

without having to worry that their children are well cared for.

I offer my sincere congratulations to Nike for their efforts to make their corporation family friendly. It is quite an honor for Nike to be recognized as one of the 100 best companies for working mothers.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD ADJUTANT GENERAL, MAJ. GEN. ANSEL M. "BUDDY" STROUD, JR.

HON. BOB LIVINGSTON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my most sincere appreciation and thanks to Maj. Gen. Ansel M. Stroud, Jr., upon his retirement from a distinguished career of dedicated service as Adjutant General of the Louisiana National Guard. We will miss his leadership.

General "Buddy" Stroud gallantly served the U.S. Army, the State of Louisiana, and the United States of America for over 53 years.

General Stroud, while you will be most remembered for your 17-year tenure as Adjutant General which began in 1980—the longest of any AG in our Nation—Louisiana has been benefiting from your exemplary leadership since 1947, when you first joined the National Guard. And I want to particularly thank you for building the Louisiana National Guard into one of the premier State Guards in America. In addition, your personal efforts have made Louisiana's Emergency Preparedness Office and the Hurricane and Disaster Response Organization a model for the rest of the country.

Your career has been as distinguished as it has been long. In fact, few others in our Nation can lay claim to such an outstanding lifetime of achievement.

General, you are the definition of selfless service and the embodiment of what Douglas MacArthur called "those three hallowed words": duty, honor, country.

Mr. Speaker, General Stroud has earned the undying gratitude of the people of Louisiana and, in fact all Americans.

Thank you General Stroud. You and your wonderful wife Jane have my best wishes for the coming years.

RECOGNIZING CRISSIA REAY, WINNER OF THE NATIONAL YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted today to extend my sincerest congratulations to 15-year-old Crissia Reay of Wonder Lake, IL. Crissia is the winner of the National Youth Essay Contest for her essay comparing the lives and voyages of explorers Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci. The contest is sponsored by the National Italian American Foundation and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Crissia's essay was selected from hundreds of entries from across the

country. As a well-deserved reward for her dedication and hard work, Crissia will receive a \$1,000 prize and a trip to Washington, DC later this month where she will participate in ceremonies honoring Columbus by reading aloud her winning essay.

I am proud to have Crissia as one of my constituents. Her accomplishment reflects a love of learning and the discipline and motivation to accept a challenge and meet with success. I join with Crissia's parents, relatives, teachers, and friends in commending her and her remarkable achievement. Crissia's winning essay, entitled "Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci: The Men and Their Discoveries," appears below.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND AMERIGO VESPUCCI: THE MEN AND THEIR DISCOVERIES
(by Crissia Ahnna Reay)

Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci were both explorers, born in the same country in the same time frame, but there the similarities end. They were worlds apart from each other in their personal lives and significant differences were also visible in their voyages.

Columbus was born Cristoforo Colombo near Genoa, Italy in 1451. His father was a weaver and Columbus' family were humble, common folk. He had very little schooling in his early life. Bordering on illiterate when he left his home in Italy, he learned to read and write in Portugal. Vespucci was born in Florence, Italy in 1454. However, his early life was very different from Columbus' owing to the fact that Vespucci was born into a noble Florentine family. Vespucci was described as having a "sagacious" (scientific) mind and was educated in the areas of commercial science, cosmology, astronomy and geography. Consequently, we can understand why money and titles were so important to Columbus, while they seemed to play a lower key role in Vespucci's life and explorations. Having grown up with a common, almost low background, explains why Columbus felt that land, titles and wealth were symbols of success. Whereas, Vespucci's affluent background sheds light as to why he didn't seem driven to obtain those symbols of success and could explore for the simple quest of knowledge without stipulating what he must receive in return (as Columbus felt he must).

Columbus made four voyages to the new world, Vespucci only two that can be proven. In his explorations Columbus visited mainly the islands of the West Indies, San Salvador, Cuba, Jamaica and what is now modern day Mexico; touching only lightly on the continent of South America. Vespucci mainly explored and charted the eastern coastline of South America (from this experience, he concluded that it extended too far and couldn't be Asia). Columbus was interested in settling the places he found, Vespucci in mapping them.

There are other important discoveries that came from their journeys that are rarely mentioned. Columbus found the most efficient way to use the North Atlantic wind system for transatlantic sailing. He was the first to notice the equatorial current and made the first observations of the westerly compass variation. It was because of Vespucci that people found out that there were two oceans separating Europe from Asia instead of one. He created his own method of celestial navigation by which he obtained longitude and came within 50 miles of being correct in his estimation of the earth's circumference one of the closest guesses of that time.

Columbus and Vespucci were both undoubtedly great men. Their voyages, although each holding its own different signifi-

cance, greatly complement one another. Columbus (though unable to claim title as the first European setting foot on the Americas due to previous Icelandic adventurers) was the first to make the discovery stick. In that essence Columbus discovered the new world. Columbus was the rock that started the landslide of exploration and settlement of the Americas. Vespucci, picking up where Columbus left off, was the one to conclude that it was not Asia that his predecessor had found (Columbus died thinking it was) but it was indeed a new, previously unknown land. In Vespucci's own words. "These regions we may rightly call Mundus Novus, a New World, because our ancestors had no knowledge of them."

Vespucci actually outfitted and helped prepare far more voyages than he was part of himself. In fact, it was in that way he and Columbus first met. In collaboration with Berardi, a ship builder in Seville, Vespucci prepared a ship for Columbus' second voyage in 1493. In 1498, he and Columbus first became personally acquainted when Vespucci made even more ships for Columbus' third voyage.

Though there was much friction between their supporters, there is nothing to suggest any personal rivalry on the parts of these two renowned explorers. In fact, towards the end of Columbus' life when he was ailing and virtually deserted, he found in Vespucci a caring, sympathetic friend. This is apparent in the words Columbus wrote of Vespucci a year before Columbus' death in 1506. "He has at all times shown a desire to serve me, and is an honorable man."

Whatever else is said about them, one thing remains outstanding and undeniable; they were bold and courageous explorers, who made remarkable discoveries that have permanently changed the face of the world's geography and in a great part shaped the history of the world that followed after.

TRIBUTE TO THE J. C. PENNEY COMPANY

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the J. C. Penney Company is honored for its outstanding accomplishments in expanding the participation of people with disabilities in American life.

The company's philosophy has always embraced the core idea that it is ability, not disability, that counts in a job and in life. Indeed, the company has been true to the belief that its founder, John Cash Penney, who in 1913 called for partnership between the company and the people of the communities it serves, including those with disabilities.

In its policies and practices, J. C. Penney recognizes and utilizes the talents of individuals with disabilities. Hiring, training, and career development reflect this commitment.

As J. C. Penney has become a model for corporate citizenship, its customers have benefited. Stores nationwide exceed legal requirements for accessibility. With careful attention to the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act, personnel are trained to serve customers with disabilities. J. C. Penney publishes a catalogue of special needs merchandise. Its catalogues and national advertising feature people with disabilities. The company generously supports the work of disability organizations and encourages its employees at all levels to volunteer.

The National Organization on Disability, on behalf of 49 million Americans with disabilities, proudly presents the 1997 Hats Off Corporate Citizenship Award to one of America's foremost corporate citizens, the J. C. Penney Co.

COUNCIL OF KHALIST CELEBRATES ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, October 7, 1997, marks a significant occasion in the history of the Sikh Nation. Ten years ago today, the Sikh nation declared its independence and forged the Nation of Khalistan. Led by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the Council of Khalistan has brought the Sikh struggle for freedom to the attention of world leaders. Dr. Aulakh and the Council of Khalistan should be applauded for their efforts to liberate Khalistan through peaceful, non-violent means.

As you know, the Sikhs had ruled themselves for over 80 years before the British conquered the subcontinent and created the artificial entity called India for their own administrative convenience. At the time of India's independence 50 years ago, the Sikhs joined with India on the promise of Gandhi and Nehru that they would enjoy the glow of freedom, and that no law affecting the Sikhs would be enacted without their consent. Well Mr. Speaker, that promise was soon broken, and no representative of the Sikhs has ever signed India's Constitution.

India cannot survive as one political entity for much longer. In actuality, India is a conglomerate of Nations held together through oppression. It has as many as 18 official languages, and the central government is run by an unstable 13-party coalition. The only remaining question is whether India's inevitable breakup will be peaceful like the Soviet Union's or violent like Yugoslavia's. I join with the leaders of the Khalistani freedom movement in expressing the hope that it will be peaceful. However, if India continues its policy of genocide, it may preclude that possibility.

Since 1984, more than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by Indian forces. According to various human rights groups, more than 60,000 police officers received cash bounties for their participation in these murders. According to a 1995 report published by human rights activist, Mr. Jaswant Singh Khaira, at least 25,000 young Sikh men have been abducted, tortured, and killed, then their bodies are declared "unidentified" and finally they are cremated. On September 6, 1995, shortly after this report was published, Mr. Khaira was kidnapped by the police. Over 2 years later, his whereabouts remain a mystery. I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that Mr. Khaira has probably been murdered like so many before him.

Furthermore, India's own Central Bureau of Investigation [CBI] conducted a brief investigation at just one cremation site and was able to confirm about 1,000 mass cremations. Now, the National Human Rights Commission says that it will investigate this brutal policy that Indian's own Supreme Court has called "worse than a genocide." So far, no one has been punished for these murders.

Religious persecution continues in India as well. On September 4, 1997, a Sikh church

was invaded by security forces without a search warrant. Six Granthis, who serve as the guardians and teachers of the Sikh holy scriptures, were subsequently beaten and tortured. Police occupation of the Golden Temple, the holiest Sikh shrine, continues to this day. The mayor of a village in Punjab was tortured in front of the people because he is an Amritdhari, or baptized, Sikh. Amritdhari Sikhs are considered a criminal class. Sikhs have been raped, beaten, tortured, and even killed because they would not renounce their religious beliefs. Meanwhile, an expired law that made it illegal to convert a Hindu to any other religion continues to be enforced despite the fact that it has expired.

It is clear from events like this that the Sikhs are a captive nation in the Indian Empire, colonized and enslaved for the benefit of a Brahmin elite that is grossly out of touch with its people, many of whom live in abject poverty. The only real solution is a fully independent Khalistan.

We must end our financial support of tyrants. We need to send strong messages to India, and put a stop to the endless amount of foreign aid we send to them until the repression ends. We should also use our influence as the world's preeminent superpower to affect a vote on freedom for Khalistan, similar to the vote the United States conducts in Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues in this Congress calls India "the largest democracy in the world." Well, if that is true, then what's good for the United States must be good for "the largest democracy in the world." I challenge India to follow the path of democracy, and let the people of Khalistan and all the nations under its occupation choose their own destiny at the ballot box. Only then can India be considered a truly democratic nation.

HONORING SHERMAN SPEARS

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievement of one of my constituents, Mr. Sherman Spears. He will be honored on October 14, 1997 as a recipient of the Ameritech Award of Excellence in Crime Prevention on behalf of the National Crime Prevention Council. Out of 140 nominations, Mr. Spears was selected along with eight extraordinary individuals who are fighting crime and building community.

Mr. Spears was shot at the age of 19 and fortunate to have survived. The incident, which left him a paraplegic, motivated him to dedicate his life to doing what he can to help at-risk young people make choices to keep themselves and others alive, and to teach them how to build safer communities. Since 1993, he has been the coordinator of Teens on Target, a youth violence prevention program in my hometown of Oakland, CA. He began the Caught in the Crossfire hospital peer visitation program in 1994.

Mr. Spears used his experience and understanding to develop the Caught in the Crossfire program. This program provides adolescents, who are recovering from violent injuries in the Highland Hospital trauma center, with educational materials about violent crime to

dissuade victims and their friends from retaliating against their attackers. Upon discharge, Mr. Spears contacts the patients to see if they have used the referrals given to them, such as joining a program to help them get their GED, changing friendship groups, or joining and attending a physical rehabilitation program.

Caught in the Crossfire provides visitation to all recovering adolescents who are referred by the Highland Hospital staff. This averages 50 visits per year. The average length of hospital stay of each patient is 2-3 days; Mr. Spears responds to the call for help within 24 hours.

Teens on Target approaches at-risk youth in an attempt to reform their perspectives and to help them understand the repercussions of violence. The program trains multiethnic urban youth to educate their peers about the causes of violence and how to prevent it at home, in their neighborhood, and in their city. Each year, 25 youth from two high schools in Oakland are trained by Mr. Spears to: First, provide peer violence prevention education at schools, conferences and community events; second, educate professionals on the impact of violence on youth and strategies for prevention that will work; third, provide an informed voice to the media about how youth can be leaders in preventing violence; fourth, provide positive role models for youth; and fifth, provoke policy makers to take action to prevent violence. The youth, at risk for dropping out of school themselves, are referred to Teens on Target by probation officers, principals, counselors, and teachers. They provide four interactive violence prevention workshops to approximately 2,000 youth per year addressing the issues of gun violence, street and gang violence, alcohol and drug violence, and family violence. Over 5,000 youth have received this training since Mr. Spears has coordinated the project.

I would like to thank the National Crime Prevention Council and Ameritech for their commitment in helping individuals fight crime and build community, and for recognizing and honoring the work of Mr. Spears and others.

Sherman Spears did not let his experience with violence become an excuse for defeat. He has not allowed the physical difficulties resulting from that incident to keep him from making a contribution to his community. Instead, he has used his unique insight to create programs to address crime throughout Oakland. We, in Oakland, are fortunate and proud to have Mr. Spears working on the front lines, to help break the vicious cycle of violence. Thank you so much for your commitment and work on our behalf. I also ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Sherman Spears and hardworking individuals like him who make a difference in their communities.

AMERICAN TEACHERS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA HELP DEVELOP SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY AND FREE ELECTIONS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 8, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Doug Phillips of Anchorage, AK, who participated in CIVITAS at