

Guru gave sovereignty to the Khalsa Panth. Remember "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Sikhs can never forgive or forget the desecration of the Golden Temple. This is the history and tradition of the Sikh Nation. The time has come to form a Khalsa Raj Party to liberate Khalistan. The new Sikh leadership must launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland. The only way the Sikh Nation can prosper is to free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. The freedom of the Sikh Nation will bring prosperity, stability, and peace to Punjab and to South Asia.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ASTIN JACOBO

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and accomplishments of Mr. Astin Jacobo, a dedicated and determined civic activist who recently passed away. Friends, family and community members gathered to honor his memory on March 23, 2002.

Mr. Jacobo spent the last thirty years of his life in service to his multi-cultural community. Crotona residents already feel the great gap Mr. Jacobo has left behind. As a native of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Jacobo came to the United States with defined goals and ample determination. He saw where his community was seriously in need of change and did not hesitate to roll up his sleeves and get involved. His sense of civic duty was difficult to match and that is just one reason why his passing is such a great loss to the South Bronx.

One look around the Crotona neighborhood, and you will see sufficient proof of Mr. Jacobo's impact on this community. While serving as president of the Crotona Community Coalition, he played critical roles in the launching of the Mary Mitchell Youth & Family Center and the Mapes Avenue ball field, to name a few things. Residents can also be grateful to him for the part he played in improving the Quarry Road Soccer Field and Belmont Park. Mr. Jacobo's accomplishments helped the community feel more like community and instilled a sense of pride in many residents. Throughout his career in public service, Mr. Jacobo was served on the Bronx Community Planning Board #6, and was involved with Save-A-Nation, Inter-Neighborhood Housing Corporation, the Mary Mitchell Youth & Family Center, the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, and various local sports teams. He has been honored by many of these organizations and others for his achievements.

Mr. Speaker, beyond Mr. Jacobo's ceaseless civic work, he managed to be a loving and involved husband, father of four, and grandfather of three. To be well-known as not only a giving and determined individual, but also as a devoted family man, is a remarkable honor. I am sure that his family is very proud of the wonderful life he led.

The civic organizations to which he belonged throughout his 75 years, like the honors and awards he has received, are almost beyond counting. Mr. Jacobo was a wonderful individual who showed us the beauty and power of dedication, leadership, and wisdom. He was truly an inspiration to all who knew him.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of Mr. Astin Jacobo.

HONORING THE REVEREND AND MRS. JAMES (MARY) FUNCHESS

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend and Mrs. James (Mary) Funchess of Georgetown, Mississippi.

On April 13th, friends and relatives and parishioners of the Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church of Jackson, Mississippi, will turn out to celebrate the 13th anniversary of Rev. Funchess' being the Minister of that great church.

The son of John and Alpha Funchess, James Funchess has lived his whole life in Georgetown, Mississippi. He attended schools in Copiah County and theological seminaries throughout the Great State of Mississippi. He accepted the ministry more than 25 years ago and today is the Dean of the Copiah County Ministerial Alliance. He has established himself as an esteemed community leader in Copiah County and Greater Jackson.

It is quite an accomplishment, offering ministry to so many people for 13 years as Minister at Mount Olive Baptist Church. But the kindness, the wisdom, and the leadership of Reverend Funchess extend far beyond those 13 years. His family and friends are gathering to celebrate the blessings that James and Mary Funchess have bestowed upon thousands of people whose paths have crossed theirs during their lifetime of ministry throughout Mississippi.

Indeed, his favorite saying is "I will let nothing mess up my day. This is the day the Lord has made me." These are words to live by, and give me great comfort. So I am happy to join the celebration honoring James and Mary Funchess, and to lend my voice in praising and thanking them for their good work.

HONORING DONALD CRIPE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald Cripe on the occasion of his retirement as Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures. A dinner will be held in his honor for his contribution to the community.

Donald Cripe attended Grace College in Winoona Lake, Indiana, then traveled to California to attend CSU Chico, and received his A.A. Degree from Modesto Junior College in 1976. He started his career with Stanislaus County as an Inspector from 1969–1976, then became Agricultural Commissioner for Madera and Mariposa Counties. He gained much experience while working in these areas, and he brought what he teamed home with him to Stanislaus County. His main duties included pest management, fruit and vegetable quality control, crop statistics, petroleum program, and standards certification, among many oth-

ers. Don believes that success will come by creating a mission, rather than rules, driven department in which the customer is the focus. He has strongly promoted teamwork and collaboration while working for Stanislaus County.

Donald has been married to his wife, Sharon, for 39 years and they have four children and eight grandchildren. Don has served his community, but has also led an active life with his family.

IN HONOR OF DR. DEBORAH MANDELL AND BERNARD KERIK

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Deborah Mandell, the National Police Defense Foundation's "Woman of the Year," and Mr. Bernard Kerik, the National Police Defense Foundation's "Man of the Year." Dr. Mandell and Mr. Kerik were honored on Thursday, April 4, 2002, at Russo's on the Bay in Queens, New York.

Dr. Deborah Mandell is the Director of National Police Defense Foundation Psychological Services. Following the tragic events of September 11, Dr. Mandell headed the National Police Defense Foundation's emergency response team. This team provided grief counseling and support to many survivors, family members of victims, and rescue workers. In addition to her tireless work with the National Police Defense Foundation, Dr. Mandell is also a psychologist in New Jersey and volunteers her time to United Way.

This year's "Man of the Year" is former New York City Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik. A New Jersey native, Mr. Kerik has dedicated his life to public service. His leadership and dedication proved invaluable following the World Trade Center disaster. As New York City Police Commissioner, Mr. Kerik coordinated the rescue efforts and ensured the City's safety. Prior to becoming the City's 40th Police Commissioner, Mr. Kerik served as a New York City police officer, an undercover detective, and a commissioner of corrections.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Deborah Mandell and Mr. Bernard Kerik for their dedicated service on behalf of our nation and the citizens of New York and New Jersey throughout these challenging times.

IN TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS MATTHEW A. COMMONS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay a special tribute to Private First Class Matthew A. Commons, an American hero.

PFC Commons died on March 4, 2002 in Afghanistan while trying to rescue another American soldier. He was one of eight servicemen killed that day during an intensive battle with the Taliban and al Qaeda. PFC Matthew A. Commons was a professional soldier, a man who had earned the respect of his fellow

soldiers, and he is remembered fondly by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Matthew Commons was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana, raised in Indianapolis and also lived in Boulder City, Nevada and Alexandria, Virginia. In high school, Matthew was an accomplished honor student and class officer. He then spent a year at the University of Nevada at Reno, but decided in July 2000 to become an Army Ranger because he wanted to serve his country. He had planned to finish college after his four-year tour and become a history teacher like his father. In December 2001, he visited his father's history classes at Carl Sandburg Middle School in full battle fatigues to discuss his life as a Ranger. Matthew had also recently celebrated his 21st birthday with his Army buddies, a celebration that included hats and banners sent by his mother Patricia Marek, who had just moved to Alexandria, Virginia.

Matthew's Army unit had been sent to Afghanistan on a secret assignment in January. Though he frequently spoke by telephone with his father, he had not been allowed to disclose his location. In speaking of his son, Greg recently said, "I'm real proud of him. He loved his family, he loved his country and he loved the Rangers . . . He gave his life to save the life of another Ranger."

Military service is not new to the Commons family. Both of Matthew's grandfather's served in World War II, where his grandfather Marek earned a Purple Heart. Additionally, Matthew's father Greg served in the Marines in the Vietnam War.

Besides his mother and father, Matthew leaves his brother Aaron, his father's second wife Linda Chapman, and two half-brothers, Thomas and Patrick. Matthew, who was buried at Arlington cemetery, has been awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star with V Device for Valor.

Mr. Speaker, I hold out the example of this fine young man, a great American, who paid the ultimate price in defense of freedom and liberty. I know I speak for the entire Congress when I extend sympathies to the entire Commons family and friends who are grieving during this difficult time. May they be comforted by the precious memories of their beloved son and brother.

As a veteran myself, I greatly appreciate the unique challenges faced by the men and women serving in our military today. It is the ultimate sacrifice when a soldier dies for his country. We are able to enjoy the freedoms we have today because of men like Matthew Commons and the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have given their lives in the fight for American principles over the past 226 years.

Matthew Commons answered the call of his country, and his death will forever place his name on the roll of heroes who sacrificed their own lives to protect the lives of others. His life and unyielding commitment to duty and honor should remind us all that the liberties we enjoy do not come without a price. Let us always remember these costs, and always remember Private First Class Matthew A. Commons.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, it is with much pride and satisfaction that I rise today to offer my warm congratulations to my alma mater, the University of Maryland, and its coach, Gary Williams and its men's basketball team, for winning the 2002 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament and being crowned national champions.

The Terrapins basketball team, led by those heralded seniors, guard Juan Dixon, forward Lonnie Baxter, and guard Byron Mouton, secured the school's first national basketball title with a 64-52 victory over the Indiana Hoosiers earlier this month.

It was a magical tournament run for Maryland's leader and All-American, Juan Dixon, who averaged 25.9 points per game throughout the tournament and was named the tournament's Most Outstanding Player.

Dixon, the Terrapins' steadiest hand throughout the year, led Maryland to a record 32-4 season, with Terrapins winning 19 of their last 20 games.

And now Maryland has the first NCAA basketball championship in school history.

The University of Maryland has a rich basketball history and much to be proud of, even before this national title. Its men's basketball team has posted 20-win seasons 19 times. They have also been to the NCAA Tournament 19 times. Fourteen players have been named All-American.

But for various reasons, the school had never even reached a Final Four until this last season. And it had never won it all until last month.

In their ninth straight appearance in the NCAA tournament, this year the Terrapins finally went the distance. Before this year however, Coach Williams had been a victim of his own great success. The pressure for him to win was incredible.

Getting into the tournament wasn't good enough for Terps fans anymore. For Maryland, March had become maddening, and they wanted a championship. And Gary Williams delivered.

For Williams, this is the culmination of so many dreams. When he returned to his alma mater 13 years ago to take over a program struggling under probation and with an image problem, this goal seemed so far away. But he worked at it every day and now he has reached the pinnacle of college basketball.

For the joyous Terrapin fans, who danced through the streets of Atlanta and College Park, this was Maryland's time to be hailed as "No. 1". This was the year to "Fear the Turtle."

Once again, I congratulate Coach Williams, the Terrapins basketball team and the entire University of Maryland administration and student body for their school's exceptional basketball season.

TRIBUTE TO PETER COGAN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Peter Cogan of Amber, Pennsylvania. For twenty-five years Peter has served as the executive director of the Children's Aid Society (CAS) in Southeastern Pennsylvania. He has done an outstanding job for his community. CAS provides specialized, professional, family-focused social services to abused, neglected and delinquent children and youth within and outside of the context of their families.

Peter received his bachelor's degree from Georgetown and his master's degree in social work from the University of Pennsylvania. In 1977, the board of directors of CAS selected Peter to become the executive director of their organization. During his tenure, Peter brought CAS from an agency that operated primarily in one county to a regional organization serving Southeastern Pennsylvania. Through his diligence and vision, Peter has started programs that have maintained CAS as a reliable, high quality delivery system that protects children, empowers families, and achieves permanent homes for children.

Peter and his wife Donna reside in Ambler and are the proud parents of three children.

I am pleased to recognize Peter Cogan for his many years of dedicated work. Our community is fortunate to have someone of such distinction.

ON THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my congratulations on two momentous occasions for an organization that has made a difference in the lives of girls and women around the nation. In the same year that the local Black Hawk Council chapter of the Girl Scouts in Madison, Wisconsin celebrates 75 years of scouting, the Girl Scouts of the USA are celebrating 90 years of "helping girls grow strong."

Girl scouting began on March 12, 1912, when Juliette Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia for a local Girl Scout meeting. Low believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally and spiritually. Today, 3.7 million strong, the Girl Scouts continue to carry out their goal by encouraging girls to discover and develop their full potential. They focus on empowerment of girls by engaging in cultural exchanges, going on field trips, participating in community service projects, and learning about non-traditional fields for women such as science and technology.

The Girl Scouts emphasize that their mission is to help all girls grow strong. They emphasize that Girl scouting is available to every girl in every community, reaching beyond racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and geographic boundaries. I experienced this first-hand when