

Vice President in March 2000—the highest-ranking woman to be elected to office in 5,000 years of Chinese history.

While Ms. Lu has taken a controversial position on Taiwan independence, one which from a U.S. perspective is beyond the contemplation of the three communiques and the Taiwan Relations Act that underpin U.S.-China relations, the heroic commitment she has made to the democratic evolution on Taiwan deserves the commendation of the world community. We honor Vice President Lu for her commitment to democracy and congratulate her for receiving the World Peace Prize.

TURKEY'S SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN—AND BEYOND

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, the political rule of the Taliban is over. They have been defeated in the north. They have fled from Kabul. They are heading for the hills.

Winston Churchill noted more than 60 years ago as Britain withstood the ravages of the German bombing attacks, this is not the beginning of the end but rather, “the end of the beginning.”

We too, are at the end of the beginning of our worldwide effort to combat terrorism. It is a job that we must lead, but it is a job that we cannot do alone. In the earliest moments after September 11th it seemed that just a few nations would stand with us publicly and actively. One of those nations was our longtime friend and ally, Turkey.

Turkey is no stranger to terrorism. For more than 10 years it waged a fight against internal terrorists who murdered its diplomats and killed its citizens. Over the space of that decade, more than 30,000 Turks lost their lives. Yet, Turkey never hesitated in its support to us.

Within days, Turkish airspace, infrastructure and military organization was pledged in aid to the United States. Turkey went farther. On November 1st, Turkey became the third nation, after the United States and Britain, to commit ground forces in Afghanistan. It dedicated a 90-person special operations group to the ground effort.

This gesture is more than symbolic. It is real. These troops have engaged in short and long term reconnaissance missions. They have served as guides for other allied forces. They provide military assistance to humanitarian relief efforts. They work to protect citizens from harm. Turkey's knowledge of Afghanistan and its longstanding links to anti-Taliban forces make this small unit an important cog in our coalition machine.

Moreover, Turkey's commitment sends a larger signal to the Muslim world. As a democracy, indeed as the only secular democracy in the Muslim world, Turkey sends a signal that Islam and democracy are not incompatible. It is an important one for the millions of Muslims worldwide who wonder whether this effort is a disguised attack on their religion.

Mr. Speaker, as important as Turkey's decision was to send troops to Afghanistan, it should not surprise anyone. Turkey has been with us for 50 years in peace and in conflict. They stand with us today, and for that we should be grateful.

HONORING EDDY AND SALLY ARNOLD ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as the United States Congressman representing Nashville, Tennessee, I rise today to honor country music legend Eddy Arnold and his wife Sally on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

My father, Governor Frank G. Clement, enjoyed a unique friendship with Arnold throughout his lifetime. In fact, my brothers and I considered him to be a “second father” to our family, offering advice and wisdom about many issues. His family values remain strong today, as does his status as a living legend.

A native of Henderson, Tennessee, Arnold is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, having sold more than 85 million records in his career. As one of the top country music performers of all time, Eddy Arnold holds a number of records in the industry, such as being the only performer to chart on Billboard in seven consecutive decades. Further, he is still ranked as the Top Country Recording Artist of All Time and holds the record for Most Country Records on the Charts.

Known as the Ambassador of Country Music, he has received numerous prestigious awards including the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Award, the Academy of Country Music's Pioneer Award, and the President's Award from the Songwriter's Guild. Because of continued devotion to fans, his fan base around the globe remains loyal and strong after 55 years in the music industry.

There is no doubt Arnold's impressive success can be equally shared with Sally, his wife and partner of 60 years, who has remained by his side throughout both rich and lean times. It is this partnership of which I stand to honor today.

IN MEMORY OF NAZAR SINGH FAGOORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently Nazar Singh Fagoora, a Sikh leader from Fresno, California, passed away. December 3 would have been his 86th birthday. I was informed of his passing by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, to whom he was an advisor.

Nazar Singh Fagoora believed deeply in freedom for all people. He supported the

struggle to free the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, with financial contributions and with his political support. In the Fresno Gurdwara, he would post letters from the Council of Khalistan on the bulletin board to inform his fellow Sikhs of what was going on back in Punjab, Khalistan, and to encourage them to get involved in the freedom movement.

Nazar Singh Fagoora was a committed, dedicated Sikh, and a staunch Khalistani. He led a simple life. He was active in many efforts to help his fellow Sikhs, whether by trying to help people in the local community or by his financial, moral, political, and personal support of the freedom movement. I know that his family, friends, and the members of his Gurdwara will greatly miss him. Let him serve to remind us all of what it is to be a good citizen. I know I speak for everyone here when I say let God bless him and his family.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release in Mr. Fagoora's memory. I would like to place that in the RECORD at this time.

SIKH NATION MOURNS PASSING OF S. NAZAR SINGH FAGOORA

FRESNO SIKH WAS DEDICATED SERVANT OF KHALSA PANTH AND ALL PEOPLE

WASHINGTON, DC, November 20, 2001.—The Sikh Nation is mourning the loss of Sardar Nazar Singh Fagoora, a dedicated Sikh leader from Fresno, California, who died at the age of 85. He was a dedicated servant of the Khalsa Panth, and he will be greatly missed.

“Sardar Nazar Singh was a great human being, a committed, dedicated Sikh, and a staunch Khalistani,” said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization leading the Sikh Nation's struggle for the independence of the Sikh homeland. Khalistan is the name of the independent Sikh homeland declared on October 7, 1987.

“Sardar Nazar Singh gave large amounts of money in support of the struggle to liberate Khalistan. He led a simple fulfilling life, according to the principles laid down by our Gurus,” Dr. Aulakh said. “He was a true follower of Guru. He was a truly noble and dedicated Sikh,” Dr. Aulakh said.

“Sardar Nazar Singh really served the Guru very well by serving the Khalsa Panth,” Dr. Aulakh said. “He was active in many ways in efforts to help the Khalsa Panth, whether by trying to help people in the local Sangat or by his financial, moral, political, and personal support of the freedom movement,” he said. “In the Fresno Gurdwara, he made sure every letter written by this office was posted on the walls of the Gurdwara as soon as it arrived. The Sangat would browse through those documents carefully,” Dr. Aulakh said. “I know that I will miss his counsel and advice. I don't see anyone in this country who can fill the vacuum created by his departure,” Dr. Aulakh said.

“Sardar Nazar Singh understood that Sikhs will continue to suffer oppression in India and will continue to be misunderstood in this country as long as we do not have our own country,” said Dr. Aulakh. “This kind of repression will continue as long as Khalistan continues to live under Indian occupation,” he said. “Only in a sovereign, free Khalistan will Sikhs live with honor and dignity where the Sikh religion can flourish,” he said. “Nations that do not have political power vanish.”

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. More than 52,000