

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

variety of boards and committees throughout Greater New Haven. The largest state contributor to the State of Israel Bonds and the Israel Emergency Fund, Congregation B'nai Jacob has and continues to be a vocal and tireless advocate for the State of Israel and the restoration of peace for the Israeli people. Seeking the preservation of their culture and the enrichment of their community, the membership of Congregation B'nai Jacob is proud of its commitment to tradition and their devotion to their American home.

Congregation B'nai Jacob has flourished and become an important fixture in the community. It is the dedication and commitment of their members that has made it such a great success. Our houses of worship play a vital role in our communities—providing people with a place to turn to for comfort when they are most in need. In over a century, there have been many who have worshiped within their halls and many who have found peace and strength in the outstretched arms of B'nai Jacob.

It is with honor and the deepest thanks and appreciation for all of their good work that I stand today to pay tribute to Congregation B'nai Jacob as they celebrate their 120th Anniversary. Their contributions have left an indelible mark on our community and a legacy that will live on for generations to come.

#### MARKING THE RETIREMENT OF HAKEEM OLAJUWON FROM THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSO- CIATION

#### HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the long career of one of the greatest basketball players in the history of the game, Hakeem Olajuwon. After 18 years in the National Basketball Association, he is scheduled to retire on November 2, 2002, before the game between the Toronto Raptors and the Houston Rockets.

Though Olajuwon, known as "The Dream," did not take up the sport until he was in his teens, he became an All-Star center and was recognized as one of the NBA's 50 Greatest Players. With his athleticism, best displayed by his signature "Dream Shake" move near the basket, he helped redefine how big men played the game.

In 1984, the Houston Rockets won a coin toss that gave them the right to the first pick in that draft. The year before, Houston had drafted the All-American center from Virginia, Ralph Sampson, and it was rumored that they might look for a guard, perhaps the young talent from North Carolina, an exciting player named Michael Jordan.

The Rockets, though, went with the "hometown" talent, another 7-footer, a charter member of the Phi Slamma Jamma fraternity at the University of Houston, a player then known as Akeem Olajuwon.

Olajuwon had an immediate impact on the Houston franchise, teaming with Sampson to form the "Twin Towers," a lineup that terrorized the NBA and created mismatches due to the height and agility of both big men. Runner-up in the Rookie of the Year voting that sea-

son, Olajuwon helped lead Houston to their second NBA Finals in 1986, after upsetting the defending NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference Finals. There, as in their first trip in 1981, they lost to the Boston Celtics.

The road back to the NBA Finals was a long one for the Dream and the Rockets, but they returned in the 1993–94 season. That year, Olajuwon had perhaps his greatest season, and was named League MVP and NBA Defensive Player of the Year.

Houston and Olajuwon showed their true mettle in that year's playoffs, as the Dream carried the Rockets to the NBA Finals, where they defeated the New York Knicks in seven games for the NBA Title. This victory had special meaning for the Olajuwon—first, for being named Finals MVP, and second, for finally beating Patrick Ewing, whose Georgetown team had denied the University of Houston a chance at the NCAA title back in the early '80s.

The next year, with a target on their backs as the defending NBA champs, the Rockets faltered. In an attempt to shake up the team, Houston traded for Olajuwon's old college teammate, Clyde "the Glide" Drexler.

While the team struggled to a sixth-place finish in the Western Conference, Olajuwon led Houston on a playoff run like none ever before in the NBA.

In the second round, Houston became the first team ever to rally from a three to one deficit, and advanced to the Western Conference Finals. There, in what was known as the "Battle of Interstate 10," the Rockets eliminated NBA MVP David Robinson and the San Antonio Spurs. Olajuwon dominated the series, scoring at will against the Spurs, and led Houston to the NBA Finals for the second consecutive year.

There, he faced the future of the league, in a 7'3", 320-lb. terror known as Shaquille O'Neal. The Rockets, though, dispatched O'Neal and the Orlando Magic in four games, becoming only the fourth team in NBA history to win back-to-back NBA titles.

During this playoff run, Houston set new standards for excellence in the NBA. They won nine straight road playoff games and defeated four 50-win teams, both first ever achievements. Further, Houston became the lowest seeded team ever to win the NBA title. As for Olajuwon, he received his second consecutive NBA Playoff MVP, and averaged 33.0 points, 10.3 rebounds, and 2.85 blocks in the playoffs.

For his career, Hakeem Olajuwon averaged 21.8 points, 11.1 rebounds, and 3.09 blocked shots per game. He also has a career free throw percentage of .712, field goal percentage of .512, and averaged 1.75 steals and 2.5 assists per game.

He is one of eight players to reach the 25,000 point plateau, and is the only player to have both 2,000 steals and 2,000 blocked shots in a career. He is the NBA's all time leader in blocked shots, and was named to the First, Second, or Third All-NBA team 11 times. Hakeem Olajuwon was named Defensive Player of the Year twice, was on 11 First or Second All-Defensive teams, was a 12-time All-Star, and recorded just the third quadruple-double in NBA history in 1990.

The Dream is a shoe-in for the NBA Hall of Fame, and I am glad that I had the opportunity to watch him play, first for my university, and

later, for my hometown. Welcome home, Hakeem.

JOSEPH GORHAM HONORED

#### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the honoring of Joseph L. Gorham at the Organized Labor 2002 Dinner to be held on October 24 by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Labor Council and the Northeast Alliance Pennsylvania Retirees District 3. Joe will be honored for his many years of dedicated and outstanding service to the local labor movement and the community.

Joe was born July 11, 1943, in Wilkes-Barre Township to Robert John Gorham, a member of the United Mine Workers, and Genevieve Lombardelli Gorham, a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. Tragically, he lost his father during a mine cave-in on August 17, 1956.

Joe graduated from Ashley High School in 1961 and was a member of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union from the late 1950s through the early 1960s. He also worked for United Parcel Service, became a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters in November 1965 and was elected shop steward at UPS in 1969. In 1970, he was appointed to the executive board of Teamsters Local 401 and has served on the board both as trustee and recording secretary. In January 1991, he was elected to serve as principal officer of Local 401 and continues to serve in that capacity.

Joe was a participant in the first class of Leadership Wilkes-Barre and has attended classes at the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Leadership Academy as well as the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Organizing School and labor management classes. He has served on the boards of the American Heart Association, United Way and the Labor-Management Committee.

Joe currently serves as treasurer of the Wilkes-Barre Labor Council, chief executive officer of the Teamsters Local 401 board, advisory board member of the Central Pennsylvania Teamsters Pension and Health and Welfare Fund, board member of Teamsters Joint Council 53 Health/Welfare and Pension Fund and chairman of the Local 401 Health and Welfare Fund.

He and his wife of 39 years, the former Mary Ann Polny, have four children: Jeannie Marie, Maria Josepha, Pamela Ann and Joseph Matthew Gorham. He is the proud grandfather of 10: Amy and Abby Keller; Duane, Maria, Nicholas and Regina Deno; Todd and Kyle Oravic; and Jacob and Genevieve Antonia Gorham.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the achievements and service to the community of Joseph L. Gorham, and I wish him all the best.