

named for the activist hosted two presidents last year: George Bush and Mexico's Vicente Fox. It provides a food pantry, clothing locker, youth athletic and job-readiness programs, and family counseling.

A nearby stretch of South Avenue between Broadway and the Anthony Wayne Trail honors Aurora's sister, Ruth Gonzalez Garcia.

ELEANOR M. KAHLE SENIOR CENTER, 1315 HILLCREST AVE.

Eleanor M. Konieczka Kahle (1916-1995) was an advocate for seniors who was elected to Toledo City Council in 1987, 1989, 1991, and 1993. Until 1993 she was director of the West Toledo Senior Citizen Center, which was named for her after her death. The center offers a variety of programs and activities—from computer classes to line dancing, bingo to flu shots.

JOSINA LOTT RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY SERVICES, 120 S. HOLLAND-SYLVANIA RD.

Lott Industries, Inc.

Hers is a familiar name to area residents, since two organizations have honored Josina Jones Lott (1898-1973), an educator and advocate for children with mental and physical disabilities.

Lott Industries, chartered in 1955, serves Lucas County residents with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities through sheltered workshops and a vocational training center.

Josina Lott Residential & Community Services, a separate entity, also serves adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities. It includes group homes and life-skills training programs for people living independently.

CORDELIA MARTIN HEALTH CENTER, 905 NEBRASKA AVE.

Cordelia Martin (1915-1999) was devoted to providing health care to Toledo's poor. The center is one of 10 sites (including the Mildred Bayer Clinic for the Homeless) administered by the Neighborhood Health Association. Primarily serving low to moderate income, uninsured and underinsured people, the center includes doctors' offices, dental care, a lab, pharmacy, the federal WIC program, and social service education and referrals.

ANNA C. MOTT BRANCH, TOLEDO-LUCAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY, 1085 DORR ST.

Anna C. Mott (1835-1902) was a founder of the Toledo Woman Suffrage Association in 1869 and in 1884 was one of the founding officers of the Toledo Humane Society. The Mott Library opened in 1918. Originally 6,000 square feet, it now is almost 14,000 square feet. Circulation has increased 45 percent over the past five years.

SOFIA QUINTERO HISPANIC ART & CULTURAL CENTER, 1225 BROADWAY

Sofia Quintero (1948-1994), active in politics and public affairs, was the first Hispanic president of the Toledo board of education. The mission of the nonprofit organization is public education about Latino heritage through the arts and events such as the Day of the Dead celebration, when Latinos remember loved ones who have passed away.

ELLA P. STEWART SCHOOL, TOLEDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, 707 AVONDALE AVE.

The school was named in 1961 for Ella Nora Phillips Stewart (1891-1987), civil rights crusader and Toledo's first African-American woman pharmacist. She and her husband, William, were the first African-Americans to own and operate a drugstore in Toledo. The school has 340 students in first through sixth grades, and a museum honoring Mrs. Stewart with items such as dolls from her collection, medicine bottles from her pharmacy, and a shirt signed by President John F. Kennedy.

WHITNEY ADULT EDUCATION CENTER, 1602 WASHINGTON ST.

Dedicated in 1941 as the Harriet Whitney Vocational High School for Girls, the building is named for Harriet Whitney (1814-1903), Toledo's first woman school teacher. The building was closed as a high school in 1991 and now houses Toledo Public Schools' Adult Education Center and the Center For Change.

Based there is the Adult Basic Literacy Program/GED and one of 22 local class sites, plus other services for adults such as vocational programs. There's also a night school for youths in day classes who need to make up credits and a program for at-risk students.

THE HISPANIC BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Hispanic Business Association: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio. The association has displayed tireless commitment and dedication to the Hispanic business community.

The association grew out of a task force of Hispanic business owners in 1981 and was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1983. The motivation to create the association came from a core of Hispanic business owners who were alarmed over the low participation in the private and public sector. Functioning through its 15-member voluntary board and network of supporters, the association has successfully worked to advocate the economic development and expansion of Hispanic businesses.

By advocating consistently for the needs of the Hispanic business community and assisting other organizations with much needed services, the Hispanic Business Association: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio, has served as an invaluable resource. It has sponsored and co-sponsored various events, featuring many distinguished speakers, such as the Mayor of the City of Cleveland, the National Director of Minority Business Development Agency, and the State Director of Equal Opportunity. In addition the association annually sponsors the "Entrepreneur of the Year" Awards Banquet, recognizing Hispanic entrepreneurs who, despite the odds, have succeeded in business and participated in community development.

My fellow colleagues, the Hispanic Business Association: Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for Ohio deserves the highest praise for its dedication to advancing the needs of the Hispanic Business Community. I commend this long standing organization.

HONORING VIDA EN EL VALLE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Vida en el Valle for receiving

the second-place award as an outstanding bilingual weekly newspaper from the National Association of Hispanic Publications. The newspaper received the award at the Association's 20th annual convention in Dallas.

Larger newspapers have recognized the weekly newspaper for its dedication and ability to cover many aspects of the community. Vida en el Valle, published by the Fresno Bee, is a free newspaper distributed to Fresno, Tulare, and Madera counties. The newspaper began publication in 1990, and in 10 years of competition has received 28 first-place awards and 49 second-place awards. The recognition the paper has received shows the amount of respect the paper has gained for itself in only a short time.

Among the many awards the newspaper received, the editor, Juan Esparza Loera, was also recognized. He received first place for best entertainment column for a piece he wrote about the ALMA Awards, which honors outstanding Latinos in the television and movie industry.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Vida en el Valle for receiving second-place as an outstanding bilingual weekly newspaper. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Vida en el Valle for its dedication to the community and wishing the paper continued success.

IN HONOR OF THE ANNUAL BAYONNE HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY OBSERVANCE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance. Co-sponsored by the Inter-Faith Clergy and the Bayonne Jewish Community Council, the event will take place on April 10, 2002, at the City Hall Council Chambers.

On Tuesday, April 09, 2002, Jews around the world commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day, or Yom Hashoah. The colossal crimes against humanity and the unimaginable horrors that cost the lives of 6 million Jews and so many others, perpetrated by the world's most evil forces, shall never be forgotten, as we commit ourselves to fight bigotry, condemn hatred, and foster understanding among people.

Bayonne's annual observance will feature speaker Jay Sommer, 1981 National Teacher of the Year, and a Holocaust survivor.

Jay Sommer, who managed to escape from a Nazi labor camp in occupied Czechoslovakia, and arrived in the United States after more than two years in a displaced persons camp in Italy, has successfully established himself as a successful and well-respected educator in our nation. In 1981, he was appointed to the National Commission on Excellence in Education established by President Reagan, and traveled throughout the United States with the Commission, serving as an official spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Education. He is a specialist in foreign language instruction, and has taught Spanish, Russian, Hebrew, and French for over twenty years at New Rochelle High School.

Mr. Sommer graduated from Brooklyn College, and, in 1982, received a Distinguished Alumnus Award in recognition of his leadership in the field of education. He earned a Masters in Spanish language and literature from Hunter College in 1960, a second Masters in Russian language and literature from Fordham University in 1965, and completed his course work for a Ph.D. in comparative literature at New York University.

Chairing this event for the fourth time is Alan J. Apfelbaum, who has been an active and dedicated member of the Holocaust Remembrance Day Committee since its inception.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Annual Bayonne Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance, and honor those that lost their lives, especially during these most difficult times for the State of Israel and Jews across Europe subjected to a new wave of Anti-Semitic violence.

HAPPY VAISAKHI DAY TO THE SIKH NATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, the Sikhs will be celebrating Vaisakhi Day, their most important holiday. I want to salute the Sikh Nation for its contributions to America and wish all the Sikh people a happy Vaisakhi Day.

Vaisakhi Day is the day when the Sikhs were formed by their guru into the Khalsa Panth. It is the anniversary of the founding of their order, and the Sikh Nation has been a very important contributor to every country in which Sikhs live. A Sikh named Dalip Singh Saund served in Congress in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Dr. Amarjit Singh Bhullar of Connecticut is an elected school board member. Sikhs have been very active and successful in this country in virtually every walk of life. They have also made important contributions to India, including giving about 80 percent of the sacrifices for India's independence. Yet India persecutes them. Over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government since 1984, according to the book *The Politics of Genocide*. At least 50,000 were picked up, tortured, murdered, and then declared "unidentified" and their bodies were cremated. The Movement Against State Repression reports that India admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners. Tens of thousands of Christians, Muslims, and other minorities are also being held. Our own State Department reported in 1994 that the Indian government paid more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. These are just a few examples of the oppression of the Sikhs by the Indian government. I could give a very long list, but I do not wish to take up too much of the House's time.

April 13 also happens to be the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence. In that document he wrote that when a government becomes tyrannical, "it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them shall seem

most likely to effect their safety and happiness." That certainly applies to the Sikh Nation today, as well as Kashmir, primarily Christian Nagaland, and the other nations living under Indian occupation. It is time for them to claim their own.

America should support these nations' right to self-determination by stopping aid to India and by supporting a free and fair vote on independence. Then the people of South Asia can finally live in freedom and enjoy stability, prosperity, and peace. That is something we should all work for.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, put out an excellent and informative statement for Vaisakhi Day. It really lays out the issues well. With the consent of the House, I would like to insert it into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan, March 25, 2002]

VAISAKHI MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION (By Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh)

This is a time of celebration of our 303rd anniversary of the Khalsa Panth. It is also time to look back at our history. The Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. ("In grieve Sikhin ko deon Patshahi.") Banda Singh Bahadur established the first Khalsa rule in Punjab from 1710 to 1716. Then there was a period of persecution of the Sikhs. Again Sikhs established a sovereign, independent rule from 1765 to 1849, when the British annexed the Sikh homeland, Punjab, into British India.

To regain freedom from the British, Sikhs were on the front line of the fight. The Sikh Nation gave about 80 percent of the sacrifices during this freedom struggle when they formed only 1.5 percent of the Indian population. At the time of the independence of India, Sikhs were equal signatories to the transfer of power from the British. Muslim leader Mohammed Ali Jinnah was very wise and well educated and he did not trust the majority Hindu leadership. He got an independent Pakistan for the Muslims. The Sikh leadership should have gotten an independent country for the Sikhs at that time, but they were fooled by the Hindu leadership of Nehru and Gandhi so Sikhs took their share and joined India on the promise that they would have the glow of freedom in the northwest part of India.

Khalsa Ji, we have seen this "glow of freedom" in the form of the attack on the Golden Temple in June 1984, when over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in Punjab in a single month. The next massacre of Sikhs occurred after the assassination of Indira Gandhi in Delhi. There was a mass murder of Sikhs throughout India, including Delhi. The Sikhs were pulled out of trains and burned alive. Sikh truck drivers were pulled out of their trucks. Tires were put around their necks by Hindu militants and they were burned to death. In Punjab, this genocide continued under Beant Singh's government. Sikhs were arrested, tortured, and then cremated and their bodies were declared "unidentified."

Since 1984, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered. 52,268 are rotting in Indian jails under TADA, which expired in 1995. Many of them have been in illegal custody since Operation Bluestar in 1984. Only last month, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush to get these political prisoners released. Jaswant Singh Khaira, who exposed the government killing of Sikhs in fake encounters, became a victim of the Indian police himself. He was kidnapped outside his house and murdered in police custody. He documented 6,018 Sikhs who were secretly cremated by the government in three crema-

tion grounds, Patti, Tam Taran, and Durgiana Mandir. Subsequently, Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO) chairman Justice Ajit Singh Bains said that about 50,000 Sikhs were secretly cremated in this manner. Even Akal Takht Jathedar Sahib Gurdev Singh Kaunke was murdered by SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna and then his body was disposed of.

The Badal government was forced to conduct an inquiry into the killing of Jathedar Kaunke. It was done by three Punjab police officials under the leadership of DIG Tiwari. He submitted a report to the Badal government, which has not been made public as of today. How could a democratically elected Akali government hide the murder of the Akal Takht Jathedar by not releasing this report, which was conducted by its own order?

The Badal government was the most corrupt one in Punjab's history. They invented a new term for bribery: "fee for service." If you didn't pay the fee, you didn't get the service. There was a fixed amount of money for government jobs. Bags of money were received by Mrs. Badal in return for these jobs. The Punjab economy deteriorated under Badal and the Punjab government its largest debt ever. It is bankrupt now. Badal made three promises to get elected. He promised to free the political prisoners, to punish the police officers who carried out atrocities against the Sikh Nation, and to appoint a commission to investigate atrocities. He did not keep any of them.

The Sikh leadership is completely under Indian government control, whether it is the Akali leadership of Badal, Tohra, Mann, and others or the Congress leadership of Punjab under Captain Amarinder Singh or former Chief Minister Mrs. Bhatthal. Changing parties and faces every election will not solve the problems of the Sikh Nation. Congress is no better than the Akalis and the Akalis proved to be the worst enemies of the Sikh Nation. How could an Akali government keep 52,268 Sikhs in jail without charge or trial for the last 16 years? It is shameful and a black mark on the present Akali leadership. They have cashed in on the sacrifices and good will of the pre-independence Akali leadership.

Khalsa Ji, the only solution to this quagmire is the formation of a Khalsa Raj Party under new, honest, dedicated, and committed leadership. The time is now to do it. Let's not waste time and prolong the suffering and agony of the Sikh Nation under the present corrupt Akali leadership which is controlled by the Indian government and is determined to wipe out the Sikh Nation and the Sikh religion. The only remedy is to sever our relationship with Delhi completely, once and for all, and declare the independence from India and start a peaceful agitation to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

The victory of the Congress Party was a massive rejection of the Akalis, who were elected five years ago to reject the Congress Party. However, the Congress Party remains the enemy of the Sikh Nation. In the last two elections, the Sikh Nation has soundly rejected both parties. Neither supports the interests of the Sikh Nation; neither can be trusted by the Sikh Nation. The time has come to discard the present Akali leadership that has betrayed the Sikh Nation.

We must press for action against the police officials who carried out the police kidnapping and murder of human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira. These would be good first steps for the Sikh leadership and for the new government in Punjab. But we must continue to pursue our ultimate goal of freeing the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan.

The Sikh Nation is sovereign and it must have its sovereign, independent country.