

the Rev. Paul Jakes Sr. and is now pastored by his grandson, the Rev. Paul Jakes Jr.

A long and productive life, may his soul rest in peace.

HONORING THE CIVILIAN  
CONSERVATION CORPS

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the Civilian Conservation Corps for all of its contributions to our wonderful country. The participants in this New Deal program made an unparalleled contribution to our Nation and left a legacy of parks, forests, and recreational areas many of which still exist today.

The CCC, which was founded in April 1933, coupled the need to put unemployed young men to work and the need to conserve the Nation's natural resources. During the program's 9-year life, the Federal Government employed over 3 million men on an extensive variety of conservation projects across the United States. At the program's peak in 1937, there were over 502,000 corpsmen working in 2,500 camps in all 48 States, Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico.

Corpsmen enlisted for 6-month periods, lived in camps or companies of 200 men, and were paid \$30 per month—\$25 of which was sent directly to their families. The average participant was 19 years old, had only an eighth grade education, and was so underfed when he arrived that he gained 11 pounds during his first 3 months in the program. If the program's sole purpose was to help young men support their families, the CCC would have accomplished a great deal and would have been a tremendous success.

But, Mr. Speaker, the CCC had another goal—that of conservation and restoration of America's natural resources. Between 1933 and 1942, enrollees hand-planted over 2 billion trees, built nearly 3,500 fire lookout towers and spent roughly 6 million man-days extinguishing fires. In addition to these remarkable feats in forestry, corpsmen also completed projects in erosion control, pond dam construction, soil conservation, and disaster relief assistance.

Sadly, this is the largest group of forgotten people in the United States. Over 4 million CCC people have never been recognized or given credit for what they have done and are still doing for our country. I recently received a letter from Charles L. Singletary, who is the President of Chapter 141 of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni in my home State of New Mexico. In his letter he stated, "The prodigious achievements of the 'CCC boys' are on the verge of being forgotten by this cynical generation. Lamentably, the United States has never adequately recognized these achievements nor the men of the CCC." I urge my colleagues to join me in saluting and paying tribute to this extraordinary group of young men. In short, the CCCs changed the face of our Nation.

I am proud of the many accomplishments the CCC made during its 9-year existence,

and it is no accident that this public works program was perhaps the most widely accepted and popular of the New Deal programs, even among those who generally opposed the Roosevelt Administration. The hard work, dedication, and many successes of the CCC participants provide us a shining example of the American spirit, and they showed us that we as a united Nation can work together, face any peril, and succeed.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GENERAL  
CHARLES W. THOMAS

**HON. JIM McCRERY**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. McCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a fellow Louisianan, Major General Charles W. Thomas, who is retiring after more than 32 years of service to the Nation in the United States Army.

General Thomas served the past two years as the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army Training Doctrine Command (TRADOC), responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of this major Army element and its 15 installations, 27 Army schools, and 67 thousand military and civilian personnel located throughout the United States. TRADOC's mission is to prepare the U.S. Army for war and is the architect of the future Army. In the fast paced world of change we have witnessed at a national and international level over the past three decades, General Thomas has been instrumental in steering the U.S. Army on a path to meet current and future threats to our national security. Equally important, he has contributed significantly to the readiness of the Army by ensuring the men and women in uniform were well trained and well equipped for their missions during peace and war. His leadership and mentoring played a major role in the development of an Army in which the citizens of our great nation can be justifiably proud.

Serving under such daunting responsibilities has been a pattern in General Thomas' military career, a career which began in October 1968 and saw him serve in the Military Intelligence Corps at such diverse locations as Turkey, Thailand, Germany, and in Saudi Arabia during Operation DESERT STORM. These tours of duty and a variety of other command and staff assignments have taken this alumnus of Northwestern State University in Louisiana with undergraduate and graduate degrees in Zoology across the seas and around the United States with duty in Georgia, Arizona, Hawaii, and Virginia, among other states. But his home has always been Natchitoches, Louisiana, where his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Charles and Sadie Thomas, still reside today.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize this respected Army leader. I wish General Thomas and his wife Sharon all the best, and am certain that Members of the House will join me in tribute to this outstanding American.

A VISION OF HINDU INDIA

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 26, 2000*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I noticed two recent articles that underline the religious tyranny in India. One was in the New York Times and the other was in the Washington Times. Together, they show that for minorities, the promise of Indian secularism and religious freedom is a mirage.

The RSS, a militant Hindu nationalist organization, wants to ban foreign churches from India. It wants to reconvert everybody who converted from Hinduism to any other religion, such as Christianity or Islam. The RSS published a booklet encouraging people to file false criminal cases against Christians and members of other minority religions. They are moving ahead with plans to build a Hindu temple on the site of a very revered mosque. Is this how they practice secularism and religious tolerance in India?

The ruling BJP is under the umbrella of the RSS. In fact, Prime Minister Vajpayee just about a month ago told an audience that he will "always" be a part of the RSS. Shiv Sena, a militant coalition partner of the BJP, is also part of the RSS.

Since Christmas 1998, Christians have been subjected to church burnings, attacks on Christian schools and prayer halls, nuns being raped, priests being murdered, the burning murder of a missionary and his two little sons, and so many other atrocities that I have lost trace of them. Two independent investigations show that 35 Sikhs were massacred in Chithi Singhpora while the President was visiting in March. Now these disturbing articles have come to light. How far will this pattern of religious hostility go on before we do something to stop it?

We should declare India a violator of religious rights. In light of that, we should cut U.S. aid to India. Why should the American taxpayer be forced to pay taxes to support a government that engages in such policies? We should also put ourselves on record in support of self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other minority nations living under Indian rule. It is our responsibility to do what we can to support freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the following New York Times article into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues and the American people.

A CAMP MEETING CELEBRATES THE VISION OF  
A HINDU INDIA

By Celia W. Dugger

AGRA, India, Oct. 15—Dust rose in derbies across the dun-colored parade ground here, swirling around the legs of almost 60,000 uniformed men and boys from more than 7,000 villages. Those foot soldiers in the quest for a Hindu nation stood in ruler-straight lines that stretched as far as the eye could see.

They had come to a three-day camp to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Rashtriya Swayamservak Sangh, or the National Volunteers Association. It is a powerful disciplined and, some believe, dangerously divisive organization that has given rise to a