to immunize its human-rights violations by pro-
claiming itself a democracy?
American effort for freedom in the world. It is our mission to extend and expand liberty wherever and whenever we can. Ac-
cordingly, we should stop U.S. aid to India until we no longer have to stand up here de-
nouncing its human-rights abuses and we should support the birthright of all people, the democratically self-determination. If India is truly a democracy, it should live up to its promise made 53 years ago to hold a pleb-
sicte in Kashmir. If India genuinely believes in democratic values, it must hold plebiscites on the political future of Kashmir, of Nagaland, of Punjab, Khalistan, and of all the nations seek-
ing their freedom from India. India is an inher-
ently unstable country composed of many dif-
f erent nations whose breakup is inevitable. For the cause of peace, prosperity, stability, secu-
rity, and freedom, we must do whatever we can to ensure peace. Peace is the peaceful path. Peace trends towards democracy, and India is a vestige of colonialism.
Mr. Speaker, if I want to insert the Coun-
cil of Khalistan's press release about the breakdown of the India-Pakistan talks into the plebiscite in Kashmir, which it agreed to in 1948, India must either be a Hindu or submer-
gente, a Muslim, and the majority population was Hindu, but by the same token in Kash-
mir population is Muslim and the ruler was Hindu and India sent the army to maintain its illegal occupation. Dr. Aulakh said, "India is not a country and it is not one nation. It is a multinational state put to-
gether by the British for administrative conven-
ience. The politics of colonialism. India has 18 official languages and there are 17 freedom movements within its borders.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS
The fundamentalist Hindu ruling BJP gov-
ernment is on record that anyone living in India must either be a Hindu or submer-
gent to the Hindus. This is not acceptable to the Sikh, Christian, or Muslim minorities.
India has unleashed a reign of terror on the minorities. In 1984, the Indian government attacked the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of Sikhs and destroyed the Babri mosque in Ayodhya, the most revered mosque in India, and it is plan-
ing to build a Hindu temple on that site. Similarly, Christian churches, prayer halls, and schools have also been demolished. Christians have also seen the murder of priests, rape of nuns, the murder of a mis-
sionary and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by burning them alive while they slept in their jeep and other atrocities. Now the govern-
ment plans to expel his widow from the country.
Last month, Indian soldiers were caught red-handed attempting to burn down a temple, and Sikh communities in Kashi-
mir, Sikh and Muslim townspeople over-
powered the troops and prevented them from carrying out this atrocity. In March 2000, while former President Clinton was visiting India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisighorpa in Kashmir and tried to blame the massacre on alleged militants. In November 1994 the In-
Indian newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, $1.5 billion to organ-
ize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.
Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations and pub-
lished in The Politics of Genocide by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. Over 52,000 Sikh political pris-
oners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial in inhuman custody since 1984. Since 1984, India has en-
gaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian police and security forces and secret cremation supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide." General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state." U.S. Con-
gressman Dana Rohrabacher has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Ger-
m any."
"The people and nations of the subconti-
inent are entitled to freedom and self-deter-
mination," said Dr. Aulakh. "It is time for India to do the democratic thing and end the repression," he said. "It will help the Indian government and the people of India to give freedom to all the nations of South Asia," he said. "As soon as it happens, the South Asian nations can make a South Asian economic community parallel to the European Economic Community where the nations are inde-
pendent but joined economically, which ben-
efits everyone," he said. "It will also include Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and others. This will reduce tensions and the nuclear threat in this dangerous re-
Aulakh said.
Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me today in honoring Mrs. Maranda Phillips Holmes for the incredible service she has provided for the citizens of her community. The world is a better place because of her years of distinguished service, and she has certainly earned the honor this notable award recognizes. The citizens of Charleston County and I congratulate Mrs. Holmes on her outstanding accomplishments and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE
OF HAWAII
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on July 23 I was necessarily absent and was not able to vote on three recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:


ON THE ANOINTMENT OF REV-EREND DR. HUBERT BANKS AS BISHOP

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA
OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Reverend Dr. Hubert Banks on his elevation to the Office of Bishop in the Pentecostal Deliverance Tabernacle Worship Center in Ridgewood, New Jersey. On July 29, 2001, Reverend Dr. Banks will be consecrated as Bishop, one of the highest levels in his faith, at the Gilmore Memorial Tabernacle in Paterson, New Jersey. Reverend Dr. Banks has devoted his life to his faith, community, his family, and to ministering throughout the world. He is truly an exemplary man of faith and we are fortunate to have him serve our northern New Jersey community.

Reverend Dr. Banks has faithfully ministered since 1985, however his involvement with the Church began when he was twelve years old. A graduate of Ridgewood High School, he has served as Director of various youth, senior, and state choirs and worked actively with youth faith groups. His outstanding leadership and devotion brought him to the position of deacon while continuing his work with a men’s chorus. At this point, Reverend Dr. Banks was also named Board Chairman of the Allene Gilmore Day Care Center.

In 1980, Reverend Dr. Banks was licensed into ministry as an Evangelist by the United Christian Church and Ministerial Association. One year later, he was ordained and went on to found the Pentecostal Deliverance Ministry. Reverend Dr. Banks then brought his spiritual leadership overseas as he spent time ministering in Israel. Since that experience, he has spent extensive time doing evangelistic work throughout Africa in Venda, Malawi, and Johannesburg. In 1990, Reverend Dr. Banks was promoted to District Elder in the Northern New Jersey region and received his Doctorate Honoris Causu from the Shiloh Theological Seminary shortly thereafter. In 1998, Reverend Dr. Banks was named Bishop-Elect under the Faith Tabernacle Outreach Ministries and now, three years later, he will be appointed to the respected position of Bishop in a traditional ceremony, rich with his faith’s symbols. With his elevation to the title of Bishop, Reverend Dr. Banks will serve a large congregation, bringing his dedication to new churches in the area. These churches are fortunate to have such an outstanding man both leading and serving their communities.

Reverend Dr. Banks’ life as a minister includes his wife and two daughters, three stepsons and five grandchildren. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend Dr. Banks for his elevation to the position of Bishop and for the outstanding example he sets for all of us.

HONORING ANDREW A. ATHENS

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding American, a humanitarian and a dedicated health provider, Andrew A. Athens.

Mr. Athens has dedicated his life not only to serving his family, his faith, and his nation, but is trying to improve the quality of life for millions of patients in need of health care throughout the world. With the same dedication and work ethic, Andy Athens and his wife, Louise, have raised eleven children and granted children in the best traditions of philanthropy, respect, and good will.

Andy was born in Chicago, IL, the son of Greek-American immigrants. He went on to serve as a captain in the U.S. Army during World War II where he distinguished himself in the European and African campaigns for which he was decorated with the Bronze Star. Following the war, he helped rebuild the infrastructure of war-ravaged Europe, which service earned him a citation from the Hungarian Government. Subsequent to his return to America, Andy cofounded Metron Steel Corporation, in which he served as its president for 41 years and during which time it became a major steel service center in the Midwest.

A life-long activist in the Greek Orthodox Faith, Andy Athens has held leadership roles on the local, Diocesan and national levels. While President of the Archdiocesan Council of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America from 1974–1995, the highest position a layman can hold in the Church’s national administration, Andy helped to establish the charitable arms of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, the International Orthodox Christian Charities, and Leadership 100. For his outstanding humanitarian service, Andy received numerous awards, including the highly regarded Religious Heritage of America Award, the Athenagorean Human Rights Award, the Medal of Saint Paul, and other honors. Furthermore, Andy’s work with the National Church has earned him the international recognition of the leader of World Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, who has elevated Andy to the rank of Archon of the Order of Saint Andrew. Responding to the need for political action, Andy mobilized the Greek American community to petition elected officials and to express their views for global action. In 1974, he founded the United Hellenic American Congress (UHAC), and continues to serve as its’ chairman. UHAC has helped to bridge the gap between the Greek American communities who govern nationally and globally. It is a voice for human rights violations in the Mediterranean and the Balkans and the need for religious freedom in Turkey. Continuing his international humanitarian service, in 1995, Mr. Athens was elected to serve as the 1st President of the World Council of Hellenes Abroad (SAE).

Andy’s greatest political and humanitarian achievements have been in his service with the SAE, which represents 7 million Hellenes living outside of Greece. Under Andy’s leadership, the SAE instituted an historic program bringing primary health care and job opportunities to Hellenes and their neighbors living in the countries of the former Soviet Union. The SAE Medical Relief Program has established three health care centers in Georgia, a clinic and visiting nurses program in Ukraine, and a health care clinic in Armenia. Soon, they will begin a full program in Albania. They have managed to help more than 34,000 patient’s per month throughout these clinics.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in honoring Andrew A. Athens, a “Greek-American global advocate of all the values that have made our nation so strong.” Mr. Ath-ens has lived the American dream based on honor, duty, faith and respect. He has truly been a saintly as a philanthropic global advocate for the values we all embody as Americans.

EUROPEAN INTERESTS ARE NOT ALWAYS THOSE OF THE U.S.

HON. DOUG BEREUTER
OF NEBRASKA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 24, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the July 22, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald entitled “Why America Says No.”

Currently, the U.S. is under intense pressure from members of the European Union (EU) to conform to what they deem best for their combined interests. While U.S. economic and security interests often intersect with those of its European allies, such convergence is not always the case. Environmental standards (particularly those of the Kyoto Protocol), agriculture subsidy levels, and the use of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are among the issues on which the U.S. and the EU disagree. Participation in the proposed