Whereas, he went on to cultivate new baseball talent as a coach for the Pittsburgh Pirates and later for the Seattle Mariners;

Therefore, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bill Mazeroski, an exceptional athlete, one of Baseball’s all time greats, and an Ohio Valley legend.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HAUTMAN

HON. MARK R. KENNEDY
OF MINNESOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to introduce a resolution honoring artists participating in the Federal Duck Stamp Program, especially Minnesota’s very own, Robert Hautman.

Robert has successfully won his second Federal Duck Stamp competition with a winning pintail design after winning his first award in 1997-1998.

Robert and two of his brothers, James and Joseph, have seen their art featured on thirty-five state and federal stamps.

From the Oval Office to the Smithsonian Institute, their creations have been displayed in prominent places throughout Washington, D.C.

Congratulations Robert on this well-deserved award.

INDIAN RACISM EXPOSED AT RACISM CONFERENCE—PRESENTATION MOVES CONFERENCE TO TEARS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS
OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, at the World Conference on Racism in Durban, Dalit and Kashmiri activists showed up to exert pressure against India’s racist caste system. The caste system, which discriminates against people merely because of the group into which they are born, is one of the most racist systems in the world.

The demonstrators handed out literature, buttons, and headbands demanding equal rights for all peoples. They have been chanting and drumming to force the caste system onto the agenda for the conference.

India argued for keeping casteism off the agenda in Durban, saying that there are laws against caste discrimination on the books. This is true, but unlike our civil rights laws, the anti-caste laws are never enforced and are routinely violated. Dalits are forced to use separate facilities, such as tea shops. Dalits are pressured to move to living areas, separate burial grounds and restrictions on their movements. They cannot enter the temple.

A few years ago, a Dalit constable entered a Hindu temple on a rainy day to seek refuge from the rain and he was stoned to death by the Brahmins in the temple. In another incident, a Dalit girl was blinded by her teacher after she drank water from the community water pitcher. This kind of racism is unforgivable, especially in a country that calls itself a democracy.

According to a report in Canada’s National Post, a Dalit woman named Murugesan Manimegalai spoke at the Durban conference. She told the story of how her husband, with a tenth-grade education, was elected Sarpanch of their village—the president of the village council, similar to the mayor. Almost immediately, they received death threats from the upper-castes. “We feel like the president’s functions without a head,” said one note. After he had been in office six months he was followed home on the bus. A group of men surrounded the road and told everyone “except Dalits” to leave. Then they grabbed Mr. Manimegalai and stabbed him in the stomach. Despite his pleas not to kill the other Dalits, they chopped up the six other Dalits in front of him. Then they murdered Mr. Manimegalai, chopped off his head, and threw it in a well. Unfortunately, incidents like this are all too common in India.

I would like to take this opportunity to salute the protestors for their success in bringing India’s racism to the world’s attention. That is the first step towards ending it.

Mr. Speaker, India must learn that a democracy must be a democracy of all the people, not just those in a position of power and privilege. It must transcend its Brahminocracy and bring real democracy to all the people. How can people continue to live in the facade of Indian democracy when they cannot enjoy even the most basic rights?

America can help this process along. We should maintain the existing sanctions on India. We should stop all aid to India until the full range of human rights can be enjoyed by all the people there, not just the Brahmins.

We should declare our overt support for the 17 freedom movements currently operating within India’s borders. We can do so by supporting a free and fair plebiscite, under international supervision, on the question of independence for Kashmir, Kashmiri, Nagaland, and the other minority nations living under the boot of Indian oppression. We should encourage President Carter might be a good person to head an international monitoring team.

The Council of Khalistan has issued a press release praising the demonstrators who are bringing the issue of Indian racism to the forefront. The Information Times has also run a story abut real suffering—the only forum for the real victims of racism struggle to have their stories of suffering heard.

This is not one of the dozens of rooms Kentucky activists showed up to exert pressure against India’s racist caste system. The caste system, which discriminates against people merely because of the group into which they are born, is one of the most racist systems in the world.

It was not the first time the Voices Forum has borne witness to such raw emotion. But many of the 1,100 people present in Durban to cover the UN’s World Conference Against Racism have been too preoccupied by arguments over Israel and demands for reparations for the colonial-era slave trade to take much note.

The arms of suited government officials for fighting racism and intolerance were not present to hear Ms. Manimegalai’s demands.

Many were in a room down the hall, arguing about whether words like “genocide” and “ethnic origin” should be included in the list of grounds for discrimination.

At the end of her speech, a moderator thanked Ms. Manimegalai and other presenters for having the courage to speak out.