

several Governor's, to assist in difficult situations, and he served the people of Delaware admirably. His ability to take on the toughest jobs, reach consensus and have positive outcomes for our community were unsurpassed.

As he retires from working for the State of Delaware I want to honor and thank him on behalf of the people of Delaware for his commitment to making our state a better place for all of us to live and work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JAMES H. MALONEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, due to the weather I was unavoidably detained on Tuesday, March 6, 2001, and missed rollcall votes 26 and 27. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 26 and "aye" on rollcall vote 27.

Additionally, I was detained on Wednesday, March 7, 2001, and missed rollcall vote 28. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall vote 28.

ARMY RESERVE OFFICER NOT ALLOWED TO WEAR RELIGIOUS SYMBOL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Trilok Singh Puniani is a member of the Army Reserve who is being denied the right to wear the symbol of his religion. Dr. Puniani is a Sikh and is required by his religion to wear his turban. It is one of the five symbols of Sikhism. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has written to the President on Dr. Puniani's behalf.

Dr. Puniani joined the Army reserve in 1999. There had been a exemption granted that permitted the wearing of a turban while in uniform and there are three Sikhs who have achieved the rank of Colonel who wear their turbans. However, new regulations adopted in July 1999, just a month before Dr. Puniani joined the Army Reserve, denied this exemption for those who joined the service after 1984.

Mr. Speaker, the turban is not a hat. It is a religious symbol like the cross or the star of David. It should be afforded the same treatment.

One concern about this regulation is that it might discourage Sikhs and other minorities from joining the military services of the United States. Our armed services need manpower. We should not be discouraging anyone from joining. These minority Americans are important to our country and to the Army.

Canada and Britain have significant numbers of Sikhs in their military. They both allow these Sikhs to wear their turbans. Why can't we?

Whatever your religious beliefs, the military should treat you equally. This is about civil rights and equal treatment. We cannot give a preference to any religion, but we also cannot discriminate against any religion. I strongly

urge the Secretary of Defense to restore the exemption so that the religious expression of Dr. Puniani and others will be respected.

I insert Dr. Puniani's complaint and Dr. Aulakh's letter to the President into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
1901 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Suite 802,
Washington, DC, February 20, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Today I received by email a letter from Dr. Trilok Singh Puniani, who is a practicing physician and a member of the Army Reserve. He wrote to me about the regulation of July 1999 denying Sikhs who joined the military after 1984 the ability to wear their turbans.

The turban is a symbol of the Sikh religion. A practicing Sikh is symbolized by five symbols, one of which is uncut hair covered by a turban. In view of this, Dr. Puniani writes that "this new regulation will deprive the opportunity of joining the US Armed Forces of many aspiring Sikhs who have tremendous potential to serve the country." I agree with him. This would be a loss for America and for its armed forces.

Today there are over half a million Sikh citizens in the United States. They would be deprived of the opportunity to serve their country, the United States of America.

Not to allow Sikhs in the military to practice their Sikh religion is discriminatory and bad for morale. Sikhs fought valiantly in World Wars I and II along with the Allied forces in Europe and Africa. They suffered heavy casualties. The Sikh soldiers wore their turbans. Belgium erected a special monument to the Sikh forces in Ypres.

The British and Canadian forces encourage Sikhs to maintain their Sikh appearance. I respectfully urge you to follow their lead and order the armed forces of the United States to allow Sikhs to practice their religion. By so doing, you would raise the morale and effectiveness of the armed forces. America allows freedom of religion and the armed forces would be the best place to put it into practice.

Thank you for your attention to this problem. God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
PRESIDENT,
Council of Khalistan.

Enclosure: Email from Dr. Puniani.

[Received by email, February 20, 2001]

Re Denial of Sikh attire in the U.S. Army.

RESPECTED DR. AULAKH, I would like to bring to your attention that I am in the U.S. Army Reserve since Aug. 1999. According to army regulation there was a provision to an exception for religious accommodation to wear turban while in the uniform. However, with new regulation published in July 1999 retroactive as of 1984, the request for religious accommodation will not be entertained, with exception of Sikhs who joined the U.S. Army prior to 1984.

To my knowledge, there are three other turbaned Sikhs in the US Army in the rank of Colonels. I am not sure about their date of commission. Those of us who joined the army after 1984 may have to separate honorably.

My concern is that this new regulation will deprive the opportunity of joining the US Armed Forces of many aspiring Sikhs who have tremendous potential to serve the country. America is the champion of democracy and we are being discriminated. I believe as physicians and in other fields we are a valuable asset to the US Army.

The Sikh soldiers are well respected in the British and Canadian Royal Armed Forces and encouraged to maintain their Sikh appearance. Why this discrimination in the US?

I think that this matter be brought to the attention of the Senators and the Congress in Washington for us Sikhs to be part and parcel of this nation and allowed to serve the country with pride.

I am also writing to my local congressman and the unit commanders of the US Army Reserve.

I am looking forward to seeing you in person when you visit us in Fresno. I will be happy to provide you with more information if needed.

Wish you all the best and a long life.
TRILOK S. PUNIANI,
Fresno, CA.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on March 6 and 7, I was unable to cast my votes on rollcall votes: No. 26 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 724; No. 27 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 727; No. 28 on approving the journal; No. 29 on agreeing to the resolution H. Res. 79; No. 30 on motion to suspend the rules and agree on H. Con. Res. 31; No. 31 on motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 624 as amended; No. 32 on motion to suspend the rules and agree on H. Con. Res. 47; and No. 33 on passage of S.J. Res. 6. Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on roll call votes 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, and 32; and "nay" on roll call votes 29, and 33.

IN MEMORY OF STEVEN S. CAUDLE

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, the Henrico County Division of Police has lost one of its best. Steven S. Caudle was suddenly taken from his wife, Susan, and two daughters, Kristen, 19, and Jamie, 15 when the car in which he was riding veered off the road on January 26, 2001.

A Richmond native, Mr. Caudle was a 21-year veteran of the Henrico County Division of Police. Upon graduating from Highland Springs High School, he served four years in the army as a military policeman. He then returned home to Henrico County and began his law enforcement career. He worked for a number of years in the Street Crimes Unit before moving to a job providing technical support on narcotics investigations. Eventually, he returned to his roots and served an additional four years with the Uniform Division.

Described by friends and family as a soft-spoken southern gentleman with a great sense of humor and an incredible laugh, Mr. Caudle was an enthusiastic collector of Civil War artifacts. During his free time he liked to play pool, go fishing for rockfish in the Chesapeake Bay, and spend time with his daughters skiing and tubing on the Pamunkey River.

Those who knew him best lauded his skills as an officer, a person, and most importantly as a father. According to Sgt. J.J. Riani, “the thing that came most naturally to him was being his daughters’ father.” His wife of nearly 25 years described Mr. Caudle as “the best detective there ever was. If there was a crime out there, he could solve it. He lived life to its fullest. He didn’t waste a moment of living. He was always there for his friends, willing to help anybody at anytime for anything.”

Perhaps Mr. Caudle’s legacy can best be described by his children. Daughter Jamie, 15, said, “I think my dad was like probably the coolest parent ever. I could tell him anything. He was not only my father but my best friend. I loved him and he loved me and I know I made him proud.” Older daughter Kristen, 19, said, “Daddies are supposed to be heroes. They’re supposed to be strong. They’re not supposed to die.”

Today we remember a true hero. Steve Caudle put service before self and family ahead of all others. Steve will be missed not only by the people who knew him, but by those in the community that he served with dignity, respect and true heroism.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOMERVILLE ARTS COUNCIL

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Somerville (Massachusetts) Arts Council and to Cecily Miller, who served as its director for fifteen years. Ms. Miller transformed a small, under-funded coterie of art lovers into a powerful community force. It is no exaggeration to say that Ms. Miller used art to forge community. Somerville has historically been a city of immigrants and working people. During the decade I served as Mayor, Somerville experienced some gentrification but no loss of neighborliness. Cecily Miller played no small part in that achievement. To bring people together, she created ART BEAT, an annual celebration of arts, crafts, music, and dance that draws large, orderly, and animated crowds to our public squares.

In addition to the public festivals, I would like to cite three of her most imaginative projects:

(1) The Garden Awards—each year Somerville gardens are displayed in brilliant photographs, and the gardens are as different as our citizens. Some of the backyards are restrained and minimalist, some explode with flowers and vegetables bursting through chain-link fences. The photograph in my Longworth office shows an exuberant man, in ripe middle age, holding aloft dahlias. People have different ideas of the way they want their own yard to look, but no difficulty in recognizing the beauty of their neighbors’.

(2) The Illumination Tour—Somerville householders illuminate their homes and gardens for the winter holidays. Cecily Miller recognized these decorations as a genuine art form, and organized a trolley tour of the most spectacular installations. Again, she helped citizens to share and celebrate their neighbors’ observances.

(3) The Mystic River Mural—a public housing projects abuts an inter-state highway that

obscures the Mystic River. Cecily Miller raised grant money so that teenagers from the project could work with professional artists on a mural. They covered the barrier with imaginative approaches to the water. Now, instead of graffiti, we see a river and a riverbank: reeds, herons, people fishing, swimming, chatting. Most important, young people learned that they could transform an ugly scene into a thing of beauty.

I regret that Cecily Miller is leaving the Somerville Arts Council. I am deeply grateful for all that she has done for the people of Somerville.

HONORING 21 MEMBERS OF NATIONAL GUARD KILLED IN CRASH ON MARCH 3, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the 21 brave men who died while serving their nation. Serving in the military is a tough and demanding job not only for those who choose to serve, but the families who are forced to live without them, who wave goodbye knowing they may never see them again.

I met recently with General Harrison with the Florida National Guard, and we talked about the great work the Guard was doing, all while being called for more and more missions. We are particularly thankful for the Guard in my home state of Florida because of the great support they offer. Whether it’s fighting our wildfires or preparing for our hurricanes, the Guard is always there for us in our time of need.

I speak for my colleagues and all my constituents in thanking every man and woman who puts their life on the line for this country. Not just when tragedy strikes, but for every day that you protect us from harm.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND CLAUDIA COLEMAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize Bill and Claudia Coleman for their gracious donation to the University of Colorado. On January 16, 2001, University of Colorado president Elizabeth Hoffman accepted their donation, the single largest gift ever given to an American University. The gift, totaling \$250 million, will be used to establish the University of Colorado Coleman Institute for Disabilities. The program will fund advanced research and development of innovative technologies intended to enhance the lives of people with cognitive disabilities.

Cognitive disabilities are associated with a number of conditions, such as mental retardation and developmental retardation. “This will make CU the international center of excellence in developing adaptive assistance tech-

nologies, based on advanced biomedical and computer science research and computer science research, for people with cognitive disabilities,” Hoffman said.

Bill is the founder and chairman of BEA Systems of San Jose, California, and his wife Claudia, is a former manager with Hewlett Packard. An Air Force Academy graduate and former executive with Sun Microsystems, Bill said the idea for the donation came from a tour of CU’s Center for LifeLong Learning and Design. Bill and Claudia are no strangers to cognitive disabilities. They have a niece with the disability, and they understand the benefits and the promise new technologies offer.

The Coleman’s plan to play an active role in the institute. They said the “incredibly strong” team of researchers at CU played a decisive role in the decision to give the University the endowment. “We have witnessed the challenges this population faces every day with problem solving, reasoning skills and understanding and using language,” Bill said. “I passionately believe that we as a society have the intelligence and the responsibility to develop technologies that will expand the ability of those with cognitive disabilities to learn, to understand and to communicate,” he added.

Mr. Speaker, this is an unprecedented gift by both Mr. and Mrs. Coleman. Their generosity and vision will help countless Americans now and in the future. For that, they deserve the thanks and praise of this body.

RECOGNIZING THE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT RECENTLY SIGNED BY THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA, TOGETHER WITH PARTNERS IN ACADEMIA AND INDUSTRY

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 8, 2001

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, over the past several weeks, we have been painfully reminded of how heavily our economy relies on affordable, abundant energy. The events that we’ve experienced—from massive supply disruptions in the west to sharp price increases in the east—also have opened many eyes to the need to devise a sound national energy policy.

Along with a number of my colleagues in this House, I have long advocated the benefits of more fully incorporating coal into America’s energy mix. The abundance and value of our nation’s coal reserves are well-documented, and are absolutely key to moving our country toward the desirable goal of greater energy independence.

That is why I am pleased by the memorandum of understanding signed January 30, 2001, in Morgantown, W.Va., between partners in government, industry and academia. They have pledged to team together on coal research, development and commercialization initiatives—initiatives which will enable West Virginia to build on its role as a leader in the search for national and international energy solutions.

I would like to recognize the signatories to this memorandum, beginning with our distinguished former colleague, the Honorable Robert E. Wise Jr., who now serves as governor