

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in extending our congratulations to the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School on its Silver anniversary and wish them continued success in future endeavors.

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES FRANCO MINERVINI FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I wish today in recognition of Franco Minervini for his dedication to the cause of social justice for Italian-Americans. I applaud the achievements he has made fighting prejudice as an active member of his community and a positive contributor to our society.

Throughout his distinguished career as an artist, educator, and business owner, Franco Minervini has been a tireless advocate for central New Jersey's Italian-American community. As a member and former State Chairman of the Commission for Social Justice, the anti-defamation arm of the Order Sons of Italy in America, Franco has made it his lifelong goal "to fight our society's relaxed attitude toward prejudice."

Franco's achievements have won him praise from such organizations as the Ocean Township's Italian American Association, the National Police Defense Foundation and the Order Sons of Italy in America.

In addition to being a champion for Italian-American issues, Mr. Minervini is a nationally renowned sculptor and proprietor of the Freehold based Dependable Machinery Company. Franco has served as the program coordinator of "Italy's Heroes of the Holocaust", "A Debt to Honor", and "Yours is a Precious Witness" exhibits shown at both Brookdale Community College and Rowan University.

Once again, I applaud the efforts of Franco Minervini and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing his steadfast commitment to serving our community.

EFFECTIVE DATES FOR AWARDS TO VETERANS' SURVIVORS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which would permit the families of veterans who died as a result of a service-connected injury to collect benefits from the date of the veteran's death.

On August 27, 1984, L.H. Bailey died in the VA Medical Center in Honolulu of lung cancer. Mr. Bailey had served in the Vietnam theater and received the Vietnam Service medal. In 1993 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs determined that lung cancer was a medical condition related to Agent Orange exposure.

Following the announcement of the Secretary's determination, Mr. Bailey's widow filed

for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation based on the Secretary's determination and was granted benefits from August 6, 1993, the date the VA received her claim. However, she received no benefits for the nearly nine years between Mr. Bailey's death and the date the VA determined that as a matter of law the lung cancer was caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

It is unfair to deny the families of veterans benefits due solely to a delay on the part of the VA to acknowledge that the veteran died as a result of his military service. Mr. Bailey and other veterans died as a result of their service to their country. Their families should not be punished because the VA was slow to recognize the cause of their death.

My bill corrects this unfairness. It requires the VA to grant the families Dependency and Indemnity Compensation awards from the date of the veteran's death, regardless of when the VA acknowledged the service-connection of the veterans death.

I urge my colleagues to join with me in co-sponsoring this legislation.

ALASKA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT QUOTA PROGRAM

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, in 1992 the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council established, and the Secretary of Commerce by regulation began implementing, the western Alaska community development quota (CDQ) program. Over the past nine years, the CDQ program has made a valuable contribution to improving economic and social conditions in the small Alaska Native villages on the coast of the Bering Sea that participate in the program.

In 1994 a question was raised whether the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) authorized the Council to establish and the Secretary to implement the CDQ program. In response, in 1996 I sponsored a provision that the 104th Congress enacted as section 111 of the Sustainable Fisheries Act that amended the Magnuson-Stevens Act to explicitly authorize the CDQ program.

The provision—section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act—settled the authorization question; however, it does not provide guidance to the Secretary for implementing the CDQ program, nor does it authorize the state of Alaska to assist the Secretary to implement the program or establish the terms and conditions for the state's participation.

In addition, over the past nine years the business activities of the six groups that the eligible communities have organized to participate in the CDQ program have become increasingly sophisticated. Initially, each CDQ group simply contracted with an existing fishing company to harvest the share of the total allowable catch of Bering Sea pollock that the group was allocated. In exchange, the group received a royalty payment from the company, as well as employment opportunities for village

residents and other local economic development benefits. However, today the CDQ groups are participating in all Bering Sea directed fisheries through substantial equity interests in established fishing companies. In addition, in 1998 when it enacted the American Fisheries Act the 105th Congress created a loan program—contained in section 211(e) of the American Fisheries Act—that encourages CDQ groups to make additional investments.

It is important that the implementation of the CDQ program reflect these new realities. For that reason, Congress needs to provide the Secretary, the CDQ groups, the fishing companies in which the CDQ groups own equity interests, and the state of Alaska clear guidance regarding how the CDQ program should be implemented.

Last October I introduced H.R. 5565 whose enactment would have amended section 305(i)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide that guidance. Unfortunately, there was not enough time for the U.S. House of Representatives to consider H.R. 5565 prior to the adjournment of the 106th Congress. For that reason, I today am reintroducing the legislation in the 107th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, this bill identifies that the objectives of the CDQ program are to provide eligible western Alaska communities the fair and equitable opportunity to participate in Bering Sea fisheries that Magnuson-Stevens Act National Standard 4 requires, and to assist eligible communities to achieve sustainable long-term diversified local economic development. The bill requires the Secretary to allocate to the CDQ program the same percentages of the total allowable catches and guideline harvest levels of Bering Sea directed fisheries that Congress through section 206 of the American Fisheries Act and the Secretary by regulation already have allocated to the program.

In 1998 Congress directed the National Academy of Sciences to study, and then to report to Congress regarding, the CDQ program. In 1999 the National Research Council delivered that report and, in part, recommended that the process through which the state of Alaska assists the Secretary in implementing the CDQ program should be clarified.

Pursuant to that recommendation, this legislation establishes a process for implementing the CDQ program. The bill I am introducing today establishes the terms and conditions for the state of Alaska's assistance to the Secretary in implementing the program. The bill also affords the CDQ groups an opportunity to decide among themselves the percentages of each Bering Sea directed fishing allowance that each group will harvest during a fishing year. If the CDQ groups cannot agree, the bill affords the groups an opportunity to jointly develop the criteria that the Secretary shall apply to allocate fishing opportunities among the groups (as well as for the state of Alaska to apply in developing its recommendations to the Secretary regarding the allocation of fishing opportunities).

On October 4, 2000 the General Counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a legal opinion that concluded that the text of the definition of the term "CDQ project" in 50 CFR 679.2 is ambiguous regarding whether programs and activities of fishing companies in which CDQ groups

own equity interests are "CDQ projects". For that reason, this bill defines the term "CDQ project" to clarify that a program or activity that is administered or initiated by a subsidiary, joint venture, partnership, or other entity in which a CDQ group owns an equity interest is not a "CDQ project" over which the Secretary may assert oversight authority if the program or activity is funded by the assets of the subsidiary, joint venture, partnership, or other entity, rather than by the assets of the CDQ group. The definition also clarifies that a program or activity that is administered or initiated by a CDQ group is not a "CDQ project" over which the Secretary may assert oversight authority if the program or activity is not funded by revenue that, during the duration of a community development plan, the group derives or accrues from harvesting the share of the percentage of the total allowable catch or guideline harvest level of a directed Bering Sea fishery that the Secretary authorized the group to harvest when he approved the group's plan.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, in response to my introduction of H.R. 5565, at its December 2000 meeting in Anchorage the North Pacific Fishery Management Council voted to organize a committee to review the Secretary and the state of Alaska's administration of the CDQ program and to identify needed changes. I am pleased that the Council did so, and I look forward to considering the committee's suggestions. However, the committee's work is not a substitute for action by Congress.

ORDER SONS OF ITALY IN AMERICA—MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to two individuals from New Jersey whose outstanding community service has earned them the title of "Man and Woman of the Year" and the seats of honor at the Order Sons of Italy in America dinner February 11 in Hazlet, New Jersey.

This year's Woman of the Year is Manalapan Mayor Mary Cozzalino, the youngest female Italian-American elected official in the State of New Jersey. In addition to the many official, civic and volunteer contributions she is making to the citizens of Manalapan, she is also Police Commissioner, overseeing the security in this still-expanding Monmouth County Community.

This year's Man of the Year is Franco Minervini, a nationally-renowned sculptor whose highly-acclaimed works of art frequently express his Italian-American heritage. Mr. Minervini not only being honored for his artistic achievements. As former commissioner of the Commission for Social Justice, he is being honored for his hard work on fighting and exposing discrimination against Italian Americans.

Almost all of us who serve in the House are fortunate to have Sons of Italy lodges in our district, so it is important that we be occasionally reminded of the tremendous services the

Sons of Italy perform for our community and for health and education of our families. During the past 38 years, the Sons of Italy foundation has awarded over \$25 million in scholarships to Italian-American students. The Sons of Italy also provide funding for medical research on genetic diseases, homes for orphans, victims of natural disasters, international issues, and law enforcement support projects.

So, I would like to congratulate the Sons of Italy for its many years of commitment to helping others and for the selection of Franco Minervini and Mary Cozzalino, two individuals who embody the ideals and the goals of this fine organization.

SIKHS, MUSLIMS MURDERED IN KASHMIR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 8, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed when I read that more violence is taking place in Indian-controlled Kashmir. Some Sikh policemen murdered a Muslim rickshaw driver after he demanded that they pay their fare. In retaliation, five Sikhs were killed by a Muslim gunman. Then one more was killed while participating in a protest march. Now the Indian government has imposed a curfew in Jammu and Kashmir.

Recently, the Indian government has been recruiting members of the terrorist, vigilante commandos called the Black Cats into the police. This is apparently a reward for doing a good job of killing Sikhs and other minorities. The police who carried out the rickshaw murder are former Black Cats. It is an open secret that the former Black Cats have infiltrated Sikh and Kashmiri organizations for the purpose of setting them against each other.

As in the case of last March's massacre of 35 Sikhs at Chithi Singhpora, the relevant question that must be asked is who benefits? Mr. Speaker, neither the Sikhs nor the Muslims benefit from these killings. The only beneficiary is the theocratic, fundamentalist Hindu nationalist government of India and its divide-and-rule strategy. This looks like a clear effort to set the Sikhs and the Kashmiri freedom fighters against each other to keep both movements weak, divided, and unable to liberate their people. Sikhs have not usually been targets of the violence in Kashmir. These murders and the tragedy at Chithi Singhpora are the only recent incidents involving Sikhs. They are outside the usual pattern.

In addition, some of the participants in the protest threatened to harm a mosque. The Sikhs have not harmed any religious places, but the Indian government has a pattern of it. They invaded the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple, and 38 other Gurdwaras in 1984. The BJP destroyed the Babri mosque to put a Hindu temple where it sat. Since Christmas 1998, Christian churches and prayer halls have been attacked and burned. All of these acts have been carried out by the Indian government or by persons associated with the RSS, which is the parent organization of the BJP, the party that leads the coalition govern-

ment. BJP officials have said that anyone living in India must either be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus.

These murders have been condemned by the Kashmiri freedom fighters and by the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh freedom movement. No organization has come forth to take responsibility for the killings, another parallel to the massacre at Chithi Singhpora.

Mr. Speaker, one doesn't have to look very hard to find the hand of the Indian government on these terrible killings. This appears to be part of the Indian government's pattern of terrorism and repression against Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities. In that light, this Congress should cut off American aid to India until the repression ends and human rights are restored and we should support a free and fair plebiscite to decide democratically the future of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the countries seeking their freedom from India. That is how to let the glow of freedom shine all over South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article from Reuters News Service on the Kashmir murders into the RECORD.

[From the Reuters News Service, Feb. 5, 2001]

KASHMIR CAPITALS PUT UNDER CURFEW AFTER KILLINGS

JAMMU, INDIA, Feb. 4 (Reuters).—Indian authorities imposed curfews on the two capitals of troubled Jammu and Kashmir state on Sunday after gunmen shot dead six Sikhs and wounded five others.

Srinagar, the state's summer capital, was brought under a curfew from Sunday following the killing of the Sikhs in the city's Mahjoor Nagar area the day before.

Similar measures were announced in the winter capital Jammu. "An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Jammu city from Monday in view of the heightening tension following the killing of the Sikhs," Deputy Commissioner of Police R.K. Goel said.

He said the curfew was imposed after Sikh groups had called for a general strike on Monday. A group of Sikhs threw stones at shops and cars and blocked traffic in Jammu on Sunday to protest against the killings.

A police official said in Srinagar that security had been tightened in Sikh areas of Kashmir, the only Indian state with a Muslim majority.

Separatist rebellion broke out in the Himalayan region in 1990, among Islamic groups seeking either independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan.

Authorities say more than 30,000 people have died in the conflict since.

The Sikh minority, who make up 300,000 of the state's eight million people, have usually been spared violence, which pits Islamic rebels against government forces, Hindus and pro-Indian Muslims.

No group claimed responsibility for Saturday's gun attack on the group of Sikhs. Last March, 35 Sikhs were shot dead by unidentified gunmen as U.S. President Bill Clinton visited India.

KASHMIRI SEPARATISTS CONDEMN KILLINGS

Several Kashmiri separatist groups expressed grief over the latest killings and said they were aimed at harming their struggle for freedom from Indian rule.

"We appeal to the Kashmiri Sikhs not to leave the (Kashmir) Valley and foil the designs of those who want to malign our freedom struggle," Abdul Majid Dar, chief commander of the guerrilla group Hizbul