

Also in May, six Christian missionaries who were distributing Bibles and religious literature were beaten by militant Hindu fundamentalists. One of them may lose his arms and legs due to the savage beating. On April 21 in Agra, a group of Hindu militants affiliated with the Bajrang Dal attacked a Christian group and burned Biblical literature. The Bajrang Dal is a wing of the RSS. In Haryana, three nuns were run down by a motor scooter while they were on their way to Easter services. The RSS recently published a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases, the *Hindustan Times* reported.

Missionary Graham Staines was burned to death along with his sons, who were 8 years old and 10 years old, while they were asleep in their jeep. The killers chanted "Victory to Hannuman." Hannuman is a Hindu god with the face of a monkey. Hindu nationalists have murdered at least four priests, raped four nuns and kidnapped another, whom they forced to drink her own bodily fluids. More than 200,000 Christians in predominantly Christian Nagaland have been killed by the Indian government. No one is punished for any of these acts.

India has also committed similar acts of terrorism against its Sikh and Muslim minorities, among others. It has killed over 250,000 Sikhs. In March, the government massacred 35 Sikhs in the village of Chatti Singhpora. According to the State Department, between 1991 and 1993, India paid out more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. India has killed more than 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims and destroyed the most revered mosque in Kashmir. Tens of thousands of Sikhs, Kashmiris, Christians, and others are being held as political prisoners.

Mr. President, America cannot just watch these atrocities happen. We call on you to declare India a terrorist nation. We further urge an end to U.S. aid to India until human rights are enjoyed by all people there. And we ask the United States to support self-determination for all the peoples and nations of the subcontinent. Let the light of freedom shine everywhere in South Asia.

Sincerely,

EDOLPHUS TOWNS, M.C.,
and 20 others.

HONORING WALTER BROOKS FOR A LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding member of the New Haven community, and my dear friend, Walter Brooks, whose passing has ended a career spanning over four decades—truly an era in New Haven politics. Today, members of the New Haven community will gather to honor the memory of Walter and the lifetime of contributions he has made.

Throughout his life, Walter demonstrated a unique commitment to the families and neighborhoods of New Haven. I had the distinct pleasure of working with Walter on a variety of projects during my career. His charisma and energy never ceased to amaze me. I have often spoke of our nation's need to make communities our first priority by bringing life to projects that create better neighborhoods in which working families can earn a living and

raise their children. Using his myriad of talents, Walter worked hard to achieve these goals. As a state legislator, Walter served as the chairman of the Black and Hispanic Caucus and was appointed to the Select Housing Committee where he worked with State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal to draft the affordable housing statute—helping to ensure that all families would have safe, affordable housing in which to raise their families. With the Hill Development Corporation, Project MORE, and most recently, the Beulah Land Development Corporation, Walter focused his energy on providing some of our communities most vulnerable families with the chance for an irreplaceable opportunity—the chance to own their own home. Serving as the Chairman of the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Walter has been an integral partner in the recent re-organization of the agency. Tirelessly working to revitalize New Haven neighborhoods, Walter exemplified the activism essential to building strong and vital communities.

Walter was a driving force behind Connecticut politics—locally and statewide. His encouragement and guidance led many minorities to seek and win elected office. A skilled political organizer, Walter committed himself to local and state issues. Serving two terms as an Alderman in the City of New Haven and five terms as a State Representative in the General Assembly, Walter was never afraid to fight for what he believed was right—regardless of where his party may have stood. He has often been characterized as a legislator willing to roll up his sleeves and knock on doors to get people involved. He understood the importance of community participation and made every effort to involve community members in the issues that affected their neighborhoods and families. Walter served on the Board of Alderman for the City of New Haven, along with my mother, Luisa DeLauro. There he was her colleague and her friend. He accompanied her on a trip to Taiwan, and of course I felt better knowing that he was there looking out for her. Walter exemplified what an elected official should be, a role model for many who continue to serve in public office today, and his example will continue to inspire people to ensure their neighborhoods have a strong voice advocating on their behalf.

As a civil rights activist, housing advocate, or political advisor, his efforts have made a real difference in the lives of thousands of Connecticut residents. Walter has left an indelible mark on the City of New Haven and the State of Connecticut. It is with my sincerest condolences and greatest sympathies that I join his wife, Andrea Jackson-Brooks, his children, family, friends, and community members in bidding a sad farewell to Walter Brooks. His memory will long serve as an example to us all—his legacy never forgotten.

OCEANS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in supporting the passage of S. 2327, the Oceans Act. We have an excellent

opportunity to initiate a major review of ocean policies in this Nation and to take action to improve our understanding of ocean systems and the ocean environment as a whole.

As a coastal member and co-chair of the Coastal Caucus, I've always been supportive of protecting our oceans and coasts and realize the tremendous benefits they offer all Americans. Our oceans provide us with jobs, food, recreational as well as educational opportunities, medicine, and transportation. Our oceans also play an important role in determining climate.

But all is not well with our oceans. Today, more than half of all 265 million Americans live within 50 miles of our shores. This has put tremendous pressure on our estuaries, coastal zone, and near and offshore areas. In 1998, over 2,500 health advisories were issued against the consumption of contaminated fish. In 1998, over 7,000 beach closings or warnings were issued due to pollution. Harmful algal blooms, like red tides and pfiesteria, have been responsible for over \$1 million in economic damages over the last decade. A 1997 National Marine Fisheries Service report to Congress stated that of the federally managed species for which sufficient data was available, 31% are "overfished." The list goes on and on.

S. 2327 attempts to rectify some of these problems by establishing a Commission on Ocean Policy. This Commission, which is similar to the original Stratton Commission of the late 1960's, will report to Congress and the President policy recommendations for improvements with respect to our oceans, ultimately resulting in a coordinated National Ocean Policy.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this legislation so that we can go to conference and have it signed into law before the end of the session. Cast a vote for our Oceans! Vote yes on the Oceans Act!

COMMUNITY RENEWAL AND NEW MARKETS ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2000

Mrs. McCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the New Markets Initiative before the House today. This bipartisan bill provides hope for distressed economic areas that have not benefited from the longest stretch of economic growth since World War II.

Despite unprecedented economic expansion and sustained unemployment levels, many people in inner cities and rural areas continue to live in poverty. Job growth is virtually nonexistent while crime rates continue to increase.

This legislation establishes 40 new "renewal communities" in areas with high poverty and unemployment levels. These distressed areas can qualify for various tax incentives and loan assistance programs.

As a member of the House Small Business Committee, I believe the New Markets Initiative will help jumpstart these underserved communities. Specifically, the New Markets Venture Capital Program which creates a new

class of venture capital funds that target low-to-moderate income communities.

In addition to attracting investors and businesses to these distressed areas, this legislation addresses the housing needs of community residents. One provision, in particular, expands the low income housing credit from \$1.25 per capita to \$1.75 per capita. This tax credit, administered by the states, helps build 90,000 affordable housing units each year. However, the demand for the credits is greater than the supply by three to one. This proposal would help create an additional 180,000 units of affordable housing over the next 5 years for low-income families.

In order to sustain this economic boom, it must benefit everyone. The New Markets Initiative helps achieve this goal by providing the tools and incentives to foster and sustain economic growth in distressed areas.

I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

IN HONOR OF BASIL M. RUSSO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Basil M. Russo, recently named the 'Italian Man of the Year' by The Italian Sons and Daughters of America.

Mr. Russo has been closely involved with the social, cultural and political life of Ohio throughout his distinguished career. After graduating from Cleveland Marshall College of Law in 1972, Basil Russo was a prominent member of Cleveland's City Council, serving as a Councilman for eight years between 1972 and 1980. Indeed, in 1978 Basil became the Majority Leader of the council, before leaving to take up responsibilities as a judge in the Court of Appeals, and then a Common Pleas Court judge. Basil's professional life has also included the foundation of his own law firm, Basil Russo & Co., L.P.A., which he still runs to this day, and the production of a feature film entitled *Places in 1997*.

As this award acknowledges, Basil Russo has also been a vibrant member of the Italian American community at a local and national level. He currently serves as the National Vice-President of the Italian Sons and Daughters of America, the third largest Italian American fraternal organization in the United States. This organization is involved in numerous social and political events that range from sponsoring the Debutante Ball, to owning and operating a senior citizen housing complex. His status in the legal community also means that since 1992 Basil has served as President of the Justinian Forum; the Italian American Bar Association for Cuyahoga County comprising 22 Judges and 250 attorneys of Italian American descent. It is fitting therefore that Basil was also the founding member of the Italian Americans of Northeast Ohio, established in 1994. He has also made a significant contribution to the religious life of Ohio through his co-chairmanship, alongside his wife Patricia, of the Advisory Board of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry of the Diocese of Cleveland between 1992 and 1995. In fact, Basil still serves as a Lector and Eucharistic Minister at Holy Rosemary Parish.

Basil's talents for film-making and the legal profession have clearly been inherited by his four grown-up children. Anthony, Joseph and Angela are all studying film-making at university, while Gabrielle is studying for a J.D. in law at Basil's alma mater in Cleveland. My best wishes go to Mr. Russo and his family, and I would invite my fellow Congressmen to join me in commending his outstanding achievements in Ohio and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO CENTRAL NEW YORK
ORGANIZATIONS VITAL TO THE
SUCCESS OF THE AMERICANS
WITH DISABILITIES ACT

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today marks the historic celebration of the ten-year anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As a strong supporter of the ADA from the very start, I join with you in reflecting upon all the great changes this law has brought to the disability community.

The ADA is more than access and accommodations. Those are the legal words for what the Act is all about. Quality of life issues are what is really at stake.

Going to the doctor where an interpreter is provided to accurately receive proper diagnosis and treatment. Being able to get to work and perform a meaningful job with assistance. Accessing public transportation for a day or evening out with family or friends. Shopping for groceries or other needed items—these are the type of quality of life issues that the ADA set out to guarantee just ten years ago.

In the Central New York area, we are fortunate to have several agencies that work tirelessly to promote the type of access the ADA protects. In Syracuse, Enable and Arise have fought from the ground level with a "hands on" approach to make this law a reality. They are to be commended. In Cortland, the Access to Independence of Cortland County works to bring services and education to both the disability and non-disability community. And in Auburn, Options for Independence advocates for people with disabilities. In addition, there are numerous individuals across the 25th Congressional District who have contributed to the success of this program.

Some ADA changes are subtle, others more drastic. But in every case their impact has had an immeasurable effect on the quality of life we all enjoy. I take this opportunity to commend all those involved in removing obstacles, eliminating barriers and ensuring equal access for all.

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN INDIA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I recently joined with 20 of our colleagues in a letter to President Clinton urging him to declare India a terrorist state because of its repression of Christians Sikhs, and other minorities. Today in

India, Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and others are being subjected to a reign of terror at the hands of the Indian government. Since Christmas Day 1998, there has been a wave of persecution and terrorism against Christians in India. Churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked, nuns have been raped, and priests have been killed.

Earlier this month, two more churches were bombed in the Indian state of Karnataka, according to a report from Newsroom.org. These attacks came just a month after a Catholic church was bombed in Bangalore. This is a frightening reminder of the resistance to civil rights in the South of the 1950s.

Late last month, a Hindu woman poured boiling oil on a group of militant Hindu nationalists who were attacking her tenant, a Catholic priest. Four Christian missionaries were beaten last month, one so severely that he may lose his arms and legs. These missionaries were beaten for distributing Christian religious literature and Bibles. The RSS, a Fascist organization that is the parent organization of the ruling BJP, has published a booklet on how to implicate Christians in false criminal cases. On Easter, a group of nuns on their way to Easter services were run down by Hindu fundamentalists riding motor scooters. In March, a Sikh family saved some nuns whose convent was attacked by Hindu fundamentalists.

Last month, a women's prayer meeting was bombed by militant Hindu fundamentalists. In April, fundamentalist Hindus attacked a Christian group and burned biblical literature. These are, unfortunately, just the latest incidents in a pattern of oppression of Christians.

The pattern has been long term. Last fall, Hindu fundamentalists aligned with the ruling BJP abducted a nun named Sister Ruby and forced her to drink their urine. Hindus chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god, burned missionary Graham Staines to death along with his 8-year-old and 10-year-old sons, while they slept in their jeep. The violence has been carried out by the RSS and other allies and supporters of the BJP government in India and no one ever seems to be punished for these acts.

Sikhs and Muslims have also been targeted, and we should take note of that. In March, while President Clinton was visiting India, 35 Sikhs were murdered in the village of Chithi Singhpora. Two independent investigations have shown that the Indian government carried out this massacre. This, too, is part of a pattern of genocide.

India's campaign of terror against minorities is clearly designed to wipe out the minorities. It is time to declare India a terrorist state and it is time to cut off American aid to India to help strengthen the hand of human rights there. And we should support self-determination for all the minority nations seeking their freedom from India. The predominantly Christian nation of Nagalim, which India holds, is about to begin talks with the Indian government on their political status. I hope that these talks will be the beginning of freedom not just for the people of Nagaland but for all the minority peoples and nations of South Asia.

Strong action must be taken. We should cut off India's aid until human rights are respected. We should demand self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other minority nations under