

SIKH MARCH FOR BAISAKHI
SUPPORTS FREE KHALISTAN

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to attend the Khalsa March this past Saturday. The March celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Sikh Nation. Over 40,000 people from all over America attended this special event. I thank my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for inviting me to this auspicious occasion.

There are 22 million Sikhs in the world and nearly 500,000 here in the United States. They have enriched American life in almost every walk of life, including law, farming, medicine and many other. I was interested in learning that a Sikh named Dalip Singh Saund even served in the U.S. Congress. I would like to take this opportunity to salute their contributions to this country.

Mr. Speaker, the March was truly a success. There was a tremendous amount of excitement in the air, as they celebrated their heritage of freedom and showed their support for regaining their lost sovereignty in an independent homeland they call khalistan. Their struggle against the oppression that the Indian government inflicts on them should be supported by every American and by those who support freedom around the globe.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued a press release about the March. I would like to place this press release into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

[From the Council of Khalistan, April 12, 1999]

KHALSA MARCH VERY SUCCESSFUL—OVER 40,000 SIKHS COME TO WASHINGTON, DC TO CELEBRATE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF KHALSA PANTH

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 12.—Over 40,000 Sikhs, more than twice as many as expected, came to Washington, D.C. on Saturday, April 10 to participate in Khalsa March 1999, celebrating the 300th anniversary of the day that Guru Gobind Singh baptized the Sikh Nation. It was the first time that so many Sikh gathered in the Nation's Capital. A sea of saffron turbans and scarves could be seen around the Reflecting Pool. There are 22 million Sikhs world wide and about 500,000 here in the United States.

The mood of attendees was jubilant and excited as they celebrated the Sikh heritage. The celebration began in front of the Lincoln Memorial, which is a symbol of freedom, and the participants marched to the U.S. Capitol. The stage displayed pictures of Guru Gobind Singh Baptizing the Panj Pyaras (the Five Beloved Ones), depictions of Gurdwara Kesgarh Sahib, the birthplace of the Sikh Nation, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest Sikh shrine, other major events in Sikh history, and banners with slogans like "Indian Free Khalistan", "Long Live Khalistan", etc.

"Guru Gobind Singh gave the Sikh Nation a heritage of freedom," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the coordinator of the march. "Today we had a joyous celebration of that heritage," he said. "Now we must dedicate ourselves to freeing our homeland, Khalistan."

Participants in the march celebrated with family and friends and raised slogans. They carried banners that said "India Free

Khalistan," "Long Live Khalistan," and "Raj Karega Khalsa." There was a float bearing a replica of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of Sikh shrines, and another promoting "Khalistan—the Sikh Nation on the Move."

Speakers included dignitaries from Punjab, Khalistan like Justice Ajit Singh Bains, chairman of the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO), and retired General Narinder Singh, as well as U.S. Congress Dan Burton (R-Ind.), Dr. Walter Landry, Executive Director of the Think-Tank for National Self-Determination, representatives of Sikh women and youth, and others.

Justice Bains discussed the genocide and human-rights violations that the Indian government has committed against the Sikh Nation since 1984. He said that there is no rule of law in Punjab. He pointed out the Indian government's policy of mass cremations of Sikhs, which the Indian supreme Court called "worse than a genocide."

General Narinder Singh spoke of the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation. He noted that Guru Gobind Singh gave the Sikh Nation sovereignty and that this sovereignty is part of the Khalsa birthright. He said that there is no reason why the Khalsa Panth should not have sovereignty.

Congressman Burton offered his continued support for the Sikh cause. He spoke against the Indian government's atrocities against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. He urged that the United States stop supporting the Indian government. He said that Sikhs should have their freedom and that the United States should support it. Many other Members of Congress sent their greetings, including House Minority Leader David Bonior (D-Mich.), Congressman Nick Rahall (D-WV), and others.

Mayor Anthony Williams of Washington, D.C. sent a message of congratulations. He wrote, "It is my distinct pleasure to extend warm greetings and congratulations to the members, guests and friends of the Council of Khalistan as you celebrate your 300th anniversary of the initiation of the Khalsa Panth. This is a significant milestone in the history of the world's religions as you celebrate Vaisaakhee Day." Mayor Williams added that "you are to be congratulated for your efforts to provide spiritual enhancement to the principles of peace, prosperity, dignity, integrity, human rights and justice for all."

Dr. Paramjit Singh Ajrawat, the Secretary of the march and Master of Ceremonies at the Lincoln Memorial, reminded the audience that Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa and recognized the whole human race as equal, including gender equality. He noted that Abraham Lincoln also worked to end slavery.

Attendees passed resolutions to reiterate their support for a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that was declared independent on October 7, 1987; to honor Sikh martyrs; to ask the Indian government to release the tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners it is holding; and to demand that the Akal Takht, the seat of the Sikh religion, be freed from the Badal government, asking the Khalsa Panth to boycott and oppose the Badal government; asking the Khalsa Panth to boycott and oppose the Badal government; and to declare there full support for Jathedar Bhai Ranjit Singh as the genuine Jathedar of the Akal Takht.

"Sikhs are religiously, culturally, and linguistically distinct from Hindu India or any other nation," said Dr. Aulakh. "On this once-in-a-lifetime, milestone anniversary, let us dedicate ourselves to reclaiming our lost sovereignty," he said.

"Nations and religions that do not have political power do not survive," Dr. Aulakh

said. "Under Indian rule, the Sikhs are the victims of genocide," he said.

Since 1984, the Indian government has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs. Tens of thousands more languish in Indian jails without charge or trial. Some of the have been there since 1984. India has also murdered than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 60,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits ("black untouchables," the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others.

"The atrocities clearly show that for Sikhs, India is not a democracy," Said Dr. Aulakh. "Every day we pray 'Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,' the Khalsa shall rule," he said. "It is time to keep our promise to the Guru, live up to our heritage, and unite to liberate Khalistan," he said.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize an impressive young North Dakotan. Margretta Hanson of Blanchard is the winner of the 1999 Veterans of Foreign Wars' Voice of Democracy Broadcast Scriptwriting Contest. Miss Hanson's essay is based on the theme "My Service To America."

I am very pleased to see such wonderful patriotism and values coming from North Dakota's youth. It is my pleasure to submit Miss Hanson's essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

"MY SERVICE TO AMERICA"

1998-99 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

NORTH DAKOTA WINNER MARGRETTA HANSON

"Be all that you can be," is a popular slogan of the United States Army. By joining the armed forces, one is showing true patriotism and devotion to the protection and betterment of our great nation, the United States of America. To put one's life on the line by defending the freedoms of the people of this country is a noble deed, but I feel that this is not the only way that one can give service to America. My service to America is to "be all that I can be" as an American citizen. We don't have to risk our lives to make a difference. By simply smiling as you pass someone on the street or in the hallway, you're bringing joy into the lives of others. Theodore Roosevelt once said, "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are." I want to make the most of the talents and opportunities that I have been blessed with.

Some people say that the future of the United States is looking glum. They fear that our youth are committing more crimes, they fear that our youth are abusing more illegal substances, they fear that our youth are showing less respect, they fear that our youth are becoming less motivated, and they fear that our youth are lacking ethical morals and values. What can I do to change the destiny of my generation? Benjamin Franklin wrote in Poor Richard's Almanac, "A good example is the best sermon of all." Through my service to America, I am "preaching" to my peers through the positive choices I make in my life. Joined with the efforts of other young men and women of my generation who are also striving to make positive choices in their personal lives, my efforts will make a difference.

I have been a Girl Scout for 11 years. In Girl Scouts, we promise,
 "On my honor, I will try:
 To serve God and my country,
 To help people at all times,
 And to live by the Girl Scout Law."

A large part of being a Girl Scout is trying to help other people by following our promise and law. I have held true to my promise by giving my time and talents for the betterment of my community and church. By investing my time in community service and church activities, I am not only bettering my community, but I am also setting a positive example for others.

I strongly believe that the best leadership is leadership by example. The impact of one individual who sets a good example is amazing. It is important to me that I do what I can to better myself and the world around me by making positive choices. One person who develops a strong set of values and upholds himself to high moral standards can make a positive influence on the lives of others. The power of a single individual who tries to be the best person he or she possibly can as they put their talents to work for the betterment of themselves, their work, and others is very impressive. By making positive choices in my own life, I am serving as a role-model for everyone around me. My service to America is setting a good example for others in the choices that I have made and the choices I will make in the future.

I am working towards the ultimate goal of being all that I can be by working hard towards my goals, showing respect towards others, and abstaining from destructive behaviors. These choices, among others, are permitting me to work towards becoming all that I can be.

I have challenged myself to be all that I can be. My service to America is not one of enlistment in the armed forces, but one that I hope will be beneficial to myself, my community, and this great nation.

FEDERAL JUDGES FOR FLORIDA ACT

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Federal Judges for Florida Act that will provide seven additional federal district court judgeships in Florida.

The Federal Judges for Florida Act will provide five new judgeships in the Middle District of Florida and two new judgeships in the Southern District of Florida. These new judgeships are based on the recommendations of the Judicial Conference of the United States. Although the Judicial Conference has repeatedly recommended additional federal district judgeships for Florida, a new federal judgeship has not been created in the state since 1990.

The Middle District stretches 400 miles from Jacksonville to Naples and is broken up into five divisions: Jacksonville, Ocala, Orlando, Tampa and Ft. Myers. It encompasses three major metropolitan areas and 35 counties. The Southern District of Florida includes Ft. Lauderdale and Miami. These two federal judicial districts cover about 80 percent of the state population. The population of Florida is expected to continue to increase at a rapid pace, with over 20 million residents projected in 2025. Since 1990, the Florida population has grown by over 15 percent.

Mr. Speaker, the need for additional federal district judgeships in Florida is reaching a crisis point. For example, the Middle District of Florida has one of the heaviest caseloads per judge in the nation—ranking in the top ten for civil filings, drug cases, pending cases and total case filings.

The Middle District as well as the Southern District both have High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. Almost half of the criminal caseload in the Middle District is drug-related—reflecting the use of Florida as a conduit in drug trafficking and vigorous law enforcement efforts to combat it. The Middle District has been 50 percent higher in the number of criminal defendants per judge than the national average. The Southern District has conducted more criminal trials and had more criminal cases pending than most other district courts.

Our Federal District Courts are crucial in the fight against drug trafficking, terrorism, organized crime and fraud—we cannot allow them to operate at a disadvantage. We must respond to the crises facing the federal district courts and fulfill our congressional responsibility. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

DECLARATION OF POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES CONCERNING NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE DEPLOYMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to discuss my support of H.R. 4, the Missile Defense bill. H.R. 4, declares that it is the policy of the United States to deploy a national missile defense system. The importance of this legislation can be found in its absence to declare the type of system to be created, the date of deployment and the location of the eventual system.

I believe that it would be dangerous to rush into deployment of a National Missile Defense (NMD) system without the development of appropriate technology. We must not stake America's national security on a system which has failed 14 out of 18 tests. This legislation does not mandate a date of deployment, which allows technology to advance so that when a successful NMD system is developed it can be deployed.

Additionally, I feel that compliance with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) II are far more important in our near future than deploying a limited national missile defense. And H.R. 4, does not threaten U.S. compliance by mandating the type of system or the number of interceptors necessary. I believe it is possible for a national missile defense system to complement deterrence, but only through compliance with the treaties already in place.

I am disappointed that the rule prohibited an amendment by my colleague Mr. ALLEN, which would have specifically addressed the issues of effectiveness and treaty compliance when deploying a NMD system. For this reason, I will oppose the rule and support a motion to recommit the bill with instructions to include this amendment. While I believe Mr. ALLEN'S

amendment would have been a positive addition to this legislation, I do not feel it is necessary for my support. H.R. 4, by remaining silent on how, when, and where a NMD system will develop allows the Administration to negotiate our compliance with our treaties and for technology to advance so that an effective missile defense system can be deployed.

TRIBUTE TO EVELYN AND ALBERT DEDENBACH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize the achievements of a very special couple, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Dedenbach. This evening, April 14th, they are being honored as two of the Clinton Township Goodfellows of the Year recipients for 1997–1998 by community members and friends.

The members of the Clinton Township Goodfellows have contributed their time and resources to the betterment of the community for many years. Their goal is to aid the public in ways that other charities and the government could not. For the past nine years, the Goodfellows knew that they could count on Al and Evelyn to be there volunteering their time and talents to achieve these goals.

The Dedenbachs have been married for 58 years and have four children and six grandchildren. Al served in the Air Force during WWII and when the war ended, began working in the engineering field while Evelyn was busy taking care of a growing family. Volunteering is second nature to Evelyn. She has served in the local schools as a library lunch aide, read to the kindergarten children and was active with the Girl Scouts organization. When Al retired in 1981, they joined the senior group in Clinton Township and enjoy sharing many social activities together.

One of their greatest joys is working and helping the Goodfellows with charitable projects. Al and Evelyn have given to their community with spirit and dedication throughout the years. I would like to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Dedenbach as they celebrate this auspicious occasion with family and friends.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE LANCE CPL. BOBBY J. LAWRENCE

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 13, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the heroism of a young United States Marine from my district whose selfless actions saved the life of a fellow Marine and embody the values of our U.S. Armed Forces.

Lance Cpl. Bobby J. Lawrence of Evart, Michigan, died tragically last Friday at Camp Pendleton in California.

He and Lance Cpl. James N. Jones Jr. of Pueblo, Colorado, were riding in a 12-ton truck when Lance Cpl. Lawrence realized the brakes had failed. To avoid plunging over a cliff after the emergency brakes also failed,