital in Budyonovsk in southern Russia in 1995 that killed approximately 100. He attacked a theater in Moscow in 2002 where dozens of hostages died. And most tragically and horrific in its cowardice, he abducted a school in Beslan in 2004, where 331 people died, more than half of them schoolchildren.

Basayev was set to strike again, but the Russian government stopped him in his tracks. Russian security officials engaged in a special operation that used information gained from tracking weapons and explosive shipments from abroad. They linked this information to plans for a terrorist attack in southern Russia intended to coincide with a meeting of the Group of 8 leaders.

Before his death, in his last known statement in public, Basayev was said to express "great thankfulness" for the insurgents in Iraq who killed 5 Russian diplomats.

Terrorism is an affront to civilized people the world over. We in New York and the United

States know the bloody price of terrorism. This represents a small victory in the global war on terrorism. Civilized society cannot rest until terrorism is stamped out once and for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SANCTUARY OF ROANOKE, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay recognition to the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke, Alabama, which is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their sanctuary on October 1, 2006.

In 1836, the Randolph Mission was created and serves today as the earliest recording of a place for Methodists to worship in Roanoke. In 1870, the church joined the newly organized North Alabama Conference. The First United Methodist Church of Roanoke continues to be a part of the conference today.

From 1906 to 1908, George Stoves served as pastor of the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke during a rapid period of growth in the town and during construction of their present church. Stoves is recognized for designing the beautiful building.

The celebration will include opening the corner stone, memorializing a newly renovated kitchen, and paying off the mortgage of their family life center.

I salute the members of the First United Methodist Church of Roanoke, Alabama, for reaching this important milestone in the history of Roanoke, and congratulate the church family on their sanctuary's 100th anniversary.

IN HONOR OF EMILY STUART

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Emily Stuart. Throughout her lifetime, Mrs. Stuart brightened the lives of family and friends in the community of Parma, Ohio.

As a kind and active citizen, Mrs. Stuart played an integral role in local politics. She was a member of the Parma Democratic Club and the Woman's Democratic Club. Mrs. Stuart revolutionized the process of communication between constituents by devising a system of post cards to collect contact information. In addition, she spent countless hours making phone calls and posting yard signs for local politicians. During her involvement in local politics, she herself rose to the ranks of precinct committeewoman; a position she maintained for more than 20 years.

But Mrs. Stuart is not just an integral part of Parma politics. From her home on Harold Avenue, she has enjoyed 43 years of marriage to her loving husband, Joe Stuart. Together they became involved in committees and clubs across northeast Ohio. Her brothers, Edward

and Stephen Mazur and sister Janice Warner along with many nieces and nephews are among the many family members touched by Mrs. Stuart's delightful stories and laughter.

While the world changed dramatically over the course of Mrs. Stuart's lifetime, she believed in maintaining the traditions of her Polish ancestry. Mrs. Stuart contributed to the culture of Parma by joining the Polish Legion of American Veterans. Close friends say she welcomed any and every opportunity to speak her native language.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the life of Emily Stuart; a beloved family member and friend. Over the years, her dedication to service brought joy to the lives of so many, including mine.

INTRODUCTION OF "RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILIZATION CIVILIAN MANAGEMENT ACT"

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today, Mr. SAXTON and I are pleased to introduce the House companion bill to S. 3322, the Lugar-Biden bill, "Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act," that unanimously passed the Senate in May 2006.

According to the Defense Science Board, since the end of the cold war, the U.S. has begun stabilization and reconstruction operation once every 18–24 months. This frequency of engagement reflects the reality that U.S. national security is more threaten by failing and ungoverned states than traditional threats. We only have to look to Afghanistan and southern Lebanon to see the far-reaching consequences of ungoverned territory.

The complexities of failed states cannot be dealt with by military solution alone. Combating failed states requires a complex combination of political, diplomatic, development assistance and military actions, as well as the ability to respond quickly in the immediate aftermath of crisis. The military plays an extremely important role in stabilizing a country, but civilians play an equally important role and have comparative advantage in helping to develop civil society—judicial systems, law enforcement, health care, economic development, trade promotion and other essential sectors to stabilize a country.

The Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act would lay the legislative framework for authorizing this integral civilian capacity. Specifically, the Reconstruction and Stabilization Civilian Management Act would:

Authorize the establishment of the State Department Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, S/CRS, and expenditures for a Crisis Response Fund for a Conflict Response Corps, and for educational, training, planning and operational capacity for S/CRS.

Authorize the establishment of a 250 person Civilian Response Corps with both Active-Duty and Reserve components. The corps, made up of both State Department and USAID employees, could be rapidly deployed with the military for both initial assessments and operational purposes. They would be the first civilian team on the ground in post-conflict situations, well in advance of the establishment of an embassy.