

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JACK HOLEFELDER

**HON. JOE SESTAK**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to honor Jack Holefelder on his retirement from presidency of the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce, a post he has held for the past 26 years. Mr. Holefelder has overseen an over 500% increase in chamber membership such that the chamber is now the third largest chamber in Pennsylvania. Over this period, the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce has twice won the Chamber of the Year award.

Along with his decades of exemplary leadership over the chamber, Mr. Holefelder has been an active member of the community. He has headed or been a member of numerous committee organizations including Chairman of the Delaware County Fair; Chairman of the Chester Housing Authority Advisory Board; Chairman of Red Cross, Heart Fund, Cancer Society, and March of Dimes fund raising; President of the Delaware County Education Foundation; Board Member of the Delaware County Hero Scholarship Fund; Board Member of the Southeastern Delaware County United Way; Board Member of the Delaware County Crime Commission; a member of the Neumann College Board of Trustees; and a coach in the Aston and Middletown Little League and Girl's Soccer league. He has raised over five million dollars for local charities and special projects.

Most impressive of all Mr. Holefelder's many achievements is his commitment to the Rotaplast International program. Since 2002, Mr. Holefelder has participated in three trips to Peru and one trip to India in support of that exceptional program. Dedicated to providing free reconstructive cleft-palate operations and treatment for children in need worldwide, Mr. Holefelder and his colleagues have been ambassadors of goodwill to hundreds of families who will never forget the life-changing nature of their kindness.

Mr. Holefelder is a published author, a TV and radio personality, and an entrepreneur. He is a recipient of the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal for service in Vietnam, the Red Cross David Henderson Humanitarian Award, Glen Riddle Rotary Community Service Award, and March of Dimes Lifetime Achievement Award among numerous other awards and recognitions.

Madam Speaker, I ask you to join me in honoring Jack Holefelder, a pillar of the community and a man who represents the very best of the United States of America at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, because I was attending to important constituent matters in my congressional district, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 865 and 866. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

**SIKHS SHOULD NOT BE FORCED TO REMOVE TURBANS AT AIRPORTS**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently a Sikh named Dr. Ranbir Singh Sandhu was stopped at the San Francisco airport as he tried to board a flight and forced by agents of the Transportation Security Administration to take off his turban. Dr. Sandhu, who is around 80, was on his way to a funeral in Vancouver. He refused to take off his turban and was barred from the flight, forcing him to make a 20-hour drive to get to the funeral.

This is unacceptable. I certainly understand and support wanding the turban for security reasons in this day and age, but forcing a Sikh to remove his turban is an insult to his religious identity. TSA does not make Jewish passengers take off their yarmulkes and that is right. They shouldn't. But they require Sikhs to take off their turbans. That is unfair, discriminatory, and wrong.

Airport security is important. We were just reminded of that again by the passing of another anniversary of the September 11 attacks. But we must not let that be used as an excuse to violate the religious liberties and the civil rights of anyone. We should stop asking Sikhs to remove their turbans.

The Council of Khalistan recently wrote to President Bush, Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff, and the TSA Administrator, Kip Hawley, asking that this policy be changed.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2007.

Hon. MICHAEL CHERTOFF,  
Secretary of Homeland Security,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CHERTOFF: I am writing to you today about the Transportation Safety Administration's practice of making Sikhs remove their turbans in order to travel. Recently, Dr. Ranbir Singh Sandhu of California, a retired engineering professor who is around 80 years old, was stopped at San Francisco International Airport on his way to Vancouver for a funeral. He was ordered by TSA security workers to remove his turban. When he refused he was not allowed to board his flight and he wound up having to drive 20 hours to Vancouver to get to the funeral.

Asking a Sikh to remove his turban in public is worse than asking someone to remove

his pants in public. No one would even think of making such a request, yet the TSA thinks nothing of asking Sikhs to remove their turbans in public.

I salute TSA for not asking Jewish people to remove their yarmulkes in public. This is because they are religious symbols. Jewish people are required to wear them in public. By the same principle, Sikhs are required to wear their turbans. Wanding the turban should be enough and would be understandable in light of security concerns, but forcing a Sikh to remove his turban is unacceptable. It is a strike against his Sikh religion and his Sikh identity.

I respectfully but strongly urge you to take action to prevent what happened to Dr. Sandhu from happening to any other Sikh traveller. Please order the TSA workers to respect the religion and identity of Sikhs and not to force them to remove their turbans. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
President, Council of Khalistan.

IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERT L. WRIGHT

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 18, 2007*

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Robert L. Wright, as the Chattahoochee Council of the Boy Scouts of America's 2007 Distinguished Citizen Award recipient, which honors his outstanding service to the Columbus, Georgia community.

There is much to admire about a man like Dr. Wright. As one of the first African American men to attend the Ohio State University, Dr. Wright received a degree in optometry, and later began his optometry practice in Columbus. Then, in 1985, he founded Dimensions International, a defense logistics company, as a three person operation. Today, Dimensions has over 1,200 employees in more than 30 locations.

However, I believe Dr. Wright's sense of civic duty, which has been a running theme throughout his life, truly distinguishes him from his peers and makes him a man worthy of praise. He has fought for racial equality, serving as both a moderator and trail blazer in several organizations, including the Georgia Republican Party. He has served as a mentor to other minority small business owners and helped craft policy to aid their success, including serving as associate administrator for minority small business at the Small Business Administration under President Reagan. He also was on the planning committee to create the National Museum of African-American History and Culture in Washington, D.C.

Perhaps it is the many challenges Dr. Wright encountered as a young man, or perhaps it is his unwavering belief in human

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