

B'nai B'rith chose Clifford Jones as the 1996 recipient of this prestigious award for his selfless dedication to the betterment of the people of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Whether it was in the private or public sector, he gave his very best to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

In serving three Pennsylvania Governors in three cabinet positions, Cliff set a standard of excellence in commerce, industry, and the environment for all future Pennsylvania cabinet members. One of his greatest achievements as a public servant was his pivotal role in forging a coalition of support for passage of the State's original Hazardous Waste Act.

Cliff also played an important role in Pennsylvania politics, serving as chairman of the Republican Party of Pennsylvania and president of Pennsylvanians for Effective Government. He has long been active in the pursuit of quality legislative candidates. There are many in the Pennsylvania Legislature who were discovered and recruited by Cliff.

He helped to retain and recruit business to Pennsylvania as president of the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry and transition president for Capitol Region Economic Development Corp. He recently received the "Entrepreneur of the Year" award for his support of entrepreneurship to add to his collection of awards for many worthy causes.

While much of Cliff's career has centered around business and government, he has also dedicated much of his time toward improving the quality of education and health for Americans. A long-time supporter of student internships, he served on the board of the Finnigan Foundation which places student interns in various positions within the Pennsylvania State government.

Currently, Cliff is a college professor and part-time project facilitator. He has many non-profit affiliations including the Messiah College Board of Associates, the Whitaker Center for Arts, Science and Education, the Capitol Region Health Futures Board, the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, and the Pennsylvania Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to stand here in the well of the House of Representatives and join Cliff's wife, Jean, his children and grandchildren in honoring a friend, a constituent, dedicated public servant, and great American role model. If every American can accomplish only a fraction of what Clifford Jones has fulfilled in his lifetime, I have great hopes for this beloved country of ours.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HELEN CHENOWETH

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 1996*

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 4, 1996, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes No. 402 and No. 403.

Had I been here, I would have voted: "yea" on rollcall No. 402; and "yes" on rollcall No. 403.

I ask unanimous consent to have my statement appear in the appropriate place in the RECORD.

#### HONORING UKRAINE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 1996*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor our friend and ally, Ukraine, as it heads into its sixth year of self-rule. On August 23, the people of Kiev (Kyiv) and their countrymen throughout Ukraine celebrated independence with parades and festivals. They were joined by thousands of Americans and Canadians of Ukrainian descent, from Chicago to Calgary, who expressed their unyielding support for their ancestral homeland and the hope that democracy and freedom will continue to prosper there.

On this fifth anniversary of Ukrainian independence, I believe the Ukrainian people have much to celebrate. While Ukraine is still adjusting from economic centralization and control to a more liberalized market system, economic growth has been gradually improving. Democratic institutions and traditions are slowly taking root in this land.

The critics who predicated the collapse of the Ukrainian economy in the early 1990's and a return to authoritarian rule and a centrally controlled economy, have been proven wrong. This alone is reason to celebrate, for surmounting the numerous obstacles faced by the Ukrainian people in the first year of their independence was no easy task.

I believe that the United States must maintain its strong financial commitment to aid Ukraine in its continued transition to a market-based economy. We must assist the people of Ukraine in shutting down the Chernobyl nuclear plant and other similarly constructed plants. We should also aid Ukraine in the development of alternative energy sources by the end of the decade.

In addition, I feel strongly that we must continue to work with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, who has advocated for greater market reforms, respect for human rights and the expansion of civil freedoms on a par with Western standards. Ukraine's participation in the Partnership for Peace [PFP] and the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia are also evidence of the commitment of President Kuchma and the Ukrainian people to peace in Eastern Europe and alliance within the Atlantic community.

So, as we commemorate 5 years of Ukrainian self-rule, let us also recognize the role the United States can play in furthering market reforms and democracy in Ukraine.

I wish the people of the Ukraine and the thousands of Americans of Ukrainian descent, in particular the Ukrainian-American community in Chicago, another year of progress, prosperity and friendship.

#### KHALRA KIDNAPING: 1 YEAR OF TERROR

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 1996*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it has now been 1 full year since the Indian regime kidnaped Jaswant Singh Khalsa, the gen-

eral secretary of the Human Rights Wing, Shiromani Akali Dal. For 1 year, Mr. Khalsa has been subjected to imprisonment and torture in the world's largest democracy.

What did Mr. Khalsa do to deserve such a fate? He exposed the brutal tyranny of the regime. Mr. Khalsa published a report in which he exposed the fact that more than 25,000 Sikhs have been abducted by the regime, tortured, murdered, and then cremated after their bodies were declared unidentified. Many families are still waiting for some word on their loved ones. The cremations were to cover up the responsibility of the police.

Mr. Khalsa is in the custody of the intelligence bureau. An eyewitness has confirmed that he has been tortured severely. He was threatened by the Tarn Taran police chief, Ajit Sandhu, after publishing his report. "We made 25,000 disappear," Mr. Sandhu told him. "It would not be hard to make one more disappear." This is a clear threat to Mr. Khalsa and all others who might expose the Indian regime. Is this how India defines freedom of speech?

Mr. Speaker, the kidnaping of Jaswant Singh Khalsa is just one of many examples of India's tyranny against the Sikhs and others who are outside the rigid caste system. Their national integrity and their basic human rights are violated on a daily basis. America is the conscience of the world. It is our responsibility to oppose this kind of oppression with everything we have. The United States Government must demand the immediate release of Jaswant Singh Khalsa and we must support the Sikh Nation in achieving the full and complete independence of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. ALVIN C. MCPHERSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 1996*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to congratulate and recognize the distinguished career of Mr. Alvin C. McPherson. I commend his storied dedication and exceptional community commitment to my colleagues.

Born in Princess Anne County, VA on October 28, 1928, to a family of 17 children, Mr. McPherson would soon assume the great task of caring for his younger siblings before joining the U.S. Army.

Mr. McPherson's demonstration of leadership and ability extends from his early childhood. Accordingly, upon completing his military duties, he moved to Brooklyn, NY, where he worked for the Department of Veterans Affairs, retiring in 1984 after 30 years of service.

Led by his strong conviction to serve, Alvin McPherson has been an active member of many organizations involved in civic activities. His concerns led him to be a member of the New York Urban League, past chairperson and associate member of the National Council of Negro Women, Inc. and past correspondence secretary of the Mary McCloud Day Care Center.

In addition, Mr. McPherson has served his community in a similar fashion as; a chartered member of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Block Association, and as a member of the board of directors, BHRAGGS, Inc. Currently, Mr.

McPherson is a member of the George P. Davis Post Number 116, American Legion, the Brooklyn Historical Society, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Bhrags-Tompkins Park Senior Citizen Center, and Masonic member of Joppa Lodge Number 21 A.F. & A.M.

Alvin has been the recipient of over 175 citations, certificates, and awards. Frequently cited and honored by political organizations and civic leaders in New York, Mr. McPherson continues to receive local and national honors that reflect his long and tireless efforts to the greater Brooklyn community.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to highlight the accomplishments and diligent work of Mr. McPherson. McPherson views his efforts as a way to give back; therefore, I extend to him my best wishes for continued success.

IN HONOR OF ANA RODRIGUEZ, A  
REMARKABLE WOMAN WITH AN  
ENDURING WILL AND A HEART  
OF GOLD

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 1996*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before the House of Representatives to pay special tribute to Ana Rodriguez, a woman and author of uncommon courage and fortitude. She is a woman who endured 19 years of her life in a Cuban prison for a cause she and many others believed in. A cause which is alive today as much as it was then.

In 1961, an aspiring young Cuban medical student with a promising future joined a fledgling struggle of opposition against one man and his repressive regime. Poised with others to defend the principles of liberty, she was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 30 years in prison for opposing Castro's Communist regime.

Despite the day-to-day pain, suffering, and solitude of her incarceration, Ana Rodriguez found the will to remain faithfully committed to the principles of freedom and liberty. In "A

Diary of a Survivor," she details how Cuban political prisoners were constantly beaten, starved, threatened, and confined to dark isolated cells for months at a time without water or medical treatment. And through it all, she and other prisoners refused to give in to Castro and his repressive security force.

Ana Rodriguez's 19-year struggle for freedom serves as a beacon of hope of those who continue to be unjustly persecuted for defending principles they believe in. Her life is a testimony to the many men and women still suffering today from the same repressive regime which shattered her life 35 years ago. Today, the scars of persecution, embedded within her memory and in the lives of so many, serve as cruel reminder of a regime which continues to silence its people by the use of undemocratic and barbaric means.

I ask my colleagues to please join me in honoring this remarkable human being. Her resolve in the face of immeasurable adversity should be studied and emulated by all who dare to speak out against tyranny in defense of freedom and democracy. And I further ask my colleagues to read "A Diary of a Survivor" and let her detailed accounts of oppression and struggle for freedom serve as an example of similar struggles being waged today not only in Cuba but throughout the world.