

lost precious months having to raise this money and her health has deteriorated. But even with all the uncertainties of the delicate transplant operation that awaits her, Melannie is one of the lucky ones. She can now pay for her operation. Other immigrant children are not this lucky. And those who are not fortunate enough to have a teacher like Ms. López, a community like our Latino community and the support of a nation-wide network, may never have a chance to live.

The goal of this bill is quite simple: to save children's lives.

My bill seeks to give all children a chance, regardless of their country of origin. A fighting chance to live. Please join me in support of the "Alien Child Organ Transplant Act of 2002."

SIKHS OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF GOLDEN TEMPLE ATTACK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note a historic occasion that is being observed this week. In addition to our observance of D-Day, the day that Allied troops landed in Europe to begin the attack on Nazi Germany, this week marks the anniversary of India's military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar and the brutal massacre of 20,000 Sikhs in June 1984. Recently, Sikhs from the East Coast gathered to commemorate this event in front of the Indian Embassy here in Washington. Similar events have been held or will be held in New York, London, and many other cities.

The Golden Temple attack was an attack on the seat of the Sikh religion. It forever put the lie to India's claim that it is secular and democratic. How can a democratic state launch a military attack on religious pilgrims gathered at the most sacred site of their religion? The Indian troops shot bullet holes through the Sikh holy scriptures, the Guru Granth Sahib, and took boys as young as eight years old out in the courtyard and shot them in cold blood. This set off a wave of repression against Sikhs that continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to put the flyer from that event into the RECORD now. It contains a lot of important information about the Golden Temple attack that shows the tyranny just under the facade of Indian democracy.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT GENOCIDE AGAINST THE SIKH NATION CONTINUES TO THIS DAY

From June 3 to 6, 1984 the Indian Government launched a military attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the holiest of Sikh shrines and seat of the Sikh religion. This is the equivalent of attacking the Vatican or Mecca. 38 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab Khalistan were simultaneously attacked. More than 20,000 Sikhs were killed in these attacks.

Desecration of the temple included shooting bullets into the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scripture, and destroying original Hukam Namas written by hand by the ten Sikh Gurus. Young Sikh boys ages 8 to 12 were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh homeland. When they responded "Bole So Nihal," a religious statement, they were shot to death in cold blood by the brutal Indian troops.

The Golden Temple attack launched an ongoing campaign of genocide against Sikhs by the Indian government that continues to this day. Punjab, Khalistan, the Sikh homeland, has been turned into a killing field.

The Golden Temple attack made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India.

The Movement Against State Repression issued a report showing that India is holding at least 52,268 Sikh political prisoners, by their own admission, in illegal detention without charge or trial. Some of them have been held since 1984. Many prisoners continue to be held under the repressive, so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA)," even though it expired in 1995. According to the report, in many cases, the police would file TADA cases against the same individual in different states "to make it impossible for them to muster evidence in their favor." It was also common practice for police to re-arrest TADA prisoners who had been released, often without filing new charges.

"In November 1994," the report states, "42 employees of the Pilibhit district jail and PAC were found guilty of clubbing to death 6 Sikh prisoners and seriously wounding 22 others. They were TADA prisoners. Uttar Pradesh later admitted the presence of around 5000 Sikh TADA prisoners." Over 50,000 Sikhs have been made to disappear since 1984.

Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan formally declared independence on October 7, 1987, to be achieved through the Sikh tradition of Shantmai Morcha, or peaceful resistance. Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1765 to 1849 and were to receive sovereignty at the time that the British quit India.

While India seeks hegemony in South Asia, the atrocities continue.

India has openly tested nuclear weapons and deployed them in Punjab, weapons that can be used in case of nuclear war with Pakistan. These warheads put the lives of Sikhs at risk for Hindu Nationalist hegemony over South Asia. The Indian government is run by the BJP, the militant Hindu nationalist party in India, and is unfriendly to the United States. In May 1999, the Indian Express reported that Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes led a meeting with representatives from Cuba, Russia, China, Libya, Iraq, and other countries to build a security alliance "to stop the U.S."

In March 42 Members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to President Bush asking him to help free tens of thousands of political prisoners.

India voted with Cuba, China, and other repressive states to kill a U.S. resolution against human-rights violations in China.

India is a terrorist state. According to published reports in India, the government planned the massacre in Gujarat (which killed over 5,000 people) in advance and they ordered the police to stand by and not to interfere to stop the massacre. Last year, a group of Indian soldiers was caught red-handed trying to set fire to a Gurdwara and some Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir.

According to the Hitavada newspaper, India paid the late Governor of Punjab, Suresh Nath, \$1.5 billion to organize and support covert state terrorism in Punjab and Kashmir.

CONTINUING REPRESSION AGAINST SIKHS

Since 1984, India has engaged in a campaign of ethnic cleansing and murdered tens of thousands of Sikhs and secretly cremated them. The Indian Supreme Court described this campaign as "worse than a genocide."

The book Soft Target, written by two Canadian journalists, proves that India blew up its own airliner in 1985 to blame the Sikhs and justify more genocide. The Indian gov-

ernment paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs, according to the U.S. State Department.

Indian police tortured and murdered the religious leader of the Sikhs, Gurdev Singh Kaunke, Jathedar of the Akal Takht. No one has been punished for this atrocity and the Punjab government refused to release its own commission's report on the Kaunke murder.

Human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra was kidnapped by the police on September 6, 1995, and murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. Rajiv Singh Randhawa, the only eyewitness to the police kidnapping of Jaswant Singh Khalra, was arrested in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, Sikhism's holiest shrine, while delivering a petition to the British Home Minister asking Britain to intervene for human rights in Punjab.

In March 2000, 35 Sikhs were massacred in Chithisinghpura in Kashmir by the Indian government.

Since Christmas 1998, India has carried out a campaign of repression against Christians in which churches have been burned, priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, and schools and prayer halls have been attacked. On January 17, 2001, Christian leaders in India thanked Sikhs for saving them from Indian government persecution. Members of the Bajrang Dal, part of the pro-Fascist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, to death while they slept in their jeep. The RSS published a booklet last year on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in false criminal cases.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PAULINE GARCIA

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with both sorrow and pride in the recognition of the extraordinary contributions of a compassionate woman. Pauline C. Garcia was a hard working woman who contributed selflessly to the moral and ethical improvement of Pueblo, Colorado. She was a beacon of inspiration for many in her workplace and spiritual community. In recognition of Pauline Garcia's efforts, it gives me great pleasure to honor the life and memory of one of the six recipients of the 2002 YWCA Anna Tussig Tribute To Women Award, rewarded to professional women who show outstanding levels of accomplishment and service to the community.

Pauline Garcia was a dedicated mother of eight, all of whom she inspired to recognize their goals and strive to achieve their dreams. After her children were grown, she received a degree in Early Childhood Education and worked for countless day care centers like Pueblo Head Start and The East Side ChildCare Center. She spent much of her free time volunteering for El Mesias Methodist Church as well as Bethel Methodist Church. Her work at El Mesias was so impressive that she was asked to come on board as Office Manager and helped coordinate daily operations for the Church.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to highlight the honesty, integrity, and valor of

Pauline C. Garcia. Pauline illustrated the spirit of kindness to her community, and prepared young children to be the future leaders of their communities. Her compassion will live on in the hearts of those lives she touched and I extend my deepest sympathy and I have no doubt that her memory will continue to be a source of inspiration and comfort for her family.

12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Twelve years ago, people from across the country gathered to celebrate the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, one of the Nation's landmark civil rights laws since the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The ADA opened up the true promise of America to people with disabilities who, for decades have been held back—not by a wheelchair and a flight of insurmountable stairs—but by simple public ignorance.

Because of the Americans with Disabilities Act, people with disabilities are gaining equal access to public sector services. The public sector has rallied to the ADA's goals and states and local governments have developed some of the most innovative and meaningful responses to the ADA.

As a result of this important civil rights law, employers now provide a range of adjustment measures to ensure that employees with disabilities can keep their place in the job market, resulting in unprecedented economic opportunities for our disabled population.

ADA has torn down barriers that prevented people with disabilities from getting access to education, the job market, and simply living their daily lives.

As I reflect on our accomplishments here in Congress since I started to serve my constituents as a member in 1986, this is one of the pieces of legislation, I am most proud of. The Americans with Disabilities Act is a historic example of Congress being true to our centuries-old heritage of freedom and equal opportunity.

This landmark legislation took more than 2 years to pass because even in the halls of Congress, there were hurdles of ignorance to overcome. The ADA itself was born of one man's determination to break down the barriers which had diverted his career plans and caused him to reevaluate his dreams throughout his life. My former colleague in the House of Representatives and original author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, Tony Coelho, didn't grow up wanting to be a Member of Congress. But he did grow up with epilepsy. As a youth Tony wanted to be a clergyman, but he was kept back because of public ignorance about his disability.

They say that God works in strange and mysterious ways. Tony Coelho's first dreams were shattered by discrimination, but this was, in fact, a blessing for the entire nation. Tony would go on to write the most comprehensive anti-discrimination bill for persons with disabilities in United States history. What more proof

do we need that someone with a disability can be one of the most able people our nation has ever seen?

When Congress passed and the President signed the Americans with Disabilities Act, we implemented what is, in effect, a 20th century Emancipation Proclamation for the estimated 43 million Americans who have some type of physical or mental disability. For the first time in history, these individuals were guaranteed their rights to explore the full range of their talents, ability, and creativity.

By outlawing discrimination against disabled persons in employment, transportation, public accommodations and telecommunications, the ADA guarantees to persons with disabilities the same rights which most of us in this chamber take for granted—the right to go to their neighborhood grocery store, attend a movie, eat in the local diner, hold a job, ride a city bus, or simply talk on the telephone.

Pre-existing laws and federal regulations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 have been effective, but only so far as the policies of the government, its contractors, and recipients of federal funds have been concerned. These laws left all other areas of American life untouched.

Many young Americans who have benefitted from the equal educational opportunity guaranteed under the 1973 law and the Education of the Handicapped Act, have found themselves on graduation day facing a closed door to the mainstream of American life. For years, generations of disabled Americans have been turned away at movie theatres, refused tables at restaurants, left stranded in wheelchairs at bus stops and denied meaningful employment opportunities.

As a cosponsor of the landmark ADA bill and as a legislator who has worked closely with the disabled since the mid-1970s, I am proud of the fact that the ADA broke down barriers and helped to correct these demeaning disadvantages.

I am also proud of my community's early acceptance of individuals with disabilities, especially the deaf. Rochester is home to the National Technical Institute for the Deaf and the first city in the city to broadcast News for the Deaf each weekday.

The Declaration of Independence gave voice to the fundamental principles upon which this nation would grow to greatness—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Twelve years ago the Americans with Disabilities Act reaffirmed these sacred principles for millions and millions of United States citizens who have had to suffer unjustified segregation and exclusion.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
WATER RESOURCES CONSERVA-
TION AND IMPROVEMENT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 22, 2002

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2990, the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2001, which was introduced by my good friend Congressman RUBÉN HINOJOSA.

Among other things, this legislation amends the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 to authorize the construction of 20 additional specified projects in Texas and increases the authorization of appropriations for carrying out the these projects.

As you know Mr. Speaker, the Rio Grande and the areas along both sides of the border have been severely impacted by drought conditions during the last decade. In fact, given the recent problems with the Mexican water debt, we are hearing more about the dire conditions of farmers in the area than in years past. There are more than seven million people residing in the Lower Valley of the Rio Grande river with approximately one million of those living in the United States. The area is one of the fastest growing areas of our country with projected populations more than doubling by the year 2050.

This area encompasses 29 water districts located in the United States below the International Falcon-Amistad Reservoir System, which supplies nearly 95 percent of the water needs of this area. Mr. Speaker, we need to make significant improvements to irrigation canal delivery systems. We need to develop aggressive strategies to conserve water and we need to improve the overall management of the most precious resource in the area—water.

On December 28, 2000, the President signed into law the Lower Rio Grande Valley Water Resources Conservation and Improvement Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-576). The legislation authorized the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to develop a program to investigate and identify opportunities to improve the water supply for selected counties along the Texas-Mexico border. The bill on the floor today amends this law by adding 14 new water conservation projects; modifying the criteria for water supply studies; and increasing the authorization for carrying out the studies. In addition, this bill increases the authorization for construction of facilities from \$10 million to \$47 million. Mr. Speaker, we need to do everything in our power to facilitate good water management and conservation strategies along the U.S.—Mexico border. I applaud the efforts of my colleague for introducing this important legislation and I ask my colleagues to support its passage.

MUWEKMA OHLONE INDIAN TRIBE

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 25, 2002

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, The Muwekma Ohlone Indian Tribe is a sovereign Indian Nation located within several counties in the San Francisco Bay Area since time immemorial.

In 1906, the Tribe was formally identified by the Special Indian Census conducted by Indian Agent C.E. Kelsey, as a result of the Congressional Appropriation Act mandate to identify and to purchase land for the landless and homeless California Indian tribes.

At this time, the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Indian Affairs federally acknowledged the Verona Band as coming under the jurisdiction of the Reno and Sacramento Agencies between 1906 and 1927.