

their survival, courage, and dedication in fighting for "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." They risked their lives to help the people of Southeast Asia because they were in danger and had their human rights taken away. I ask you to join me today in recognizing these heroic figures who proved to us the meaning of bravery and diligence.

### VAISAKHI DAY

### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the Sikhs recently celebrated their important holiday of Vaisakhi Day. It is the 302nd birthday of the Sikh Nation. On Vaisakhi Day in 1699, Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the Sikh gurus, formed the Khalsa Panth. He blessed them with the blessing "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," which means, "the Khalsa shall rule."

The Sikhs consider Vaisakhi a very important holiday. It is effectively the Sikh national holiday. As this Vaisakhi Day passed, however, the Sikh Nation still lives in slavery.

Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849. They ran a secular state with religious tolerance. Sikhs, Muslims, and Hindus participated in the government. When the British vacated the subcontinent, the Sikhs were to receive sovereign power, but they were taken in by the false promises of Nehru and Gandhi that they would have freedom in Punjab. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution, and many Sikhs are demanding their independence, as declared on October 7, 1987. Although they seek this peacefully, India considers anyone who speaks out for a separate Sikh state, called Khalistan, to be a "terrorist." Instead, it is India that has used the tools of terrorism.

A new report from the Movement Against State Repression shows that the Indian government holds, by its own admission, at least 52,268 political prisoners under the illegal and expired "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act," called TADA. Both the Movement Against State Repression and Amnesty International have confirmed that tens of thousands of political prisoners are being held without charge or trial. Some of them have been in jail since 1984. According to The Politics of Genocide by respected human-rights worker Inderjit Singh Jaijee, the Indian government since 1984 has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs. They join thousands of Christians, Muslims, Dalits, and others who have been killed at the hands of the Indian government.

In the spirit of Vaisakhi, the U.S. Congress should support freedom for the Sikh Nation and the other nations of South Asia who are seeking their sovereignty and independence. We must support a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, on the question of independence and also plebiscites for Kashmir, as India promised in 1948, for Nagalim, and for all the nations living under Indian occupation. We should also cut off American aid until India learns to respect its own laws and the basic human rights of all people. Let the Sikhs, celebration of Vaisakhi remind us that the freedom is the birthright of all peoples and nations.

### COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,

Washington, DC, April 16, 2001.

### OPEN LETTER TO THE SIKH NATION: POLITICAL PRISONERS SHOULD RUN IN ELECTIONS FORM KHALSA RAJ PARTY, START A STANTMAI MORCHA TO FREE KHALISTAN

Several reports, including a recent one from Amnesty International, confirm that tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners are being held in illegal detention in India without charge or trial. Democracies do not hold political prisoners, yet tens of thousands of political prisoners are being held in "the world's largest democracy."

Recently, 19 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush asking him to get involved in the effort to secure freedom for these political prisoners. These political prisoners are being held for peaceful activities in support of a sovereign, independent Khalistan and/or activities in support of human rights. Some of these political prisoners have been held since 1984. We must secure their freedom.

Sovereignty is essential to the survival of the Sikh Nation. As long as we live under Indian rule, these political prisoners will continue to be held and we will all continue to live as slaves. The only way that Sikhs can live in freedom is to liberate our homeland. Self-determination is the right of all peoples and nations.

We must tell the Indian government that we demand our freedom. In order to do so, the political prisoners should run for Parliament and for the Legislative Assembly under the banner of the Khalsa Raj Party. The primary plank of the Khalsa Raj Party should be freedom for Khalistan. The Khalsa Panth must be prepared to pay any price, whatever it may be, to free ourselves from the occupation of the Indian government.

We must have a full and fair plebiscite on the status of Khalistan and we must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan. If the political prisoners run for office, Sikhs will have someone to vote for who is committed to freedom. None of the current parties will make any effort to liberate Khalistan.

If the political prisoners will not run for office from their jail cells, then their family members should be given the Khalsa Raj Party ticket in the elections. We must have a real choice that will allow us to demand our freedom. Only then can we make any difference. Let us vote for a free Khalistan, not just for a change of faces among the oppressors.

Guru Gobind Singh Sahib gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. "In Grief Sikhans Ko Deon Patshahi", that is "Khalsa shall rule and is sovereign." Guru gave the Sikh Nation sovereignty. Nations that do not have sovereignty perish. Nations that do not have political power vanish from the face of the Earth. Sikhs are instructed to remain free always. It is time to reclaim freedom that is our birthright. In a free Khalistan Sikhs will enjoy freedom and respect the world over. For the survival of Sikh Nation, we must regain our lost sovereignty. It is our duty as Sikhs.

The present Akali government and its leadership is corrupt to its bone. The Akalis are in alliance with the militant Hindu fundamentalist BJP, which has recently been rocked by a corruption scandal as well. They are agents of the Indian government. They take their orders from Delhi rulers. They lie to the Sikh Nation. We must discard them now and replace them with a new committed, honest, pro-Khalsa Panth leadership.

As instructed by the Guru, Banda Singh Bahadar established the first Khalsa Raj in

1710 after the complete destruction of city of Sirhand where the two younger sons of Guru Sahib were beheaded after immobilizing them in a wall. Sikhs regained political power in the second half of the 18th century and ruled Punjab until the mid-19th century. It was the Golden Age of Punjab. Under the rule of Maharajah Ranjit Singh, all the people living in Punjab shared power. Muslims, Hindus, and Christians were ministers in his government. The people of Punjab were treated equally and fairly. Justice was done without any prejudice to anyone. All citizens of Punjab were equal partners in the administration of Khalsa Raj. The same principle of justice, fairness, and equality will be the foundation stones of a sovereign, independent Khalistan and Khalistan will be free from bribes.

In 1947, when India was divided, the cunning and deceitful Hindu leadership of Nehru and Gandhi promised that Sikhs would have the glow of freedom in Punjab and that no law affecting Sikh rights would be passed without Sikh consent. As soon as the transfer of power had occurred and India was free, those promises were broken. Instead, India began its effort to wipe out the Sikh people, the Sikh Nation, and the Sikh religion. The Home Ministry even sent a circular to the deputy commissioners of Punjab saying that Sikhs are "a criminal tribe" and should be carefully watched. Since independence, Sikhs have been persecuted, betrayed, robbed of their natural resources, and discriminated against. We must stand up against the oppressors and say enough is enough. We will no longer live under your oppressive regime.

Badal did not even fulfill the promises he made before the election. How can they call themselves an Akali government when more than 50,000 people have been tortured, murdered, declared unidentified, and cremated by the police? There is no accountability for them and no police official has been punished. How can they call themselves an Akali government when they have not punished Swaran Singh Ghotna, the murderer of Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, and the other police officers who kidnapped and murdered human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra? With a Khalsa Raj Party and with the political prisoners elected, these people can be brought to justice.

In pursuit of its divide and rule strategy, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs in their effort to create fear psychosis and destroy the Sikh freedom movement. Tens of thousands of Sikh youth are being held as political prisoners without charge or trial. Recently, it has tried to set the Sikhs and the Kashmiri Muslims against each other by creating incidents between the communities. Over 20,000 people were murdered in Delhi alone after Indira Gandhi's assassination. So far, the perpetrators of these heinous crimes roam free in Delhi. The Khalsa Raj Party must demand accountability for the perpetrators of these atrocities.

After the Golden Temple attack in June 1984 by the Indian government it was clear to the Sikhs that the Indian government is determined to destroy Sikhism completely. The attack on the Golden Temple was conducted to crush the Sikh aspirations of Khalsa Raj. It doesn't matter whether Congress or the BJP runs the government. Former Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said that there is no difference between Congress and the BJP. He is right. The party label on the Hindu majority does not matter. Congress and BJP are equally anti-Sikh. Only a Khalsa Raj Party will work to break the cycle of tyranny and oppression.

Do you want to live as slaves and jeopardize the future of your children and your children's children, disobeying the Guru's order of Raj Kare Ga Khalsa, or do you want to free yourself from the slavery of the Indian government and enjoy the blessings and happiness of Guru by freeing Khalistan? Always remember that the Guru gave the Sikh Nation Charhdi Kala.

For the Charhdi Kala of the Khalsa Panth, let's join hands to form a Khalsa Raj Party to free our homeland, Khalistan. We pray and ask the blessing of the Guru to help us achieve the pious, God-given right to freedom for the Sikh Nation. The Khalsa Panth prays for the well being of the whole human race. We wish every human being in the world, including South Asia, well. We hope that the entire world will live in peace and freedom and let the Sikh Nation also flourish, prosper, and enjoy the glow of freedom in a free Khalistan.

Khalsa Ji, always remember "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah" and "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa."

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKCH,  
President Council of Khalistan.

TRIBUTE TO MS. PAT SHIELDS

**HON. RONNIE SHOWS**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished woman from Mississippi, Ms. Pat Shields. It is my great privilege to share with my colleagues in Congress her many attributes and noteworthy career as a civilian employee in the United States Army.

For thirty years Ms. Shields has been a model of dedication, compassion and service in the United States Army. The Ole Miss community quickly learned how lucky they were to make her acquaintance 27 years ago, when she came to work with their ROTC program. With a smile on her face and a remarkably thoughtful attention to detail, Mrs. Shields has worked with over 8,000 students to help them realize their dreams. Her assistance has resulted in the commission of over 500 cadets to the U.S. Army and Mississippi National Guard.

As Ms. Shields prepares to retire, I have been overwhelmed by the number of people who say their lives have been touched by her presence. The Ole Miss community has both deep regret and fond wishes for her departure. They know though, as do her children, David, Don, and Lisa, and her granddaughter, Elizabeth Ann, that no woman is more deserving of an enjoyable retirement than Pat Shields.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise with me in commending Pat Shields for her fine service to this nation. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to recognize such a true southern lady from our great state of Mississippi.

HONORING DR. JOSEPH S. BAILES

**HON. KEN BENTSEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my constituent, Dr. Joseph S. Bailes, on the

occasion of an event on May 12, 2001, in San Francisco, California by the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship honoring him and the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

There is scarcely a person among us who has not been touched by cancer. This disease—actually more than a hundred different diseases—is one of the greatest public health challenges we face in this country, particularly as our population ages and thus becomes more susceptible to cancer. If we are to meet this challenge, if we are to take full advantage of the many opportunities presented by the exciting discoveries of basic science in recent years, and if we are to fulfill the promise of quality cancer care for all our citizens, it will require visionary and energetic leadership. That kind of leadership has been provided for more than a decade by my friend and constituent, Dr. Joseph S. Bailes. Dr. Bailes is currently the Executive Vice President of Clinical Affairs at US Oncology, the largest private oncology practice in the United States.

Dr. Bailes has recently completed more than a decade of service to the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), which is the leading medical professional society for physicians involved in cancer treatment and research. Under the public policy guidance of Joe Bailes, ASCO has been involved in almost all significant legislative and regulatory initiatives during this past decade of great change in the health care delivery system generally and in cancer care specifically.

During Dr. Bailes' long tenure as Chair of ASCO's Clinical Practice Committee, he was confronted with various challenges, each of which posed a threat to quality cancer care. Among these were practices of third-party payers to deny payment for cancer drugs when used for cancers not specifically approved by the Food and Drug Administration; the refusal of Medicare to cover the cost of oral anticancer drugs; and the uncertainty of payment of routine patient care costs for cancer patients enrolled in clinical trials. Thanks to Dr. Bailes' leadership, these issues are now favorably resolved or on their way to a favorable resolution that will be supportive of people with cancer.

Dr. Bailes also served as President of ASCO, the first in more than 20 years to be elected as a community oncologist rather than an academic. His election reflected widespread recognition within the cancer community of Dr. Bailes' important and diverse contributions to oncology beyond considerations of reimbursement or coverage for the private physician. His voice has been a powerful one for everybody with cancer, as well as for the professionals who care for them.

Aside from these public policy activities, I also commend Dr. Bailes for his dedication and skill as a physician who cares for individual patients in a thoughtful and compassionate manner. In fact, Dr. Bailes has successfully treated members of my own family for cancer-related illnesses and I am grateful for his dedicated service to patients in the Houston area. I know no one better at cancer diagnosis and treatment than Dr. Bailes, and his motivation is not public acclaim but the welfare of his patients. This is the ideal we expect of all our doctors.

This May Dr. Bailes will be recognized and honored by the National Coalition for Cancer

Survivorship (NCC), the largest national organization advocating on behalf of people with all kinds of cancer. The occasion will be the 37th Annual meeting of ASCO in San Francisco, where colleagues from all over the world will assemble to hear the latest developments in cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. It is fitting that Dr. Bailes will be individually honored in this impressive context.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Bailes on his many years of service in the fight against cancer and for his many achievements. He is an inspiration to all advocates against cancer, whether they are patients or former patients, parents or friends of cancer patients, the physicians or other health professionals who treat them, or the research organizations that seek improved cancer therapies.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAINE ADMINISTRATORS OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

**HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Maine Administrators of Services for Children with Disabilities, or MADSEC. MADSEC has been a leader in the provision of educational and support services to children with disabilities in Maine since 1976. In that time, Maine has developed a model program which benefits the children of my state in many ways.

Maine was unique among several states in the development of special education services. From its earliest days, MADSEC has maintained an open and positive working relationship with the Maine Department of Education's Special Services Division. By collaborating with the state agency, MADSEC has been able to help effectively address concerns, issues, and complaints in a productive manner which eventually helps all parties involved find a reasonable outcome.

In addition to its problem-solving function, MADSEC has been a joint-sponsor of several successful Professional Development training opportunities for administrators, teachers, and support staff. The "Select Seminars" offered by MADSEC and the Special Services Division are intensive work sessions which focus professional attention and problem-solving skills on some of the most troublesome issues in the special education arena.

MADSEC also publishes a professional journal for special education administrators and staff which has provided consistent information and commentary on many issues. Members can access a website for instant information, professional resources, and the latest news in the field.

On a national level, MADSEC sponsors the annual Maine Director's Academy, a professional development and policy study event for special education administrators from across the country. Special educators from more than 30 states and Canadian Provinces have attended in the Academy's 20-year history, and the Academy has been recognized by several national professional organizations.