

open door policy for her staff, students, and parents. Her willingness to be an active part of the lives of the students, parents, and staff, her innovative new programs, and her years of commitment will never be forgotten.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Barbara Johnson for 40 years of service to Washington School. She will be missed, and remembered for her commitment and hard work on behalf of Washington School's students and staff. At Washington School, her legacy will live on forever.

RECOGNIZING MS. VIRGINIA W. IMPROTA

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Virginia W. Improta, an exceptional history teacher and role model from Johnston, RI. Ms. Improta has been named one of eight national finalists for the Richard T. Farrell Teacher of Merit Award. This national award is presented every year to an educator who develops and uses innovative and creative teaching methods to enhance students' interest in history. As a teacher at Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School in Johnston, RI, she has shown exemplary commitment to making history education engaging and exciting, while involving her students in the National History Day Program.

National History Day is a yearlong program in which students explore historical topics related to an annual theme. Participants qualify for national competition after competing in several local and state competitions. In preparing her students for the program, Ms. Improta's work ethic and research skills provided students with the tools necessary to be successful in competition.

Mr. Speaker, I find it heartening that there are educators in this country who devote so much time and effort to shaping the minds of our young people. I hope you and our colleagues will join me in recognizing Ms. Virginia Improta for her dedication to educating the potential leaders of tomorrow.

ANOKA, MINNESOTA: HALLOWEEN CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

HON. BILL LUTHER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the city of Anoka, MN, for their long-standing tradition of community oriented Halloween festivities. On May 20, 2002, the city council of Anoka, MN, reaffirmed their proclamation of Anoka as "Halloween Capital of the World." Celebrating Halloween as a community for over 80 years, the people of Anoka are proud of their unique tradition. Anoka is thought to be the first to put on a citywide celebration and parade to provide families with alternative activities and fun on Halloween.

Local historians have traced the Anoka Halloween tradition back to its initial celebration in 1920. That year, local civic organizations,

businessmen, teachers, city workers, and the National Guard joined together and planned the first Halloween celebration. This celebration provided a fun and safe environment in which to enjoy Halloween and has been a major community event ever since. Due to the celebration's size and community significance, Anoka first proclaimed itself the "Halloween Capital of the World" in 1937.

The community's ongoing commitment to the celebration is clearly reflected in year-round planning that includes citizens of all ages. In this way, the Halloween celebration is a unique civic asset and Anoka certainly lives up to its title as "Halloween Capital of the World."

PERMANENT DEATH TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 6, 2002

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, before Congress passes legislation placing an enormous drain on the federal budget in future years, we first need to address the serious problems with funding homeland defense, protecting education, the environment, Social Security and Medicare.

While the Republican bill permanently repeals the estate tax, it provides no immediate relief for small, family-owned estates which are the ones most in need. Make no mistake—repealing the estate tax in 2011 will not stimulate the economy in 2002.

I support more immediate estate tax relief and voted for the substitute that freezes the existing maximum estate tax at the current rate of 40 percent and increases the estate tax credit to \$3 million, \$6 million for couples, beginning in 2003, up from \$1 million under current law.

I stand today in opposition to H.R. 2143, to make repeal of the estate tax permanent. Under last year's Republican tax bill, repeal of the estate tax is slowly phased in until 2010. However, because Republicans put a sunset on all of their tax-cut provisions to hide their true costs, the estate tax will return to the 2001 levels of taxation in 2010.

This permanent repeal of the estate tax benefits only the very wealthiest in our society while endangering our long-term economic stability and the solvency of Social Security and Medicare. Once again, the House Republican Leadership has shown its true priorities by helping 22,000 families at the very top of the income scale while letting 35 million seniors wait for help with their prescription drug bills.

Currently, the estate tax applies to fewer than 2 percent of all estates—less than 50,000 each year. In addition, family-owned businesses and farms are already eligible for special tax treatment under current law.

Families in Minnesota's Fourth District want sound investments in our future, protecting Social Security and Medicare, and responsible tax cuts that provide relief now. For example, the average Minnesota gross estate for tax purposes of \$5 million or more in 1999 was approximately \$586,000. I supported a \$5 million exemption that would have eliminated the

estate tax on all but 36 Minnesota estates that owned estate tax.

I found it embarrassing to open the Washington Post today to see that based on the personal assets of the Bush administration Cabinet, a full repeal of the estate tax will save the Bush Cabinet \$98–\$332 million in estate tax. The President has taken his full repeal message to family farmers in the Midwest telling them he's fighting for them. Yet family farmers rarely pay estate tax. In fact, last year the American Farm Bureau Federation could not cite a single example of a farm lost because of estate taxes when pressed.

So far, the Republicans' fiscal plan has meant that we have gone from projected surpluses of \$5.6 trillion to deficits as far as the eye can see—not to mention the fact that unless Congress takes action to balance the budget, we will have to raise the federal debt limit to ensure that the government does not default on its current debts.

This year alone, the budget deficit, excluding the Social Security trust fund, is estimated to be \$314 billion. Over the next 10 years, the non-Social Security deficit will total \$2.6 trillion. If these projections are correct, the budget is on course to deplete the entire Social Security surplus and the entire Medicare surplus between now and 2012.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY NATIONAL CONTEST

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend and congratulate two students from Ohio who have been chosen to present projects at the National History Day national contest, which is taking place this year from June 9 through the 13. Alexandria West, who is from Gallipolis, OH, will present her project, "Amistad: From Freedom and Back," and Katie Marburger, who is from Niles, OH, will present an exhibit called "... And Justice for All? The Imprisoning of the Japanese Americans: A Revolution in Discrimination." These projects reflect this year's National History Day theme of "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History" and were selected from more than half a million students across America.

The National History Day program seeks to give students the critical thinking and research skills that are essential for excellence in all subject areas. Students research history topics of their choice related to an annual theme and create exhibits, performances, documentaries, and papers, which they may enter into competitions at the district, state, and national levels. The program annually engages more than half a million participants in grades 6 through 12 in 49 States and the District of Columbia.

CONGRATULATING DR. ARUN N. NETRAVALI

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Arun N. Netravali on being

named a 2001 National Medal of Technology Laureate.

Given each year by the President, the National Medal of Technology is the highest honor that our country can bestow upon America's innovators. Enacted by Congress in 1980, the National Medal of Technology was first awarded in 1985 to honor those scientists who through their work push the bounds of technology with the goal of benefiting humanity.

Dr. Netravali's career achievements are certainly deserving of the highest acclaim. He is a pioneer in the field of digital technology. Serving from 1999 to 2001 as the ninth president to Bell Labs' history, Dr. Netravali is currently the company's chief scientist and has been the head of the research and development team working on Bell Labs' high definition television (HDTV) effort. He has authored more than 170 technical papers and co-authored three books. He holds more than 70 patents in the areas of computer networks, human interfaces to machines, picture processing and digital television.

With great minds like Dr. Netravali working along the frontier of technology, we can only expect to be amazed by what will be achieved in the near future. I commend Dr. Netravali for his lifelong dedication to science and his unrelenting pursuit of the unimaginable.

**IN MEMORY OF INDIA'S ATTACK
ON A RELIGIOUS SHRINE**

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, as you may know, this week marked the anniversary of India's June 1984 attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the seat of the Sikh religion. This is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican of Mecca.

In the attack, which also included attacks on 38 other Sikh temples (known as Gurdwaras), more than 20,000 Sikhs were killed, including Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Sikh political leader. The Indian government hoped that by murdering Bhindranwale, it would end the Sikh Nation's aspirations for freedom, but as Bhindranwale himself said, the attack "laid the foundation of Khalistan," the independent Sikh homeland.

I would like to extend my sympathies to all Sikhs on this occasion and I would like to let them know that many of us grieve with them at this brutal atrocity committed against them.

The Council of Khalistan recently led a commemoration of the Golden Temple attack. I would like to place the report of that commemoration into the RECORD for the information of my colleagues.

**SIKHS OBSERVE KHALISTAN MARTYRS DAY—
SIKHS NEVER FORGIVE OR FORGET ATTACK
ON GOLDEN TEMPLE**

**GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK LAID FOUNDATION OF
KHALISTAN**

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 1, 2002.—It is a Sikh tradition and Sikh history that Sikhs never forgive or forget the attack on the Golden Temple, the Sikh Nation's holiest shrine. In that spirit, Sikhs from all over the East Coast gathered in Washington, D.C. today to observe Khalistan Martyrs Day.

This is the anniversary of the Indian government's brutal military attack on the Golden Temple and 38 other Sikh temples through Punjab, from June 3–6, 1984. More than 20,000 Sikhs were killed in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar. These martyrs laid down their lives to lay the foundation for Khalistan. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its homeland, Khalistan, independent.

"We thank all the demonstrators who came to this important protest," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "These martyrs gave their lives so that the Sikh Nation could live in freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "We salute them on Khalistan Martyrs' Day," he said. "As Sant Bhindranwale said, the Golden Temple attack laid the foundation of Khalistan."

Sikhs ruled Punjab until 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 the Sikhs would have "the glow of freedom" in Northwest India and the Sikhs took their share with India on that promise. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Recently, former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-Me.) said, "The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination." The minority nations of South Asia need freedom. "Without political power nations perish. We must always remember these martyrs for their sacrifice," Dr. Aulakh said. "The best tribute to these martyrs would be the liberation of the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from the occupying forces," he said. "That must be the only objective," he said. "We should use the opportunity presented by the situation in South Asia to liberate our homeland."

The Golden Temple attack launched a campaign of genocide against the Sikhs that belies India's claims that it is a democracy. The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India. Since 1984, India has engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing in which tens of thousands of Sikhs were murdered by the Indian police and security forces and secretly cremated after declaring them "unidentified." The Indian Supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide." General Narinder Singh has said, "Punjab is a police state." U.S. Congressman Dana Rohrabacher (R-Cal.) has said that for Sikhs, Kashmiri Muslims, and other minorities "India might as well be Nazi Germany."

According to a report last year by the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are rotting in Indian jails without charge or trial. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. In February, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush to get these Sikh prisoners released. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands]."

Indian security forces have murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to figures compiled by the Punjab State Magistracy and human-rights organizations. These figures were published in *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee. India has also killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland since 1947, over 80,000 Kashmiris since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Bodos, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent labelled "Untouchables") as well as indigenous tribal peoples in Manipur, Assam

and elsewhere. In March 2000, while former President Clinton was visiting India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura, Kashmir and tried to blame the massacre on alleged militants. The Indian media reported that the police in Gujarat were ordered by the government to stand by and not to interfere with the massacre of Muslims there.

"Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. "The Golden Temple massacre reminded us that if Sikhs are going to live with honor and dignity, we must have a free, sovereign, independent Khalistan," he said.

**PASSING OF W. BAIN PROCTOR,
JR.**

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on June 5th, Spalding County and the City of Griffin, Georgia lost a dear friend and public servant. W. Bain Proctor, Jr. tirelessly worked for the betterment of the people of Griffin, serving as a City Commissioner, County Commissioner, and on the boards of the Griffin-Spalding County Recreational Board and the Georgia State Recreational Board.

Mr. Proctor was a servant of the people in the true sense of the word. He never regarded praise for his actions or sought credit, often working behind the scenes to get things done. Bain was a consistent force for positive government action. Often he would call or write to me to let me know how people in his area felt about a particular issue. Nothing in that is unusual. As Members of Congress, we hear from hundreds of constituents on a regular basis. What made Bain's contacts memorable and effective was that he seldom tried to influence your decision on legislation in a particular way, based on any bias he may have had. He was simply satisfied to make sure that I knew how the people of Griffin felt. As such, whenever he did have a position to advocate, I made sure to listen.

In addition to his steady influence on local public policy, Bain was involved in the more charitable side of his community, serving on the boards of the Salvation Army and the American Cancer Society, he was a member of the Rotary Club, and a Navy veteran of the Vietnam War who helped to build a memorial to the brave men and women who laid down their lives in that conflict.

Not only did Bain lead by example, he did a great job of instilling his love of community and service to those close to him. During Bain's funeral, his daughter Heather implored the filled-to-capacity room to pick up the torch her father had passed. "On behalf of Dad and the rest of the family, I ask you to be a part of this community. Get involved and remain involved. He would not have gone on if he did not have faith in us," Heather urged.

Bain Proctor lived a life of silent leadership. He was a steady force in a turbulent world. He will be missed by his community, his family, and those of us who were close to him. I thank him and commend him for his efforts on behalf of the people of Griffin and I thank him for his insights and advice to me as a lawmaker. I ask God's blessing on Bain's family