

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

he hoped to deliver, he added, was that "sooner or later [Khalistan] is going to happen."

On Friday, the Indian Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission T.P. Sreenivasan, said celebrations of the Sikh religion are "something we heartily support."

As for political demands voiced at the parade, Sreenivasan added: "This is a free country. But that is not the purpose of the march."

In a 1984 crackdown on Sikh militants, Indian police raided their Golden Temple at Amritsar. In retaliation, Sikh bodyguards killed Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi five months later.

Yesterday's event, which Aulakh estimated drew 25,000 Sikhs, commemorated the day in 1699 when the 10th and greatest Sikh teacher, Guru Gobind Singh, initiated Khalsa Panth, the "Brotherhood of the Pure."

Khalsa Panth is the community of those who commit themselves to the tenets of Sikhism. In creating Khalsa Panth, Gobind broadened authority within the religion and took the final step, Sikhs believe, in the centuries-long establishment of their religion, which began in the 1400s with the first Sikh teacher, Guru Nanak.

Before yesterday's march, the Sikhs gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial, where many waved small U.S. flags and saffron-colored flags with the blue Sikh symbol of Khalsa. On state, musicians played Sikh songs on the harmonium and drums called "tabla."

Dressed in long, flowing tunics with matching pantaloons, women wound their way up a red carpet to kneel and kiss their holy scripture, dropping offerings of a dollar or two. Later, all stood in place with hands folded and heads bowed for a communal prayer. Then it was time to march.

IN HONOR OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER OF BAYONNE, NEW JERSEY, AND THEIR ANNUAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish Community Center of Bayonne, New Jersey, on their annual Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance.

The Jewish Community Center, headed by co-chairmen Aaron and Michael Kessel, has organized a remarkable program designed to provide understanding about the horrors of the Holocaust through education; our most important and fundamental tool in promoting the truth about the Holocaust. Using the theme "In Darkness there is Light," the message is that even at one's lowest moment—when one is stricken with despair and sees no way out—even then, there is still hope; there is still possibility; there is still life.

From the eighth grade students who will be taking part in a special assembly program to the seventh grade students who will be meeting with teacher volunteers to the proclamation which will be given by the mayor of Bayonne and honorary chair of the event, Mr. Joseph Doria, this day of remembrance and recognition is an all-encompassing event. Supported by the city of Bayonne, the Bayonne Interfaith Clergy and the Jewish Community Center, the

goal is to bring all members of the community together to learn and discuss the atrocities of not only the Holocaust but the repercussions of prejudice, discrimination, degradation—the driving force behind the Holocaust.

The highlight of the event, however, is sure to be from the guest speaker and Holocaust survivor, Mr. Fred Margolies. Mr. Margolies fled from Germany to Holland following the "Kristalnacht." At only 11 years old, Mr. Margolies had to endure unimaginable pains in order to survive. Once arriving in the United States, Mr. Margolies made it a priority to not let his experiences go silenced. Rather, he was pro-active in many organizations, serving as former Vice President to the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and to the Temple of Shalom in Westbury. Presently, Mr. Margolies serves on the New York State Holocaust Education and Jewish Advisory Committee of Nassau County and speaks extensively on college campuses, public and private schools, and community organizations.

For these tremendous contributions to New Jersey and their unwavering commitment to fighting discrimination, I am very happy to honor all of the individuals who have worked so diligently on this event. I salute and congratulate all of them on their extraordinary accomplishments to the Jewish Community.

OVER-TAXED CITIZENS

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, it is time we hear the cries of the American taxpayer and offer much needed tax relief to the citizens of this country. This week I am especially reminded of the many hardworking families in Southern California and across the country who foot the bill year after year for Washington's tax and spend mentality.

Every year, the federal government takes more and more tax dollars from America's families. Today the average American family pays more in local, state and federal taxes than for food, clothing, shelter and transportation combined. In fact, the Census Bureau recently reported that the average household pays \$9,445 in annual federal income taxes alone—twice that paid in 1985. Yet despite a projected surplus of \$4.9 trillion over the next 15 years, taxpayers will pay more than \$10 trillion in taxes to the federal government over the next five years and more than \$22 trillion over the next ten years!

Mr. Speaker, while the President fights to raise taxes, my Republican colleagues and I are struggling to lower them. I think the choice to lower taxes is an obvious one. We must keep hard-earned wages where they belong—in the pockets of those who earn them. We must stand up for the American taxpayer.

A TRIBUTE TO ROD KUCHARICH OF COLORADO SPRINGS UTILITIES

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 Rod Kuharich of Colorado

Springs Utilities. Mr. Kuharich has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to power consumers and the State of Colorado. His tireless efforts on issues related to air quality, water and Endangered Species Act reform have gone far to protect many diverse interests, to level the playing field with the federal government, to protect our heritage and to better our environment. Mr. Kuharich's keen insight and wealth of experience is a great benefit to Coloradans. Mr. Speaker, I commend Rod for all his efforts, and I look forward to working with him in the future.

HONORING RICHARD KRESEVITEH GILBERT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of Pennsylvania's outstanding young students; Mr. Richard Kreseviteh Gilbert. This February, Richard attained the coveted rank of Eagle Scout, a distinguished goal that only 2 percent of Boy Scouts reach. Rich's achievement is the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and community service.

Each Eagle Scout candidate is required to have earned a minimum of 23 Merit Badges, as well as contribute at least 100 man-hours toward a community oriented service project. Richard Gilbert, true to his selfless Scout nature, went above and beyond these minimum requirements, earning 33 Merit Badges and logging over 400 man-hours on his Eagle Scout Project. For his particular project, Rich chose to design and build a new retaining wall between American Legion Post 660 and St. Ireanaeus Church in his hometown of Oakmont.

Under his direction, Richard and 33 others gave up their summer vacations to work on the old retaining wall which had deteriorated on the S. Ireanaeus school playground. He and his crew worked through the hottest months of this summer to shape 120 ties and 22 tons of gravel into a wall which measures 6 feet tall and 110 feet long. Because of Richard's exemplary commitment to his project, St. Ireanaeus Church and Post 660 both sponsored his efforts, and Conrail graciously donated the needed railroad ties. Not only did Rich's labor improve the aesthetic beauty of the community, but it greatly improved the safety of the nearby playground.

Richard Kreseviteh Gilbert is currently a Junior at Riverview High School in Oakmont, and continues to shine as an outstanding leader among both his classmates and fellow Scouts in Troop 7854. His Scoutmaster, Mr. Dave Scatina has certainly provided the guidance and leadership that promote the growth of outstanding young Scouts like Rich. I am honored to stand here today in sincere praise of this outstanding example of the importance of community involvement. Congratulations Richard, your achievements make us all very proud.