

IN HONOR OF ST. ROCCO PARISH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco Parish in Cleveland, Ohio.

The church was established in 1924 and one of the first acts of the founding Pastor, Father Sante Gattuso, was to institute the Sodality. Today, it is the largest organization in the Parish. Including the new members to be initiated this weekend, the membership numbers 225 people. Most of the members are second and third generation members and a few are even fourth generation members.

The members of the Sodality have made invaluable contributions to the Parish. Because of their efforts, church activities, dinners, and the annual St. Rocco Festival are always well-attended and very successful. The success of these events is essential to the financial stability of the church and the school, so the help of the members of the Sodality is invaluable.

In addition to participating in religious functions and helping at church activities, members also visit the sick and shut-in members of the parish, pray the Rosary at the funeral home for deceased members and accompany them to the cemetery after the funeral mass. Every year, the members fill two buses to make a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring the ministry of love and service provided by the Holy Family Sodality of St. Rocco Parish.

WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. JOHN R. THUNE

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 24,000 women business owners in South Dakota. Within the last decade, the number of women-owned businesses in South Dakota has grown by over 65%, and their annual revenue has increased by 237%. In fact, women owned firms currently account for 35% of all South Dakota firms, and generate over 14% of the state's business sales.

Additionally, I would like to recognize one of South Dakotas most prominent women's business advocates, Dr. Sandra Christenson. Dr. Christenson is the president of Heartland Paper Company in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Heartland Paper Company is a family owned wholesaler of printing paper, packaging supplies, food service disposables, maintenance supplies, dilution control systems, and janitorial equipment. First founded in 1908, Christenson assumed the presidency of Heartland Paper Company in 1989.

Born and raised in Sioux Falls, Dr. Christenson is currently a member of the National Women's Business Council, the Con-

gressional advisory panel that works with Congress and the President to promote the growth of women owned businesses. Dr. Christenson has been a prominent member of the South Dakota business community for 20 years. She has also been an active member of her industry and community serving on the advisory boards of the National School Supply Association, the National Paper Trades Association, the United Way, and South Dakotans for the Arts.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I believe that women-owned businesses have played an integral role in the economic well being of South Dakota and the nation. As such, I strongly encourage my colleagues to actively support the women business owners in their districts.

SIKHS OBSERVE 300TH BAISAKHI BY MARCHING FOR FREEDOM

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to join some of my colleagues in wishing a happy 300th Baisakhi Day to the Sikh Nation. The contributions that Sikhs have made to American life have been significant. They have added to almost every walk of American life.

On April 10, the Sikhs marched in celebration of the 300th Baisakhi anniversary of the day of the last of the 10 Gurus, Guru Gobind Singh, initiated the Khalsa Panth. I understand that it was a glorious event for the Sikh nation, and I would like to congratulate the Sikhs of America and my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who was the march coordinator, on its success.

I understand that the parade looked like a sea of saffron (the Sikh color of freedom) as it moved from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol and that the grounds outside here on the West Front were filled with over 40,000 enthusiastic Sikhs. It must have been something to see!

It is appropriate that the march began at the memorial to Abraham Lincoln, issuer of the Emancipation Proclamation. The Sikh Nation struggles for their freedom, as instructed by the Sikh Gurus. Sikhs are instructed to oppose tyranny wherever it occurs.

The Sikhs are a proud people, and justifiably so. They are a people dedicated to living a holy life, working hard, sharing with those in need, and to the equality of all people and freedom for everyone. Unfortunately, in their own homeland, Sikhs do not enjoy freedom. They have been subjected to tyranny. The Indian Government has also oppressed other minorities, such as Christians, Muslims, and Dalits (the so-called "untouchables"). Yet India proudly proclaims itself a democracy.

We cannot make India behave like a truly democratic country, but we can apply pressure by withholding aid and by publicly declaring our support for a democratic vote in Punjab, Khalistan, and other Indian states on the subject of self-determination. If India is truly democratic, this is the way it should settle these issues.

The Governors of New Jersey and Texas have declared the "Year of the Khalsa." Numerous Members of Congress from both parties have saluted the Sikhs on this historic anniversary. The new Mayor of Washington, D.C. sent congratulatory remarks. As Sikhs move into their fourth century, they should celebrate their next anniversary in freedom in their own sovereign, independent country. Let us honor their history and their struggle by supporting their effort to be free.

I would like to add Mayor Williams' letter of congratulations to the RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS, COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN—
"RECOGNIZE YE ALL THE HUMAN RACE AS ONE"

300TH ANNIVERSARY, APRIL 10, 1999

As Mayor of the District of Columbia, it is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings and congratulations to the members, guest and friends of the Council of Khalistan as you celebrate your 300th Anniversary of the initiation of the Khalsa Panth.

This is a significant milestone in the history of the Sikh Nation as you celebrate this Vaisaakhee Day. Sikhism is the youngest of the world's religion, and it is humility and service to mankind that are regarded as most important. Religion plays an important role in our daily lives, and you are to be commended for your efforts to provide spiritual enhancement to your membership, service to the community and commitment to the principles of peace, progress, dignity, integrity, human rights and justice for all.

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, thank you for making a difference in our lives and best wishes in your quest for holy fulfillment.

ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS,
Mayor,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, due to my wife having a medical procedure in Alabama, I was unable to cast rollcall votes on April 13, 1999. Had I been present I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 81, H.R. 46 the Public Safety Officer Medal of Valor Act; and I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 82, H. Con. Res. 35 commending the people of Qatar for recent elections and commitment to the principles of democracy.

TRIBUTE TO TERESA JACKSON

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 1999

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor seven young women in my district who have earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting.

The Gold Award requires the greatest achievement in career exploration, service to