TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JAN RUDMAN

HON. KEN CALVERT
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, throughout towns and cities across our nation there are individuals who are willing to step forward to dedicate their talents and energies to making life better for their friends and neighbors. The citizens of Corona, California, are fortunate to have such an individual in outgoing Mayor Jan Rudman.

Mayor Rudman’s involvement with Corona city government, and community, began in 1994 when she was first elected to the Corona City Council. As a councilwoman she represented the community’s concerns, set priorities for projects and plans of action, allocated funds, and made decisions essential to the future of Corona. Her energy seems endless, with the long list of her business and community involvements including: Circle City Rotary, 1993 Mayor’s Task Force, Navy League, Coro- na Chamber of Commerce and First Congregational Church.

In 1998, the Corona, recognized her leadership and commitment and elected her mayor. Since then, she has accomplished many goals which have improved the community. One of her greatest accomplishments as mayor was the implementation of the “Partners in Community Service” program, implemented to recognize the many volunteer groups and organizations who have given back to the Corona community so graciously.

Mayor Rudman has made a lasting and positive impact in the Corona community. Her involvement and leadership has established a path for those individuals following in her footsteps. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Rudman for her dedication, influence and involvement in our community. She has served as an outstanding representative of municipal government. It is a great pleasure for me to congratulate Mayor Rudman for the outstanding job she has done as Mayor of Coro- na.

TRIBUTE TO J. THOMAS DE BRUIN
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RE-
TIREMENT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, Friday, No-

vember 19, 1999, Mr. J. Thomas De Bruin of West Long Branch, NJ, will be honored on the occasion of his retirement from the State of New Jersey’s Office of the Public Defender, after 31 years of distinguished public service.

Mr. De Bruin served as a police officer in West Long Branch from 1967 to 1970. In Oc-
tober of 1970, he began working at the Public Defender’s Office. Mr. De Bruin would prove to be a long and impressive career. From 1991 until his retirement, Mr. De Bruin was a Chief Inves-
tigator, and since 1995 he has been the Supervisor of the Polygraph Unit. He has been a certified polygraph examiner since 1982. His professional memberships include: the New Jersey Polygraphists Association, since 1993; and Past President 1997–98; the American Poly-

graph Association since 1986, including service on the Membership Committee 1998–99; and the Public Defenders’ Investigators’ Asso-

Mr. De Bruin was also very active in com-
munity affairs. He served on a number of com-
missions and bodies in his home town of West Long Branch, including: the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Sport Association, the Recre-
ation Commission and the Historic Society.

Mr. De Bruin is a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Old First United Methodist Church. He has served as Director of the West Long Branch Little League and as Treasurer of the Public School PTA. He has been a Webelos Leader of the Cub Scouts of America, and President of the Shore Regional High School Quarterback Club. He was a Manager/Coach of the first championship sea-

son of the West Long Branch Lions of the Seaboard Bigger League in 1971. Mr. De Bruin has also served as Musical Director of the Asbury Park and Red Bank Area Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Tom De Bruin resides in West Long Branch with his wife Louise. They have two adult sons, Brian and Dominick, and a daughter-in-

law.

Mr. Speaker, the Office of the Public De-

fender will be much the poorer with Mr. De Bruin’s departure. But I am confident that Monmouth County will continue to benefit from his commitment to service and dedication to our community for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MR. GEORGE B. SALTER

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Chicago’s unsung heroes, the late George B. Salter. His untimely death on October 24, 1999 will truly leave a deep void in our community.

Mr. George B. Salter was born in Hickory, Mississippi on October 13, 1916 to the union of Sallie Johnson Salter and Frank Salter. Mr. George B. Salter would later marry his high school sweetheart Louise Lucille Strotzer. To this union two daughters were born, Brenda Yvonne Salter and Henrietta Louise Salter.

A Navy veteran, Mr. George B. Salter com-

mitted part of his life to protect the freedom of Americans and to further fight for the freedom of others around the world. While in the Navy Mr. George B. Salter was a member of the prestigious Navy band playing the trumpet while stationed in Earl, New Jersey.

Mr. George B. Salter was employed for over 40 years by the Chicago Burlington and Quin-
cy Railroad (presently Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad) where he rose in the ranks and became the first African-American to be appointed to the position of crew supervisor.

Mr. George B. Salter was a steadfast believer that with the proper amount of work anything was possible.

Mr. George B. Salter took an active part in his community. This was seen in his utmost consecration to his vocation as God’s faithful servant. As a Senior Usher in charge of the Balcony at Liberty Baptist Church, George B. Salter enjoyed helping Liberty’s official greet-
ers bring their children upstairs. Mr. Salter brought hope and optimism to ordinary folks whose lives he touched so deeply never holding anyone at arm’s length.

Mr. George B. Salter was a relentless com-

munity builder, a loving father, and a doting grandfather, completely unselfish in all of his endeavors. Mr. Salter leaves behind his de-

voted wife of 58 years Louise, his daughter Brenda Salter Jones married to James Jones Sr., Henrietta Salter Leak married to Spencer Leak Sr., and four beautiful grandsons James Jones Jr., Spencer Leak Jr., Stephen L. Leak and Stacy R. Leak. The man they called “Papa” will surely be missed.

My fellow colleagues please join me in hon-

oring the memory of Mr. George B. Salter, a true beacon of the Chicago community.

HONORING JACK A. BROWN III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to recog-
nize the achievements of Jack A. Brown III. Jack is a native New Yorker who was born and raised on the lower east side of Manhattan. He currently resides, in my district, in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn. Jack has had a distinguished 7-year career with the Correc-
tional Services Corporation (CSC). The Cor-
rectional Services Corporation is a private company contracted by local, State and Federal Corrections Depart-
ment to provide concrete services to the in-
mate population. As the vice president of Cor-
rectional Services Corporation Community Services Division, Mr. Brown maintains overall responsibility for the day to day operations of the five New York programs. These programs, three for the Federal Bureau of Prisons and two for the New York State Department of Corrections, are designed to provide inmates with the tools necessary to successfully re-
integrate back into their prospective commu-
nities as self-sufficient, responsible, law abid-
ing citizens.

Prior to his employment with CSC, Jack served as an officer in the United States Army’s Air Defense Artillery Division for 4 years. He is a graduate of the State University of New York at Buffalo with a Bachelor’s de-

gree in Human Services, with a concentration in mental health, and Biology. During his aca-
demic years, he gained invaluable experience in the field of human services holding posi-
tions as Psychiatric Counselor, Chemical De-
pendency Counselor and Youth Counselor. In December, Jack expects to earn a double Masters degree, an MBA and a Master of Science and Economic Development, from the University of New Hampshire.

I wish Jack Brown success in his future en-
deavors and I commend his achievements to my colleagues’ attention.
INDIA PROTESTS POPE'S VISIT

HON. DAN BURTON
OF INDIANA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to learn of the organized protests against Pope John Paul II in anticipation of his recent visit to India. In fact, many would tell you that there was more reason to worry about his safety on this trip than when he travelled to communist Poland under martial law. Although the Pope left the country safely, I cannot forget the ghastly image printed by the media of Hindu activists burning an effigy of Pope John Paul II in New Delhi before his visit.

Mr. Speaker, these protests were led by a violent faction of Hindu fundamentalists that are closely aligned with the Hindu nationalist government. They have carried out a wave of brutal attacks on Christians within the past year than in the previous half-century. It has been just as bad this year. Last month, a Catholic priest working in the same territory as the Staines family was murdered while saying Mass for converts, his heart pierced by a poison-tipped arrow. Why the attacks? Hindu nationalist leaders, particularly those associated with the BJP-allied World Hindu Congress (VHP), claim Christians are on ‘conversion overdrive.’

This is preposterous. Despite being present in India for almost 2,000 years, and educating hundreds of millions of Indian children, Christianity claims the allegiance of less than 3 percent of the country’s people. Even in Orissa state, site of the worst anti-Christian violence, fewer than 500 conversions occur each year.

Still, Hindu nationalists continue to make wild-eyed assertions, such as VHP leader Mohan Joshi’s recent statement that missionary homes run by Mother Teresa’s order were ‘nothing but conversion centers.’ Not true, but if it were, so what? We know perfectly well what would have become of the diseased and the destitute had Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity been driven from the street: They would have been left to die in the gutter, condemned by a culture that decrees these lowborn souls deserve their fate.

“What has the VHP done to better the life of the low castes? The answer is nothing,” says Freedom House investigator Joseph Aasud. “When I was in India, I talked to one Christian who was forcibly reconverted to Hinduism. He told me when no one cared for us, Christians came and gave us food, gave us shelter and gave us medicine.”

An Indian Protestant activist who lives in New Jersey told me BJP rule has meant open season on followers of Christ. “The last two years have been unprecedented,” the man says. “They have burned churches down, raped nuns, killed people. We complain to the government, but they look the other way.”

The Hindu militants certainly do not represent the sentiments of all Hindus. “These thugs have the tacit support and protection of the ruling BJP. Indeed, the BJP Web site condemns ‘Semitic monotheism’—Judaism, Christianity and Islam—for ‘bringing intolerance to India.’”

This is what is known to professional propagandists as the Big Lie. No wonder Hindu hard-liners confidently pillage Christian communities.

How many more Hindu-led atrocities will Christians and others suffer before Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee calls off the nationalist dogs? Will it take a physical assault on the Holy Father for the world to wake to the kind of place Gandhi’s great nation has become?

[From India Abroad, Oct. 29, 1999]

PROTEST MARCH LAUNCHED AGAINST THE POPE’S VISIT

(By Frederick Noronha)

PANAJI, GOA.—Hindu right-wing groups flagged off a Goa-to-Delhi protest march on Oct. 21 that could fuel the controversy surrounding Pope John Paul II’s visit to India, scheduled for early November. The campaigns are protesting what they call large-scale conversions to Christianity in India and want the Pope to say that all religions are equal.

The protest march, which is scheduled to end in Delhi around the time of the Pope’s visit, is being called a “Dharma Yatra” (Jagrath Abhiyan.” It was flagged off from Divar, an island off Goa, once a center for Catholic evangelization.

“This awareness march is for people of all religions. Christians are brothers of the same blood,” said Subhash Velingkar, one of the organizers of the march.

Velingkar lashed out at the English language media for voicing concern that the march could ignite anti-Christian feelings.

At the same time, however, Velingkar condemned religious conversions saying that they changed “not just the religion of people, but also their culture and traditions.”

He criticized Delhi Archbishop Alan de Lastic for “sending an SOS message to the Vatican” complaining about the situation in India. “Why should people from India complain to the Vatican?” he asked.

Velingkar reiterated the demand voiced by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), the right-wing affiliate of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which leads the coalition government at the center, that the Pope should make an admission in his public address at Delhi that all the religions are the same and all lead to salvation.

The VHP last week once again welcomed the Pope’s visit, stating that it was not against Christianity, but was opposed to “Churcharthana.”

A VHP affiliate, the Sanskriti Raksha Manch, has already demanded an apology from the Pope for the atrocities committed during Inquisition in Portuguese-ruled Goa in the 16th century.

From Goa, the march passes through Belgaum, Nipani, Mumbai, Kolhapur and Nashik in Karnataka and Maharashtra, before entering Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and then onward to Delhi, covering the 1,300-mile route in about a fortnight. It will reach Delhi by the time of the Pope’s visit on Nov. 5.

Newspaper reports quoted Manohar Parrikar, the BJP Leader of the Opposition in the Goa Assembly, as saying that his party was neither opposing nor supporting the march.

He said the movement’s leadership was not under the control of the BJP and while individual members of the party were free to join it, the party could not be held responsible for any untoward incident arising from the march.

[From India Abroad, Oct. 29, 1999]

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

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IN HONOR OF MARGE WILK, RECIPIENT OF THE “VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR” AWARD FROM THE BAYONNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, November 16, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Marge Wilk, a life-long resident of Bayonne, New Jersey, for her dedicated service to the Bayonne Historical Society, and for being named this year’s “Volunteer of the Year.”

Mrs. Wilk began her remarkable career in volunteerism with the Bayonne Historical Society, an organization of residents dedicated to preserving the history of this great city. Serving as a trustee for this organization for many years, Mrs. Wilk has contributed countless hours to the society’s activities. She has been instrumental in organizing and coordinating events, such as the annual American Revolution Day celebration, which attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Mrs. Wilk’s dedication to the society and her community is evident in her tireless efforts to preserve and share the rich history of Bayonne. She has worked tirelessly to ensure that the story of Bayonne’s past is not forgotten, and her contributions have been invaluable to the society.

In recognition of her outstanding service, Mrs. Wilk has been honored with the “Volunteer of the Year” award by the Bayonne Historical Society. This award is a fitting tribute to her dedication and commitment to preserving the history of Bayonne.

Mrs. Wilk’s example serves as an inspiration to all who have the privilege of living in this wonderful city. Her contributions to the Bayonne Historical Society and to the community as a whole are truly remarkable, and we are all grateful for her dedication and hard work.

Mr. Speaker, let us join me in recognizing Mrs. Marge Wilk for her outstanding contributions to the Bayonne Historical Society and for being named this year’s “Volunteer of the Year.”

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