

Robert Fuller served his country with distinction and has worked tirelessly on behalf of our veterans. I would urge my colleagues of the 106th Congress to stand and join me in paying special tribute to District One VFW Commander Robert Fuller. He is a true American patriot. We wish him the very best in the future.

TRIBUTE TO EDYTHER MILLER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished American and proud Californian, Edythe Miller, on the occasion of her induction into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame.

Edythe Miller has held numerous offices in the Redwood City Women's Club, the Golden Gate District of Women's Clubs, and the California Federation of Women's Clubs. She has participated in fund raising activities for the organizations and she has also provided food, clothing, and shelter for the Battered Women's Organization. Edythe Miller has served as President of San Mateo County's American/Italian and Historical Associations and as the past President of the Association of Republican Women.

Since she survived ostomy surgery more than 34 years ago, Edythe Miller has given tirelessly of herself to the San Mateo Ostomy Association and has led the organization as President. She has taught ostomy care, speaking in retirement homes and hospitals, training nurses, raising money, appearing on TV and working with the media to educate the public about this disease.

Edythe Miller is the loving wife of the now retired Superior Court Judge Robert Miller, and they are the proud parents of four, and grandparents of fourteen. The Miller family was given the "Family of the Year" award from San Mateo County. In addition, Edythe Miller has received an award recognizing 50 years of extraordinary service to the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She has been honored many times by the Cancer Society, Stanford Hospital and U.C. San Francisco for her volunteer work with the Ostomy Association. Edythe Miller is widely admired for her endless energy and effective work and serves as a model for both young and old, healthy or ill.

Edythe Miller's life of leadership is instructive to us all. Her dedication to the ideals of democracy and community service stands tall. It is fitting that she has been chosen to be inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, and I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in honoring this great and good woman whom I am proud to call my friend. We are indeed a better county, a better country and a better people because of her.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT MURDERS 35 SIKHS: U.S. MUST TAKE ACTION AGAINST THIS ATROCITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, like everyone in this House, I was shocked and saddened to hear of the brutal murders of 35 Sikhs in Kashmir. The loss of life is a tragedy. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in expressing our sympathies to the victims' families.

Although the news media reported that "Kashmiri militants" were responsible for this incident, the latest information shows that India's Research and Analysis Wing carried out this brutal and cowardly atrocity.

There are over 700,000 Indian troops in Kashmir. How could the persons responsible for these crimes simply disappear without being detected? What motive would the Kashmiris have to kill Sikhs, who are their allies in the struggle for freedom? When these incidents occur, Mr. Speaker, one must ask who benefits from them. The only beneficiary is the Indian government, which again divides the minorities, setting them against each other to continue their divide-and-rule strategy.

India's pattern of terrorism is well known. It recently tried to blame the Sikhs for the murder of Christian missionary Graham Staines by arresting a Hindu man who calls himself Dara Singh despite the fact that Staines and his family were murdered by Hindu extremists allied with the ruling party. According to the *Hitavada* newspaper, the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, to foment terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir to generate more repression and set minorities against each other.

In this country, if someone tried to create violence between, say, African Americans and Hispanics, that person would be rejected and likely arrested. In India, this is government policy.

It is also disturbing that this atrocity occurs just after President Clinton lifted the sanctions imposed on India after its nuclear tests. In light of these murders, those sanctions should be reimposed and India should be declared a terrorist state. Here in Congress, we should cut off U.S. aid to India and we should declare our support for the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and throughout India. We must do these things to promote freedom for the people of South Asia and the world.

Mr. Speaker, Burning Punjab published the names of the victims of this massacre and the Council of Khalistan published an excellent press release on the incident. I would like to introduce these items into the RECORD to honor the memory of the victims and inform my colleagues and the people.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT MURDERS 35 SIKHS
RAW AGENTS POSE AS KASHMIRI MILITANTS—
CONTINUES PATTERN OF PITTING MINORITIES
AGAINST EACH OTHER

WASHINGTON, DC, March 21.—Thirty-five (35) Sikhs were murdered in Kashmir today by agents of the Indian government's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) posing as Kashmiri militants. There are over 700,000 Indian troops stationed in Kashmir, yet the

murderers disappeared without detection. The murders were carried out during President Clinton's visit to South Asia.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, strongly condemned the murders. "These murders are evil, cowardly, and stupid acts designed to pit one community against another and prop up India's image for the President's visit," Dr. Aulakh said. "Whoever carried out these brutal acts, they are cowards," he said. "They may escape justice in this world, but they will face the justice of God. That will be worse for them."

"Sikhs and Kashmiris are allies in the struggle for freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "What motive would Kashmiri freedom fighters have to kill Sikhs? This would be especially stupid when President Clinton is visiting. The freedom movements in Kashmir, Khalistan, Nagaland, and throughout India need the support of the United States," he said. Khalistan is the Sikh homeland declared independent on October 7, 1987.

The murders continue a pattern of divide-and-rule terrorism by the Indian government. The government has recently tried to blame Sikhs for the murder of Christian missionary Graham Staines by arresting a Hindu man who uses the alias Dara Singh. Every Sikh male uses Singh in his name. Yet it was reported at the time of the Staines murder that he and his two sons were burned to death in their jeep by a mob chanting "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. That mob was affiliated with the Fascist RSS, the parent organization of the ruling BJP. In November 1994, The *Hitavada* reported that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab, Khalistan, and in Kashmir. The book "Soft Target," written by two respected Canadian journalists, proved that the Indian government blew up its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 people, to blame the incident on the Sikhs and provide an excuse for more repression and bloodshed. This is a well-established modus operandi of RAW.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. The figures were published in "The Politics of Genocide" by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. The government has also killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, more than 65,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Manipuris, Tamils, Dalits, and others. The U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police to murder Sikhs. Amnesty International recently reported that there are thousands of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, held in Indian jails without charge or trial. Some Sikh political prisoners have been in this illegal detention since 1984.

"This shows that there is no freedom for minorities in India," Dr. Aulakh said. "For minorities, India is no democracy," he said. "As U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher said, for the minorities 'India might as well be Nazi Germany.'"

"I urge President Clinton and Ambassador Richard Celeste to confront India on these brutal murders, as well as the recent harassment of journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan, getting Sikh and other political prisoners released, and the ongoing, massive, and brutal human-rights violations against Sikhs and other minorities," Dr. Aulakh said. "If the United States wants to see an end to these incidents, it should support self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and all the other nations seeking their freedom from India," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only a free

Khalistan will end India's corruption, tyranny and genocide against the Sikh Nation," he said. "India is on the verge of disintegration. The Sikh leadership should immediately begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan."

[From the Burning Punjab News, Mar. 21, 2000]

MASSACRED SIKHS IDENTIFIED

SRINAGAR.—The 35 Sikhs massacred at Chatti-Singpora in south Kashmir late last night by unknown armed persons have been identified. Following is the list of people killed by militants: Rajinder Singh (42), Karnail Singh (35), Rajan Singh (40), Naranjan Singh (50), Gurdeep Singh (25), Ajeetpal Singh (22), Joginder Singh (26), Gurbax Singh (35), Uttam Singh (30), Surjit Singh (22), Majit Singh (30), Devinder Singh (18), Rajinder Singh (35), Reshpal Singh (40), Gurmeek Singh (35), Sukha Singh (53), Ravi Singh (38), Jangbhadur Singh (36), Rajdeep Singh (18), Naseeb Singh (50), Kulbeer Singh (20), Darban Singh (28), Deader Singh (50), Gurmeet Singh (22), Ujal Singh (28), Charan Singh (50), Sartaj Singh (30), Rajnath Singh (45), Faqir Singh (65), Karnail Singh (45), Sheetal Singh (66), Ravinder Singh (22), Jagdesh Singh (25), Sagir Singh (60), and Sartaj Singh (26). One Devinder Kaur died of heart attack following the massacre.

IN TRIBUTE TO BRUCE DOWNING

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting and recognition dinner of the United Way of Northern Shenandoah Valley, at which Bruce Downing of Winchester, Virginia, received the 1999 Volunteer of the Year Award.

I would like to share with our colleagues the outstanding community service work of Mr. Downing, who was cited in one award nominating letter as "a giant among men in this community. His calm, reassuring manner, his generosity, and his compassion for others are without measure. Bruce Downing has made the community a better place to live. He is a hero."

Mr. Downing, 52, began his community service in the mid-1960's when his college fraternity helped special needs children at a local school. He later became a volunteer with Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other organizations including Grafton School, Access Independence, Help with Housing, ABBA Pregnancy Care Center, and numerous United Way boards and others.

He and his wife, Donna, also donated one of their own family vans with a special wheelchair life to a family in need.

Mr. Speaker, Bruce Downing represents the thousands upon thousands of giving and caring Americans who reach out as volunteers to help their fellow citizens. They do so not for any honors or recognition that may come their way; rather they do it with generous hearts because they want to make a difference in people's lives.

We salute Bruce Downing and all the other volunteers of the United Way and the many other volunteer organizations who lend a helping hand every day of the year to serve their communities. They are indeed heroes.

HONORING TRISH ARREDONDO

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Trish Arredondo for her lifelong contributions to the health and well being of Northwest Indiana. This is a very special pleasure as Trish is a close personal friend. I have known her for the better part of two decades and have seen firsthand the efforts of her dynamic accomplishments on behalf of her friends, neighbors, and community.

Trish Arredondo is currently President and Chief Executive Officer of the Planned Parenthood Association of Northwest/Northeast Indiana. During Trish's tenure, Planned Parenthood has made a vast impact on our community in the areas of both health care and education. The organization has grown three fold in the number of clients, and has tripled the geographic area served.

Trish spearheaded a capital campaign that has allowed the organization to purchase its headquarters and originate a "mini-grant" awards program designed to bring research funding to special aspects of women's health care such as breast cancer. She has been instrumental in increasing public awareness in women's health issues such as cervical cancer and teen pregnancy. Under her direction, the organization increased its medical services to include testing for Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B. Planned Parenthood is the sole provider of health care services for 75 percent of the 40,000 patients it serves annually. This evolution of the organization's role in community care has become an invaluable part of Northwest Indiana's health care system.

In addition to her role in Planned Parenthood, Trish Arredondo also gives much of her time back to the community. She is a member of the Northwest Indiana Executive Council, the Governor's Council on Health Care 2000, the Rape Task Force, the Welfare to Work Council, and is a charter member of the Northwest Council for Teen Pregnancy. She is a past member of the Northern Indiana Arts Association and was named as one of the most influential women in Northwest Indiana by the Times newspaper in March, 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I salute Trish Arredondo for her professional achievements and her many years of dedication to the betterment of our community. We in Northwest Indiana are truly thankful to have someone of Trish's talents on our team. Her life's work has been on behalf of those less fortunate in our community, and we are extremely grateful for her dedication and perseverance. Please join me in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LEOCADIA VASQUEZ VALENCIA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, it is with much sadness that I inform my colleagues of the passing of a great individual, a person who graced our world and our lives with so much love and compassion.

Leocadia V. Valencia, the mother, grandmother, great grandmother, great-great grandmother passed away, on her Sabbath day, Saturday, February 19, 2000 in California. She was 98 years of age. Born in Matehuala, Mexico, wife of Felix G. Valencia, Pastor in the Church of God 7th Day. She was a longtime resident of Sacramento, California.

Leocadia lived a very full and very fulfilling life, a life graced by her husband, who passed away four years ago (December 12, 1995), with whom she has been blessed by sixteen children: Survived by Carrol Cervantes, Sophia Rivas, Felix Valencia, Hope Brocklehurst, Matthew Valencia, Ruth Gomez, Mary McAuliffe, Paul Valencia, Lydia Hanzalik, Ruby Valencia, Rachel Sidhu, Sam Valencia. Survived by two sisters; Margarita Garnica, Micaela Perea. Extended mother to the following grandchildren: Yolanda Velasquez, Steve Valencia, Linda Macias, Terry Adame, Ernest Valencia and numerous grand children, great grand children, great-great grandchildren. These children and many grandchildren brought tremendous joy and inspiration into their lives.

Leocadia was and remains so much a tremendous person in our thoughts and in our memories. We appreciate so much and will long remember the many good and positive things she brought into our lives, and most of all her faith and love for God.

I join with Leocadia friends and family members in honoring such a truly remarkable and outstanding person, a mother, grandmother, a great-grandmother and great-great grandmother, to all of those who loved her so much.

Leocadia gave so much to those she loved, and each of us is better and more fortunate for what she unselfishly gave to us and gave to our world, a world made so much brighter and more gentler by her life and her presence.

Mr. Speaker, we are all gifted by the lives of mothers and grandmothers who do so much in guiding our lives and providing us comfort and proper direction. I join with all of those who loved Leocadia V. Valencia in extending our prayers, knowing that God's heaven is blessed and graced by one of his most beautiful and loving Angels. I ask God's peace and comfort on the family during this time of sorrow.

ST. PAUL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH 84TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and high regards that I congratulate St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Gary, Indiana, as it celebrates its 84th anniversary as a parish this coming Sunday. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Reverend Everett Gray on this magnificent occasion.

From modest beginnings, St. Paul's has emerged as a cornerstone of the Gary community. The church was organized in 1916 through the efforts of six dedicated pioneers. The first structure was a portable building of the 21st Avenue school. Through the hard work of Reverend Martin VanBuren Bolden and the six founders, the membership continued to grow, and on July 17, 1917, two lots