

About life, and sacrifice . . . in courage's light!
 Touching all hearts, and souls . . . as left, this night . . . his heart burning bright, burning bold!
 A Marine's, Marine!
 A hero, who once upon battlefields of honor was seen . . .
 Leading Marines, leading men and women of honor . . . upon the scene . . .
 As wherever he convened . . .
 Strength in Honor . . .
 As what his fine life has meant!
 As to all others, and this our world he has so Heaven sent . . .
 Such inspiration, to this his our great nation . . . to this his United States Marines!
 As into the face of death, he went . . .
 Then, to lose his two fine legs, as then . . .
 To fall down into such deep dark pain, and not wain!
 To get up, To rebuild where no lies left . . . as is this his this heroes quest!
 As he teaches us, all about America's Best!
 There! In his darkest of all days, a smile upon his face so conveys!
 Courage's Quest! America's Best . . . as Joshua Bleill amazes us all no less!
 A man who brings such tears to eyes . . . who our world will bless!
 As we watch and learn . . .
 As our hearts for him so burn . . .
 As we watch him stand taller each and every day!
 Running, with his heart all the way . . . needing not his two fine legs!
 As his heart . . .
 Can not be stopped, nor can so be swayed!
 As we watch, as we learn . . . from our Lord's fine son, as our hearts so discern this day!
 The Path To Heaven's Way!
 In our lives, and in our lights . . .
 We but have the shortest of times, to so burn bright!
 But, some . . . high above all others do so shine . . . upon this our world tonight . . .
 Are all of those who are, but the brightest of all our Lord's lights!
 A Joshua Tree!
 The True Fine Measure, of all a heart can be!
 A presence, who upon battlefields of honor . . . was so struck down indeed . . .
 Yet, but would not so concede . . . to rise was he!
 Growing ever taller, ever stronger . . .
 As the days got longer, this champion touching all hearts so indeed . . .
 Could we? Would we? Ever have such courage, to so shine as much light as he in our time?
 As this bright light grows ever stronger, and this Joshua Tree of life . . . grows taller everyday indeed!
 A Bright Light!
 While, there in The Darkest of All Possible fights!
 Can so over come all so indeed!
 This our Lord's Joshua Tree!

PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, the government of Pakistan has recognized the Anand Marriage Act of 1909. This act covers Sikh marriages. I commend the Pakistani govern-

ment for this show of tolerance and religious freedom.

There are only about 15,000 Sikhs in Pakistan. When is India, with its 22 million Sikhs, going to recognize the same act? It has been on the books for almost a century.

India refuses to enforce or even recognize the Anand Marriage Act. Instead, it records all Sikh marriages as Hindu marriages under the Hindu Marriage Act. This constitutes a refusal of "secular", "democratic" India to recognize Sikhism as a separate religion. Instead, they seek to subsume it under Hinduism.

The fact that Guru Nanak, who began the Sikh religion, was born Hindu no more makes Sikhism a part of Hinduism than the fact that Jesus was Jewish makes Christianity part of Judaism. The Indian government is simply trying to eliminate the Sikh religion by subverting it and forcing Sikhs into Hinduism. Where is the freedom of religion in India?

Madam Speaker, this is unacceptable! America can and must do something to protect the rights and freedoms of all people in South Asia. We can start by stopping our aid to India and our trade until such time as it learns to respect the rights of all people regardless of ethnicity, religion, or social status. And we should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the others who seek freedom. India will not allow such free and fair votes, belying its self-proclaimed democratic principles. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

Madam Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's press release on the Anand Marriage Act into the RECORD.

PAKISTAN RECOGNIZES ANAND MARRIAGE ACT

WASHINGTON, D.C., December 6, 2007.—The government of Pakistan has formally recognized the Anand Marriage Act, which governs Sikh marriages. The act was adopted in 1909.

Even though there are only about 15,000 Sikhs in Pakistan and there are millions of Sikhs in India, India still refuses to recognize the act. While Sikhs conduct marriages in accord with the Anand Marriage Act, the Indian government will not certify them under the act. Instead, they are recorded under the Hindu Marriage Act. The Indian government is trying to destroy the Sikh religion. Its failure to recognize the Anand Marriage Act is one more way that it is carrying out this effort. Sikh marriages are different from Hindu marriages. Hindu couples circle around a fire. Sikh couples circle around the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, four times.

"I would like to thank the Pakistani government for its recognition of the Anand Marriage Act, which is almost a hundred years old," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for freedom. "Pakistan's action has shown a level of tolerance that supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India has never shown," he said. "That is very telling. It shows the true face of India," he said. "There is no place for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, or other minorities there."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

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, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! 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.

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.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will allow the Sikhs of Punjab and the other people of the subcontinent to live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. Let us join together and free Khalistan."

IN MEMORY OF ADMIRAL WILLIAM H. STEWART

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 13, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to the memory of Admiral William H. Stewart, a devoted family man, model officer and dedicated community leader.

A native of Gulf, Texas, Admiral Stewart graduated from Austin High School in 1943. He attended the University of Texas at Austin for two years before leaving to attend the Coast Guard Academy. He graduated from the Academy in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science degree in marine engineering and was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Admiral's distinguished Coast Guard career spanned almost four decades. His first assignment was as a deck watch officer aboard the Coast Guard cutter *Tampa* based in Mobile. He then went on to serve as operations officer aboard the cutter *Newell* in Honolulu. In 1954, he was assigned to the Fifth Coast Guard District in Norfolk, Virginia, as chief of the Military Personnel Branch of the Personnel Division.

Admiral Stewart returned to Mobile in 1957 as executive officer of the cutter *Blackthorn*. He was sent to Washington, D.C. in 1959 to