September 13, 2001

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE CORA HOLLAND

HON. JOE BACA OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with regret and deep sadness that I rise to honor Cora Holland, a former constituent from San Bernardino, who passed away on September 11, 2001, when her plane was hijacked and collided with the north tower of the World Trade Center Building in New York, New York as part of an evil terrorist act.

Throughout the years, Cora was a true humanitarian. She loved her family and followed the Christian teaching of loving our fellow man. I believe that the well-being of our Nation's peoples depends on all our dedication and efforts to invest in the present and the future.

They say a person is measured by the lives he or she touches. Through the grace of God, Cora touched many lives.

Cora was, and will continue to be eternally, the mother of three children and the grandmother of two. Her children Stephanie, Jessica, and Nathan received constant attention from what family and friends alike call "an incredibly dedicated mother." Cora left two grandchildren behind, Drew and Amelia.

Cora Holland grew up in San Bernardino around K and 14th Streets. She graduated from San Bernardino High and worked at the County Hospital when it was in San Bernardino. In her spare time working in the hospital that Cora Hidalgo met her future husband, Steve Holland.

Cora was, according to her family, the center of the family. The family would often wait for her arrival so that she would coordinate their family meals. Her strong religious spirit also extended to her involvement with feeding the homeless. Cora, a homemaker, spent countless hours using her knowledge of Spanish to help feed the homeless.

May God protect the soul of this wonderful woman. Cora was something that is in short supply in the world, a decent human being. Kind and selfless as seen in her community activism. Caring as seen in her devotion to her family. Her soul is one of the many departed on that fateful day, but the impact of her death means to her family, but I am saddened by the fact that she is now guarded by our Lord. My most heartfelt condolences.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, last week I made a statement on the excellent discussion of India's racist caste system at the World Conference Against Racism. The Council of Khalistan, therefore, I intend to place three articles in the RECORD: an article from the National Post, a press release from the Council of Khalistan, and an article from the Information Times. Unfortunately, only the article from the National Post made it into the RECORD. Therefore, I would like to place the other two articles in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

[Council of Khalistan, Press Release]

INDIA PRACTICES WORST RACISM IN THE WORLD

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 4, 2001—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today praised the Dalit and Kashmiri activists who have brought the issue of India's human-rights violations to bear in Durban, site of the World Conference Against Racism. The Council of Khalistan, he said, the government pro tempore of Khalistan, leads the democratic, nonviolent, peaceful struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987.

"India practices the worst racism in the form of the caste system," said Dr. Aulakh. "The caste system is very reminiscent of the segregation that prevailed in parts of America some years ago, except it is backed by a tyrannical abuse of human rights of Dalits (the lowest caste in India)," he said. "Is that the way of a democracy or the way of a totalitarian theocracy."

Dr. Aulakh noted that the Dalits, who are considered the lowest caste, are the most oppressed people in the world. He cited the fact that they are not allowed in the temple. He took note of an incident a few years ago when a Dalit constable entered a Hindu temple on a rainy day and was stoned to death by Brahmins. A Dalit girl drank water from a community pitcher and was blinded by her teacher. Dr. Aulakh noted that Dalits are the victims of the worst racism in the world, oppressed by high-caste Brahmins.

Despite the laws abolishing caste, it remains a guiding principle for India's militant Hindu nationalist theocracy," said Dr. Aulakh. "And despite the laws requiring that anyone who is arrested must be charged within 24 hours, they hold political prisoners for many years without charge or trial," he said. "One of the foundations of democracy is the rule of law. In practice, there is no rule of law in India," he said.

More than 52,000 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. Over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered by the Indian police and security forces, then declared "unidentified" and secretly cremated. Indian forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures reported in the The Politics of Genocide by Inderjit Singh4 Jalal. In June, militant fundamen-

[INFORMATION TIMES, Sept. 1, 2001]

INDIAN CASTE SYSTEM IS ALSO A MAJOR ISSUE IN DURBAN

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL KOFIG ANNAN IS STILL A SLAVE OF HIS MASTERS

(VOA) The caste system in India has become a major issue at the U.N. World Conference Against Racism. The Indian Government did not want to discuss the issue, but they may not be able to avoid it.

Scores of protesters stand in a circle, drumming and chanting, outside the cricket stadium in downtown Durban. The drummers are from India, and they have come to insist that the caste system not be ignored at the UN World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (31 August—7 2001).

They are handing out headbands and buttons demanding equal rights for those who belong to India's Dalit community, the so-called "lowest caste, untouchables."

This woman, who gave her name only as Vimele, explains there is still blatant discrimination against Dalits in India. "Dalit people cannot enter the temple," she says. "And if you go to a teashop, they have a separated tea shop.

Separate living areas, separate burial grounds and restrictions on their movements. Vimele says these are some of the hardships Dalits face every day.

Vimele came to Durban with the Tamil Nadu Women's Forum. She says Dalit women...