

is currently retired from General Motors but hasn't been spending his time sitting around. Jim by working tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate epitomizes a Hoosier Hero.

Jim has made Madison County a better community through his voluntary efforts. He serves on the Board of the Wilson's Girl's and Boy's Club, and raised a large amount of money so that the club may direct the energies of Anderson's youth in a positive direction. Jim is also the President of Madison County Community Foundation and he played an essential role in restoring the Paramount Theatre to its former glory and beauty.

Jim's work has given so many people, the most precious gift possible, hope. He doesn't do it for the pay, which is zilch; he does it for the smiles and laughter. Jim, you are a true hero in my book doing good works for others with no other motive than Christian charity.

Jim Ault deserves the gratitude of his county, state, and nation and I thank him here today on the floor of the House of Representatives.

#### HONORING LEE ECKERT

#### HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Lee Eckert, a dedicated community leader from Millstadt, Illinois, in my congressional district.

Mr. Eckert has served the Village of Millstadt for 40 years as their Trustee. He and his wife, Lucille, live in Millstadt, where they raised their four children, Trudy, Lana, Kelly, and Toby.

Lee Eckert is retiring this month after a distinguished career of public service. During his tenure as chair of the Public Works Committee and Village Board, his tireless efforts can be recognized in many projects completed under his direction. Mr. Eckert skillfully guided the development of the Industrial Park and new sewer treatment plan for the Village of Millstadt. He also was instrumental in coordinating the building plans for the new government facility, which houses the Village Hall, Library, Mayor's Office, and until recently, the Millstadt Police Department.

What is most notable about Lee Eckert is his willingness to meet any challenge presented to him. I commend Mr. Eckert for his integrity, compassion, and commitment to the Village of Millstadt, so evident to anyone who has had the opportunity to know him. I want to join the community in thanking Mr. Eckert for his dedication and invaluable service for the past 40 years. I am confident that his future years of retirement will be as productive and fulfilling as his past.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lee Eckert for the example he has set for us all.

IN HONOR OF THE PAN GREGORIAN FUND OF METROPOLITAN NEW YORK AND LONG ISLAND, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THE ACADEMIC AWARDS BANQUET

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to the Pan Gregorian Fund of Metropolitan New York and Long Island on the occasion of their Academic Awards Banquet on Sunday, March 7, 1999.

The Pan Gregorian Fund, spearheaded by Tassos Manesis, is a non-for-profit corporation established in 1995 by the Food Industry Cooperative of New York, Inc. The Fund's main purpose is to advance, support, and promote the Hellenic-American education system, the Greek language, and academic excellence. Its activities are directed and carried out primarily by Greek-American restaurants and others involved in the food industry.

Since its creation in 1995, the Fund has awarded over \$100,000 in grants and scholarships to the top graduates of the Hellenic-American day schools, as well as teachers and principals in the New York City metropolitan area in recognition of their dedication to the education of youth.

In addition to the grant recipients, the Pan Gregorian will be honoring Dennis Mehiel, Stanley Matthews and Thomas Calamaras at the awards banquet.

Mr. Mehiel, a New York City native of Hellenic heritage, is the chairman, CEO and principal shareholder of the Four M Corporation, Sweetheart Cup Company, and The Fonda Group, Inc. Since 1978, he has been a leader in the field of education as a board member of the New Jersey independent high school for girls, a New York school for learning disabled children, Yeshiva University's Wuzweiler School of Social Work and the American Board of Overseers of Bar-Ilan University.

In 1966, he returned to his birthplace, Washington Heights, and founded the "All The Way" program, a kindergarten through college education support program. "All The Way" provides educational enrichment and supplemental health and social services for children and their families, culminating in a four-year, pre-paid college education.

Mr. Matthews, born in Varvitsa, Lakonia, Greece, grew up during the German Occupation and the Civil War. He emigrated to the United States in 1951. He founded the Greek Children's Fund at Memorial-Sloan Kettering Cancer Center. As a result of a personal experience, he became acquainted with the financial and emotional stress cancer imposes on its victims and their families. His fund has raised approximately \$2 million to help Greek-American families who have to deal with a life-threatening illness in addition to the added burden of adapting to a new culture.

Mr. Thomas Calamaras came to the United States as an immigrant and proceeded to establish a family food service business. Today, he and his family are an example of successful businesspeople and community-minded individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues rise with me in this tribute to the Pan Gregorian Fund and its honorees, a group dedicated to extending a helping hand to others.

HONORING THE GOOD PEOPLE AT TROUT AND RALEY

#### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the good people at Trout and Raley, a natural-resource oriented law firm in Denver, Colorado. Their work demonstrates an unparalleled commitment to sound practices, common sense and reason with regard to environmental policy. The tireless efforts, particularly of Mr. Bennett Raley, Mr. Jim Witwer and Mrs. Julie McKenna have gone to protect many diverse interests, to level the playing field with the federal government, to protect our heritage and to better our environment. This team is indeed a great asset to the people of the State of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I commend the people of Trout and Raley for all their efforts, and I look forward to working with them in the future.

TRIBUTE TO CLAUDE C. LAVAL III AND FAMILY

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Claude Laval III and his family for their continual support of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF). This year, the JDF chapter in Fresno is honoring Claude Laval and family as the first recipients of the "Living & Giving Award." The Laval family played an instrumental part in the Pediatric Diabetes Center in Fresno, at Valley Children's Hospital. The mission statement of the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation is to "Find a cure for Diabetes and its complications through the support of research." Mr. Laval is an active participant in promoting the JDF mission statement.

The Laval family became involved with the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation 20 years ago when their daughter was diagnosed with Diabetes. Along with their support for JDF, the Laval family supported numerous Diabetes camps, making it possible for many children to attend the camps. They are also dedicated supporters of the JDF walks to cure Diabetes.

Claude Laval was born and raised in Fresno, he graduated from Stanford University in 1957. He is the sole owner and president of the Claude Laval Corporation. The Claude Laval Corporation is an International manufacturing company of filtration devices and down hole cameras. The Corporation is in its 27th year.

In addition to his Corporation, Claude is deeply committed to our community and actively serves on several state and local organizations. He has been on the Executive Committee of the Fresno Business Council since 1993, Chairman of the Jobs and Economic Development Committee and a member of the Fresno Business Council since 1996. Mr. Laval has served as Chairman of the Central Valley Business Incubator since 1997. His service is not only limited to the Central Valley, he serves as Director of International Forest Products in Vancouver, BC, Canada since

1994 along with a committee in Washington, DC where he is currently active on the Irrigation Association Legislative and Regulatory Committee. Claude is Director of GDT Corporation in Phoenix, Arizona and the Director of American Ground Water Trust in Concord, New Hampshire. These are just a few of the services that Mr. Laval has committed himself to.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to Claude Laval III and his family, for their service to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation. Mr. Laval is a faithful public servant, who has taken it upon himself to be a active participant in numerous causes and organizations throughout the United States and Canada. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Laude Laval and his family many more years of continued service and success.

#### KOSOVO IS A CAMPAIGN OF COMPASSION

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the US/NATO military intervention in Kosovo is not driven by any vested interests, financial or strategic hidden agenda. These nations are motivated by great moral interests and high standards which require that civilized people never again should tolerate any rationalization for genocide. Our nation's generous commitment of resources and the large-scale risk of American lives, not in pursuit of the usual narrow vital interests, but to protect the sacred lives of human beings that we will never know personally, represents a laudable and noble national action. The Roman Empire only dispatched its legions to achieve greater conquests. This American "indispensable nation" has deployed its armies in an unprecedented campaign of compassion.

Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Saddam Hussein, Ede Amin, the Hutu Generals of Rwanda; Slobodan Milosevic; call the roll of sovereign predators who have used murderous ethnic scapegoating to seize, hold and expand their powers. From ancient Egypt to Kosovo the demagogues repeatedly have used the same methods and found a willing mass of supporters. The U.S.-led resistance to genocide in Kosovo shows that finally we have not only learned a vital lesson of history, but now that knowledge also provides an imperative for painful but effective action.

Slobodan Milosevic should have been declared a war criminal eight years ago. Diplomatic patience has been cleverly manipulated by this sovereign predator. Better late than never, we must now declare Slobodan Milosevic a war criminal and send a clear message to all of his confused civilian followers now mobilizing in their neighborhoods under misplaced banners of nationalism and patriotism. For more than eight years the citizens of Serbia/Yugoslavia have failed to marshal internal sovereign resistance to the genocidal policies of their dictator. Their popular will majority's complicity with evil is the true cause of the present conflagration in the Balkans.

War is hell and we extend our prayers to innocent victims on all sides. But the refusal to

watch the repeat of Hitler's death pageant is our duty. There are some who say that because we cannot stop genocide everywhere, we should refuse to stand against genocide anywhere. We can not save them all: Tutsis in Rwanda; Kurds in Iraq; Tibetans in China; but the world can take united action now. In this clear and present instance a portion of the civilized world has both the capability and the will to stop genocide. I am certain that the angels in heaven are applauding these bold and brave actions.

Since the civilian electorate of Serbia/Yugoslavia has not been willing or able to save itself from totalitarian disease; and because a minority of military monsters with tanks and machine guns can hold the majority of a nation hostage; outside intervention is sometimes the only antidote to a spreading poison. Decades of autonomy was the peaceful solution that Milosevic eradicated. Let the Kosovo campaign of compassion send a message to sovereign predators everywhere. Sovereign predators will not be allowed to savagely devour human rights. Diplomatic condemnation of genocide will always be a certainty—and sometimes military confrontation will also be possible.

I appeal to progressive thinkers everywhere to lay aside any fuzzyminded analyses and remember the Hitler syndrome. "Never Again" must not be an abstract slogan. Each one of us has a duty to take a forceful position. We should all be proud of the fact that this "indispensable nation" has both the will and the power to reinforce the foundations of a compassionate civilization.

#### SIKHS MARCH TO CELEBRATE 300TH BAISAKHI DAY

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 13, 1999*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 10, the Sikhs of the United States marched to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the initiation of the Khalsa Panth. The march, which was led by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh and the Council of Khalistan, was a celebration of all the Sikhs in this country. Similar celebrations have been held or are being held in other countries. This was a major milestone for the Sikh Nation. I congratulate the Khalsa Panth (Sikh Nation) on their auspicious 300th Baisakhi Day.

The Sikhs received congratulations from several of my colleagues including our own Minority Whip, and also from the Mayor of Washington, DC, Anthony Williams. I note that the Governors of Texas and New Jersey have also proclaimed "the Year of the Khalsa." It is good to see such bipartisan support for the Sikhs, who are being subjected to brutal atrocities and repression in India. Justice Ajit Singh Bains, Chairman of the Punjab Human Rights Organization, and General Narinder Singh from Punjab, Khalistan, spoke to the event. Their remarks were very well received, from what I am told.

I wish I could have joined my Sikh friends at this march, but I was not able to do so. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them on this important anniversary. I look forward to greeting many of them at the upcoming Vaisakhi Day parade in New York.

This anniversary has attracted worldwide attention. The Washington Post and many other important media outlets covered this event. At this march, the Sikhs of America raised their voices loudly for freedom.

The heritage of the Sikh Nation is freedom. They ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849. It was noted at the march that the last of the Sikh Gurus, Guru Gobind Singh, gave them a sense of national identity 300 years ago. It was pointed out that every day the Sikhs pray that they shall again rule their homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

Sikhs are a separate people, both religiously and culturally. They are not a part of Hindu India. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Many of us in this House, from both parties, have been calling for an end to American aid to India until it respects basic human rights and for a free and fair vote on the political status of Punjab, as well as notes on the status of Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the nations living under Indian rule. This auspicious anniversary would be a good time to renew that call and renew our efforts to bring freedom, peace, and prosperity to all the people of South Asia.

I insert the Washington Post article in the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Apr. 11, 1999]

SIKHS PARADE AND PRAY FOR SEPARATE  
NATION

(By Caryle Murphy)

Chanting praises to their greatest guru and walking behind a giant model of their Golden Temple, several thousand Sikhs marched down Constitution Avenue yesterday to celebrate the 300th anniversary of their religion's most sacred event, the creation of the first community of Sikh believers.

Five bearded Sikh priests bearing long daggers and dressed in saffron-hued turbans, led the colorful Khalsa March '99 from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol. A float carried the Sikh scripture, Granth, which was covered by a silver canopy decorated with flowers.

The march, which drew many of the Washington area's 7,000 Sikhs and others from across the country, was mainly to honor Sikhism.

"I came to celebrate our religion and what it's given to humanity," said Permeil Dass, 24, of Cleveland, who works in a community computer center.

"Our religion is very modern," she added, noting that it opposes inequality between human beings, the worship of idols and use of intoxicants.

But yesterday's day-long event was as much political as religious, with speakers at a pre-parade rally calling for an independent Sikh nation—to be named Khalistan—in the northwest Indian state of Punjab, home of the Sikh religion. The Indian government opposes a separate Sikh state in Punjab.

"In the Sikh religion, religion and politics are inseparable," said Gurmit Singh Aulakh, head of the District-based Council of Khalistan, one of the groups sponsoring yesterday's event. "We are aware that without political power no religion can flourish."

Among the banners carried in the parade were ones that said, "To Save Sikhism, Sikhs Want-Khalistan" and "A Sikh Nation, On the Move."

In an interview, San Diego resident Harinder Singh indicated that nationalism, as much as religious devotion, had brought him to yesterday's event.

"This is the least we can do to have some political voice around the world," the 36-year-old software engineer said. The message