

malfeasance to good. While this proposal cannot adequately respond to the loss of those who grieve, perhaps the experience of our Nation's greatest treasures—our parks and forests, our mountains and rivers—will help strengthen America's well-being—physically, mentally and spiritually. That is why I have named this bill the Healing Opportunities in National Parks and the Environment Act, the HOPE Act. It is important that we keep hope alive in the wake of the recent tragic events as we recover and rebuild.

There may come a time when a fireman, or a nurse, or a survivor, who has seen far too much pain and suffering, may decide that a day at the lake with his or her family would provide welcome relief. Let us continue to aid these victims and family members as we already have financially. Let us provide the victims and family members the symbol of the spirit—to aid in their spiritual and mental healing. We can facilitate this by providing lifetime free access to all of our natural wonders.

This legislation will make that possible. This legislation is just a small gesture that might encourage someone who is suffering to seek comfort in the beauty of this great land. Like most Americans we continue to struggle with a response to these events. This is just one step Congress can take to support America's greatest natural resources, our citizens.

#### TRIBUTE TO FREVERT TRUE VALUE HARDWARE

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frevert True Value Hardware for their work and donations in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and women, civilians and soldiers, firefighters and police, mothers and fathers, were slain for a cause so terrible, so heinous, and so despicable that we find it unimaginable and indescribable. United, Americans seek to find meaning and hope in a seemingly hopeless and meaningless act. In the days since these terrible terrorist attacks, America has been shoulder-to-shoulder in a struggle to meet the challenges of a world that is a little less safe, a little scarier, and far less predictable. The efforts of businesses like the Frevert True Value Hardware signify the commitment and concern of Americans everywhere. Our nation's strength does not lie in her military might but rather in the collective compassion of its people.

Since the September 11 terrorist attacks, Frevert True Value Hardware has volunteered to paint an American Flag in the yards of local patriots who make a financial contribution to provide for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of Frevert True Value Hardware is a lasting memorial to the thousands of victims who perished in New York, Washington, and Pennsylvania.

Through the days, weeks, and months ahead, all Americans must come together and

do what they can to assist the nation's war effort. Whether it is giving blood, sending donations, praying for the thousands of grieving families, or simply saying thanks to the brave men and women who put their lives on the line each and every day so that we may be free, it is important that the American people are vigilant in their efforts to overcome this evil. Though our nation has witnessed unspeakable horror, America's virtues, determination, and faith continues to shine brightly on the world.

I am confident that the United States will seek out those that harbor hatred, terror, and depravity in their hearts; and we will defeat them. This is a war that we must, can, and will win. May God bless the families and children grieving across this great nation and may God bless America.

#### PROBLEM FACING LAWMAKERS, LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL, CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS

#### HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the critical problems facing lawmakers, law enforcers, and social, civil, and religious leaders in our nation. These problems are being addressed by the International Bible Reading Association, as well as by Senators, Representatives, and civic, religious, and national statesmen who are confident that the Bible contains the answers to our nation's dilemma.

The great American scholar Noah Webster wrote: "All the miseries and evils which men suffer from vice, crime, ambition, injustice, oppression, slavery, and war proceed from their despising or neglecting the precepts contained in the Bible." Noah Webster stated the facts over 150 years ago; but, because of the increased pace of our society over just the past 50 years, reading the Bible has declined and violence and immorality have accelerated.

The Bible has had a monumental impact upon the development of our Western civilization, whose literature, art, and music are filled with images and inspiration that can be traced to its pages. More importantly, our laws, our sense of justice, our charity, and our moral standards all find their origin in the Bible. Bible reading impresses upon the minds of readers the principles of morality, truth, justice, and respect for the sacredness of human life.

The Bible, which is a fundamental part of our national heritage, has had a more profound affect on the moral fabric of American society than any other document. It was the basis for our Founding Fathers' belief in the inalienable rights of the individual—rights which they found explicit in the Bible. This same sense of individual freedom and justice permeates the ideals set forth in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. The influence of both the Old and New Testaments has formed the basis of our laws, our national character, and our system of values. It was the biblical view of man—affirming the dignity and worth of the human person made in the image of our Creator—which inspired the principles upon which the United States is founded. Many historians credit George Wash-

ington with identifying the United States as "One Nation Under God"; therefore, today we inscribe In God We Trust on our coins.

Responding to a Joint Resolution of the House and Senate, in a 1990 Proclamation, President George Bush wrote: "I invite all Americans to discover the great inspiration and knowledge that can be obtained through thoughtful reading of the Bible."

The Bible has not only influenced the development of our nation's values and institutions, but has also enriched the daily lives of millions of men and women who have looked to it for comfort, hope, and guidance.

Mr. Speaker, because of the overwhelming acceptance of the Bible in the history of our nation, I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the International Bible Reading Association for its request to George W. Bush, President of the United States, to proclaim 2002 as the Year for all America to read through the Bible.

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, WILLIAM J. IVEY, ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Chairman William J. Ivey, on his retirement from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 1998, Chairman Ivey has dedicated himself and the NEA to preserving the great arts tradition of this nation and to broadening the public's awareness of the tremendous benefits that the arts have to offer.

Under Chairman Ivey's leadership, the NEA and its many programs have exposed countless Americans to the rich rewards of the arts, while benefitting our communities, our children, and our economy.

In 1997, he was honored by Tennessee Governor Don Sundquist for his diligent work as Director of the Country Music Foundation, and was praised by the Tennessee Arts Commission for his efforts in reaching out to the community.

Chairman Ivey's passion for preserving historic recordings of popular and classical music ensure that generations to come will have the opportunity to learn and appreciate the musical treasures of our past.

While I am saddened to see Chairman Ivey's tenure at the NEA come to an end, I am confident that he will continue to be a strong advocate for the arts community.

Mr. Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chairman Ivey for his commitment to the arts and for his leadership to this nation.

#### VIOLENCE AGAINST SIKHS EXPOSED—ATTACKS MUST STOP

#### HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I spoke previously about the violence against

Sikh Americans in the wake of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I have said previously that these attacks must stop. Now efforts are underway to expose them through the media and to collect information to catalogue these incidents. I applaud those efforts.

Last weekend, a Sikh gasoline station owner in Mesa, Arizona, Balbir Singh Sodhi was shot to death at his gas station by someone, who apparently thought the gas station owner was a supporter of Osama bin Laden because of his turban and beard. It should be noted that 99.9 percent of the people who wear turbans and beards in this country are Sikhs.

Mr. Speaker, this kind of crime must be condemned. The Sodhi killing was just one of over one hundred incidents of harassment or violence against Sikhs. All of these crimes are catalogued on the internet at <http://www.sikh.org/hatecrime> for the information of the public.

This past Tuesday, September 18, the Council of Khalistan held a press conference to expose the violence against Sikh Americans. They called for an investigation by Attorney General Ashcroft. One of the Sikhs, who created the website I mentioned above, Amardeep Singh Bhalla, was there to announce it. The news conference was attended by reporters from IBN Radio, News Channel 8, and a Chicago TV station, WMAQ. News Channel 8 broadcast it in the evening of the 18th and IBN Radio broadcast it on the 19th.

The Council of Khalistan has put out a press release about the press conference. I would like to place this in the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

**DR. AULAKH, SIKH LEADERS CONDEMN  
MURDERS OF SIKHS AND OTHERS  
SIKHS ARE NOT MOSLEMS—ASK ATTORNEY  
GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE**

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 18, 2001.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today condemned the murders of Sikhs and other Americans in the wake of the World Trade Center attack. Dr. Aulakh and other Sikh leaders spoke at the National Press Club. The press conference was attended by reporters from NewsChannel 8, NBC, the Japanese newspaper Sankei Shimbun, India Globe, and others.

"I call on Attorney General John Ashcroft to look into this nationwide pattern of violence and I urge the victims these attacks to call their police departments and their local prosecutors," Dr. Aulakh said. "This is the best way I ensure that those who perpetrate this violence are appropriately punished."

"I condemn the violence against Muslim Americans and I condemn the attacks on Sikh Americans," Dr. Aulakh said. There have been over 100 acts of harassment or violence against Sikhs. Since the World Trade Center and Pentagon bombings on Tuesday, there has been a wave of violent incidents aimed at Sikhs and other individuals. Over the weekend, a Sikh gasoline station owner was murdered at his business in Mesa, Arizona. The Granthi of the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Fairfax, Virginia was attacked while walking with his wife. Attackers threw a brick through the window of a local Sikh, Ranjit Singh of Fairfax, Virginia. They were in attendance at the press conference.

Another local Sikh, Sher Singh, was arrested by police in Rhode Island after the attack, but was released the next day. A couple of young Sikhs were attacked in Brooklyn, New York. Sikh businesses have been stoned

and cars have been burned. An Egyptian Christian man was shot in San Gabriel, California. A Pakistani Muslim who owned a grocery store was shot in Dallas.

"Sikh Americans, Muslim Americans, Christian Americans, our neighbors and countrymen, are being harassed and acts of violence are being committed against them merely because of their religious or ethnic heritage," Dr. Aulakh said. "All Americans should join together to condemn these cowardly acts."

"What a group of terrorists did Tuesday was a terrible crime and an act of war against America, but it was done by group of individuals who are no more typical of their religion than Timothy McVeigh is typical of Christianity," said Dr. Aulakh. "Members of minority religious communities are being targeted for violence, and this is unacceptable especially in America."

"Sikhism is an independent, divinely revealed, monotheistic religion with our own symbols and has no relation to other religions like Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, or Christianity, but we respect all religions" Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that Sikhism has its own symbols. "Among those symbols are a turban and beard. That does not make us supporters or associates of Osama bin Laden, yet we are being targeted for violence in the wake of the atrocities last Tuesday." I said.

Two young Sikh activists announced the creation of a website for information about hate crimes against Sikhs. It can be found at <http://www.sikh.org/hatecrime>. They noted that "99.9 percent" of the people who wear turbans in America, are Sikhs.

"Let's not let America descend to the level of those who attacked it," Dr. Aulakh said.

**HONORING NICK GRAY**

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the bravery of a great American, Nick Gray, who fought for the United States in World War II and survived the attack at Pearl Harbor and the battle at Guadalcanal. Mr. Gray now resides in Montrose, Colorado.

Mr. Gray and the rest of the 25th Infantry Division were stationed in Hawaii at the time of the attack at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He awoke to the sounds of 351 Japanese attack planes destroying the base around him. Nick and his captain narrowly escaped the destruction by finding refuge in a river that swept them off the island of Guadalcanal and threw them into the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Nick fought the currents of the ocean throughout the day before making collapsing near the shore where he was pulled ashore by a comrade. Thousands of Americans were lost that day, but Nick Gray survived and continued to fight for our nation in the Pacific. He took part in the historic Guadalcanal campaign and the march to Tokyo. Many more Americans lost their lives during the war, but Nick fought valiantly and survived. However, Nick's good friend, Marion Burch, lost his life in the Pacific shortly after the two had the opportunity to spend some time together. Now at the age of eighty-two years old, Nick enjoys a more peaceful life in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, Nick Gray courageously fought for our country. From the surprise attack at

Pearl Harbor through the end of WWII, Mr. Gray remained steadfast in serving the United States. We are indebted to him for his bravery and perseverance during a time of mayhem and struggle. It is my honor to thank and pay tribute to Mr. Gray for defending our nation and preserving American freedoms.

**TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS D.  
KETCHAM**

**HON. ERIC CANTOR**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity today to pay tribute to Douglas D. Ketcham.

Douglas Ketcham was 27 years of age. He was a graduate of University of Virginia and was beginning his career as a bond trader for Cantor Fitzgerald Securities in the World Trade Center.

Douglas Ketcham's life brutally ended when he was a target of terrorist aggression, by a radical extremist group that declared a religious crusade against America and her people. The terrorists sought to end the very things that Douglas' life embodied: liberty, individualism, and opportunity.

Midlothian and the Richmond area, and even our entire nation, has experienced the loss of a friend and patriot. Douglas Ketcham's parents and his loved ones do not mourn alone for him; a whole country joins their sorrow.

On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, a precious life was ripped from our midst.

Douglas Ketcham set himself in the heart of America's business center. He represented the American dream: Hard work and dedication in pursuit of success for himself, his family and community.

On September 11th, Douglas Ketcham reported for work on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center. This day of infamy will remain in American hearts forever—while Douglas Ketcham and many others were conducting the nation's business, terrorists ruthlessly took their lives. Because Mr. Ketcham lived as a symbol of America, he was targeted by those who plot the demise of freedom and democracy.

We owe Douglas Ketcham for paying the price with his life for our freedom, and we will always remember his sacrifice. Let us honor his memory.

**TRIBUTE TO THE GREATER KANSAS  
CITY CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN RED CROSS**

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 2, 2001*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross for its work and sacrifice in honor of all the people who both survived and who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks on September 11th, 2001, their families and their friends.

These terrorist attacks mark a solemn moment in America's history. American men and