

service during the war. He continued to be honored after the war for serving his comrades and their memory by editing *Checkerboard*, a World War II newspaper, and facilitating tours of European battlefields.

It has been said that Bill was part of a dying breed in journalism—journalists who didn't write for the good of their career, but for the good of their community. Bill enjoyed success in career and community. Among others, he received awards from Kansas State University, the Kansas House of Representatives, and the International Society of Weekly Newspaper Editors. In 2004, he was inducted into the Kansas Newspaper Hall of Fame. In Marion, Bill gave back while serving as school board president, Kiwanis president, and president of the Marion County Hospital District. Bill became even more connected with his neighbors as an ambulance and bus driver.

Despite his many activities, family came first. Bill was a devoted husband to his wife, Joan, and a proud father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Meyer family. May the strength and courage demonstrated in his years of service help inspire us. We will not only remember Bill the way we saw him through our own eyes, but also by the way we saw the world through his eyes. The world is a better place because of him, and he will be greatly missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE MICHAEL G. OXLEY UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SPEECH OF

**HON. DAVID L. HOBSON**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 7, 2006*

Mr. HOBSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to our friend and colleague, Congressman MIKE OXLEY.

When I was first elected to Congress, I really didn't know MIKE, but I had heard about his prowess on the basketball court and on the golf course. But, one of the things that I have come to appreciate over the years has been the depth of knowledge and experience he has in the business and financial services sector. It is because of this that MIKE has earned the respect of financial leaders in the United States and worldwide.

MIKE is leaving us with a legacy that includes his work on the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley bill to bring more accountability and responsibility to the corporate world. In the weeks following the 9/11 attacks, he led the swift response to target terrorist financing by working to pass a new money laundering statute.

I think it's also important to mention that MIKE's leadership in shaping policy over the years has reached beyond the corporate world. He has also made a significant difference in promoting personal savings and investments at the individual level.

Prior to redistricting, I used to represent two counties that are now in MIKE's district. While I was disappointed to lose Champaign and Logan Counties, it has given us an opportunity to work together on issues important to com-

munities in those counties. We also worked together during the most recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round on behalf of the Ohio National Guard bases located in Mansfield and Springfield.

MIKE and I have also had some fun over the years. In a previous campaign, he has been kidding me about my campaign radio ads. He says they made him gag because they were a bit too warm and fuzzy for his taste, but I tell him that they worked because he remembered them verbatim.

But seriously, we are going to miss MIKE as a friend and as a leader on business and financial issues. He and his team, including his Chief of Staff Jim Conzelman, and his long-time scheduler, Debbi Deimling, will also be greatly missed.

MIKE, I wish you and your wife, Pat, and Elvis all of the best as you begin this new chapter in your lives. And maybe someday, I will be good enough to play golf with you.

CONGRATULATING THE HONORABLE OTHA LEE BIGGS ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a tremendous amount of pride—and personal pleasure—that I rise today to honor one of the most outstanding public servants south Alabama has ever known, the Honorable Otha Lee Biggs, on the occasion of his retirement after serving his beloved Monroe County for over three decades.

Mr. Speaker, it was just a few years ago that I stood on the House floor to recognize Judge Biggs for being honored by the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association as the recipient of the Dr. R.F. Henry Outstanding Service Award, the highest award this respected organization can give.

For over three decades, Judge Biggs has been the leading advocate on behalf of the critical river system that runs throughout southwest Alabama and for the continued funding of necessary maintenance and dredging along this important artery of commerce.

Without question—and I would suggest that perhaps without equal—Judge Biggs deserves our eternal gratitude for a lifetime of public service. His dedication to the people of Monroe County is truly legendary.

In 1961, Judge Biggs got his first taste of public service when he served as Clerk of the Monroe County Commission following the death of Mr. L.L. Hendrix, who had served in that capacity for a number of years. He served on the commission for ten years. Even as a young man in high school, Judge Biggs worked in both the County Commission and Probate offices. No one will ever serve Monroe County in the future, in either of these two important positions, who came to the job better trained or more experienced than Judge Biggs.

On January 18, 1971, Judge Biggs took the oath of office as Probate Judge and Chairman of the County Commission for the first of what would turn out to be many consecutive six year terms. Immediately following his election to office in 1970, Judge Biggs, along with

members of the County Commission, secured commitments from several large-scale corporations and businesses to build, relocate, and expand existing facilities in Monroe County, including Alabama River Pulp, FDR Plastics, Stayfast, Inc., Vanity Fair Intimates, and B & B Cabinet Doors, LLC.

At the time—and as a direct result of his tireless work and tremendous leadership as well as the support from everyone else involved in the county's economic development programs—Monroe County led the entire state of Alabama in new job creation.

In addition to Monroe County's economic life, Judge Biggs has also been instrumental in helping the area preserve and promote its strong literary and historic heritage.

As the birthplace and home of such internationally known writers as Nelle Harper Lee, Truman Capote and Mark Childress, Monroe County has been firmly established as the "Literary Capital of Alabama."

For his part, Judge Biggs has done yeoman's work to ensure this reputation extends beyond county and state lines to reach an international audience. Recent publicity has brought a significant increase in the number of tourists to the area.

Judge Biggs was also instrumental in the creation of annual performances of the stage adaptation of Miss Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. His work on behalf of the county museum and theater troupe has resulted in the production securing permission to perform on stage at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and at festivals in Great Britain and Israel, as well as a host of other U.S. cities.

Mr. Speaker, to list all of Judge Biggs' many accomplishments would take literally an entire volume of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD unto itself. That said, no list of "accomplishments" would be complete without mentioning three key projects for which Judge Biggs deserves special commendation.

First, he has played a lead role in developing the Monroe County Airport into a 6,000 foot runway which gives it the capability of landing almost any size corporate jet. More recently, he has advocated working with the FAA in formulating a long-range plan for airport growth and development.

Second, Judge Biggs deserves considerable recognition for his efforts at saving the Old Monroe County Courthouse. Working with a committee established in the late 1980s, Judge Biggs oversaw the efforts to obtain state, federal, and private funds to restore this Alabama landmark to its new-found glory and home to a permanent exhibit of celebrated Monroe County authors.

And third, no one in southwest Alabama has been more persistent—or more deserving of credit—for the four-laning of US. Highway 84 from 1-65 westward to the Mississippi line than Judge Biggs. While Senator SESSIONS and I, along with Governor Bob Riley, have been pleased to play a small role in getting the initial funding to begin this massive project, the person who has worked over the past several decades to keep this a regional and state priority is none other than Judge Biggs.

Judge Biggs served for many years on the board of trustees for the University of South Alabama and fought tirelessly for the interests of thousands of students, faculty members, and staff who have been involved in the life of that institution since its founding in the early

1960s. In addition, he has been an active member of the Monroeville Civitan Club, the Monroe County Cattleman's Association and the Monroe County Conservation Club, to name just a few of the other groups that have benefited from his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have met few public servants as committed and dedicated to the well-being of their community as Judge Otha Lee Biggs.

His tenacity and work ethic are matched only by his kindness and generosity. It goes without saying but I am proud and deeply honored to have developed a strong friendship with him, as did my predecessors, Congressman Jack Edwards and Sonny Callahan.

Monroe County and, indeed, all of south Alabama have benefited greatly from his experience and wisdom. He is a true friend to many people, and it is a pleasure for me to ask my colleagues to join me in praising Judge Otha Lee Biggs for his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL TEAM

**HON. VIRGINIA FOXX**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to the Watauga High School football team of 2006. The Pioneers of Watauga High School in Boone, North Carolina set out with modest expectations and ended up just one game away from the state championship for 4A football. Along the way, they won 12 games and lost 3, and they set an example of character and perseverance that made a lasting impression on their school and their community.

This team frequently came from behind in the second half to win their games. Three times in the playoffs for the state championship, they won by one point. By scores of 20-19, 24-23, and 15-14, they advanced further toward that championship than any team from Watauga County in 28 years.

Watauga County, home to the Pioneers of Watauga High School, is a place that is used to taking pride in the academic quality of its schools but that has not often enjoyed similar success in team sports. On the academic side, the Watauga County School system is one of just three school systems in the state where all schools made Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind last year. At Watauga High School, students achieve proficiency levels that are better than over 92 percent of high schools in the state, and average SAT scores are consistently well above the state and national average.

The football team, however, had not enjoyed a winning season in several years. They won just 4 games the previous season and only 2 the year before that. Success on the football field had to be built from the ground level. And as the success of the team gained momentum in this special season, it brought a new spirit and energy to Watauga High School and indeed to the whole community.

At the school, art students and teachers created designs for giant "W's" on the football

field, and the w's appeared on every door at the school. The local Touchdown Club—which is not affiliated with the high school—fed the players and their families each Thursday night. Local businesses announced their support for the Pioneers on the marquees outside restaurants and hotels. In churches and stores, you could hear excited conversations about the team's success.

In the end, they did not capture the state championship, but they did achieve something of greater and more lasting importance: they demonstrated the values of determination, hard work, and courage in the face of adversity. They showed that a past of limited success does not stand in the way of a bright future. In proving that history does not have to be destiny, they provided a very real example of the best of the American dream and they lived at the heart of the American experience. Their school and their community are the better for it.

PROFESSOR EXPOSES FAKE SIKH  
SCRIPTURES, HINDU PLAN TO  
DESTROY SIKH RELIGION

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 8, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Professor Gurtej Singh JAS is a Professor of Sikhism and a very widely respected intellectual leader in the Sikh community. Recently, he wrote an article exposing the Dasam Granth, which is alleged by some Hindus to be a Sikh scripture. What apparently was done was to take a few of the writings of Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the Sikh gurus, and combine it with some sexually explicit material from a Hindu sect known as Shakat. The aim is to discredit Guru Gobind Singh and bring the Sikhs into the Hindu fold, according to Professor Gurtej Singh.

The authors of the Dasam Granth identify themselves within the text, yet many insist that the work was written by Guru Gobind Singh and should be equal to the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Professor Gurtej Singh commented that a leader of the militant Hindu fascist operation known as the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which was formed in support of the Fascists, had commented that all the Sikh "high priests" including Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti are on the RSS payroll. Thus, they are cooperating in this effort by the Brahmins to destroy the Sikh religion. Nice trick in a supposedly secular country!

Also cooperating in this effort is former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, who led the most corrupt government in the history of Punjab. These are the kinds of people with whom the Brahmins choose to ally themselves.

This kind of control over the leadership of the Sikhs is one reason that they need their independence, to protect their identity and their safety before the Indians wipe them out, as they seek to do. Over a quarter of a million Sikhs killed since 1984 proves that. In addition, the Indian regime has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir and 2,000 to 5,000 in Gujarat, as well as Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country and Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, Assamese, and other minorities.

Tens of thousands of people are held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. The Movement Against State Repression reported that India acknowledged holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Many of these have been in illegal detention since 1984.

These political prisoners must be released at once and those who violate human rights must be brought to justice or we should stop all of our aid and trade with India. And we should put the U.S. Congress on record in support of freedom everywhere in South Asia in the form of a plebiscite on the subject of independence, under international supervision to ensure its fairness. Isn't that the democratic way to do things?

While Professor Gurtej Singh's article is too long to put in the RECORD, the Council of Khalistan did an excellent press release on it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that press release on the Dasam Granth fraud to the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

PROFESSOR GURTEJ SINGH EXPOSES DASAM  
GRANTH FRAUD

WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 7, 2006—Professor Gurtej Singh, a leading Sikh scholar, Professor of Sikhism, and an advisor to the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, has published an extensive article exposing how Hindu fundamentalists have promoted the Dasam Granth, which contains very little of the work of Guru Gobind Singh, as his writing and as genuine Sikh scripture, parallel to the Guru Granth Sahib. He exposes the fact that "the Hindu plan to drag the Sikhs back to the Hindu fold" requires promoting the Dasam Granth and that this plan has received the support of such allegedly Sikh leaders as former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and the high Sikh "high priests" led by Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti. Badal led the most corrupt government in Punjab's history, selling jobs for money, and regularly visits Hindu and other anti-Sikh places of worship, according to Professor Gurtej Singh.

Professor Gurtej Singh writes that Jathedar Vedanti "was given the task of actually dragging the Sikh panth into the fold of Hinduism." He notes that Jathedar Vedanti, like Mr. Badal, succumbed to the temptations of money. In order to carry out this nefarious plan, Professor Gurtej Singh writes, Vedanti embraced the Dasam Granth as genuine Sikh scripture, claiming that it was written by Guru Gobind Singh and was to be treated as scripture and canon. The Dasam Granth includes vivid, lewd descriptions of sex acts and other pornographic and obscene references that were added to Guru Gobind Singh's writing to make him look bad.

Professor Gurtej Singh notes that the authors of the Dasam Granth identified themselves in the text. Yet the Hindus insist that Guru Gobind Singh is the author and that the book is Sikh scripture. According to Professor Gurtej Singh, it is a scripture of the Shakat sect, who are worshippers of the Hindu goddess Shiva, as it reflects their mode of worship and their practices. "It has been a long standing Hindu desire to bring the Sikhs under the umbrella of the Shakat sect," he writes. "This involves getting them to accept some of the rituals of that sect as modes of worship." He goes on to write, "To propagate the dasam granth as Sikh scripture at par with Guru Granth, has been the aim of a section of the Hindu zealots and a section of the Media mostly controlled by such Hindus."

According to Professor Gurtej Singh, Mr. Sudarshan of the fascist, Hindu militant