

Americans paid willingly and courageously. Our children, the future of our country, should know that the privilege of being an American is also a responsibility. Each of us is honor bound to uphold the principles of democracy and the liberties born of a government that is run by the people and for the people. They should know that we enjoy these freedoms only because we have been willing to fight for them, and that they, too, could face the terrible reality of war in their lifetimes. Most importantly, they should know that the peace bought by the lives of so many of our veterans should not be squandered, but nurtured so that it may flourish for generations to come.

On Tuesday, in cities and towns across the country, there will be parades, speeches, and memorial services honoring the memories of veterans—our friends and relatives who press on our country. As we participate in these events, let us remember to tell our children that, like the appreciation we express on Thanksgiving Day, the appreciation we express on Veterans Day should not end when the clock strikes midnight. Our thanks and appreciation should continue each day, because we have much for which to be thankful, and many veterans to thank.

HONORING THADDEUS "TED"
MUSIALKIEWICZ

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a man who has devoted his life to serving the community of New York's Ulster County.

Thaddeus "Ted" Musialkiewicz began his involvement in local activities at a very young age. From organizing youth athletic teams to founding and serving as scoutmaster in a local Boy Scout troop, Ted took a keen interest in the lives of those around him. He truly enjoyed being involved with his neighbors, and, Mr. Speaker, that feeling was reciprocated.

While devoting a great deal of his time to community groups, Ted managed to establish himself as a successful businessman and craftsman. He was eventually named president of the Town of Ulster's Business Association where his capable leadership helped to guide local businesses to prosperity.

Outside of his proficient professional career and generous community service, Ted selflessly entered into the civic arena by serving as both councilman and supervisor for the Town of Ulster. Once again, he used this leadership opportunity to promote a better standard of living for all of those around him. His outstanding accomplishments in this capacity are epitomized by his efforts in opening the Town of Ulster Public Library. This building, which continues to serve the Ulster community, will forever be a lasting legacy to Ted's selfless work on behalf of his peers.

Although Ted was constantly busy with one project or another, he found the time to maintain strong ties to his ethnic community. In characteristic fashion, he was, and remains today, extraordinarily active in the White Eagle Benevolent Society, working to preserve Polish-American values and promote the academic success of Polish-American students.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my friends in the White Eagle Benevolent Society in honoring Thaddeus Musialkiewicz for his charitable service to his community and tireless commitment to elevating those around him. I am proud to call Ted my friend and wish him and his family well.

H.R. 2616, THE CHARTER SCHOOL
AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2616) to amend titles VI and X of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve and expand charter schools:

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 2616, the Charter Schools Amendments Act of 1997. This bill which purports to expand charter school funding in fact limits Federal funding opportunities for charter school projects in many States that do not meet the prescriptive "priorities" set forth in this bill.

Under H.R. 2616 half of the funding and eventually all of it will be given only to those States with laws which promote charter schools to the greatest extent. In order to be considered for funding, State laws must meet the following criteria: (1) encourage the highest degree of flexibility for charter schools; (2) allow for the increase of charter schools each year, and (3) require a periodic review and evaluation. Those States which do not meet these criteria, including my State, will actually find it more difficult to qualify for Federal funds than under the current system.

States will be forced to change their State charter schools laws to specifically in order to tap into Federal resources.

It is simply inconceivable to me that this bill was crafted by the same Republican Majority which harangues about local control of education day in and day out in this Congress. This bill flies directly in the face of local control, by unabashedly attempting to influence State law to encourage the highest degree of flexibility within their charter schools and increase charter schools at a rapid pace.

As a supporter of real local control over our education system, I cannot support this bill.

The supporters of this bill have offered no evidence that there are any problems with the Federal charter schools grant program as it currently exists. This bill simply seeks to reward states that pursue the most aggressive and radical approach to charter schools.

This I believe is a serious mistake. Charter schools are a fairly new type of player in our education system. States and school districts should be free to experiment and implement this new type of school. However, the role of the Federal Government should not be to encourage one type of reform over another.

Furthermore, studies are mixed at best as to whether charter schools improve academic performance. Many serious problems have been raised in those States which have proceeded rapidly in establishing charter schools, including problems involving discrimination,

accountability of public dollars, fiscal stability, and services to children with disabilities.

The current Federal charter school program provides for an evaluation and assessment of charter schools. This will be a helpful study for school districts and States in determining whether charter schools are improving academic achievement and improving the overall school system. It is premature and unwise to make these significant changes to the Federal charter school program without the benefit of the national evaluation.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will hinder efforts in my State to move forward on charter schools at their own pace, taking into consideration local issues that arise with respect to moving forward on charter schools. This is an unfair bill that borders on real intrusion in local education efforts, I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT PROMOTES
TERRORISM TO UNDERMINE
NATIONALISM AMONG OPPRESSED
MINORITIES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I have recently been made aware of more examples of how the Government of India promotes acts of terrorism to discredit legitimate nationalism among the people of Punjab, Khalistan, Christian Nagaland, Kashmir, Manipur, and the other minority nations that India occupies.

Rodney Redden is an Australian tourist who was seriously wounded in a train bombing that occurred on October 2, 1997, near Delhi, India. As you know, the Indian authorities have blamed this bombing on a Sikh militant organization called Shaheed Khalsa, which probably does not even exist. Even the state-controlled Indian press reported that no one had ever heard of this organization until it suddenly emerged to claim responsibility for this bombing.

Another example of India's violent efforts to undermine nationalist movements is the recent slaughter of innocent bus passengers near Jaluki, Nagaland. The passengers belonged to the Kuki ethnic minority. Although this tragic incident serves the useful purposes of dividing Manipur, and discrediting the freedom movement in neighboring Nagaland, all at the same time. Both States are struggling for their freedom from Indian rule. Both have been subjected to mass murders at the hands of the Indian Government. For years, these two peoples have lived together peacefully. Why should one suddenly decide to destroy the other? Apparently, the central government is funneling money to violent elements on both sides.

In the eyes of the Indian Government, there is no such thing as a peaceful advocate for Khalistan, a peaceful advocate for a free Kashmir, a peaceful advocate for an independent Nagaland, or a peaceful advocate for the freedom and national self-determination of any of the captive nations of South Asia. To India, they simply do not exist.

Well, I know two advocates for freedom from the subcontinent. One is Dr. Gurmit

Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan. Another is Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai of the Kashmiri American Council. These two gentlemen do not advocate violence. They advocate peaceful, Democratic, nonviolent struggle for the freedom of their homelands, Khalistan and Kashmir. Yet, according to the Indian regime, they are terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, the people of America and the world, and the fair-minded, thinking Members of this Congress know better. The truth was revealed 3 years ago when the Indian newspaper *Hitvada* reported that the Indian regime paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to create and then support covert state-sponsored terrorism, not only in Punjab, Khalistan, but in neighboring Kashmir as well. Yes, the country that is one of the five largest recipients of United States aid, the country that calls itself "the world's largest democracy," paid a public official \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism so that it could pit the freedom-loving people of Punjab, Khalistan, and Kashmir against each other. In view of this violent, divide-and-conquer tactic, I would ask the obvious question: Who are the real terrorists here? Clearly the real terrorist organization is the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why the hard-working taxpayers of this country should be forced to support this brutal terrorist regime. We should cut off all aid to India, declare it a terrorist nation, and embrace the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, and throughout the occupied, oppressed nations of South Asia.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE TRIPLETT

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the African-American Network of Kern County hosted its seventh annual Community Awards Night on November 8, 1997 and selected several outstanding Kern County citizens in recognition of their lifelong efforts to improve the way of life that thousands of people, young and old, black and white enjoy.

The recipient of this year's Frederick Douglass Leadership Award is Mrs. Josephine Triplett, a friend and associate from our days together at Bakerfield College. Josephine Triplett is the recipient of an award named after an American hero who believed in freedom for all people in America, who helped Harriet Beecher Stowe establish an industrial school for young people, who after meeting with President Lincoln during the Civil War built two regiments of black soldiers including his two sons, and who supported voting rights for women.

Josephine Triplett's worthiness of the Frederick Douglass Leadership Award can be found in his writings when he said: "The whole history of progress of human liberty shows that if there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; want rain without thunder and lightning; want the ocean without the awful roar of its many

waters." Josephine Triplett is an agitator, a quiet one perhaps, but she manifests a clear commitment to children, to women, to those in need. As a professor of child development at Bakerfield College, she has been an advocate for infant nutrition and early childhood instruction. She works tirelessly at training college students to pursue these same goals as they go beyond the academic degree. The care and concern she has for others are obvious from the moment her warm personality and ready smile are in your presence.

Josephine Triplett has a distinguished record with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center as well as serving as the curator of the Allenworth State Historic Park. She has assisted with the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children and has many, many more worthy organizations that she lends her time and commitment and seemingly limitless energy.

Josephine Triplett is one of those Americans who is a leader at home, but often through quiet bearing, is not recognized. We salute her.

RECOGNIZING THE MEXICAN AMERICAN GROCERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Mexican American Grocers Association Foundation [MAGAF], a scholarship foundation which has awarded over \$1,000,000 to students attending junior colleges and public and private colleges and universities throughout the country.

MAGAF is the brainchild of the Mexican American Grocers Association [MAGA]. MAGA is a nationally recognized advocacy and trade organization, representing the interests of retailers, vendors and others involved in the grocery industry. It was this intimate involvement in and knowledge of the grocery industry which led MAGA's board of directors to found MAGAF. For the past 20 years, MAGAF has provided the financial resources for disadvantaged, deserving students of Mexican/Latino heritage to pursue college degrees in business administration or business-related fields. It is MAGAF's hope that these young scholars, upon graduation, will seek careers within the grocery industry.

MAGAF was established on the premise that private industry has a responsibility to return to the community some of what it has earned. In its tireless dedication to provide needed financial resources to college students, MAGAF also has gained the strong support of others in the grocery industry. Each summer and fall, the giants of the grocery industry attend annual fundraisers to support MAGAF's efforts. It is this cooperative relationship and commitment which has enhanced the diversity of the executives and business owners currently working in the grocery industry.

I am proud to be a longtime supporter of MAGAF. It is a commendable endeavor which provides needed resources to promising college students and its help ensures, upon their graduation, that the grocery industry has a

prospective workforce that is diverse and well educated. Because of MAGAF's efforts, today, highly qualified and educated Mexican/Latinos fill positions in the sales, merchandising and marketing segments of the grocery industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mexican American Grocers Association Foundation on its 20th anniversary of providing financial assistance to our community's college bound students and to wish it well in its future endeavors.

FREE LEYLA ZANA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as I speak here tonight, members of the Kurdish community are conducting a vigil for peace and a hunger strike to spotlight the continuing oppression of the Kurdish people. I rise tonight for one simple reason: to express my solidarity with the hunger strikers and my support for the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom, justice—and self-determination. The symbol of that struggle is a fellow democratically elected representative, the imprisoned Kurdish leader, Leyla Zana.

In Turkey today, Mr. Speaker, innocent Kurdish civilians are being massacred, entire Kurdish villages are being destroyed, and millions of Kurds are forced from their homes, forced to the cities where unemployment and inflation are extremely high. The entire region of southeastern Turkey has been ravaged—it has become an economic and humanitarian disaster area. This is simply unacceptable. This is a cause for alarm for a country that uses American arms to commit such crimes. United States-made weapons should never again be used against the Kurds or against anybody else, as they were at the ancient Kurdish city of Halabja, where over 5,000 Kurdish civilians, mostly women and children, were gassed to death. Never again.

Leyla Zana has committed her life's work to pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to the enduring Kurdish question. I hope my colleagues will learn her story—an incredible story of self-education, political growth, heroism and courage.

The Turkish Government feared Leyla Zana was progressing too far in her endeavors for peace and now she shares a prison cell with a convicted murderer. But they cannot imprison her picture, her words, her courage, and her inspiring story.

An initiative has been undertaken in the U.S. House of Representatives in pursuit of Leyla Zana's freedom. I, and 143 of my colleagues in Congress have signed a letter to President Clinton urging him to seek Leyla Zana's immediate and unconditional release from prison. More Members of Congress are standing with Leyla Zana and the Kurdish people now than ever before. Without a doubt, the U.S. Congress is becoming more aware of, and more sympathetic to, the plight of the Kurdish people.

Kurds in Iran, Iraq, Syria, as well as Turkey live as second class citizens, denied the basic human rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Because of the inspiring work of Leyla Zana and thousands of others, the oppression of the Kurdish minority will someday