

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 diverse 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-caste 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.

Yet, since September 11, other important charitable efforts have been suffering from a lack of donations. The Starlight Children's Foundation, for instance, estimates that fundraising was down roughly \$500,000 for the year, which represents a large portion of its annual budget. Numerous other charitable organizations have seen similar reductions in contributions. This decrease in contributions has led to reduced services and even the failure of some organizations.

Moreover, charities are having to rely more on individual donations as businesses curtail their donations. American Airlines, for instance, its business severely affected by the September attacks, announced that it would not be making any charitable contributions this year.

It is imperative that Congress do something to address this growing problem.

Last fall, we debated proposals to stimulate our economy. While I agreed that legislation was needed to stimulate the economy, I was adamant that any proposal balance business interests with those of individual taxpayers. So, with each debate, I went before the Rules Committee proposing an amendment that would allow taxpayers who do not itemize their deductions to deduct their charitable contributions. Not only would this encourage charitable giving, but the tax benefit would help individuals and ultimately could help stimulate the economy. Unfortunately, my amendment was ruled out of order each time.

Today, I am introducing legislation that would allow for such a deduction. Although I was not able to get this included in the economic stimulus bill that passed Congress, I feel strongly that we should turn this proposal into law. We should encourage charitable giving.

My legislation is very similar to the proposal that was enacted in H.R. 7 earlier this year. However, unlike the proposal in H.R. 7, my amendment does not put an arbitrarily low cap on the dollar amount that can be deducted. Instead, it would follow current law for taxpayers who itemize their deductions. Specifically, this means that standard deduction taxpayers can deduct charitable contributions up to 50% of their adjusted gross income.

On April 15, more than 30 million taxpayers who itemized deductions on their tax returns were able to claim tax deductions for any contributions made to their favorite charities. The effect of the deduction was to lower the taxpayer's cost of giving one dollar by amounts ranging from 15 cents to almost 40 cents.

This same benefit should go to the millions of taxpayers who also generously contribute to charities but are not eligible for a charitable deduction because they claimed the standard deduction instead of itemizing deductions on their tax returns.

I am proud that President Bush endorsed my proposal on April 11. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill as well. We have the opportunity to enact legislation that will not only encourage charitable giving but will help stimulate our economy as well.

HONORING HENRY A. ROSENBERG

**HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Henry A. Rosenberg, Jr., industrialist, philanthropist, civic leader, proud American and friend.

Henry Rosenberg, Jr. is a Baltimore native. While college studies, business and travel have taken him out of town, he has always returned to his roots—those of his family and his business. As Chairman of the Board of Crown Central Petroleum Corporation and Rosemore, Inc., Mr. Rosenberg has guided his family business. Begun by his grandfather who sold oil from the back of a horse and cart in the streets of Baltimore, Crown Central today is a regional powerhouse operating two refineries and 329 gas stations.

But it is not just corporate and financial success that drives Mr. Rosenberg. He comes from a family that believed civic involvement and philanthropy was important as the petroleum business.

His business success led others to rely on Mr. Rosenberg for leadership. Mr. Rosenberg has served on the boards and/or held officer positions on the Greater Baltimore Committee, Signet Banking Corporation, The Pride of Baltimore, Inc., the National Aquarium in Baltimore, Loyola College, Johns Hopkins Health System, McDonogh School, Hobart College, the National Petroleum Council and the Refiners Association, Villa Julie College, University of Maryland Baltimore County, National Association of Manufacturers, Towson State University, Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, Signal 13 Foundation, Inc., Baltimore Area Convention and Visitors Association, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, United Way of Central Maryland, Inc., YMCA of Greater Baltimore, Boy Scouts of America, and the University of Baltimore.

Mr. Rosenberg's personal and foundation contributions have touched almost every non-profit organization in Baltimore with primary emphasis on art and culture, education and adult self-sufficiency, health, disease and disability, youth development and community building. In addition to the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Center Stage, Peabody Conservatory, Baltimore Chamber Music Society, Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, Sinai Hospital, The Associated Jewish Charities, the Maryland Science Center, the Baltimore Zoo, and the Boy Scouts of America. Most recently, Mr. Rosenberg and his wife Dorothy and their family foundation contributed to the Kennedy Krieger Institute to provide the lead gift to establish a unique behavioral testing laboratory that will be key in the development of new treatment and therapeutic programs.

Mr. Rosenberg has been honored for his philanthropy and board leadership by being named Philanthropist of the Year by the National Society of Fund Raising Executives, receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arthritis Foundation, the Corporate Champion Award by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Silver Buffalo Award by the National Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of America, and most recently, being inducted into the Maryland Chamber of Commerce Business Hall of Fame.

It should also be noted that Mr. Rosenberg is a man of athletic talent as well and was inducted into the Hobart College Athletic Hall of Fame where he had been a standout lacrosse player for the then, Division III powerhouse in men's lacrosse. As a result of this lifelong interest, Mr. Rosenberg continues his support of the sport by serving as Director of the Lacrosse Foundation, Inc.

On May 22nd, 2002 Mr. Rosenberg is being honored by The Patriots of Ft. McHenry for his outstanding contributions to the preservation and interpretation of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine and will receive their 2nd Annual Francis Scott Key Award. He serves as Chairman of the National Flag Day Foundation and has been a long time supporter of the Patriots of Fort McHenry and is an Honorary Colonel in the Fort McHenry Guard. For more than 20 years, Mr. Rosenberg has been committed to making the birthplace of the "Star-Spangled Banner" a place of inspiration for all Americans.

I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Mr. Henry Rosenberg, Jr. on a life well spent in service to his country and his city of Baltimore.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, On May 9, 2002, I missed Roll Call votes 138 through 158 to attend my daughter's college graduation ceremony. I request that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted aye on Roll Call votes 142, 154, 155, 156, and 158, and that I would have voted no on Roll Call votes 138—141, 143—154, and 157.

AMENDING PL 96-565, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE KALAUPAPA NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK TO ALLOW FOR LAND EXCHANGES OUTSIDE THE STATE OF HAWAII

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 14, 2002*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill which will amend Public Law 96-565, the law that established the Kalaupapa National Historical Park, to remove the restrictions regarding the exchange of lands between the National Park Service and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL). PL 96-565 currently does not allow for land trades outside of the State of Hawaii between the two departments.

Amending PL 96-565 will greatly increase the National Park Service's ability to locate and acquire lands to exchange for Hawaiian Home Lands located within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai. Certain lands within the Kalaupapa Park are currently leased by the National Park Service. The best way for the lands within Kalaupapa to be permanently protected from development is to have the federal government acquire the lands.