

The fact that Vaisakhi Day this year coincided with the Jewish celebration of Passover, which celebrates the escape from slavery, and the Christian celebration of Good Friday and Easter, celebrating the triumph of life over death, should underline the importance of freedom, life, and basic human rights for all people.

American is the hope of the world. It is the land of freedom. We must take a stand for freedom. It is time to stop American aid and trade with India until it respects basic human rights. Also, it is time to declare our support for self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and all the other nations seeking their freedom. This would be a great way to celebrate Vaisakhi and Easter, by doing our part to bring freedom to all the people and nations of the subcontinent.

I am including the Council of Khalistan's press release on Vaisakhi Day in the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

A TIME FOR FREEDOM

Washington, D.C., April 9, 2001—Citing the words of Guru Gobind Singh, who said "Recognize ye all the human race as one," Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, extends Happy Vaisakhi Day wishes to the Sikh Nation, Happy Easter wishes to the Christian community, and Happy Passover wishes to the Jewish community. "It is interesting that these celebrations and the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, author of the American Declaration of Independence, all come together at this time," Dr. Aulakh said. The Council of Khalistan is the organization leading the Sikh Nation's struggle for freedom for its homeland, Khalistan.

Vaisakhi Day, which marks the formation of the Khalsa Panth by guru Gobind Singh in 1699, falls on April 13, which is also Mr. Jefferson's birthday. This year, April 13 is also Good Friday in the Christian calendar. April 15 is Easter. The Jewish holiday of Passover started this past weekend and runs for eight days, concluding this coming weekend.

Passover celebrates the Jewish people's escape from slavery in Egypt. Good Friday is the observance of Jesus's death on the cross, followed on Sunday by the Resurrection. It celebrates not only the resurrection of Jesus, but also the triumph of life over death and the resurrection of spirit in every person.

"The coming-together of these important occasions is a time to celebrate freedom," said Dr. Aulakh. "As the Jewish community celebrates the escape of their ancestors from slavery in Egypt, let us rededicate our efforts to the cause of freedom for the Sikh Nation," he said. "As Thomas Jefferson wrote, when a government becomes destructive of the inalienable rights of any people, 'it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it.' Guru instructed the Sikh Nation to oppose tyranny wherever it is found. Let us step up the struggle against the tyranny that engulfs our own people," he said. "As Christians celebrate the triumph of life, let us devote ourselves to protecting the life of our Sikh brothers and sisters and the Sikh Nation by liberating our homeland, Khalistan, from Indian occupation."

Dr. Aulakh called on the Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan to observe Vaisakhi as a day of prayer and introspection, not working or doing business with the Indian government, but taking a day to go to the Gurdwara and celebrate the lives of the Gurus and remember their words. He also urged them to pray for freedom for the Sikh Nation and also for every other people in the world.

"India is not a democracy for Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, and other minorities," said

Dr. Aulakh. "Congressman Rohrabacher was right when he said that for minorities 'India might as well be Nazi Germany.'" Police witnesses have confirmed that the police tortured and murdered the former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Gurdev Singh Kaunke, and human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra.

Sikhs ruled Punjab up to 1849 when the British conquered the subcontinent. Sikhs were equal partners during the transfer of power from the British. The Muslim leader Jinnah got Pakistan for his people, the Hindu leaders got India, but the Sikh leadership was fooled by the Hindu leadership promising that Sikh would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India and the Sikhs took their share with India. Sikhism was not even recognized in the Indian constitution as a separate religion, while Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc., were recognized. Discrimination against the Sikh Nation took place in every sphere. After the Golden Temple attack, the Sikh Nation stepped up its struggle to achieve its God-given right to the free. Tens of thousands of Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Sikh Nation demands freedom for Khalistan.

The government of India has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1947, over 70,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipurals, Daltis (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." Government-allied Hindu militants have murdered priests, and raped nuns. Hindu radicals, members of the Bajrang Dal, burned missionary Graham Stewart Staines and his two sons, ages 10 and 8, to death while they surrounded the victims and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god.

"Democracies don't commit genocide," Dr. Aulakh said. "India should stop the repression and allow a plebiscite on the future status of Kashmir, Nagaland, and Khalistan," he said. "Only freedom will bring peace and justice in South Asia."

TRIBUTE TO DOUG STRUYK

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend our sincere congratulations to Doug Struyk, President and CEO of the Christian Health Care Center of Wyckoff, New Jersey. He is being honored as the Wyckoff Family YMCA's Man of the Year for 2000 at the nineteenth annual Friends of the Y Banquet to be held on May 3, 2001.

Mr. Struyk is receiving this award because of his vision and humane leadership of the Christian Health Care Center and in creating a state-of-the-art, on-site day care center. The day care center is operated by the Wyckoff YMCA. We all know that quality childcare is vital for working families. When that childcare is available at the workplace it makes it even more valuable. Knowing that their children are in a safe, learning, and loving environment allows parents to perform better at home and at work. In addition, having the childcare on-site at the workplace allows the parent to have lunch with their child or just "pop in" for a visit.

Mr. Struyk's work at the Christian Health Care Center has truly been amazing. He joined the Center in 1990 as chief financial officer and moved up to CEO and president in 1994. He has created a dynamic and caring organization that has served the surrounding community for many generations. He has inspired many with his personal touch in caring for the elderly.

I speak from personal experience. My beloved mother, Margaret Scafati, was cared for with compassion and professionalism of the highest quality.

In addition to all of this, he is actively building a partnership with the federal government to address many issues facing our society. On April 25, 2001, Mr. Struyk joined us in Washington, D.C. to participate in the first annual Faith-Based Summit. Hundreds of faith-based leaders from across the nation came together at the Summit. Mr. Struyk is a leader in the area and his knowledge and experience was greatly appreciated and of great value.

The Center is a private, non-profit institution, that was established in 1911 by members of the Reformed and Christian Reformed Churches. The mission of the Center is to provide a continuum of high quality services consistent with the Christian principles on which the institution was founded. Care is provided to those in need of long term care, mental health care and residential living in a compassionate loving environment. The Center consists of a 251 bed skilled nursing home, a 40 unit supportive senior housing complex, a residential living facility and a psychiatric hospital. The most recent construction is the 80 unit Longview assisted living facility that includes the new child care center.

Doug Struyk's leadership and dedication is continuing the well deserved reputation of the Christian Health Care Center as one of the finest of the kind in our great nation. Our hearts and prayers go with him and his dedicated staff.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN TAX ACT: TO AMEND THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986 TO CLARIFY THE AMOUNT OF THE CHARITABLE DEDUCTION ALLOWABLE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join my colleagues from Ohio, TONY HALL, in introducing the "Good Samaritan Tax Act", a bill that has been introduced in the two previous Congresses. The purpose is to help meet the demand for food for the needy. The economic boom of recent years has not eliminated the need to feed the hungry. In fact, as more and more citizens are removed from the welfare rolls many turn to food banks for help.

A recent U.S. Department of Agriculture report indicated that in 1999, 10 percent of American households, comprising 31 million individuals (including 12 million children), suffer from hunger. According to a recent Conference of Mayors report, demand for emergency food has increased, and over 13 percent of this demand goes unmet.

The bill would increase the incentives for restaurants, farms and other businesses in the food industry to donate food to food banks, homeless shelters and other charitable organizations. The Internal Revenue Code actually discourages contributions because of the uncertainty regarding the tax treatment of donations of food as compared to donations of other inventory. The bill has been designed to correct that deficiency.

We believe this bill would remove the uncertainty and provide the necessary incentive for businesses to increase their food donations. This would be accomplished by adding a provision to Section 170(e) of the Code that would indicate that the fair market value of donated food is determined, (1) without regard to internal policies, lack of market, or similar circumstances, whether the food cannot or will not be sold, and, (2) if applicable, by taking into account the price at which similar products are sold by the taxpayer at the time of contribution. These have been points of controversy with the Internal Revenue Service, causing uncertainty as well as disincentives to incur the administrative and other costs necessary for the proper handling and preservation of food being donated. In addition, Section 170(e) would be amended to include businesses in addition to C corporations, as the current law provides.

We hope our colleagues will join us in cosponsoring this legislation.

FBI DIRECTOR FREEH RETIRES AFTER A PROUD RECORD OF SERVICE TO HIS NATION

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that today we learned of the planned retirement of FBI Director Louis Freeh, who has served his nation so well. For 27 years he has served his country as an FBI agent, federal prosecutor, and a sitting federal judge, and having worked tirelessly here and around the globe to enhance the rule of law.

Our country will surely miss his dedication, his professionalism and integrity, which he displayed each and every day he served as the Director of our nation's leading federal law enforcement agency, the FBI, as he led the fight against transnational crime and terrorism.

Director Freeh brought vision, foresight, and innovation to the battle against crime and terrorism, both at home and abroad. In the area of foreign crime fighting and the battle against international terrorism, which I am most familiar with, he wisely expanded the FBI's presence abroad to fight transnational crime and international terrorism long before it reached our nation.

I was particularly proud to work hand and hand with Director Freeh in establishing and maintaining the first ever International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Budapest, Hungary. It is today the model for international training and development of regional cooperative police relationships around the globe. There is now an ILEA operating in Asia, and others planned for Africa, and our own Western Hemisphere. We will miss Director Freeh's vision and leadership.

As he himself said today of those overseas efforts, among others: "These measures already have proven invaluable in the international fight against terrorism, organized crime, cyber-crime, and transnational crimes in the Information Age." We fully agree with his assessment.

Finally, I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing our good friend and fellow New Yorker, Director Louis Freeh, and his family, much success and joy in his future endeavors, whatever, or wherever they may be in the private sector. He has served our nation and our people well. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD, the following testimony pursuant to the vote on H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

[From the National Right to Life Committee, Inc., Washington, DC]

My name is Shiwona Pace.

On August 26, 1999, I was a 23-year-old college student in Little Rock. I was the mother of two—my five-year-old son, and an unborn baby girl named Heaven Lashay. I had named my baby "Heaven" two months earlier, after an ultrasound test revealed that she was a girl. August 26 was one day before my predicted full-term delivery date.

But that night, three men brutally murdered my unborn baby daughter.

I curled up face down on the floor, crying begging for them to stop beating me. But they did not stop. One shouted, "F*** you! Your baby is dying tonight."

They choked me, punched me, hit me in the face with a gun. They kicked me again and again in the abdomen. After about thirty minutes, they left me sobbing there on the floor.

At the hospital, they found Heaven had died in my womb. She was a perfect baby, almost seven pounds. She almost looked as if she were sleeping.

The assailants were arrested. They had been hired by Erik Bullock, my former boyfriend. He paid them \$400 to kill little Heaven Lashay.

Only a month before, a new state law took effect that recognized unborn children as crime victims. If that law had not been enacted, Erik Bullock would have been prosecuted only for the assault on me, but not for the death of my baby.

But thanks to the state law, Bullock was also convicted for his role in killing my baby. The men who attacked me are also being prosecuted for what they did to Heaven.

I tell my story now for one reason: If this same attack occurred today within a federal jurisdiction, the men who killed my baby could be prosecuted only for assault.

That is why I urge members of Congress to support the Unborn Victims of Violence Act (H.R. 503, S. 480), which would recognize unborn children as victims under 68 federal laws dealing with crimes of violence.

I was dismayed to learn that some members of Congress oppose this bill, and insist on adoption of a radically different bill (the Lofgren Amendment) that says that such

crimes only have one victim—the pregnant woman.

They are wrong. On the night of August 26, 1999, there were two victims. I lived—but my daughter died. I lost a child and my son lost the baby sister he had always wanted—but little Heaven lost her life.

It seems to me that any congressman who votes for the "one-victim" amendment is really saying that nobody died that night.

And that is a lie.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING MONSIGNOR GENE W. MULLETT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the citizens of Ohio in celebration and commemoration of the Twenty-Fifth year of Monsignor Mullett's service in the Catholic Church.

Whereas, Monsignor's journey began on May 1, 1976 when he was ordained at St. John's Arena by Bishop John Mussi; and,

Whereas, Monsignor has tirelessly dedicated himself since that date in service to God and to his fellow man; and,

Whereas, such institutions of God's will as Saint John's Vianney Parish of Powhatan Point, Saint Anthony's Church of Steubenville, and Saint Michael's Parish of Bellaire, have all benefitted and prospered under his guidance;

Therefore, I invite my colleagues to join with me and the Citizens of Ohio in celebration and commemoration of Monsignor Gene W. Mullett's twenty five years of service to our community.

CLARIFICATION RELATING TO THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 1457

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, the bill H.R. 1457 was reintroduced in error on April 4, 2001. The correct bill, H.R. 917 (the Federal Living Wage Responsibility Act), was already introduced on March 7, 2001.

IN HONOR OF THE AMERICAN LYME DISEASE FOUNDATION, INC. ON THE OCCASION OF THE ALDF ANNUAL GALA BENEFIT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I enthusiastically rise today to honor the American Lyme Disease Foundation, Inc. (ALDF). Established in 1990, ALDF is the nation's most vital public voice in the battle against Lyme disease. From its comprehensive educational campaign to generous support for cutting-edge research, ALDF champions the prevention and treatment of Lyme disease, saving thousands of people each year from the often