

where nine AmeriCorps youths, some having a prior brush with the law, renovated four homes. The resulting benefits to the city include property appreciation, increased tax payments, decreased cost to the justice system, and the benefit of having the participating youth learn valuable skills and a strong work ethic. The University of Minnesota study concludes that the community received a benefit of \$3.90 per every dollar put into the project; that is nearly a 4 to 1 benefit ratio.

In West St. Paul, 14 dedicated AmeriCorps members coached and tutored 800 students, contributing to a 30-percent drop in theft and vandalism in the area. This drop in crime saved taxpayers \$160,000 in law enforcement and property costs, and helped earn this program a \$2.94 benefit to each dollar of cost. In addition to the direct economic benefits measured by the study, this project helped to educate hundreds of students who will benefit from that education long after their participation in the project is finished. AmeriCorps members in Minnesota also ran a program to help high school drop-outs gain their diplomas. Forty young people earned their diploma from this effort. The community, however, gained much more in the form of increased income tax revenue resulting from these new graduates' higher expected incomes and, more importantly, it gained a more educated population which is more likely to see the value of voluntarism and give back to their community in later years.

AmeriCorps is working for our communities and youth in Minnesota and, I expect, throughout the Nation. In Minnesota, the AmeriCorps Program has indeed been effective in reaching its goals and has proven to be an efficient use of public funds. Minnesota members of AmeriCorps work with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Salvation Army, the YMCA, Habitat for Humanity, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as well as with public entities like Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Their activities include tutoring and mentoring young students, reducing adult illiteracy, rehabilitating and constructing low-income housing, restoring deteriorating parks and green spaces, aiding elderly citizens with independent living, and providing outreach services to victims of domestic violence, to name only a fraction of their past and ongoing efforts. These are civic endeavors that make a real difference in peoples' lives in our State, and the AmeriCorps members that are achieving these successes are young people who, because of AmeriCorps, will gain the opportunity to go to college or acquire other types of training so that they can build better lives for themselves and their families.

A recent Gallup Poll found that 94 percent of Americans agree that national service initiatives like AmeriCorps are important efforts for the Federal Government to organize and maintain. Furthermore, 75 percent of Americans object to reducing or eliminating the program. Nonetheless, the Republican majority has, ironically, targeted national service initiatives such as AmeriCorps for elimination while citing a study that only analyzes costs and is blind to the benefits of the program, therefore, concluding erroneously that our Nation cannot afford such an effort.

Proposed reductions in funding for education, welfare, and other programs that help our children and disadvantaged families make

the work of AmeriCorps even more essential. The AmeriCorps Program is a double investment in the future of this Nation. The program not only gives struggling social service organizations a helping hand assisting our most vulnerable children, adults and elderly citizens, it helps AmeriCorps participants become relevant, productive, successful members of their communities and teaches all participants the value and importance of giving back to the communities in which they live. The AmeriCorps Program is a good investment in our Nation, and it is working. Let us keep AmeriCorps in place to serve our youth and our communities.

MILLIONS SUFFER UNDER INDIAN REPRESSION

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, last week the nation of India celebrated its Republic Day, the 46th anniversary of the adoption of its constitution in 1950. On this occasion, it seems fitting to step back and assess India's progress in the areas of human rights and conflict resolution with its neighbors.

It is unfortunate to report that India's progress in many areas has not been very good. In terms of making peace with its neighbor, Pakistan, India's record has frankly been abysmal. In fact, on the very day that India was celebrating Republic Day, two rockets were fired into a small town in the Kashmiri region of Pakistan. One struck a mosque just after noon prayers, killing 20 civilians and injuring many more. It is widely assumed that the rockets were fired by the Indian Army. The next day, India took the very belligerent step of test-firing its Prithvi II missile. This new missile is nuclear-capable and able to reach any major city in Pakistan.

India's refusal to negotiate seriously with its neighbor Pakistan, and with the Kashmiri people, over the status of Kashmir has been a major disappointment to the world community. Much more disappointing has been India's inhuman record of government-sanctioned murder and torture in Kashmir. For years, India's security forces have run amuck in Kashmir, committing gang-rapes, extrajudicial killings, burning down entire villages, spraying gunfire into crowds of civilians and committing unspeakable acts of torture on the Kashmiri people. India has conducted a carefully orchestrated campaign of rape, torture, and murder in order to keep the people of Kashmir from demonstrating for independence.

I was particularly struck by one story reported by Professor William Baker in a recent book:

He interviewed a young woman who had been abducted by Indian soldiers who had just searched her village. They dragged her off to their compound, where they kept her naked in a pit. They raped her in a pit for 10 days. They extinguished their cigarettes all over her body. When they were through with her, they took her to the bank of a river, stabbed her in the head with a bayonet, and left her for dead. Today she is so traumatized, she has lost most of her memory.

For the people of Kashmir, such treatment is all too common. In neighboring Punjab,

where the Sikh people have also been fighting for their right to self-determination, the human rights situation has been just as dismal. In June of 1984, 11 years ago, as the movement for a free Khalistan was gaining steam, the Indian Army launched an assault on the holiest Sikh shrine—the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Thirty-eight other temples were also attacked, and over 20,000 Sikh civilians were murdered. Since that time, life in Punjab has been a nightmare of repression. Thousands of Sikhs are imprisoned without charges and tortured. Young men are abducted by security forces and disappear forever. Entire families are brutalized.

Mr. Speaker, recently, the Indian Government has been making the claim that the human rights situation in Punjab has improved dramatically. Unfortunately, there is no truth to the claim. It has been estimated that as many as 70,000 Sikhs languish in Indian prisons without charges. Asia Watch has reported that "virtually everyone detained in Punjab is tortured."

Last month, I sent around a Dear Colleague letter detailing a particularly horrible encounter that happened late last year. A human rights activist was detained by Indian police along with his driver. The driver's legs were tied to two separate jeeps that drove off in opposite directions, tearing the man into pieces. The human right activist had disappeared.

In another case that has received widespread attention, well-known human rights figure Jaswant Singh Khalsa was abducted by police last September. Mr. Khalsa earned the wrath of the Indian Government by publicizing charges that the army had murdered over 25,000 Sikhs and cremated their bodies to cover up their crimes. Despite international protests, including a letter from myself and 64 of my House colleagues, Mr. Khalsa has disappeared into the Indian prison system.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Khalsa should be released immediately, along with all prisoners of conscience in Punjab and Kashmir. It is long past time for India's reign of terror to come to an end. The Indian Government cannot achieve its goals through the systematic abuses of basic human rights. The time has come for the Government of India to sit down and negotiate agreements with Sikh and Kashmiri political leaders that respect their rights to democracy, self-determination, and human rights.

I would like to make one final observation. In the very near future, India's Ambassador to the United States, Mr. S.S. Ray, will be returning to India. Mr. Ray has been a controversial figure. During the late 1980's, he was the Governor of the State of Punjab. This was at the time when some of the worst atrocities were taking place there, and Ambassador Ray was, at the time, in command of the security forces who were committing them. It was highly inappropriate for the Government of India to send to us an ambassador who has been widely charged with responsibility for a campaign of human rights abuses by security forces under his watch. I hope that, in selecting a new ambassador, the Indian Government will be more sensitive to the concerns of the American people and the international community.

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES H. CURLEY

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my district's more dedicated and caring individuals, Charles H. Curley. Chuck is being honored as Marin Citizen of the Year for 1995. I wish that I could be with his colleagues, friends, and family tonight as we celebrate his remarkable accomplishments.

Chuck has been a devoted resident of Marin County since he moved here over 35 years ago. Chuck's work has come as both monetary support and as direct participation on task forces and focus groups. Serving as mayor of Larkspur, councilman, planning commissioner, president of the Police Commission, Chuck has spent countless hours working with community leaders in an effort to create a strong alliance throughout Marin. I wish to recognize Chuck for his commitment to the people of Marin County, and to thank him for his long record of public service.

The enthusiasm that Chuck has for both the arts and the environment is seen through his participation in various activities throughout the county. In addition to serving as president of the Marin Arts Council, Chuck is also a patron of the Marin Society of Artists. His effort and dedication has opened the door for numerous artists and has introduced young children to the world of art. Chuck and his wife Nancy were honored in 1994 for their outstanding contribution to the Arts of Marin.

Chuck is also committed to protecting our environment. He was vice-president of the Marin Conservation League, and is currently a member of the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory and the Sierra Club.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay tribute to Charles H. Curley during this special evening at the Marin Civic Center. Marin County owes a great deal of gratitude for the tireless efforts of Chuck over the years. He has worked hard time and time again on behalf of many people and for many important causes. I extend my hearty congratulations and best wishes to Chuck and his wife Nancy for continued success in the years to come.

LET'S DON'T RISK THE AVOCADO INDUSTRY

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, growers in my district produce the most and the best avocados in the world. In order to ensure that we remain competitive we need to make sure our crops remain the best in the world.

For that reason, I rise to urge the USDA to stop the rulemaking process that would modify the quarantine on Mexican Hass avocados. I ask Secretary Glickman, to prevent a rule from going forward which risks the entire avocado industry, especially when there is so much disagreement about the quality of the science underlying the USDA's determination.

As a member of the appropriations Committee, I worked with my colleagues to address

this issue in the fiscal year 1996 agriculture appropriations legislation. The bill, which the President signed into law back in October, expects the U.S. Department of Agriculture to use scientifically credible pest risk assessment and risk management before lifting the current quarantine on Mexican avocados.

During the appropriations process, we asked for the USDA to conduct an independent review of the science. Unfortunately, the Secretary turned us down and suggested that the avocado industry take the lead in this regard.

The Center for Exotic Pest Research at the University of California at Riverside reviewed the proposed rule and published an extremely troubling report. Their findings were strikingly different from those of the USDA and give me great cause for concern. UC Riverside found, and I quote:

The proposed rule's risk assessment contains undocumented assertions, highly questionable estimates, and improper methodology, and as a result, we find it to be invalid.

Free trade is the engine that drives a vibrant economy. I know that growers in my district will compete against any avocado grower in the world. However, the UC Riverside report gives credence to their fears that Mexican avocados coming across the border could carry infestation that could spread throughout the country. I certainly don't believe Secretary Glickman wants to usher in another disaster like the Mediterranean fruit fly.

I think it just makes sense to learn our lesson and take a cautious approach. I urge the Secretary to listen to the experts at UC Riverside and craft a rule that does not put the American avocado industry at risk.

TRIBUTE TO EUGENE JUNETTE

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues an extraordinary program that began in government but has for the past 20 years been supported by the private sector to the benefit of millions of children in this country and countries around the world.

Most particularly I wish to point with pride to the individual who has carried this splendid program forward from its beginning in a U.S. Justice Department agency in the 1970's to the worldwide anticrime program that it has become today. He is my constituent, Eugene Junette of Fresno, CA.

The program that Mr. Junette has spearheaded since 1976 is Play It Safe, a crime prevention program launched by the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration [LEAA] Office of Public Affairs in 1974 by its director, Malcolm Barr. Mr. Junette has asked that Mr. Barr, who retired Feb. 3, 1996, as an Associate Director of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce, following an illustrious 26-year government career, and other Federal Government officials who helped him—Wilbur Brantley, the late Cornelius Cooper, and Joseph Mulvey—share credit for this highly acclaimed program.

Play It Safe is, in fact, a simple coloring book, originally approved by the U.S. Justice

Department and various sheriffs, police, and juvenile justice organizations.

It began in Mr. Barr's office on a shoestring budget and was visualized and developed by Mr. Barr and his small staff. When funds ran out, Mr. Barr approached Kiwanis International which agreed to promote, print, and distribute the booklet among preschool, kindergarten, and elementary school children in the United States, at no cost to the Government. Eugene Junette was appointed chairman.

Under Mr. Junette's enthusiastic guidance, the Play It Safe program multiplied to all 50 States and into 61 foreign countries. The coloring book is translated into 31 languages. Thousands of volunteers now work with what has become Play It Safe International, Inc., whose address is 1289 N. Temperance Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727.

Numerous service clubs and other nonprofit organizations are responsible for the distribution of some 26 million copies of the coloring book. Play It Safe, through Mr. Barr, used the nationally syndicated children's television program "Romper Room" in Baltimore, MD, to jump-start the project that I am told cost the American taxpayer no more than \$20,000. As a result, millions of young children have been effectively educated about how to minimize criminal opportunities against themselves and their friends.

Play It Safe volunteers have also helped develop a parent/teacher guide and home safety check list. Mr. Junette has dedicated the last 20 years of his life, often working 16 to 18 hour days, to help protect children from criminal activity. I join him in drawing attention to Mr. Barr, of Alexandria, VA, who he credits as the man with the vision to see the future possibilities of Play It Safe, not as a Government-sponsored project, but as a private sector program dedicated to the safety and wellbeing of children in this and many nations around the world. Mr. Barr described Play It Safe as a major accomplishment of his long Government career. I join his colleagues and friends wishing him well in his retirement.

As the Play It Safe program completes its 20th year of private sector sponsorship, I wish to particularly salute my constituent Mr. Junette, and all the thousands of volunteers who have helped in furthering the Play It Safe project, and to point to this amazing display of volunteerism that I am proud to say has emanated from my congressional district for two decades.

ACADEMY REVIEW BOARD

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 1996

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy peacoats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than any other district in the country. But this is nothing new: our area has repeatedly sent an above average proportion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This shouldn't come as a surprise. The educational excellence of our area is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise