

I am pleased to rise today to honor six heroic and dedicated men and women who responded to this call of greatness. These six individuals have dedicated their lives to helping others in need by working in the emergency medical and ambulance services profession.

Whenever we face a medical emergency, whether it is a family member, a friend or co-worker, the first thing we do is call for an ambulance. According to some estimates, there are almost 960 million ambulance trips made each year in the United States.

And the first people to respond to these emergencies are the millions of emergency medical professionals whose skills and training significantly improve the survival of the patient. As a result of their selfless acts, these courageous and devoted men and women save the lives of thousands of Americans each year. While these professionals do not expect to receive recognition for their work, they deserve our sincere gratitude.

I am fortunate to have met with a number of medics from Oregon and have heard firsthand accounts of their tireless efforts to serve their communities on a daily basis. They are truly America's health care safety net.

For the past nine years, the American Ambulance Association (AAA) has recognized those emergency, medical and ambulance service professionals who exemplify what is best about their field, and bestow upon them the Stars of Life award. These appropriately designated Stars of Life have been selected by their peers to represent them in Washington, DC as part of pre-National EMS Week activities. The highlight of their visit to our Nation's capital is an awards banquet where they are presented with this prestigious award. The American Ambulance Association is honoring 113 Stars of Life this year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that, of these 113 Stars of Life, 6 are from my congressional district in Oregon.

They are: Victor Hoffer, Randy Johnson, Dawn Poetter, Candy Schneider, Frank Wallender, and Bill Wildman.

Our Nation is blessed by people like Victor, Dawn, Randy, Candy, Frank, and Bill who made a decision to devote their lives to helping other people and serving their communities.

I am immensely proud of all of their accomplishments. I hope that they are also beaming with pride in what they have achieved. Oregon is privileged to be protected by such devoted and courageous men and women.

Dr. King reminded us that everyone can be great. These six individuals have lived it.

TRIBUTE TO BRONX COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with joy that I rise today to once again pay tribute to Bronx Community College, which will hold its 24th Anniversary Hall of Fame 10K Run on Saturday, May 11, 2002. This year the theme of the race will be "Running Against Asthma."

The Hall of Fame 10K Run was founded in 1978 by Bronx Community College's third president, Dr. Roscoe C. Brown and today

continues to be an event of great significance. This year, Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion, Jr. proudly proclaimed May 11, 2002 as "Bronx Community College Hall of Fame 10K Race Day." Each year, amateur and professional runners alike from all five of New York's boroughs and the entire tri-state area come together to run the Bronx. Participants include teams from municipal agencies along with faculty, staff and students of Bronx Community College and other nearby schools.

It is indeed one of the Bronx's most anticipated yearly events and has contributed to a strong sense of community within the Bronx. The race also places an emphasis of physical fitness and achieving athletic goals. Historically, its mission has been to highlight the Hall of Fame for Great Americans, a national institution dedicated to those who have helped make America great. This year, along with upholding that mission, the race will take on another important function, The 2002 race's theme, "Running Against Asthma" is particularly important to South Bronx residents where the rate of asthma among children is twice the national average. It is wonderful that Bronx Community College is focusing on this important issue and raising awareness.

The 10K race tradition continues under the stewardship of Dr. Carolyn G. Williams. Dr. Williams has endorsed the race since her inauguration and has not only continued the tradition started by Dr. Brown to promote physical fitness and highlight higher education, but has added the raising of awareness of important community issues.

I can recall the high level of energy and community involvement when I ran the Hall of Fame 10K race. The race has attracted well over 400 runners each year and I'm sure this year will see an even larger number of participants. People of all ages and physical ability will be able to take part in the Bronx Community College events on May 11, 2002. Along with the 10K race, there will be a Hall of Fame Excalibur One Mile Boys and Girls Youth Challenge and a 2 Mile Fitness Walk.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the individuals and participants who are making the Bronx Community College's 24th Annual Hall of Fame 10K run possible.

HONORING HERRMANN SPETZLER,
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Herrmann Spetzler, Executive Director of Open Door Community Health Centers in Arcata, California, and honor him for his 25 years of service to the health care needs of the people of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Herrmann Spetzler has provided extraordinary leadership in directing the growth of Open Door Community Health Centers. The clinic has grown from a part time clinic staffed by volunteers to a system of eight licensed facilities and medical mobile programs serving more than 35,000 individuals throughout the two counties and specifically in the communities of Crescent City, Smith River, McKinleyville, Arcata and Eureka.

Mr. Spetzler also has provided vision and leadership in the development of collaborations that support the health of rural communities at the local, state and national levels, including the California State Rural Health Association, Community Health Alliance, California Primary Care Association and North Coast Clinics Network.

Mr. Spetzler has earned distinction as President of the Humboldt Child Care Council and founder of the Northern California Rural Round Table for Health Care Providers. He is highly esteemed for his successful efforts to develop high quality facilities to meet community health care needs with a focus on health education, access to care and prevention.

Mr. Spetzler has also served the people of California as Statewide Chair of the Expanded Access to Primary Care Committee. He is a member of the Statewide Primary Care Advisory Group to the State Health Director and a member of the Rural Health Care Forum Advisory Group to the Office of Statewide Health Planning. He is a member of the Advisory Task Force for State Facilities Financing Authority and a Board Member of the California Human Service Organization. Mr. Spetzler is esteemed by his colleagues as a leader and innovator in the field of health care.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Herrmann Spetzler for his vision, leadership and commitment to healthier communities and for his extraordinary record of public service to the people of the North Coast of California.

BBC EXPOSES MILITANT HINDU
VHP

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, the British Broadcasting Company recently ran an expose of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP), a fundamentalist, militant Hindu nationalist organization. The VHP is an organization, which operates under the umbrella of the pro-Facist Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS). The RSS is the parent organization of the ruling BJP.

The BBC notes that the VHP has promoted Hindu supremacy and has engaged in violent acts against minorities. These acts include the murder of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons while they slept in their jeep.

The report states that the VHP, which it identifies as "a hardline Hindu outfit," rarely makes a "distinction between fellow (Muslim) citizens of the present and (Muslim 'marauders' of the past." It further reports that "the ambition of establishing a resurgent Hinduism by inculcating what some historians call a carefully constructed common 'Hindu spirit' is very much central to the VHP." Moreover, it exposes the VHP's support for a militant Hindus' project to build a Hindu temple on the site of the most revered mosque in India, which was destroyed by the BJP.

Since the BJP is also part of the RSS umbrella, it is critical to help ensure the rights of minorities in India. Tens of thousands of Sikhs and other minorities have been held in illegal custody as political prisoners for many years. Tens of thousands of minorities have been

killed by the Indian governments regardless of the political party in power. It is time to stop American aid to India and to support self-determination for all the people of South Asia in the form of a plebiscite on independence so that their rights are not subject to the whims of militant Hindu nationalists.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the text of the BBC report into the RECORD at this time.

[The British Broadcasting Co., Mar. 8, 2002]

PROFILE: THE VISHWA HINDU PARISHAD

(By Rajyasri Rao)

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) was founded in 1964 by a group of senior leaders from a hard-line Hindu organisation, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), to give Hindus what they believed would be a clearly defined sense of religious identity and political purpose.

HINDU HARDLINERS HAVE GROWN MORE VOCAL

Its founders felt the need to present Hinduism in a rigorous though simplified form which would be comparable to most other world religions.

The superiority of other faiths was believed to stem from their being far less diffuse and more uniform than Hinduism.

But its critics call the VHP a hardline Hindu outfit with unmistakably close ties to its parent organisation, the extremist RSS, whose objective to 'Hinduise' the Indian nation, it shares.

Central to the RSS ideology has been the belief that real national unity and progress will come only when India is 'purged' of non-Hindus, or, when members of other communities subordinate themselves 'willingly' to 'Hindu superiority.'

LINKED GROUPS

The VHP has tended to tone down the rhetoric of Hindu supremacy and even make an occasional distinction between fellow (Muslim) citizens of the present and (Muslim) 'marauders' of the past.

But the ambition of establishing a resurgent Hinduism by inculcating what some historians call a carefully constructed common 'Hindu spirit' is very much central to the VHP.

THE TEMPLE PROJECT ENJOYS A LOT OF SUPPORT

This is also something it shares with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which currently leads the Indian Government at the centre.

Earlier known as the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), the BJP was established in 1951 as a political wing of the RSS to counter rising public revulsion after the revered independence figure Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated by a former RSS member.

Some commentators say the party came close to obliteration in the 1960s with the Congress led by the charismatic and secular Jawaharlal Nehru, leaving little room for hardline communal politics.

But a political emergency announced by Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, in 1975 enabled the BJS leaders, Atal Behari Vajpayee and LK Advani among them, to gain near stardom after serving brief prison sentences. Many women have joined the hardliners' campaign.

But it didn't really emerge as a political presence until the early 1980s.

A series of events in that decade including the mass conversion of lower-cast Hindus to Islam pushed the BJP's close affiliate, the VHP, to the forefront.

Historians say the VHP-led Hindu right considered the mass conversion of "dalits" or lower-caste Hindus to Islam to be an unforgivable insult.

The dalits, for centuries beholden to the upper castes, outraged Hindu hardliners by daring to convert at all, and moreover, convert to Islam.

The VHP saw this as a serious threat to its notion of Hinduism.

It proceeded to whip up Hindu support for a re-defined communal force, organising a series of religious meetings, cross-country marches and processions through the 1980s.

This phase coincided with the launch of an electoral strategy by the BJP to corner and hold on to the "Hindu" vote.

TEMPLE CONTROVERSY

Following the success of their campaign, senior VHP leaders announced at a religious meeting in 1984 their programme to "liberate" a site in Ayodhya from an ancient mosque to make way for a temple to the Hindu god Ram.

SOME 'MODERATE' HINDU LEADERS SUPPORT

THE VHP

Analysts say this announcement heralded a turning point in the history of the Hindu nationalist movement.

The VHP has since then claimed that the site belongs rightfully to Hindu worshippers who believe that the mosque stood on the birthplace of the god, Lord Ram. Although the claim does not stand up to substantial archaeological or historical scrutiny, the VHP and BJP are seen to have made possible the creation of a shared Hindu symbol that cuts through most divisions in Hindu society.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL HOSPITAL WEEK

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of National Hospital Week, a yearly event that focuses public attention on the numerous contributions hospitals make to our communities.

National Hospital Week began in 1921 when a magazine editor suggested that more information about hospitals might alleviate public fears about "shrouded" medical institutions that used "unusual" equipment and procedures.

This year's National Hospital Week theme, "Where Miracles Happen Every Day," recognizes health care workers, volunteers, and other health professionals dedicated to making hospitals open to our communities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In my state of Hawaii, the health care workforce was one of the few sectors of the economy that grew in the 1990's. Due to the dramatic growth in this area, one out of every 15 employed Hawaii residents works in the health care industry. The State of Hawaii has 2.5 physicians per 1,000 residents (compared to 2.1 nationally). Unfortunately, the number of nurses declined during the nineties, and they now shoulder an even larger burden as they work to help everyone who must visit our hospitals.

As a result of the hard work by these people, my state has achieved a health status that is the envy of many other states. The State of Hawaii has longer life expectancies, lower rates of cancer, and lower hepatitis rates.

The same dedication to improving the health of our nation can be found at the nearly 6,000

registered hospitals located throughout the United States. In 1999, America's hospitals discharged roughly 35.5 million people. This staggering workload is handled by highly qualified professions and volunteers who have dedicated their lives to helping others.

I fully support National Hospital Week and extend my warmest expression of gratitude to the staff and volunteers who work in our nation's hospitals.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LUCILE SUGDEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Mrs. Lucile Sugden of Lansing, Michigan, who will be honored on Sunday, June 2, 2002, by South Baptist Church and the Lansing community for her years of service, including 75 years of faithfully serving as a Sunday School teacher.

For 35 years, Mrs. Sugden and her late husband, Dr. Howard Sugden, ministered to the members and community of South Baptist Church in Lansing. During her years of service, Mrs. Sugden's witness has inspired and motivated many Christian families.

Even today, Lucile Sugden, who celebrates her 95th birthday on May 31, 2002, continues to teach a weekly Sunday School class at South Baptist. She also leads a weekly Bible study at her apartment complex.

Described by those who know and love her as a true Woman of God, Mrs. Sugden is a role model for staying active in our golden years. She swims regularly in a local pool and even evangelizes those she meets in the hot tub. She has also been seen each summer in recent years zipping around on a jet ski watercraft on Lake Michigan.

Long before her jet ski days, Lucile Sugden became a dedicated Tiger baseball fan. Twice honored at Tiger games in Detroit, she is fiercely loyal and devoted to her Tigers.

Today, we extend our admiration and respect to Lucile Sugden of Lansing, Michigan. Her life truly reflects the direction of II Timothy 2:15 which tells us: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

INTRODUCTION OF THE CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION BILL

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 14, 2002

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, September 11 showed us the horrors of this world. But it also showed us the good in human nature. Americans have been incredibly generous with their time and money in response to the terrorist attacks. Numerous charitable organizations were started within hours of the attacks to help the families whose lives were suddenly torn apart. People took time off from work to assist with feeding the emergency rescue crew digging through the rubble. And over \$1 billion dollars has been raised to assist in these efforts.