

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JAMES MACDONALD

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, James MacDonald has served our community as a police officer with the Coshocton County Sheriff's Office since 1995; and

Whereas, Deputy James MacDonald has been awarded a 2002 Distinguished Valor Award at Ohio's Law-Enforcement Conference; and

Whereas, James MacDonald is a hero who acted quickly and efficiently in July 2001, serving our community in the face of grave danger without hesitation or thought of himself; and

Whereas, James MacDonald is an asset to the Coshocton community in his preparedness, devotion to duty, and willingness to serve;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Deputy James MacDonald for his selflessness and heroism.

COLUMBIA MONTOUR HOME
HEALTH SERVICES CELE-
BRATING 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the service to the community provided by Columbia Montour Home Health Services, which is celebrating 35 years of serving residents of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

During the autumn and early winter of 1966, groups of interested citizens in Danville and Bloomsburg, identified a need in the community for requests which could be met through the services of a public health nurse. Some of the groups involved included the Danville Council of Churches, the Bloomsburg Business Professional Women's Club and the Red Cross.

In January 1967, representatives of Lutheran Social Services and the Pennsylvania Department of Health met with the local people and shortly thereafter a public meeting was held at the Court House in Danville to discuss a cooperative effort between Columbia and Montour Counties for the development of a Visiting Nurses Association.

The name chosen for the new organization was Columbia Montour County Visiting Nurse Association. By April 1967, a Board of Directors had been named and immediately began raising funds. Funds were secured from the local United Way Funds, the County Commissioners, other agencies and private individuals.

Nursing, physical and occupational therapy and social work counseling were the first services offered. In 1970, speech therapy was added. In 1971, the Homemaking Home Health Aide program was added. The Hospice program was developed in 1981 to care for the terminally ill and their families.

During the 1980s, the agency established health maintenance clinics in the housing complexes for older persons in Berwick, Bloomsburg, Danville, Millville and Catawissa.

A comprehensive rehabilitation team was established to provide the most up-to-date therapy in the home. The staff is continually educated to care for patients' problems involving simple to complex needs.

To meet the continued challenges of growth, the agency moved to new offices in Bloomsburg in December of 1996. It achieved accreditation from the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) in 1993 and is licensed as a home health agency and as a hospice by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The agency is led by Chief Executive Officer Jane Gittler, R.N., M.S.N.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the service to the community of Columbia Montour Home Health Services, and I wish its employees and patients all the best.

MAIL CENSORSHIP IN INDIA
BELIES ITS DEMOCRATIC CLAIMS

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was disturbed to find out that mail sent by the Council of Khalistan has not been reaching India for the past two months. The "world's largest democracy" is once again violating democratic principles by practicing mail censorship. It is violating the fundamental freedom of the people within its borders by prohibiting them from receiving information relating to the violations of the human rights of Sikhs and the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent effort to liberate Khalistan from Indian control.

This is in clear contravention of democratic principles, but that is not surprising from India. It has never been a democracy for the minorities within its borders, but only for the Brahmin fanatics. General Narinder Singh, a respected Sikh leader in Punjab, has said that "Punjab is a police state."

A few years ago, the late journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan was subjected to censorship of his mail and harassment, including telephone calls from unidentified persons saying things like "It is dangerous to write against the government." All this happened because Mr. Osan ran the outstanding news website Burning Punjab, which featured news about government corruption, until he died earlier this year.

These actions prove that India is not a democracy. It is a theocratic Hindu fundamen-

talist tyranny, and a supporter of terrorism in Sindh and elsewhere, as well as internal terrorism. Accordingly, it should not be a country that receives U.S. aid, yet it is one of the largest recipients despite its anti-Americanism.

We should stop our aid to India until it allows basic human rights such as receiving mail without content control and we should support basic human rights like self-determination. Self-determination is the very foundation of democracy. We should put this Congress on record in support of self-determination for the people of Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagalim, and the other states seeking their freedom. This is the way to real freedom, peace, stability, and prosperity in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent press release on this issue, which I would like to place in the RECORD at this time.

MAIL CENSORSHIP IN "WORLD'S LARGEST
DEMOCRACY"

MAIL FROM COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN IS NOT
BEING ALLOWED TO GET TO ADDRESSEES IN
INDIA

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 8, 2002—Mail censorship is again being practiced in India, which bills itself as "the world's largest democracy." Mail from the Council of Khalistan to addresses in India has not been received in India for the last two months. The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence on October 7, 1987. It has worked for 15 years to liberate Khalistan by peaceful, democratic, non-violent means and has specifically rejected militancy. Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has talked to many people in Punjab who have not received any mail from the Council of Khalistan during the last two months. The Council has mailed two mailings to India in that time.

"This undemocratic action shows the true nature of India," said Dr. Aulakh. "Although it claims to be democratic, India has engaged in this kind of censorship before. It controls information and uses its control to whip up hatred and violence against Sikhs and other minorities," he said. "Is this what a democracy does, or is it what a tyranny does?" he said. "Why is a 'democracy' threatened by facts? Is this freedom of speech? These mailings included statements from the Congressional Record, press releases from the Council of Khalistan, and clippings from U.S. and international newspapers," he said.

A few years ago, similar mail censorship was imposed on the late Sukhbir Singh Osan, the journalist who founded the website Burning Punjab, which reported on Indian government corruption, tyranny, and human-rights violations against the Sikh Nation. Osan, who died of a heart attack early this year, also received a telephone call telling him that "it is dangerous to write against the government."

The Indian government controls both major Indian news services, Press Trust of India (PTI) and United News of India (UNI). India has used its control of media to generate violence against minorities. During the 1984 Delhi massacres of Sikhs, Indian media called for the shedding of more Sikh blood.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

In February 42 Members of Congress wrote to President Bush to get 52,268 political prisoners released from Indian prisons. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 80,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities.

Since Christmas 1998, Christians have been subjected to a wave of oppression. According to the Indian Express of October 7, Hindu militants have forcibly reconverted Christians in Ajmer. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death.

"Sikhs are a separate nation. We ruled Punjab until 1849. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution," Dr. Aulakh said. "Nations that do not have political power perish," he said. "Remember the words of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.' Support for Khalistan is picking up internationally. Last month, members of the British Parliament from both political parties supported the Sikh demand for an independent Khalistan. Many U.S. Congressmen are on record in support of an independent Khalistan."

"The censorship of the Council of Khalistan's mail shows that India is a fundamentalist majority Hindu theocracy and is a tyranny, not a democracy. It does not respect human rights for Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, or anyone but Brahmin extremists," said Dr. Aulakh. "For the well being of the Sikh Nation, to prevent abuses like this from occurring in the future, we must free Khalistan," he said. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation," said Dr. Aulakh. "I call on the Sikh leadership in Punjab to begin a Shantmai Morcha immediately. The people of South Asia must have self-determination now."

OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, October marks the 17th annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This is a time to remember and to reflect upon the strength and courage of the family and friends we have lost to this awful disease and to rejuvenate our hope through those who have survived. This October we also celebrate the advances that have been made and steel ourselves for the battle still before us.

Breast cancer ranks second among cancer deaths in women. Mortality rates have decreased over the last several years, but, according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 40,000 deaths from breast cancer are still anticipated in 2002. In the state of New York, nearly 3,000 women will die from breast cancer this year. The fight is still very real.

More women are beating cancer through early detection and improved treatments. Experts also urge everyone to include regular physical activity, maintain a healthy weight, and limit alcohol intake to reduce your risk of cancer.

I would like to raise an issue that has been in the press many times this past year. There has been an ongoing debate regarding the effectiveness of mammography. The government's health experts have reaffirmed the value of mammography. In February, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson announced an updated recommendation from the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) that calls for screening mammography, with or without clinical breast examination, every one to two years for women age 40 and over. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) also reaffirmed its support for mammography. Secretary Thompson said, "While developing technology certainly holds the promise for new detection and treatment methods, mammography remains a strong and important tool in the early detection of breast cancer. The early detection of breast cancer can save lives." This debate underscores for me the great importance of health self-awareness, early detection and education.

October also marks the 10th anniversary of the pink ribbon, won by millions to support the fight against breast cancer. The pink ribbon was created by SELF Magazine, exemplifying the great activism and support of so many. We have seen successes in the fight for a cure because of the cooperation and involvement of many communities and organizations, including the strong public-private partnerships, corporate America, charitable and advocacy organizations, and health, research and government institutions.

For the past four years, there has been a bipartisan commitment to doubling the National Institutes of Health (NIH) budget, with the doubling to be completed this year. Our collective hope is that these strong investments in biomedical research, including the National Cancer Institute, will spur scientific advances that will ultimately translate into better health care for all, including better treatments and a cure for cancer.

I have been a strong proponent of prevention. One of my first initiatives in Congress was a bill to provide annual mammograms for women on Medicare. It was included as a part of the Balanced Budget Agreement in 1997. This Congress, I introduced with Congresswoman SUE KELLY, the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, HR 1809, to give everyone a fighting chance in detecting cancer at its earliest stages. This legislation applies to private health insurance plans and to the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan, requiring these plans to cover cancer screening.

Working with Congressman GILMAN, I was able to secure \$500,000 for a New York University Medical Center study on the potential causes of high breast cancer rates on Manhattan's East Side, neighborhoods along the East River, and in Rockland County. Specifically, the study will investigate environmental factors that may be related to increased rates of breast cancer.

I am also a cosponsor of HR 4596, The National Cancer Act. Introduced in the House by Congresswomen CAPPS and ROUKEMA and in the Senate by Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN, this bill consists of thirteen major provisions that

address the cancer continuum: research, translation, access to care, quality of care, and cancer prevention. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of HR 1624, the Access to Cancer Therapies Act, and HR 1354, the Assure Access to Mammography Act, which seeks to raise the Medicare payment rates for routine mammography screening.

Working together, we will achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING JOHN HITE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, John Hite is a professional teacher of science at Tuscarawas Valley High School; and

Whereas, John Hite has been selected to receive a Governor's Award for Excellence in Youth Science Opportunities by the Ohio Academy of Science in cooperation with the Office of the Governor and the Ohio Department of Education; and

Whereas, John Hite should be commended for reaching this milestone, for his devotion to his students, and for his ongoing efforts to extend science education opportunities beyond the classroom;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating John Hite for his outstanding accomplishment.

HONORING CONGREGATION B'NAI JACOB AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 120TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate the 120th Anniversary of Congregation B'nai Jacob of Woodbridge, Connecticut. Throughout its history, B'nai Jacob has been an invaluable institution in the Greater New Haven Jewish community.

The oldest conservative synagogue in the area as well as the second largest in the State of Connecticut, Congregation B'nai Jacob has a long and proud history as an American synagogue. Today, more than seven hundred families make up its membership. Led by Rabbi Richard Eisenberg and Cantor Joshua Konigsberg, both well-respected throughout the national Jewish community, Congregation B'nai Jacob continues to play a prominent role in our community and across the globe.

Originally founded by Jewish immigrants from Russia seeking refuge in America, Congregation B'nai Jacob has become one of Greater New Haven's leading advocates for social justice. Actively participating in the interests of the community as a whole, members are both leaders in the Jewish community and general society. Annual events are sponsored to benefit many local service organizations and its membership can also be found on a