

Regional Transportation Act" with my colleagues Delegate NORTON and Representative WYNN.

Mr. Speaker, the metropolitan Washington D.C. region now faces some of the longest and most expensive commutes in the nation. The commuting hours have grown in length to include not just morning and evening rush hour but a growing segment of the entire workday and weekends as well. Moreover, our congestion problems are more than just a transportation problem. They are an economic problem, a quality of life issue, and now, an environmental issue as well. Automobile exhaust is now complicating this region's compliance with requirements of the Clean Air Act.

Unfortunately, as we look to the future, the situation only grows worse. For the period of 1990 through 2020, this region can expect both a 43 percent increase in population and 43 percent increase in employment. This growth and increased dependency on the automobile is expected to increase by 79 percent the number of vehicle miles traveled in the region by 2020. The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government estimates that transportation spending is falling short of this region's transportation needs by more than \$1.43 billion annually.

Any solution to current and future congestion demands strategic investment in both our road and mass transit system. It demands better land use and planning decisions and better interjurisdictional cooperation. And, it also demands that this region come together and raise additional revenue to finance priority transportation projects that will provide immediate congestion relief. Now, may finally be the time for this region to come together in a shared vision to raise new revenue and finance specific congestion relief projects that otherwise will not be built.

It may not be a popular idea, but this region needs to do more. I think the key to public support is identifying a list of priority projects that could be completed on a fast track providing the public with the assurances that their additional tax dollars will buy specific congestion relief. A large number of urban communities have already established a dedicated funding source for their transit systems. Where is this region's?

This region needs to look long term and embrace the vision its predecessors did when they created the regional agreements and compacts that created Metro or the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. The Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act I am introducing today will help fulfill a new vision and help bring relief to the current gridlock:

(1) It empowers the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board in consultation with local jurisdictions and the public to produce a list of critical transportation projects and revenue sources that will address this region's growing congestion crisis;

(2) It establishes a Corporation with the power to accept revenue and issue debt to provide timely funding for projects that have been agreed to by the region;

(3) It grants congressional approval of a regional compact needed to help meet the region's long-term transportation needs; and

(4) It provides \$60 million in matching federal grants as an incentive to encourage the creation of the federal corporation.

The Metropolitan Washington Regional Transportation Act will help create the political

structure and funding priorities needed to implement a new vision.

WORLD PEACE PRIZE AWARD FOR 2001

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, today the World Peace Prize Awarding Council will award its highest honor, the World Peace Prize, to the Vice President of Taiwan, Annette Lu. The Vice President will be the first woman to receive the award.

Ms. Lu has had a distinguished career in public service, and has been concerned in particular to promote democracy and open, accountable government in Taiwan and to further women's rights. In 1979, when Taiwan still had an authoritarian government, she made a brief speech on human rights during a public demonstration later known as the Kaohsiung Incident. Along with many other opposition figures, she was sent to prison for 12 years. After five years in prison she was released to undergo medical treatment, and promptly resumed her campaign for progressive political change on Taiwan. By the early 1990s, Taiwan had largely completed its successful transition to democratic governance. Ms. Lu entered politics in 1993 and became Vice President in March 2000—the highest-ranking woman to be elected to office in 5,000 years of Chinese history.

While Ms. Lu has taken a controversial position on Taiwan independence, one which from a U.S. perspective is beyond the contemplation of the three communiques and the Taiwan Relations Act that underpin U.S.-China relations, the heroic commitment she has made to the democratic evolution on Taiwan deserves the commendation of the world community. We honor Vice President Lu for her commitment to democracy and congratulate her for receiving the World Peace Prize.

TURKEY'S SUPPORT CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS IN AFGHANISTAN—AND BEYOND

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today, the political rule of the Taliban is over. They have been defeated in the north. They have fled from Kabul. They are heading for the hills.

Winston Churchill noted more than 60 years ago as Britain withstood the ravages of the German bombing attacks, this is not the beginning of the end but rather, "the end of the beginning."

We too, are at the end of the beginning of our worldwide effort to combat terrorism. It is a job that we must lead, but it is a job that we cannot do alone. In the earliest moments after September 11th it seemed that just a few nations would stand with us publicly and actively. One of those nations was our longtime friend and ally, Turkey.

Turkey is no stranger to terrorism. For more than 10 years it waged a fight against internal terrorists who murdered its diplomats and killed its citizens. Over the space of that decade, more than 30,000 Turks lost their lives. Yet, Turkey never hesitated in its support to us.

Within days, Turkish airspace, infrastructure and military organization was pledged in aid to the United States. Turkey went farther. On November 1st, Turkey became the third nation, after the United States and Britain, to commit ground forces in Afghanistan. It dedicated a 90-person special operations group to the ground effort.

This gesture is more than symbolic. It is real. These troops have engaged in short and long term reconnaissance missions. They have served as guides for other allied forces. They provide military assistance to humanitarian relief efforts. They work to protect citizens from harm. Turkey's knowledge of Afghanistan and its longstanding links to anti-Taliban forces make this small unit an important cog in our coalition machine.

Moreover, Turkey's commitment sends a larger signal to the Muslim world. As a democracy, indeed as the only secular democracy in the Muslim world, Turkey sends a signal that Islam and democracy are not incompatible. It is an important one for the millions of Muslims worldwide who wonder whether this effort is a disguised attack on their religion.

Mr. Speaker, as important as Turkey's decision was to send troops to Afghanistan, it should not surprise anyone. Turkey has been with us for 50 years in peace and in conflict. They stand with us today, and for that we should be grateful.

HONORING EDDY AND SALLY ARNOLD ON THEIR 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as the United States Congressman representing Nashville, Tennessee, I rise today to honor country music legend Eddy Arnold and his wife Sally on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary.

My father, Governor Frank G. Clement, enjoyed a unique friendship with Arnold throughout his lifetime. In fact, my brothers and I considered him to be a "second father" to our family, offering advice and wisdom about many issues. His family values remain strong today, as does his status as a living legend.

A native of Henderson, Tennessee, Arnold is a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, having sold more than 85 million records in his career. As one of the top country music performers of all time, Eddy Arnold holds a number of records in the industry, such as being the only performer to chart on Billboard in seven consecutive decades. Further, he is still ranked as the Top Country Recording Artist of All Time and holds the record for Most Country Records on the Charts.

Known as the Ambassador of Country Music, he has received numerous prestigious awards including the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year Award, the Academy of Country Music's Pioneer Award, and

the President's Award from the Songwriter's Guild. Because of continued devotion to fans, his fan base around the globe remains loyal and strong after 55 years in the music industry.

There is no doubt Arnold's impressive success can be equally shared with Sally, his wife and partner of 60 years, who has remained by his side throughout both rich and lean times. It is this partnership of which I stand to honor today.

IN MEMORY OF NAZAR SINGH
FAGOORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently Nazir Singh Fagoora, a Sikh leader from Fresno, California, passed away. December 3 would have been his 86th birthday. I was informed of his passing by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, to whom he was an advisor.

Nazar Singh Fagoora believed deeply in freedom for all people. He supported the struggle to free the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, with financial contributions and with his political support. In the Fresno Gurdwara, he would post letters from the Council of Khalistan on the bulletin board to inform his fellow Sikhs of what was going on back in Punjab, Khalistan, and to encourage them to get involved in the freedom movement.

Nazar Singh Fagoora was a committed, dedicated Sikh, and a staunch Khalistani. He led a simple life. He was active in many efforts to help his fellow Sikhs, whether by trying to help people in the local community or by his financial, moral, political, and personal support of the freedom movement. I know that his family, friends, and the members of his Gurdwara will greatly miss him. Let him serve to remind us all of what it is to be a good citizen. I know I speak for everyone here when I say let God bless him and his family.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release in Mr. Fagoora's memory. I would like to place that in the RECORD at this time.

SIKH NATION MOURNS PASSING OF S. NAZAR
SINGH FAGOORA

FRESNO SIKH WAS DEDICATED SERVANT OF
KHALSA PANTH AND ALL PEOPLE

WASHINGTON, DC, November 20, 2001.—The Sikh Nation is mourning the loss of Sardar Nazir Singh Fagoora, a dedicated Sikh leader from Fresno, California, who died at the age of 85. He was a dedicated servant of the Khalsa Panth, and he will be greatly missed. "Sardar Nazir Singh was a great human being, a committed, dedicated Sikh, and a staunch Khalistani," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization leading the Sikh Nation's struggle for the independence of the Sikh homeland. Khalistan is the name of the independent Sikh homeland declared on October 7, 1987.

"Sardar Nazir Singh gave large amounts of money in support of the struggle to liberate Khalistan. He led a simple fulfilling life, according to the principles laid down by our Gurus," Dr. Aulakh said. "He was a true follower of Guru. He was a truly noble and dedicated Sikh," Dr. Aulakh said.

"Sardar Nazir Singh really served the Guru very well by serving the Khalsa Panth," Dr. Aulakh said. "He was active in many ways in efforts to help the Khalsa Panth, whether by trying to help people in the local Sangat or by his financial, moral, political, and personal support of the freedom movement," he said. "In the Fresno Gurdwara, he made sure every letter written by this office was posted on the walls of the Gurdwara as soon as it arrived. The Sangat would browse through those documents carefully," Dr. Aulakh said. "I know that I will miss his counsel and advice. I don't see anyone in this country who can fill the vacuum created by his departure," Dr. Aulakh said.

"Sardar Nazir Singh understood that Sikhs will continue to suffer oppression in India and will continue to be misunderstood in this country as long as we do not have our own country," said Dr. Aulakh. "This kind of repression will continue as long as Khalistan continues to live under Indian occupation," he said. "Only in a sovereign, free Khalistan will Sikhs live with honor and dignity where the Sikh religion can flourish," he said. "Nations that do not have political power vanish."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. More than 52,000 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation in Punjab as "worse than a genocide." As General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state." U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

"Sardar Nazir Singh will be greatly missed by his family and by all Sikhs who care about freedom and about the dignity of the Khalsa Panth," Dr. Aulakh said. "May Guru give peace to this departed, noble soul," Dr. Aulakh added.

HONORING THE EMPLOYEES OF
THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE AT
LANTA DISTRICT NORTH METRO
PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION
CENTER

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, employees of the United States Postal Service have long been irreplaceable components in our country's system of commerce and communication. Since the September 11th terrorist attacks, and the subsequent Anthrax threats, our postal workers have been asked to step up to the front lines in protecting the citizens of the United States. That is why I would like to highlight one of the foremost distribution centers of Georgia, the Atlanta District North Metro Processing and Distribution Center.

There are over 1700 workers at the North Metro Center, who distribute over 3,000,000 pieces of mail a day. Since the September 11th attacks, their working environment has been turned upside down with threats of Anthrax, suspicious packages, and evacuations. Employees have been asked to protect themselves every day against the dangers of bioterrorism by wearing gloves and masks.

Postal workers have been called on by their country to be watchdogs for the terror we now face as a nation. They are asked every day to take on workplace challenges and pressures they probably never thought about before. The postal service has become an invaluable asset against the acts of terrorism that has plagued our country for the past two months and its workers have stepped up to protect their fellow Americans without hesitation. That is why I ask my fellow members to rise and give thanks to the workers at the Atlanta District North Metro Processing and Distribution Center for their bravery and dedication to serving their community and America.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTIAN BROTHERS
UNIVERSITY FOR 130 YEARS
OF SERVICE

HON. HAROLD E. FORD, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2001

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay recognition to Memphis' Christian Brothers University as the school marks its 130th year of service.

After nearly a decade of work and persuasion by citizens across the Memphis and Mid-South community, November 19, 1871, finally arrived. On that day, a procession of celebrants made the storied trek from St. Peter's Catholic Church to the Memphis Female College, changing the name of the destination to Christian Brothers College.

From the beginning, this institution stood as part of the continuing legacy of St. John de la Salle, whose founding of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian Schools, or Frates Scholarum Christianarum, continues as one of the world's prolific educational systems. With the death of de la Salle in 1719 and his canonization in 1900, this system flourished to, by the middle of the 20th century, include more than 20,000 brothers teaching nearly half a million students worldwide.

In Memphis, the students who attended the first day of classes at the newly formed institution numbered 26.

The first president, Brother Maurelian, served two terms for 33 years. It was during these formative years that the institution made several changes and transition that further distinguished it as an educational institution of great worth.

The school functioned as a combined elementary school, high school and college, granting high school diplomas as well as bachelor's and master's degrees. This continued from 1871 until 1915, when the college had to close its college division temporarily due to the inordinate amount of students that enlisted for the war effort.

Following this period, the school reopened as a Junior College, granting Associate of Arts Degrees beginning in 1942. Some 11 years later, the Junior College was expanded into a 4-year institution offering bachelor's degrees to students once again.

Since this time of renewal, the college has expanded tremendously in size and coursework offered. The Master's Program was reinstated in 1987 with exponential growth in size, as reflected by the official change of the school to Christian Brothers University.