

dedication to service and our very best wishes as it celebrates its 150th year.

NEW YORK TIMES: INDIA CLEARLY
RESPONSIBLE FOR CHITHI
SINGHPORA MASSACRE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, the New York Times Magazine ran a good article on the massacre of 35 Sikhs that took place in Chithi Singhpora in March while President Clinton was visiting India. The article makes it clear that "Everyone knows who did it" and that the responsibility rests squarely on the Indian government. The Times writer, Barry Bearak, the newspaper's bureau chief in New Delhi, wrote that "Among the careful preparations for the historic occasion were a painstaking cleanup around the Taj Mahal, a reconnoitering for wild tigers he might glimpse on a V.I.P. safari and the murder of 35 Sikh villagers in a place called Chittisinghpora."

I will not place the entire article into the RECORD, Mr. Speaker, because it is very long, but I recommend it to my colleagues. Bearak interviewed several people who were witnesses to the massacre or who lost family members. It is very clear from his interviews that the Indian government is responsible. This confirms the findings of two independent investigations, one by the International Human Rights Organization, which is based in Ludhiana, and another jointly conducted by the Movement Against State Repression and the Punjab Human Rights Organization.

This is typical of the Indian government. The Indian newspaper Hitavada reported in November 1994 that the Indian government paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize terrorist activities in Punjab and Kashmir. The book "Soft Target", written by two Canadian journalists, proved that the Indian government shot down its own airliner in 1985, killing 329 innocent people, to create an image of Sikhs as terrorists.

The article noted that the killers were dressed in the regulation uniform of the Indian Army. Some had their faces painted in celebration of the Hindu holiday of Holi. They rounded up 37 Sikhs, one of whom escaped and one of whom survived. The other 35 were murdered in cold blood. They called out the parting phrase "Jai mata di," a Hindu phrase in praise of a Hindu goddess.

Clearly the Indian government was trying to create a bad image of the Kashmiri freedom fighters for the President's visit. It looks like President Clinton was right when he called the region "the most dangerous place in the world."

Bearak came to Chithi Singhpora in the company of a businessman, who is an associate of a fellow reporter. "So you want to know the truth?" the businessman said to Bearak. "Don't you know the truth can get these people killed?" The Indian government had killed five Muslims, claiming they were Pakistanis responsible for the massacre, but at least one village resident said that he recognized the remains of one of his relatives. One of the men killed was a man of 60. The Indian government has subsequently admitted

that the so-called "militants" they killed were in fact innocent. Now they have made another arrest in the case. This is also equally dubious. The 18-year-old that they arrested was "intensively interrogated," according to the article, which usually means torture.

At the close of the article, Bearak writes that "Everyone knows about this crime. The Indian Army did it." The evidence makes it clear that this is true. Why should such a country receive any support from the U.S. government? Let us stop our aid to this terrorist regime and let us openly support self-determination for Punjab, Khalistan, for Kashmir, and for all the nations of South Asia.

THE RETIREMENT OF MR. ED O'CONNOR

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a great American who has played a major role in our nation's space program. Ed O'Connor was selected in 1990 to lead the newly established Spaceport Florida Authority, and he retired late last year. It was his leadership, vision, and tireless energy that enabled Florida to preserve and secure its place in the world as "the place for space."

Spaceport Florida Authority is a recognized leader among state spaceports, and it also plays a critical role in recruiting new space-related industries to Florida. Through Ed O'Connor's leadership, the Authority gained international recognition as the first state agency to conduct space launches from its facilities, and has enabled historic partnerships between the State of Florida, NASA, the Air Force, and the commercial and academic space communities.

His service to the space program, however, started long before then. He has a long and distinguished record of service to our nation in the United States Air Force, including directing the Search, Recovery, and Reconstruction Team supporting the Presidential Commission investigating the *Challenger* accident. Upon retiring from the Air Force in 1987, Colonel Ed O'Connor joined Martin Marietta as manager of the Commercial Titan Launch Program.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Florida's Space Coast in the United States Congress, and I am honored to represent distinguished citizens such as Ed O'Connor who have given so much to our nation. While he will be retired, anyone who knows Ed doesn't expect him to slow down one bit. I'm certain he will continue to be a great source of knowledge and ideas for the nation's space goals.

RECOGNIZING STEPHEN J. HAWKINS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stephen J. Hawkins, retiring Postmaster of Fresno, California. He has announced his retirement after serving the public for more than 35 years with the United States Postal Service.

Stephen arrived in Fresno with an extensive background of successful postal experience in San Francisco, San Diego, and Los Angeles prior to taking the oath of office in Fresno. Since arriving in Fresno, he has dedicated himself to improving customer satisfaction and serving the community members in numerous ways.

As the population of Fresno grew, Stephen was instrumental in increasing the number of postal stations by opening Post Office Express, Cedar Station, Blythe Station, Sunnyside Station, and Ashlan Park Station. From 1994 through 1999 he served as Chairman of the Fresno/Madera County Combined Federal Campaign where he helped raise over \$500,000 for local charities. He has also served on the Board of Directors of Fresno United Way and as President of the Federal Executive Association. Stephen has actively motivated postal employees to volunteer and contribute in the community with teams in events like the Juvenile Diabetes Walk and the American Cancer Society Run, which help raise money locally for worthy causes.

Mr. Hawkins has hosted several stamp release events, including the Breast Cancer Stamp, the Honoring Those Who Served Stamp, the Hospice Stamp, and the Adoption Stamp. He has also sponsored the Youth for Art artists, whose paintings are still located in the lobby of the Main Office Station. Stephen has worked with the Sister Cities Organization and made a presentation and tour of the Fresno Postal Facilities to our sister city from China. Mr. Hawkins has received national recognition by becoming the only Postmaster in the United States to be presented the prestigious Benjamin Award for outstanding communications and community outreach accomplishments four years in a row.

Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize Postmaster Stephen J. Hawkins for his numerous contributions to his community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Postmaster Hawkins many more years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO MERYL GORDON

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor a special American who will be honored this Saturday, February 3 in New York City. Every generation has its rites of passage, and for those of us born in the years when Harry Truman brought honor and integrity to the White House, the occasion with which we boomers have recently become most familiar is the celebration of one's 50th birthday. It is in that spirit that I mark the arrival of my dear friend, Meryl Gordon, at that half-century mark today, January 31, 2001.

Our fellowship began in Japan back in the days when there was another President Bush in the White House and, over the past decade, we have shared both literal typhoons (19 including Fukuoka, Japan, 1991) and the successes and occasional storms of everyday life.

Some of those who still fit the chronological categories of "twenty-somethings" or even "thirty-somethings" might not understand that a 50th birthday is a particularly joyous occasion. This milestone serves as an apt moment

to take stock of one's life, for it is a time when you have the health, the energy and the idealism to still achieve your fondest dreams. For someone like Meryl—a highly respected magazine writer who is a Contributing Editor of "New York" magazine and lives in that legendary metropolis—a 50th birthday is a wonderful vantage point from which to realize that she has been blessed with professional renown. Her essays and articles touch the heart, the funny bone, and the conscience of our nation. She is also fortunate to have a joyful marriage to esteemed writer, pundit, and comic Walter Shapiro; doting parents, Adelle and David Gordon of Rochester, N.Y. and a large and nurturing circle of friends who have come from far and wide to salute her tonight.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Meryl Gordon on this milestone and wish her continued success and happiness in her next half century.

IN RECOGNITION OF H. MICKEY McCABE, ANNUAL HONOREE OF IRELAND'S 32

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize H. Mickey McCabe, one of three honorees at the annual dinner-dance hosted by Ireland's 32 on January 19, 2001. Mr. McCabe was honored for his accomplishments and for his continued dedication to the improvement of the quality of life for the residents of Bayonne, New Jersey.

Mr. McCabe has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to the safety and welfare of his community: He is the founder and president of McCabe, and he recently established the Bayonne Community Bank. His service commitments to the community of Bayonne are numerous: coordinator for the Hudson County New Jersey State Police Office of Emergency Management; state president of the Medical Transportation Association of New Jersey for more than 5 years; commissioner of the Bayonne Alcohol Beverage Control Board; chairman of the 2000 Bayonne Mayoral Task Force; past president of the Bayonne Uptown Merchants Association; and member of the board of directors of the Bayonne Chamber of Commerce.

In addition, Mr. McCabe is the founding president of the American Heart Association, Bayonne Chapter; treasurer of D.A.R.E., Bayonne Chapter; and citywide chairman of the Bayonne Police Bulletproof Vest Fund Drive; and he is a founding member of the Bayonne Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee. He is an honorary lifetime member of the Police Benevolent Association, Local 7, and a recipient of the Boy Scout Council Distinguished Citizens Award, among other awards.

Mr. McCabe is married to Judith P. McCabe, and is the father of two children: Allison (27) and Michael (23).

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing H. Mickey McCabe for his important contributions to the community of Bayonne, New Jersey.

FAREWELL CELEBRATION
HONORING DR. NAFIS SADIK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the world's champion for international family planning and women's empowerment and one of the world's most powerful women, Dr. Nafis Sadik.

I am continually amazed by Dr. Sadik's accomplishments. She began her career at the United Nations as the head of UNFPA's Program Branch under the leadership of Rafael Salas. Dr. Salas used to regularly send Nafis to attend high-level U.N. meetings where she was the only woman in the room.

Not only that, but she was a woman representing the Population Fund, not high on the U.N.'s most favored agency list, and even worse, she was advocating for women. And, as you would guess, she was usually ignored. However these men didn't know whom they were dealing with. Dr. Sadik was undaunted by her male colleagues and regularly spoke with a clear voice and a courageous voice until she was heard.

Now, she is in her 13th year as the head of UNFPA. The first woman to ever be appointed to head a United Nations agency.

Dr. Sadik's passion and commitment to international family planning doesn't come from reciting a UNFPA manual, but learning first hand what access to family planning means for women and families around the world.

As the director of the women's and children's wards of Pakistani hospitals, she helped shape the country's family planning programs. She saw and heard first hand women who didn't want more children, but didn't have the access to the resources or the power to make the decisions they needed to plan their families.

It's this experience that resonates in Dr. Sadik's words and commands our attention. I owe a great deal to Dr. Sadik. It was her words and leadership that helped my colleagues and I restore the U.S. contribution to UNFPA in 1999.

I met Dr. Sadik at the Hague International Forum Conference on population and women's reproductive health. We were just beginning our fight in Congress to restore UNFPA funding.

We had a daunting task before us—restore \$25 million for UNFPA during a tough budget fight in a Congress that equates family planning with abortion. But using Dr. Sadik's words that, "population is not someone else" problem; it's a global issue that needs to engage every country in the world," we won the fight and restored the U.S. contribution to UNFPA.

This past year we achieved another success in Congress, when UNFPA was included in the budget at \$25 million. But, we still have a long way to go. My colleagues and I are still working to restore all U.S. funding for international family planning programs back to its 1995 levels. It's far below where we were in the 1980's, but it will be a 20% increase over last year.

This past year, we had more than 120 Members that understand the link between family planning and women's health. With Dr.

Sadik at the helm of UNFPA, Congress got the message that family planning is vital to the fight to save women's lives.

Be assured that we will continue Dr. Sadik's fight for women around the world and will work with Thoraya Obaid to keep her legacy moving forward.

Dr. Sadik, thank you for your courage, your leadership, and your commitment to the women of this world. You are an inspiration to us all and we will miss your dearly.

IN MEMORY OF THE OKLAHOMA
STATE UNIVERSITY TRAGEDY

HON. WES WATKINS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2001

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, my heart is heavy and in pain from the tragedy that struck my alma mater—Oklahoma State University, located in my hometown of Stillwater, Oklahoma—on January 27th, 2001.

A plane carrying members of OSU's basketball team, athletic department, and sports broadcast unit crashed shortly after take-off following the OSU men's basketball game at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Ten members of the OSU family lost their lives in the accident.

Understandably, in times such as these, one could not be blamed for believing that the beloved schools of so many had just had a part of itself die. We know these 10 men's families have lost their loved ones, and now have an aching in their heart that will be long in mending. One could not be blamed for believing that life on God's earth is often too barren, and lonely; that the weight of this burden is more than we could possibly endure.

We are only in the beginning of our grief. But deep within our hearts, we humbly know God has a better plan than a lasting hurt. May God provide a lasting and loving memory of the young men who lost their lives.

Daniel Lawson, student athlete; Nate Fleming, student athlete; Jared Weiberg, student manager; Pat Noyes, direct of basketball operations; Brian Luinstra, athletic trainer; Will Hancock, coordinator of media relations; Kendall Durfey, engineer for the OSU radio network; Bill Teegins, KWTV sports director and the voice of OSU football and basketball; and two pilots, Denver Mills and Bjorn Falstrom. Every one of these individuals was an important part of the OSU family. We shall miss them dearly, but their memories will live on in our hearts. May the spirit from our wonderful memories of them grant us the grace, peace and strength to fulfill their dreams.

I have a heavy heart—an aching heart—for the loved ones of those who lost their lives. My prayers and love go out to the families, Coach Eddie Sutton and his staff, and the entire OSU family.

Yes, may God's love, mercy and grace sustain and strengthen them. Mr. Speaker, I ask that each member of the House join me as our thoughts and prayers go out to the young men's families, their friends, and to the extended Oklahoma State University family who lost ten loved ones.