

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

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 organizations like the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross 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 11th terrorist attacks, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross has assisted in local telethons, blood drives, and volunteer efforts to support the nationwide relief effort to provide for the grieving families and rescue workers. The patriotism and persistence of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross 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.

A TRIBUTE TO THE COMMISSION FOR THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women on the recent celebration of its twentieth anniversary. The Commission has been working to end domestic violence and sexual assault through education and prevention programs throughout the city of Santa Cruz in my district. I am pleased to be able to honor its work here in the U.S. Congress.

The Commission contributes an abundance of life-enhancing, and often life-saving, resources to the city of Santa Cruz. Its violence prevention initiatives include self-defense classes, support services for sexual assault and domestic violence victims, violence prevention programs for lesbians, and workshops for men who want to overcome violence ten-

dencies toward women. It directs educational programs to teach leadership to teens, and age-appropriate awareness training in schools. The Commission also offers legal advocacy including paralegal services and temporary restraining order assistance, and police officer training. The Commission engages in public awareness campaigns, including outreach to often-overlooked populations, offering assistance in English and in Spanish. It is clear that the Commission does much to improve the well-being of women and of all the community members of Santa Cruz.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the commitment and diligence of all those who work for the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women. Its twentieth anniversary is a tribute to the critical role they play in our area, and I wish them continued success during the next twenty years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on Rollcall number 355. I was unavoidably detained and therefore, could not vote. Had I been present, I would have voted aye.

I ask unanimous consent that this statement be printed in the appropriate part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND RETIREMENT OF DR. JAMES VOSS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, to aid and direct an educational institution is a noble task and is worthy of recognition from this prestigious body. On October 8, 2001, Dr. James Voss will announce his retirement from the Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital. As Dr. Voss steps down, I would like to recognize the contributions that he has made to so many individuals and to Colorado State University.

Stemming from a childhood on a farm and exposure to plowing fields with draft horses, James used his knowledge in 1977 to break ground for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital with a team of horses. He has been an integral member of University community for 43 years dedicated countless hours of service during this time. He has served as the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and offered numerous innovations and new ideas to the field of veterinary medicine. Due to his lasting impression on the University, it will rename the celebrated hospital the James L. Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital. While James remains humble in his tribute, his efforts have raised the national reputation of the Colorado State University veterinary college, which is now recognized as the number two school to attend in the nation for animal health and research according to US News and World Report.

Dr. Voss received his degree from the same institution in veterinary medicine and then re-

turned to his alma mater to occupy the academic positions of Department Chair, Director of the Veterinary Hospital and Assistant Dean prior to becoming the Dean in 1986. Under his leadership, the research budget has increased, a number of academic programs were established and the academic curriculum bolstered.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. James Voss has left a lasting mark on Colorado State University and all of its students. Dr. Voss has made significant advancements in the field of veterinary medicine applicable all over the world. As James celebrates his retirement, I would like to congratulate Dr. James Voss on all of his accomplishments and extend my warmest regards and best wishes to him throughout the many years to come. He is an outstanding administrator and educator and he should be very proud of everything that he has achieved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2586) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2002 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes.

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Chairman, I rise today to give my qualified support to H.R. 2586, the 2002 Defense Authorization Act and to explain the reasoning behind my vote. Although I support a strong and effective national defense, I have opposed Defense authorization and appropriations bills in the past. Many of the funds included in past bills would have gone to purchase weapon systems and other items that the Pentagon did not request and whose efficacy was questionable. I voted against past bills because I believe Congress must more effectively target scarce resources to all our national priorities.

However, one of the reasons that I am supportive of this legislation today is the fact that we are heading into a potentially protracted and difficult military conflict and it is important that our nation's armed services have necessary and appropriate resources available to them quickly. Additionally, I voted for H.R. 2586 with the understanding that certain controversial and questionable provisions of the bill will be worked out in conference with the Senate.

The Defense Authorization bill contains provisions that will provide increased benefits to the men and women of our armed forces, including retirees, and their families. The bill will include the largest increase in pay for members of our nation's military in 19 years. Additionally, this pay raise will be targeted to provide lower-paid enlistees with greater benefits.

With housing prices rising across the country, lower-paid members of our voluntary military forces sometimes struggle to pay their housing costs. The Defense Authorization bill would effectively reduce the current out-of-pocket housing costs for servicemembers from