

permeates the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The influence of both the Old and New Testaments has formed the basis of our laws, our national character, and our system of values. It was the biblical view of man—affirming the dignity and worth of the human person made in the image of our Creator—which inspired the principles upon which the United States is founded. Many historians credit George Washington with identifying the United States as “One Nation Under God”; therefore, today we inscribe In God We Trust on our coins.

Responding to a Joint Resolution of the House and Senate, in a 1990 Proclamation, President George Bush wrote: “I invite all Americans to discover the great inspiration and knowledge that can be obtained through thoughtful reading of the Bible.”

The Bible has not only influenced the development of our nation’s values and institutions, but has also enriched the daily lives of millions of men and women who have looked to it for comfort, hope, and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, because of the overwhelming acceptance of the Bible in the history of our nation, I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the International Bible Reading Association for its request to George W. Bush, President of the United States, to proclaim 2002 as the Year for all America to read through the Bible.

RECOGNIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF  
THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT  
FOR THE ARTS, WILLIAM J.  
IVEY, ON HIS RETIREMENT

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chairman William J. Ivey, on his retirement from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 1998, Chairman Ivey has dedicated himself and the NEA to preserving the great arts tradition of this nation and to broadening the public’s awareness of the tremendous benefits that the arts have to offer.

Under Chairman Ivey’s leadership, the NEA and its many programs have exposed countless Americans to the rich rewards of the arts, while benefitting our communities, our children, and our economy.

In 1997, he was honored by Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist for his diligent work as Director of the Country Music Foundation, and was praised by the Tennessee Arts Commission for his efforts in reaching out to the community.

Chairman Ivey’s passion for preserving historic recordings of popular and classical music ensure that generations to come will have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the musical treasures of our past.

While I am saddened to see Chairman Ivey’s tenure at the NEA come to an end, I am confident that he will continue to be a strong advocate for the arts community.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chairman Ivey for his

commitment to the arts and for his leadership to this nation.

VIOLENCE AGAINST SIKHS  
EXPOSED—ATTACKS MUST STOP

**HON. DAN BURTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I spoke previously about the violence against Sikh Americans in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I have said previously that these attacks must stop. Now efforts are underway to expose them through the media and to collect information to catalogue these incidents. I applaud those efforts.

Last weekend, a Sikh gasoline station owner in Mesa, Arizona, Balbir Singh Sodhi was shot to death at his gas station by someone, who apparently thought the gas station owner was a supporter of Osama bin Laden because of his turban and beard. It should be noted that 99.9 percent of the people who wear turbans and beards in this country are Sikhs.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of crime must be condemned. The Sodhi killing was just one of over one hundred incidents of harassment or violence against Sikhs. All of these crimes are catalogued on the internet at <http://www.sikh.org/hatecrime> for the information of the public.

This past Tuesday, September 18, the Council of Khalistan held a press conference to expose the violence against Sikh Americans. They called for an investigation by Attorney General Ashcroft. One of the Sikhs, who created the website I mentioned above, Amardeep Singh Bhalla, was there to announce it. The news conference was attended by reporters from IBN Radio, News Channel 8, and a Chicago TV station, WMAQ. News Channel 8 broadcast it in the evening of the 18th and IBN Radio broadcast it on the 19th.

The Council of Khalistan has put out a press release about the press conference. I would like to place this in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

DR. AULAKH, SIKH LEADERS CONDEMN

MURDERS OF SIKHS AND OTHERS

SIKHS ARE NOT MOSLEMS—ASK ATTORNEY

GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 18, 2001.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the murders of Sikhs and other Americans in the wake of the World Trade Center attack. Dr. Aulakh and other Sikh leaders spoke at the National Press Club. The press conference was attended by reporters from NewsChannel 8, NBC, the Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun, India Globe, and others.

“I call on Attorney General John Ashcroft to look into this nationwide pattern of violence and I urge the victims these attacks to call their police departments and their local prosecutors,” Dr. Aulakh said. “This is the best way I ensure that those who perpetrate this violence are appropriately punished.”

“I condemn the violence against Muslim Americans and I condemn the attacks on Sikh Americans,” Dr. Aulakh said. There

have been over 100 acts of harassment or violence against Sikhs. Since the World Trade Center and Pentagon bombings on Tuesday, there has been a wave of violent incidents aimed at Sikhs and other individuals. Over the weekend, a Sikh gasoline station owner was murdered at his business in Mesa, Arizona. The Granthi of the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Fairfax, Virginia was attacked while walking with his wife. Attackers threw a brick through the window of a local Sikh, Ranjit Singh of Fairfax, Virginia. They were in attendance at the press conference.

Another local Sikh, Sher Singh, was arrested by police in Rhode Island after the attack, but was released the next day. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn, New York. Sikh businesses have been stoned and cars have been burned. An Egyptian Christian man was shot in San Gabriel, California. A Pakistani Muslim who owned a grocery store was shot in Dallas.

“Sikh Americans, Muslim Americans, Christian Americans, our neighbors and countrymen, are being harassed and acts of violence are being committed against them merely because of their religious or ethnic heritage,” Dr. Aulakh said. “All Americans should join together to condemn these cowardly acts.”

“What a group of terrorists did Tuesday was a terrible crime and an act of war against America, but it was done by group of individuals who are no more typical of their religion than Timothy McVeigh is typical of Christianity,” said Dr. Aulakh. “Members of minority religious communities are being targeted for violence, and this is unacceptable especially in America.”

“Sikhism is an independent, divinely revealed, monotheistic religion with our own symbols and has no relation to other religions like Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, or Christianity, but we respect all religions” Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that Sikhism has its own symbols. “Among those symbols are a turban and beard. That does not make us supporters or associates of Osama bin Laden, yet we are being targeted for violence in the wake of the atrocities last Tuesday.” I said.

Two young Sikh activists announced the creation of a website for information about hate crimes against Sikhs. It can be found at <http://www.sikh.org/hatecrime>. They noted that “99.9 percent” of the people who wear turbans in America, are Sikhs.

“Let’s not let America descend to the level of those who attacked it,” Dr. Aulakh said.

HONORING NICK GRAY

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the bravery of a great American, Nick Gray, who fought for the United States in World War II and survived the attack at Pearl Harbor and the battle at Guadalcanal. Mr. Gray now resides in Montrose, Colorado.

Mr. Gray and the rest of the 25th Infantry Division were stationed in Hawaii at the time of the attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He awoke to the sounds of 351 Japanese attack planes destroying the base around him. Nick and his captain narrowly escaped the destruction by finding refuge in a