

This effort has claimed the lives of over a quarter of a million Sikhs, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims as well as thousands of Muslims in Gujarat and other places around the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and so many others. According to the Movement Against State Repression, India admitted to holding more than 52,000 Sikhs as political prisoners under TADA, a repressive law that expired in 1995. Some of these Sikhs have been in custody for almost 20 years without charge or trial. Even a Sikh Member of Parliament has recently had TADA charges brought to court against him. Amnesty International notes that tens of thousands of Christians, Muslims, and others are also being held as political prisoners, Mr. Speaker. Do you think they are celebrating India's independence?

Listen to what a spokesman for the Golden Temple, Narinder Singh, told National Public Radio on the fiftieth anniversary of Indian independence in 1997: "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they are secular, that they are democratic. They have nothing to do with a secularism, nothing to do with a democracy. They kill Sikhs just to please the majority." And Sikhs are unfortunately not the only ones. That is why Sikhs from the East Coast showed up to protest in front of the Indian Ambassador's residence, where an Independence Day celebration was being held. They demanded the basic democratic freedom of self-determination and freedom for the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, which declared itself independent on October 7, 1987.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to take a stand for freedom and democracy in South Asia. We must act now to cut off aid to India until it allows real democracy and freedom for the Sikhs, Christians, Dalits, Muslims, and other minorities. And we must put this Congress on record in full support of self-determination for all the peoples and nations of South Asia in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence. Self-determination is the cornerstone of democracy and India is not allowing self-determination for anyone but the upper-caste Brahmins. A free and fair plebiscite will allow everyone to have self-determination and allow this to happen peacefully. We must not allow militant Hindu fundamentalist theocrats to turn South Asia into another Yugoslavia, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to place the International Sikh Organization's press release on the Independence Day protest into the RECORD at this time.

DECEITFUL INDIAN GOVERNMENT MOVES INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION TO AVOID SIKH DEMONSTRATORS—ARE VICTIMS OF INDIAN REPRESSION CELEBRATING?

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 15, 2003.—The cowardly, deceitful Indian regime again moved its Independence Day celebration from the Indian Embassy in Washington, D.C. to the Ambassador's residence to avoid Sikhs who came from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and Virginia to protest Indian repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities and to demand an independent, sovereign Khalistan.

"This action shows the cowardice of the fundamentalist Hindu nationalists," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "They are afraid of a peaceful protest," Dr. Aulakh said. "That is not how democracies act," Dr. Aulakh said.

The protestors raised slogans like "India out of Khalistan", "Khalistan Zindabad", and others. They carried signs demanding

the release of over 52,000 Sikh political prisoners in India as well as thousands of Christian, Muslim, and other political prisoners, denouncing India for its violent repression of minorities, pointing out India's long history of anti-Americanism, and demanding freedom for Khalistan. Khalistan is the independent Sikh homeland declared on October 7, 1987. It has been under Indian occupation since then. When India became independent, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were to receive their own state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their consent. Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. "We only hope that the breakup will be peaceful," said Dr. Aulakh, "and that the fundamentalist Hindu nationalists will not force a violent, bloody breakup like that of Yugoslavia." India is ruled by Hindu theocrats whose agenda is "Hindu, Hindi, Hindutva, Hindu Rashtra," or total Hindu domination of every facet of Indian life. An Indian Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must be a Hindu or subservient to Hindus.

"It is clear that India does not accept Sikhs," said Dr. Aulakh. "The Indian government continues to persecute and kill our Sikh brethren," he said. "Sardar Atinder Pal Singh's question of 13 years ago is still the question facing the Sikh Nation: Why don't we liberate Khalistan? As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh'." Dr. Aulakh noted. An Indian newspaper reported on Tuesday that Sikhs in India had decided not to celebrate Indian Independence Day, but instead would hoist a black flag for the occasion. "This shows that the drive for freedom is still alive in Punjab," Dr. Aulakh said.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"Is Jaswant Singh Khalra celebrating? Is Jathedar Kaunke celebrating? Is Graham Staines celebrating?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "How can a democracy celebrate the kind of violent repression that claimed their lives?"

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. No one has been brought to justice for the Khalra kidnapping and murder. SSP Swaran Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Kaunke murder. Yet according to a report by the Movement

Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat last year have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered to stand aside in that massacre and not to get involved, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

"Only in a free Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper and get justice," said Dr. Aulakh. "India should act like a democracy and allow a plebiscite on independence for Khalistan and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

CONGRATULATING DR. SHELBY M. ELLIOTT ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on December 31, 2003, Dr. Shelby M. Elliott will retire as president of the Texas Chiropractic College. I rise to congratulate Dr. Elliott on his successful tenure at Texas Chiropractic College and to wish him well in his retirement.

Shelby M. Elliott was born in Wild Cherry, Arkansas, the eldest son of parents who instilled the values of hard work and the importance of attaining as much education as possible. After attending pre-chiropractic coursework at Paducah Community College, he completed his Doctor of Chiropractic degree at Texas Chiropractic College, then enrolled in Logan College of Chiropractic and earned a second doctorate.

He maintained a successful chiropractic practice in Dayton, Texas for 38 years and held several key business and civic leadership positions, including president of the Rotary Club of Dayton, charter member of the Dayton American Legion Post No. 512, board member of the Moody National Bank and the First Texas Bank, and member of the Dayton School Board and the Dayton-Liberty Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Elliott was honored as "Young Chiropractor of the Year" in 1964 and as "Chiropractor of the Year" in 1971 by the Texas Chiropractic Association and has been awarded the coveted Keeler Plaque. He was also awarded the "William D. Harper Science of Existence Award" in 1988 by Texas Chiropractic College, the "Lifetime Chiropractic Achievement Award" in 1988 and the "Doctor of the Year" in 1990 by the American Chiropractic Association and was honored as "Citizen of the Year" by the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce in 1996. I first met Doc Elliott in 1974 when he ran for State representative in East Texas. His loss was healthcare's gain.

He has held every elective position in local, State and national chiropractic associations. Shelby Elliott served as president

of the Board of Governors for the American Chiropractic Association for an unprecedented five years, during his nine-year tenure on this board. He even served nine years on the Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners, having been appointed by two different governors.

Shelby Elliott was appointed as the twelfth president of Texas Chiropractic College on September 1, 1990. At the time of his appointment, the Texas Chiropractic College was suffering with significant financial and morale problems. The Texas Chiropractic College Board of Regents recognized that the college needed a leader with vision and focused discipline. Fortunately, the Board of Regents was able to convince Shelby Elliott to accept the position of president and retire from professional practice for the sake of saving Texas Chiropractic College from bankruptcy and closure.

Dr. and Mrs. Connie Elliott personally gave \$10,000 of their own funds to renovate the president's office when they began, and have always been leaders in financial support to the Texas Chiropractic College. Dr. and Mrs. Elliott even donated the Texas Chiropractic College landmark sign that welcomes visitors to the campus.

Today, the Texas Chiropractic College is financially secure, with cash reserves thanks to Dr. Elliott's financial management skills. During his successful tenure, Dr. Elliott has built four beautiful and significant campus buildings within a five year period, improving the college's capacity to provide quality education for a new generation of health care providers.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Shelby Elliott is a legend in Texas and will be sorely missed. As a fitting tribute to his dedication to the Texas Chiropractic College, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Dr. Shelby Elliott for his fine work and to wish him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to a family health emergency, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 463–480 on Wednesday, September 3 through Friday, September 5. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 460, 461, 462, 466, 467, 468, 469, 471, 472, 474, 475, 476, 477, 479 and “nay” on rollcall votes 463, 464, 465, 470, 473, 478, 480.

HONORING STANLEY GRAZIUL

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanley Graziul, a veteran in my congressional district who has served his country with distinction.

Stanley Graziul is a World War II hero. He served in the Army's 97th Infantry Division, in Battery B of its 365th Field Artillery Battalion, which saw heavy action during the war. Stan-

ley single-handedly captured twenty-five German soldiers in Liebeneck, Czechoslovakia, on April 26, 1945. He was alone that morning guarding Battery B's perimeter when a young soldier dressed in an American uniform approached him. Stanley sensed that something was wrong and ordered the man, a German soldier, to halt. After interrogating him, Stanley learned that twenty-four of the soldier's comrades were hiding in the woods and promptly took them into custody, until he encountered American GI's who could take the Germans to a nearby prisoner-of-war camp.

Stanley Graziul's commitment to his country and the causes in which he believed did not end with his military service. He returned to the United States after the war and became actively involved in his community. He gave his time and energy to help many volunteer and service organizations assist those less fortunate than him. He also became active in the political process and donated his time and money to candidates and causes in which he believed. He and his wonderful wife, Caroline, live in my congressional district in Spring Hill and remain active in the community still today.

Mr. Speaker, Stanley Graziul is a true American hero. His honor, courage, and bravery, and that of countless American veterans, helped us win World War II and ensure that our democratic republic endured. I am proud to call him a constituent, and more important, to have him as a friend. I urge our colleagues to remember his example, and those of their constituents, as we exercise the freedoms that they helped secure.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN A. WELLS UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM CRISIS SERVICES OF NORTH ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathy Wells who was instrumental in turning HOPE Place from a shelter for victims of physical and sexual abuse, to a nationally known comprehensive services agency providing services, support, and education to individuals and families in crisis. Today, she is moving on from her position as Executive Director of Crisis Services of North Alabama for an opportunity to represent victims of domestic violence for the entire State of Alabama.

Kathy Wells has been involved in helping domestic violence victims for well over 20 years. Her work began as a volunteer and in 1981 she was a leading force in the development of HOPE Place as a domestic violence shelter. HOPE Place, which is now known as Crisis Services of North Alabama, is one of Huntsville's brightest stars and assets. Kathy's dedication and work effort are chiefly responsible for its success.

Ms. Wells is well-known and respected for her tireless work on legislation and advocacy for victims of domestic violence. Her extensive background and knowledge has led to many opportunities for her to testify as an expert witness at several trials, an overwhelming number of invitations to conduct training sessions, appointments by three governors to sit on five statewide domestic violence committees, and

requests to be the keynote speaker at many seminars and forums.

Mr. Speaker, today Kathy Wells's colleagues, friends and family are gathered in Huntsville, Alabama, to give her thanks and to congratulate her on her future endeavors. Since I cannot be there, I want to take this opportunity to honor her on behalf of the people of North Alabama, especially those who have regained confidence and a sense of self-worth because of Kathy's dedication and hard work.

TRIBUTE TO PAULA MONTANEZ— 2003 BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Corona, California are exceptional. Corona has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give their time and talent and make their communities a better place to live and work. Paula Montanez is one of these individuals. On September 30, 2003, Paula will be honored at the 2003 Distinguished Citizens Awards Dinner organized by the Boy Scouts of America.

Paula was born in Oklahoma, her mother's home state, but has lived most of her life in Southern California. She graduated from Corona High School in 1973 and attended college at the University of California, Riverside and Cal Poly Pomona. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Home Economics.

Paula and her husband Eugene, a Corona City Council Member, own and operate Zap Printing & Graphics, a successful printing company. In addition to her work she finds time for numerous organizations. She is a past president of Soroptimist International of Corona, a board member of the Corona Library Foundation and she has been involved in the Corona Reads projects for the past two years.

Paula has been a committee member of Cub Scouts Pack 121 and Boy Scouts Troop 121. She has also been a committee member of St. Edward School Development Commission, Santiago High School Soccer Boosters Board, Corona Regional Medical Center Foundation Board, and PrintImage International trade association. In 1998, Paula was awarded the “Women Helping Women” award by Soroptimist International of Corona. Her constant support and involvement has been an inspiration to fellow community members.

Paula's tireless passion for community service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the community of Corona, California. She has been the heart and soul of many community organizations and events and I am proud to call her a fellow community member, American and friend. I know that many community members are grateful for her service and salute her as she receives the 2003 Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award.