

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 AIR-
PORTS**

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

• 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.

achievement that drives him. No matter the source of his inspiration, I know the numerous organizations that have benefited from his service are extremely grateful.

Also, as someone who admires Dr. Wright greatly, I feel blessed to have known him. I am honored to call Dr. Wright a constituent, and friend. May our community and our country continue to benefit from his tremendous legacy of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE WASHINGTON
FIRE COMPANY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Washington Fire Company No. 1 on the dedication of its firehouse and the housing of its equipment.

The station will be home to the fire company's new 2007 E-One Rescue Pumper as well as its 1999 E-One Ladder truck and its 1990 E-One Rescue Pumper. It will also house the pride and joy of the company, a beautiful, fully restored 1924 American LaFrance Pumper.

This new station is twice the size of the previous station, and will allow the members of the Company to more effectively protect the Borough of Conshohocken, which they have proudly served since 1874. From a small hose house 128 years ago to a new modern facility with a banquet hall, the Washington Fire Company has remained a staple of the Borough of Conshohocken.

The fire company's mission has expanded over time to include not only protecting the community, but also educating it. The company hosts an annual "Fire Prevention Show" that teaches the community about fire prevention and what to do in the case of a fire emergency.

The members of Washington Fire Company No. 1 selflessly serve the community while balancing their full-time careers and families. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve the community has persevered. I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Washington Fire Company, past and present, and to congratulate them on the dedication of their new firehouse.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY L. CART

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sherry L. Cart, a dedicated woman with a long history of service to our country. Mrs. Cart, a resident of Brandenburg, Kentucky, is retiring on September 28, 2007 after thirty-three years of active federal service.

Sherry Cart began her civilian service career on January 2, 1974. She is retiring, as Deputy Protocol Officer, United States Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Mrs. Cart's hard work has not gone unnoticed during her time at Fort Knox. She was the recipient of the Commander's Award for Civilian Service along with numerous performance awards and service awards.

It is my privilege to honor Sherry L. Cart today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for her service to the soldiers of Fort Knox, the United States Army, and this Nation. I wish Sherry, her husband Steve, and the rest of their family a safe and happy retirement.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, last month this House approved landmark legislation to put our nation on the path toward energy independence. Among other provisions, this bill would provide incentives to encourage the production and use of renewable energy, and calls for greater energy efficiency in both public and private sectors.

When it comes to energy usage, my home town of Las Vegas has received more than its share of scrutiny. But I would like to share with my colleagues an example of how Las Vegas is leading the nation in the effort to become more energy efficient. The following is a response from MGM MIRAGE, the largest employer in my district and a good corporate citizen, to an accusation that the casinos of Las Vegas use too much energy. I would suggest to my colleagues that if more businesses would follow the lead of MGM MIRAGE, the impact on our nation's energy consumption would be substantial.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007.

Hon. CANDICE MILLER,
228 Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: We recently read reports of your comments regarding energy consumption by the Las Vegas gaming and tourism industry. We would like to share with you some of the initiatives that we are taking at MGM MIRAGE to reduce our energy impact in our state.

Currently, we are in the process of building the largest privately funded construction project in the history of our country. CityCenter, a 76 acre, mixed-use urban development in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, will include 2,700 residences and a 4,000 room resort and casino. In keeping with our commitment of green building design and construction, CityCenter is being built according to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards. Once complete, it will be the largest green campus in the history of the United States.

The following is a list of some of the energy efficiency features being incorporated into CityCenter: CityCenter will have a highly efficient state of the art central plant with combined heat and power capability. This combined heat and power plant will utilize excess heat, reusing it for heating domestic water; Facades will have higher glazing to reduce air conditioning costs; "Air-brows" or "shades" on the façade will help to prevent overheating of units from direct sun; A docking station for the room key is being considered for some hotel rooms; when the key is removed most of the lights will

shut down and thus conserve energy; The design maximizes the use of natural light in residential units, thus helping to reduce energy consumption; Most structures will have a reflective roof, also helping to reduce air-conditioning and therefore energy consumption.

In addition to these energy efficient features, we have taken many steps to also improve the efficiency of our existing buildings.

MGM MIRAGE recently implemented improvements in lighting technologies and mechanical equipment that will conserve 23 million kilo-watt hours annually; this is the equivalent of removing over 1,700 homes from the Las Vegas power grid.

The impact on air emissions by not having to produce this energy is equivalent to a reduction of approximately 17,000 tons of greenhouse gas per year; it would take about 500,000 trees to offset that amount of greenhouse gasses each year.

We are also working with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a not-for-profit think tank that assists companies in identifying and using energy and resources efficiently. The RMI will aid MGM MIRAGE in the development of a corporate strategy for alternative and renewable energy.

We also strive to work in a partnership with our local government in Nevada. Recently, our Senior Vice President of the Energy and Environmental Services Division, Cindy Ortega, was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Nevada's Climate Change Advisory Committee. In addition, we have recently been joined by Gary Mayo as our Vice President of Energy and Environmental Services Division. You might remember Gary in his former capacity as Director of Government Affairs and Corporate Responsibility for Visteon Corporation in Van Buren Township, Michigan.

MGM MIRAGE is committed to continue to demonstrate leadership in the areas of energy and water conservation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about CityCenter, or our efforts with regard to energy and natural resource conservation, please contact Robert Elliott, Vice President of Government Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT ELLIOTT,
Vice President of Government Affairs,
MGM MIRAGE.

SONIA GANDHI SHOULD NOT
SPEAK ON NONVIOLENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I was distressed to learn that the United Nations invited Sonia Gandhi to speak on nonviolence next month. She is the leader of the Congress Party, which has presided over massive atrocities against Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities.

Mrs. Gandhi is Catholic. How can she speak on nonviolence when her party presides over a country in which nuns have been raped and forced to drink their own urine, priests have been murdered, Christian schools have been burned to the ground, and prayer halls have been vandalized?

It was Mrs. Gandhi's party that carried out the Golden Temple massacre that killed so many thousands of innocent Sikhs, including young boys ages 8 to 13. Her party presided