

RECOGNITION OF ELIZABETH D. FREEMAN

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent and friend, Elizabeth D. Freeman of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Elizabeth is the ultimate community volunteer. She has devoted countless hours organizing the private fundraising efforts of the Broward County Library System. As an active member of the Board of Directors of the Broward Public Library Foundation, she has organized their most successful annual event, "The Night of Literary Feasts". This event brings renowned authors to Fort Lauderdale for a series of small dinners in private homes and a day of lectures open to the public. You can't say no to Elizabeth, as David Gerkin found out last year.

That unique talent, the power to persuade has made Elizabeth a most sought after member of organizations and committees in our community. Most recently, she has chaired the Opera Ball, served on the Board of Directors of the Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Miami Heart, the Fort Lauderdale Philharmonic Society and SPARK, the fundraising arm of the Museum of Discovery and Science. She also found time to be an active member of Beaux Arts, organizing events to support the Fort Lauderdale Museum of Art.

Elizabeth Freeman is an individual who wants to see things accomplished. She usually is the behind-the-scenes worker bee, working for what she believes in, not seeking recognition of her accomplishments. But I think it is time to recognize Elizabeth's forty plus years of community service. Today, we recognize Elizabeth Freeman for all of her good work and as a representative of a very important segment of our society, the volunteers who give untold hours of their time and energy to improve the quality of life of all of us.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN HAS VERY SUCCESSFUL CONVENTION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, October 6 and 7, the Council of Khalistan held its annual convention down in Atlanta. It was very successful. The organization laid out strategies for liberating the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, discussed the political situation there, worked on the concerns of Sikhs here in America, and passed several resolutions. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Council of Khalistan on a successful convention.

Mr. Speaker, freeing Khalistan is an important effort to secure freedom for the Sikh people. America was founded on the principles of freedom and self-determination and these things are the birthright of all people. Yet the response of "democratic" India is to use force to suppress the natural yearning for freedom.

India is a land of massive human-rights violations. Secretary Powell is there now and we hope that he can maintain good relations with India and that no violence breaks out. But I also hope he will press the Indian government on its abysmal human-rights record and its record, until very recently, of anti-Americanism. It is holding over 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to a recent report by the Movement Against State Repression. Dr. Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, recently wrote to Secretary Powell urging him to seek the release of these political prisoners during his visit to India.

We should insist on full and active support for our anti-terrorist efforts. We should also insist that India begin to respect basic human rights. If they do not, we should maintain our sanctions on India and cut off its aid. And we should go on record for an end to the terrorism in South Asia by publicly supporting a free and fair plebiscite with international monitoring on the issue of freedom in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir, in Christian Nagaland, and all the nations that seek their freedom. Only then can real security, freedom, and peace reign in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has published a press release on its convention. I would like to place it in the RECORD.

DELEGATES DISCUSS STRATEGIES TO LIBERATE KHALISTAN, PASS RESOLUTIONS FOR KHALISTAN, OTHER SIKH CAUSES

Washington, DC, Oct. 9, 2001.—The Council of Khalistan's annual international convention was held this past weekend in Atlanta, Georgia. It was very successful. A large number of delegates came from around the United States and Canada. The convention honored Khalistan Day, the anniversary of the declaration of independence by the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which took place on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan was constituted at that time to serve as the government pro tempore of Khalistan and lead its struggle for independence.

The convention mapped out strategy to bring about the liberation of Khalistan. There was much very inspired, energetic, and intelligent discussion of how to move the freedom struggle forward.

Delegates also passed several resolutions, including resolutions demanding a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Khalistan and the other nations India occupies; demanding the release of Sikh and other political prisoners; to form a Khalsa Raj Party to liberate Khalistan; to let human-rights organizations into Punjab; condemning the attacks on Sikhs and other minorities since the September 11 terrorists acts at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; condemning the attack on the United States; to raise money for the Washington office; to nominate Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for the Nobel Prize; naming Dr. Aulakh Khalistan Man of the Year; condemning Simranjit Singh Mann and Tarlochan Singh for their betrayal of the Sikh Nation and unwarranted attack on Dr. Aulakh; calling on Sikhs, Sikh leaders, and Gurdwaras to support the freedom struggle; and commending convention chairman Dr. Gulbarg Singh Basi and his wife, Rup Kaur Basi, for their hard work to make the convention successful. They decided that next year's convention will be held on Columbus Day weekend 2002 in Philadelphia.

Dr. Aulakh thanked all the delegates who came to the convention. "I am very im-

pressed with the turnout," he said. "We have many people who took time out of their busy schedules to come here. They gave this weekend to the cause of Sikh freedom," he said. "Their efforts are noticed and appreciated."

"These are true Sikhs," Dr. Aulakh added. "The Sikh leadership in Punjab would do well to emulate the people at this convention. Remember 'In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi' and 'Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,'" Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.' We must keep this in mind when we deal with corrupt leaders such as Badal, Tohra, Chohan, and others."

"This convention has been a significant step forward in the effort to reclaim the Sikh Nation's lost sovereignty," said Dr. Aulakh. "Only then will Sikhs live in freedom, dignity, peace, and prosperity," he said. "Everyone who came to this convention should be saluted for making the effort," he said. "I would like to thank the Atlanta Gurdwara for their input and their hospitality. Special thanks go to Dr. and Mrs. Basi for organizing the convention."

TRIBUTE TO DEBBI HUFFMAN GUTHRIE

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the Mt. Rubidoux District California Inland Empire Council of the Boy Scouts of America in saluting Debbi Huffman Guthrie as their Distinguished Citizen of the Year—2001.

Debbi, a lifelong resident of Riverside, California, is a third generation owner of a roofing company established by her grandfather in 1921. As a native Riversider, Debbi attended Ramona High School and California State University, San Bernardino. Debbi Guthrie and her husband have four daughters and four grandchildren.

Debbi Guthrie has been and continues to be a shining example of a person with passion and principles who has strived to have a positive effect upon her local community. Her approach and policy has been a simple one, that a community's strength comes from just that—the community. We must first start close to home and then radiate out if we hope to have fulfilling lives and impact others.

Debbi Guthrie has unquestionably become a leader of women in her community, whose legacy originates from her company's history of giving back to the community. Her tireless, engaged action can be seen in an incredible array of community life, including: Trustee on the University of California, Riverside Foundation; President of the Riverside Community College/City Task Force; Chair-elect of the United Way of the Inland Valleys; Member of the Executive Committee, Monday Morning Group of Western Riverside County; Chair of the Roofing Apprenticeship Advisory Board; President of the Kiwanis Club of Riverside; and, Trustee on the March Field Museum Foundation.

As a leader among women of the Inland Empire, Debbi has received countless other awards and recognitions, including: 1993 Riverside YWCA's Woman of Achievement