

Irene is known as the ombudsman of the Glen Forest community and is often called the mayor of Glen Forest. She knows all of the children's names, she can tell you who lives where, and she knows everyone from the surrounding neighborhoods that work with the Glen Forest Civic Association. Irene's love for people has helped Glen Forest remain a tight knit community where the people look out for one another and work together to make the neighborhood a better place to live. She has been the keeper of the oral history of Glen Forest for more than 30 years and has passed on neighborhood legends to successive generations of children.

Irene is and has been involved in every aspect of the Glen Forest community. She has been active in community affairs since the early 1960's. For 15 years, she held the community rummage sale that raised money for the neighborhood pool. People would donate items for the sale throughout the year and Irene would sort and price them for the annual event. She has also run the summer program for Glen Forest for 28 years. This duty includes the opening and closing pool picnics for which she buys and prepares 100 chickens. Irene has always done this because she believes it brings the community together. This is also why she has worked tirelessly to improve the community pool for the past 25 years.

Irene has mowed the pool lawn for the past 24 years and she is the oldest licensed pool operator in Fairfax County. Irene has maintained the pool by painting the bath houses inside and out every year as well as tarring and repairing the roof. Many in the community do not even know that she has done all of this, even though she hates to swim. Irene was also a mainstay of the Garden Club for the 20 years of its existence. Every year, no matter the weather, she sold Christmas wreaths to raise funds for the Garden Club.

Irene's many accomplishments include work outside the Glen Forest Civic Association. She has worked with all of the Mason District supervisors to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for the past 30 years, including myself when I held that position from 1979 to 1991. Irene often appeared before the Board of Supervisors to testify about issues affecting the community. She has held the Membership Chair for the Civic Association for the past 10 years and has worked ceaselessly to keep the Glen Forest neighborhood a nice place to raise children. Irene helped keep Glen Forest Street from becoming a through street from Route 7 to Carlyn Springs Road so parents did not have to worry about speeding traffic when their children played outside. She also rid the neighborhood of a pornographic book store by going down to the store to confront the owners and customers.

I know my colleagues will join me in saluting a woman who has made her neighborhood a beautiful and better place to live. Irene Shuman is a remarkable individual who has an energetic spirit that inspires those around her to become involved. I share the celebration of her 80th birthday and her lifetime of civic achievements.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER AS NATIONAL MEDICAL LIBRARIANS MONTH

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Medical Librarians Month, and to honor the more than 5,000 medical librarians working in hospitals, academic health centers and libraries across the country for their role in improving the health of all Americans by increasing access to health care information.

As a former librarian, I can appreciate the specialized skills needed in today's electronic information age to access, filter and evaluate the most up-to-date medical information for the medical community and for the general public. The ability of medical librarians to maneuver quickly through the wealth of health care information on the Internet, and to identify the most credible, relevant and appropriate sources of information for each request, underscores the increasing importance medical librarians will play in the future.

Studies show information provided by medical librarians improves patient outcomes. Physicians report a reduction in mortality, hospital admissions, surgery, and hospital acquired infections due to information obtained by medical librarians. They say information from the medical librarians allows them to make more accurate diagnoses, reduce unnecessary tests, select more appropriate drugs, and give accurate and current information and advice to their patients.

As we celebrate National Medical Librarians Month, I also honor the longstanding partnership between the medical library community and the National Library of Medicine [NLM] at the National Institutes of Health. For over a century, medical librarians have benefitted from the extraordinary work being done at NLM, the world's premiere medical library. Through access to NLM's state-of-the-art medical databases and telemedicine project sites, medical librarians are able to provide doctors and patients, often in underserved rural and urban areas, with the most current and accurate health-related information.

Mr. Speaker, as we move into the 21st century, it is clear that the advancement of telecommunications technology will continue to revolutionize the delivery of health care in America. I believe by being wired to the world, medical librarians will lead the health care industry in this revolution.

During the month of October, I ask all Members to join me in saluting this county's medical librarians for their role in keeping America better informed about health care and encouraging more active participants in the health status of this country.

HONORING BENNY MARTIN

HON. VAN HILLEARY

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the man whom Country Music

Magazine has called the "World's Greatest Fiddle Player," Mr. Benny Martin.

Benny recently added another honor to his very long list of impressive accomplishments when his hometown of Sparta, TN, dedicated new city limit signs which designate the town as the "Home of Benny Martin." When you look at everything Benny Martin has done over the course of his distinguished musical career, it's easy to see why Sparta is so eager to call him a native son.

Benny began his musical career in his childhood more than 50 years ago, and he became a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1946. Since then, he has performed in person on at least three continents on some of the world's most prestigious stages, including Buckingham Palace in London, Carnegie Hall in New York, and of course, the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville. Benny has also performed on many television shows, including "The Steve Lawrence Show" and Dick Clark's "American Bandstand."

But perhaps the most important impact Benny Martin has had is on the musical heritage of the great State of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I think my home State of Tennessee has the richest musical heritage of any State in our Union. From old-time mountain bluegrass in east Tennessee to the soulful blues of west Tennessee, from the Grand Ole Opry in Music City to Elvis Presley in Memphis, Tennessee's musical roots run deep.

Mr. Speaker, Benny Martin and his fiddle have a very prominent place in that rich history, and I'm proud to call him a Tennessean, a constituent, and like the residents of Sparta, I'm also proud to call him a native son.

SISTER JOHN MARIE SAMAHA HONORED FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the work of Sister John Marie Samaha of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth.

Sister Samaha entered the Sisters of the Holy Family on July 2, 1943. Sister Samaha began her ministry at a day care center, and soon afterward served as religious instruction teacher at various locations in northern California. In 1960, she became supervisor of religious instruction for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. In 1967 she became supervisor of religious education for the Sister of the Holy Family. From 1970 to 1975, Sister Samaha served as the superior of Holy Family Convent in San Jose, and from 1975 to 1979 she was the vice president of the Sisters of the Holy Family Community.

Sister Samaha is currently pastoral associate at St. Joseph Parish in Mission San Jose. She has cared for the sick and visited the terminally ill. She has planned activities for seniors, and helped families deal with the death of loved ones. She has encouraged a spirit of family among parishioners, and assisted the needy with food, rent, and bill payments.

Through groups like the Tri-City Homeless Coalition, the Centerville Free Dining Room, Second Chance, SAVE, and CAUS, Sister

Samaha has helped supply food, clothing, and a range of support to needy individuals throughout our community.

On October 10, 1997, Sister Samaha will be honored by her friends and colleagues at the Ohlone College Foundation's annual luncheon. I join in recognition of her lifetime of giving to the community.

HONORING BERTHA GORDON MILLER AND THE SEVEN ACRES JEWISH GERIATRIC CENTER

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Bertha Gordon Miller of Houston, who on October 21, 1997, will be honored by the Seven Acres Jewish Geriatric Center with its 1997 Spirit of Life Award.

Mrs. Miller has spent a lifetime giving and working for charitable causes and is described by Punkin Hecht and Barbara Schneider, co-chairs of the Seven Acres award luncheon, as a role model among role models.

A native Houstonian, Mrs. Miller attended Rice University. She was married to the late Isadore Miller for more than 50 years, and they have two children, Dede Weil and Arnie Miller, and five grandchildren.

A member of Seven Acres' Board of Directors since 1953, Mrs. Miller continues to contribute her time and talents to the Jewish home, which has benefited from endless hours of dedication on her part. Although she is said to have worked for every fundraising drive in Houston, she has narrowed her activities in recent years to three organizations: Seven Acres, the Houston Symphony, and the Retina Research Foundation.

Through her good work, Bertha Gordon Miller has touched the lives of Houstonians in countless ways. But most of all, she has helped ensure a high quality of life for the residents of Seven Acres, the largest and only Jewish geriatric facility serving the Texas gulf coast.

Seven Acres provides the highest standards in adult day health care through the Wolfe Center and specialized geriatric care and services through its 290-bed residential facility. Funds raised by the awards luncheon will help provide financial aid and other benefits for the residents.

The annual Spirit of Life Award celebrates and recognizes long-term community service performed with the highest standards of integrity. The exemplary individuals so honored have demonstrated extraordinary commitment and serve as role models of dedicated service on behalf of others. The award recipients are persons whose energy and community spirit have earned them the respect and admiration of all those touched by their accomplishments.

In addition to Mrs. Miller, Edward Asner, the award-winning actor, noted activist, and humanitarian, has been named by Seven Acres as recipient of its 1997 National Spirit of Life Award and will be guest speaker at the luncheon.

Bertha Gordon Miller and Edward Asner certainly meet the high standards of the Spirit of Life Award and serve as examples for all of us of outstanding community service.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE BEHIND BOMBINGS OF MARKET AND TRAIN IN DELHI AREA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 9, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the recent bombing of a market in New Delhi and a train outside New Delhi are terrorist acts that must be condemned by all decent people. The loss of life and the injuries to people are tragic, but I especially want to note that the explosions injured five Australians and two Japanese visitors to India. I note that the Council of Khalistan, the organization leading the Sikhs in their struggle for freedom from Indian oppression, issued an excellent press release condemning these bombings as "a cowardly and reprehensible act against God and man."

The Indian regime blames the bombings on a "Sikh terrorist" organization called Shaheed Khalsa. If they are responsible, they deserve the condemnation of the civilized world. But even the Indian press is reporting that no one has ever heard of this organization before. It just appeared on the scene very suddenly, at the moment when it is most convenient for the Indian Government. Even the Decca Herald newspaper reports that this organization is a fraud. It is likely that Shaheed Khalsa is a front for the Indian Government.

The bombings were apparently carried out using RDX explosives, a weapon known to be in common use by the Government. This is the same explosive the regime planted on American citizen Balbir Singh Dhillon, a Sikh businessman, father of two, and activist who went to Punjab to visit family and some Sikh religious sites.

India has a record of state terrorism. In November 1994, the newspaper Hitavada reported that the Indian Government paid the late governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to create terrorism both in Punjab, Khalistan, where Sikhs are in the majority, and in the neighboring state of Kashmir, which has Muslim majority.

The terrorism creates an excuse to crack down and kill even more Sikhs. More than 250,000 Sikhs have already died at the hands of the Indian Government since 1984, according to numbers issued by the Punjab State Magistracy and by a coalition of human rights groups. It has also killed more than 200,000 Christians since 1947, over 53,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, and others. It has also killed thousands of Dalits, black untouchables, the aboriginal people of South Asia. Over 60,000 cash bounties have been paid to police officers for killing Sikhs like little Arvinder Singh, a 3-year-old child who was killed along with his father and uncle. The police claimed that the three were terrorists and received a \$30,000 cash bounty for their murders.

On September 4, over 1,000 Indian security forces launched a raid on a Sikh church, called a Gurdwara, in Chandigarh. They illegally arrested nine Granthis, the local clergy. Three of the Granthis were severely beaten and tortured. No charges were filed against any of the Granthis. This happened on the very same day that we were voting on whether to cut aid to India and just a week before the state funeral of Mother Teresa.

Mr. Speaker, we must ask the question, who benefits from these bombings? Clearly, no one could believe that the Sikhs benefit. They will only suffer more bloodshed and repression as a result of these horrible acts. The Government of India, however, sees its country falling apart from the weight of its domination of a diverse land with many nations and 18 official languages. They are desperate to keep their empire together. These bombings provide a perfect excuse to suspend the elected government in Punjab, impose direct rule from New Delhi, and increase the repression and bloodshed.

Responsible Members of Congress and decent people everywhere must speak out against this genocidal policy. We should support all the freedom movements of South Asia by word and deed. We must go on record in support for freedom for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia, and we must stop U.S. aid to this terrorist regime and place it under embargo until the freedom of all peoples and nations in the region is respected. Only then will India truly be able to call itself a responsible, secular democracy.

I am placing the Council of Khalistan's press release on the bombings into the RECORD.

DR. AULAKH CONDEMNS INDIAN GOVERNMENT BOMBINGS OF MARKET AND TRAIN IN DELHI AREA

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 2.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today strongly condemned the bombing of a market in New Delhi and a train outside New Delhi. "This is a cowardly and reprehensible act against God and humanity," he said.

Although the Indian government blames the bombings on a "Sikh terrorist" group called Shaheed Khalsa, Dr. Aulakh pointed out that no one has ever heard of this organization. "It appeared out of thin air," he said. "I suspect that it is yet another terrorist organization convened, armed and controlled by Indian security and intelligence services, if it even exists at all."

"These bombings are desperate acts of a desperate political party," he said. "If you want to find out who is really responsible, investigate Congress politicians who have lost electoral support. Ask the question: Who benefits from these bombings?" Dr. Aulakh said. The Congress Party supports the ruling 13-party coalition.

"Every time the ruling party, in particular Congress, loses control of State government in Punjab," Dr. Aulakh said. "These bombings begin to occur throughout Punjab and Delhi. It then allows Delhi to suspend the government and impose direct rule in the name of maintaining law and order. At that point, police and security personnel shut down the press, the courts, rights groups and Sikh temples and the slaughter of our Sikh brothers and sisters begin anew. These bombings allow the police to continue their extortion, kidnapping and murder-for-cash bounty rackets." He noted that Delhi has suspended Punjab state government nine times, every time a Sikh party wins power they are never allowed to finish their term of office.

On September 4, a week before the state funeral for Mother Teresa, 1000 Indian security troops raided a Sikh church (Gurdwara) in Chandigarh and illegally arrested nine clergy (Granthis). Three were severely beaten in jail. None of the Granthis was charged with a crime. The government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to Punjab State Court and human rights groups findings. Over 60,000 cash bounties have been paid to police for killing Sikhs.