

Bifida have access to, and enjoy, a high quality of life. Additionally, Mr. Pote devoted his efforts to preventing the incidence of Spina Bifida by educating women on the importance of consuming folic acid prior to pregnancy and throughout their childbearing years.

Not only has Mr. Pote been successful in his endeavors to raise awareness surrounding Spina Bifida, he had a very successful business career as well. He attended Princeton University where he received a bachelor's degree in economics and subsequently received a Masters of Business Administration from Harvard Business School. Mr. Pote's hard work eventually led to his nomination as Chairman and CEO of Fidelity Bank at the age of 37. After co-founding the Beacon Group, he was appointed to lead Chase Manhattan's Regional Banking Group—eventually culminating with a position as chairman of Retail Financial Services for JP Morgan Chase. Once Mr. Pote retired from JP Morgan Chase, he served as CEO of the American Financial Realty Trust in Philadelphia.

In its 8 years of existence, under Mr. Pote's steadfast leadership, SBF has achieved many incredible successes for the Spina Bifida community. Due to Mr. Pote's perseverance and commitment to reducing the suffering from Spina Bifida, and advancing medical research in the field, individuals born with Spina Bifida are now living much longer, fuller lives than they had previously.

Mr. Pote's vision and dedication has helped not only Gregory, but tens of thousands of people who suffer from Spina Bifida as well. Hal Pote's sudden and unexpected death is a tragedy not only to his loved ones and the Spina Bifida community, but to all our colleagues who have lost a great man. To Mr. Pote's wife, Linda Johnson, his mother Lucille Bock Pote, his two brothers Frank and Corey Pote, and his nephews—we offer our deepest condolences.

We ask our colleagues to join us in saluting and remembering this extraordinary man.

#### PROMOTING PATRIOTISM

### HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 3, 2007*

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize the Military Order of the Purple Heart, San Jacinto Chapter 782, an organization made up of patriots serving the second district of Texas. Members in this organization share one common bond, each member is a recipient of the Purple Heart. They may not have served in the same branch or war but they are all combat veterans who have fought bravely to protect our freedoms.

San Jacinto Chapter 782 pledges to preserve and promote patriotism. They vow to never forget the sacrifices of our Armed Forces. They continue to remind us of the courageous service of the men and women in our military who fight to maintain our freedom and security.

San Jacinto Chapter 782 provides every family of a fallen soldier in my district a memorial plaque. This memorial plaque honors the memory of their loved ones brave service while defending our country. This plaque reminds us that the price of freedom is never free.

San Jacinto Chapter 782 works with schools and other organizations around our district to boost patriotism. They distribute flags, enter parades, and erect monuments. They continue to search for opportunities to remind us of the sacrifices of veterans throughout history.

We are proud and appreciative of the courage and the bravery of these patriots, who volunteer their time, championing those in the Armed Forces who have shed their blood for freedom and peace.

And that's just the way it is.

#### TOP POLICE OFFICIAL ARRESTED IN PUNJAB

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 3, 2007*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently, the former Director General of Police of Punjab, S.S. Virk, was arrested on September 9 on corruption charges. Ironically, he was arrested by the government of Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, who in his previous tenure redefined corruption as “fee for service”—no fee, no service.

Apparently, Mr. Virk managed to collect the equivalent of a billion dollars in assets on a meager police official's salary. I salute the arrest of Mr. Virk and hope he does serious jail time. But Mr. Virk should be arrested for more than corruption.

Mr. Virk was Director General when tens of thousands of Sikhs were murdered by the Indian regime in Punjab, Khalistan. Nobody has been brought to justice for these murders nor for the murders of other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and others.

I call on the Indian government to bring to justice the likes of Mr. Virk, K.P.S. Gill, and the others who were responsible for the atrocities against the Sikhs and other minorities. Until they do so, we should stop our aid to India and our trade with that country. And we should put the U.S. Congress on record in support of freedom for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other nations seeking to be free in south Asia by means of a free and fair plebiscite on their status.

The Indian newspapers gave some good coverage to Mr. Virk's arrest and the Council of Khalistan published an excellent press release about the situation.

#### FORMER DGP VIRK ARRESTED FOR CORRUPTION

WASHINGTON, DC, SEPT. 12, 2007.—Former Punjab Director General of Police S.S. Virk was arrested Sunday by the Vigilance Bureau (a state agency of Punjab) for corruption. He had amassed wealth in excess of 100 crore (100 million) rupees. This was far in excess of what he received from his position as DGP. He was also charged with misuse of his official position, making private business deals as a public servant. Virk had arrangements with “Cats,” former “militants” who turned to working for the Indian regime, to kill Sikhs throughout Punjab. While Virk was amassing this wealth, half of the population of India continues to subsist on less than two dollars per day.

Hours after his arrest, he was hospitalized with high blood pressure and gallstones. A case was registered against him under the Prevention of Corruption Act. Virk had been removed as DGP shortly before the Punjab

elections earlier this year. He had been suspended by the Badal government shortly after it came to power in February. Former Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has openly supported Virk. “We are amazed that someone of the stature of Captain Amarinder Singh supports the corruption and the killing of Sikhs under S.S. Virk's regime,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. Virk was quoted as saying that “everyone in the world” keeps agents like the “Cats.” “Even if that were true, that does not relieve him of his responsibility,” Dr. Aulakh said. “No law enforcement agency should be allowed to murder ordinary citizens. If they break the law, they should be tried in the court and punishment should be determined by the courts, not by police officials.”

Virk claimed that his arrest was a “political victimization and vendetta.” The Badal family, during their prior term in office, ran the most corrupt government in Punjab's history. They practiced corruption on a grand scale. Unless they were paid a bribe (which they renamed “fee for service”), no service was provided. Former DGP K.P.S. Gill presided over the murders of more than 50,000 extrajudicial killings, which were exposed by the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO) in a study begun by Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra, who was picked up by the police in September 1995 and murdered in police custody in October of that year.

“We salute the arrest of S.S. Virk,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. “We are glad that he is under arrest. There shouldn't be any corruption in high places,” Dr. Aulakh said. “When will Badal, Gill, and the others responsible for high-level corruption and atrocities against the Sikh nation be arrested?” he asked.

“In a free Khalistan, no one would accept those who carry out genocide against the Sikh religion and the Sikh Nation or against any other people. They would all be arrested, not just selectively arrested to cover the corruption of the leaders ordering the arrest” said Dr. Aulakh.

Dr. Aulakh also cited the case of Sukhwinder Singh Sukhi, a “Cat,” who was reported as killed. Someone was killed in his place, his identity was changed, and he was used by the police to kill Sikhs. “Who was killed in Sukhi's place?” asked Dr. Aulakh. Several years ago, a Sikh man who had been reported as killed by the police went to court to force the government to declare him alive.

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive “Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act” (TADA), which expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. According to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners in India. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs 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 Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs “worse than a genocide.”

“The time is now to launch a Shantmai Morcha to free Khalistan,” Dr. Aulakh said. “That is the only way to prevent this kind of corruption and allow the Sikh Nation to live in freedom, peace, dignity, and prosperity. The time has come for some pro-Sikh organizations such as Dal Khalsa and others to step forward in Punjab and accelerate our struggle for the liberation of Khalistan,” he said.