

Khalra's release. Mr. Khalra's whereabouts remain unknown, 7 months after his abduction.

India desperately wants the world to believe that the Punjab is a tranquil place and that Sikhs eagerly want to remain part of India. I want my colleagues in the U.S. Congress to know that the only peace in Punjab is the silence of a nation suffocating in the stranglehold of Indian repression. Every Sikh who has been bold enough to stand up and advocate the freedom of Khalistan through peaceful means has felt the immediate sting of Indian brutality. In January 1995, Simranjit Singh Mann asked a crowd of 50,000 Sikhs if they supported the independence of Khalistan through peaceful means. All 50,000 Sikhs raised their hands in support. Mr. Mann was then arrested by Indian police for asking this question despite the fact that in 1992 the Punjab and Haryana High Courts in India ruled that waging a peaceful struggle for self-determination is no offense. The hypocrisy of the Indian Government is evident. It is clear to Sikhs and non-Sikhs alike that India simply wants to prevent the Sikhs from enjoying their right of freedom.

In the face of this kind of repression, Sikhs are reminded of their duty to stand up against tyranny wherever it exists. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh nation declared itself independent from India forming the separate country of Khalistan. This Vaisaakhi Day, Sikhs are emboldened to carry on their struggle for freedom in the face of immense brutality, because to be a Sikh means either to live free of tyranny or to persistently struggle against it.

I call on my colleagues in the Congress to join me in supporting the Sikhs nation's struggle for freedom. As Americans it is our duty to do so, because like Americans, the Sikhs are a freedom-loving people struggling to break the chains of tyranny. Sikhs want to live in peace and be allowed to develop to their fullest potential. Sikh and American ideals parallel one another to a great degree, and it is my firm conviction that an independent Khalistan would be America's strongest ally in South Asia. Khalistan would form a buffer nation between India and Pakistan, thus reducing the potential for armed conflict between the two countries. Khalistan would also agree to the nuclear nonproliferation efforts currently being made by the United States and the international community in South Asia. And unlike India which depends on IMF loans and U.S. assistance to feed its people, while secretly spending billions on developing nuclear weapons and crushing freedom movements, an independent Khalistan would develop itself along the lines of a South Korea or a Taiwan, cultivating economic self-sustainability.

For America, the Sikh vision of an independent Khalistan is an attractive alternative to the current state of affairs in South Asia—a vision of economic development, nuclear nonproliferation and regional stability. Today, however, Sikhs are reeling under the boot of Indian state repression. I call on my colleagues to support the independence of Khalistan and help the Sikh nation obtain the freedom it so rightly deserves.

HONORING THE 1995-96 BASKETBALL SEASON OF THE POPE COUNTY PIRATES

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, perhaps nothing in sports is as thrilling as the underdog beating the odds and having success. The story of a small-town Indiana basketball team was made famous by the movie "Hoosiers." Well, this past season, the Pope County Pirates lived out a similar story line, as this school near Golconda, IL, with an enrollment of 191 students came within one game of making the State finals. Along the way, they energized the surrounding area with their overpowering play in the regular season while displaying gritty determination in the playoffs. I would like to congratulate the players and coaches on a fantastic, record-setting campaign.

Second-year head coach Andy Palmer led his cagers to a team record 27 victories against only 3 defeats, smashing the old mark, set the year before, by 6 wins. The Pirates advanced farther in the State tournament than any previous Pope County team, winning the school's first sectional game and championship before bowing out in their maiden trip to the super-sectional. Also, they had the smallest enrollment of any school to advance to the Sweet Sixteen. The senior-led ball club dominated their opponents by an average 18½ points a game, easily winning the Greater Egyptian Conference.

Mr. Speaker, we need only remember the NCAA basketball finals 2 weeks ago or the Masters golf tournament last weekend to know how much sports provide us in terms of excitement, commitment, and emotion. The players of the Pope County Pirates have given something to their parents, friends, and community that can never be taken away, and that they can cherish for the rest of their lives. For that special gift to all of us, I thank them, and would like to read their names for the record, as well as those of the assistant coaches, cheerleaders, and management staff, as they all played an integral part of the team's accomplishments. The players: Casey Dugan, Patrick Presser, Ryan Fritch, James Joyner, Jason King, Clint Taylor, Jackie Scarborough, Brad Maynor, Mark Brueggert, Robin Pfeifer-Thompson, Rich Eddington, Dustin Turner, Jason Teitloff, Gordon Dugan, and Eric Suits. The assistant coaches: Eric Messmer and Tyler Presser. The cheerleaders, Misty Boyd, Julie Jeffords, Becky Roper, Kim Faulkner, April Vasseur, Marty Eason, Courtney Leach, Janice Shetler, Alisha Morris, Amey Hogg, Keesha Swinford, Rachel Douglass, and Kara Suits. The management staff: Brandie Simmons, Brandy Maynor, Jenny Skaggs, and Travis Kluge.

TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WESTON, FL

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to the First Baptist Church in Weston,

FL, which will begin a great undertaking next week as they break ground on a new 18,000-foot facility.

As south Florida has grown over the past several decades, First Baptist has played an increasingly important role in southwest Broward County. This church home has grown from a small community to what is today a family of over 900 believers.

This very special group of people have reached out to the community and have focused their energies on including everyone in Weston. Led by an ever growing ministry, their outreach programs have already been a positive influence in the lives of many.

The new facility which they are constructing will offer new space for worship and for education. This facility will also provide a recreational area for this community, as well as, for the church and Weston Christian Academy.

Mr. Speaker, in today's world in which so many are building walls, First Baptist Church is breaking them down. Their inclusive mission and programs are to be commended, and I know that if every community in our Nation shared their spirit and their mission, we would not face nearly so many problems today.

ALGONQUIN ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS A TRIBUTE TO ERA TOGNOLI

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 17, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 20, 1996, the Second Annual Algonquin Arts Ball, "A Tribute to Era Tognoli," will be held at the Warren Hotel in Spring Lake, NJ. On this occasion, Ms. Tognoli will receive the Algonquin Arts Award for Outstanding Service to the Arts for her contribution to the cultural life of the Jersey Shore area as founder and director of the Metro Lyric Opera Company and the Monmouth Opera Festival. Ms. Tognoli will also receive funding to establish an operetta series at the newly refurbished Algonquin Arts Theatre in Manasquan, NJ, and to continue opera education for children.

Saturday's ball will benefit the Algonquin Arts nonprofit corporation, which seeks to bring live performance programs and arts education to the Shore community. Proceeds from last year's ball sponsored a new children's concert series presented by one of the Shore area's great artistic traditions, Father Alphonse Stephenson and the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea. Live productions, children's theater, and educational programs have been highlights of the past season, while programming is being expanded to include ballet, jazz, and historic dramatizations.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that many people, including some Shore residents, do not realize the wonderful tradition of artistic and cultural offerings in coastal New Jersey. While the Jersey Shore is known for many things, many people often assume that you have to go to New York or Philadelphia for first-rate artistic events. Not true. I salute Era Tognoli, the Council of the Algonquin Arts Non-Profit Corporation, their board of directors and their many members and contributors, for continuing to contribute to excellence in the arts and further enhancing the quality of life in

that unique region we proudly call the Jersey Shore.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE THOMAS F. QUINLAN, SR.

HON. JOHN SHADEGG

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I announce the death of a courageous American who fought for more than four decades on behalf of the principle that no worker should be forced to pay union dues as a condition of employment.

Thomas F. Quinlan, Sr., father, husband, teacher, small businessman, and public servant, died February 11 at his home in Wheaton, IL, where he moved after retiring to be near two of his six children.

As a history teacher in New Milford, CT, for 24 years and owner of a small lakeside resort for 20 years, Tom Quinlan appreciated the importance of right to work for both workers and small businessmen.

Mr. Quinlan also served three terms in the Connecticut general assembly, from 1954 to 1960. During those years, he worked tirelessly for enactment of a Connecticut right to work law, but was frustrated by the State's powerful union political machine, fed by the forced dues of the very workers whose rights Mr. Quinlan was working to protect.

But he never gave up.

After leaving electoral politics, Mr. Quinlan carried on his efforts, to bring the benefits of voluntary unionism to Connecticut's workers by helping to found, and serving as president of, the Connecticut Right to Work Educational Committee.

Tom Quinlan was also a leader in the fight against compulsory unionism on the national level, serving as a board member of the National Right to Work Committee, which has led the fight for worker freedom across the country for over 40 years, from 1965 until his recent passing.

As a member of the committee's board, Mr. Quinlan helped guide the right to work movement through its successful battles against big labor's attempt to repeal section 14(b) of the Taft-Hartley Act in the mid-sixties, the phony labor law "reform" bill of the seventies, and the so-called anti-striker replacement bill in the nineties.

His last service to the cause of freedom was helping to launch the campaign to pass the National Right to Work Act (S. 581/H.R. 1279), which will soon be voted on in the Senate.

That Congress is even considering repeal of those sections of Federal labor law that authorize forced-dues contracts is in no small measure due to Mr. Quinlan's work.

Remembering his departed colleague, National Right to Work Committee president Reed Larson recalled his optimism, "No matter how many temporary setbacks right to work forces suffered, Tom Quinlan remained confident that our cause was just and would prevail in the end."

I stand before this body to pay tribute to Tom Quinlan's achievements and to offer my condolences to his family and friends.

All Americans owe a debt of gratitude to this former history teacher and small business-

man's tireless efforts on behalf of right to work, and those of us who remain active in this fight should share Tom Quinlan's firm belief in the eventual triumph of the right to work cause.

RECOGNIZING LAW DAY AT DIABLO VALLEY COLLEGE

HON. BILL BAKER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, on May 1, we will commemorate Law Day throughout America. The theme of "liberty under law" is as old as our Republic, and is central to understanding who we are as a people. Freedom without just legal restraint becomes license; law not moderated by respect for human rights is merely authoritarian.

At Diablo Valley College in my home district in California, Law Day will be celebrated under the theme of "We the People: The United States Constitution—the Original American Dream." A ceremony will be held at the College's Performing Arts Center and citizens from around the Contra Costa region will enjoy a presentation of what our Constitution, our laws, and our institutions mean to us all.

I am pleased to recognize Diablo Valley College for its commitment to the legal framework of our society, and most especially the College's reaffirmation of the value of our Constitution. The American Dream—a dream of "freedom and justice for all"—is alive and well, and Diablo Valley College deserves recognition for its role in honoring some of the best of our traditions.

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE RON BROWN FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the late Secretary Ron Brown, an American who distinguished himself as a leader in the Democratic Party and an outspoken supporter of free trade while serving as Commerce Secretary.

During his youth, Mr. Brown excelled in school. His success led him to Middlebury College in Vermont, which he attended on a ROTC scholarship. After graduating in 1962, Mr. Brown entered the Army and rose to the rank of captain.

Throughout his life he held many important positions in both the private and public sectors. Secretary Brown ably assisted Senator KENNEDY on his staff and with the Judiciary Committee. In addition, he was a highly sought lobbyist with Patton, Boggs & Blow.

Mr. Brown impressively unified the Jesse Jackson and Michael Dukakis supporters at the 1988 Democratic National Convention. His efforts propelled him to chairman of the Democratic National Committee, where he ably served for 4 years, culminating in Bill Clinton's 1992 election. Ron Brown deservedly received much of the credit for his work with the Clinton campaign.

Over the past 3 years, Mr. Brown had directed his efforts toward improving trade and commerce for the United States. He served as a proud emissary for American interests.

Mr. Brown was a talented and tireless adversary on the campaign trail as well as a distinguished member of the Clinton administration serving on behalf of the American people. I offer my condolences to the family and friends of Secretary Ron Brown.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY INC.

HON. JOHN EDWARD PORTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 17, 1996*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to recognize Opportunity, Inc., an outstanding organization located in Highland Park, IL.

Opportunity, Inc. is a unique, not-for-profit contract manufacturer that employs 150 persons, 80 percent of whom have developmental, physical and/or emotional disabilities. Founded by local construction executive John Cornell in 1976, who still serves on the board of directors, the company will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on May 7, 1996 at a benefit dinner to be held at the Hotel Nikko in Chicago, IL.

The company's mission is twofold: First, to provide a mainstream plant environment in which handicapable persons can work and earn a paycheck along with the dignity that comes from being employed productively on a full-time basis; and second, to provide its private sector customers with the best possible quality, price, and service.

In this age of fiscal restraint, Opportunity, Inc. stands as an outstanding example of how to accomplish an important social mission without using any Government subsidies. The key to the company's success is its determination to compete for business strictly on the basis of quality, price, and service.

Mr. Speaker, Opportunity, Inc. has demonstrated how competitive and productive handicapable employees can be. Opportunity, Inc. built and continues to operate the only not-for-profit, certified class "clean room" for medical and surgical packaging in the country. So stringent is Opportunity's commitment to quality that it has not had a lot rejected by its major medical/surgical customer—Baxter International—for more than 6 years.

Most important of all, however, is the pride of workmanship that you sense when you visit Opportunity, Inc. During a recent visit, I experienced firsthand how dedicated and competitive these employees are about their work. One man in his thirties said it best of all: "Congressman, all we need is a fair chance to compete. That's what we get here at Opportunity and just look at the results."

I am pleased to send congratulations to the employees, management and directors of Opportunity, Inc. on the occasion of this remarkable company's 20th anniversary, along with best wishes for their continued success into the next century. I also commend Opportunity, Inc. as a worthy example to my colleagues, who believe, as I do, that we must look to the private sector and to the local level for alternative solutions to difficult social problems