

the entire world. It is our job to pick up that torch and continue to promote freedom wherever it is denied. A good start would be to work to extend freedom to all peoples and nations of South Asia. In India, there are 18 official languages. Over 300,000 Christians have been murdered in Nagaland, as well as more than a quarter of a million Sikhs, almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims, thousands of Muslims in other parts of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, some as long as 20 years, without charge of trial. According to Amnesty International, tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. A Sikh named Gurnihal Singh Pirzada was recently arrested for attending a meeting of "dissidents," a meeting he says he didn't attend, while noting that it would not have been illegal for him to have done so. This does not sound like freedom or democracy to me.

Mr. Speaker, we should give serious thought to reconsidering our aid to India until basic human rights are freely exercised by all, and we should support the very basic principle of democracy through a free and fair plebiscite on independence for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, for predominantly Christian Nagaland, for Kashmir, and for every nation seeking to free itself from the yoke of Indian oppression. That is the way to bring freedom, security, stability, dignity, and prosperity to one of the world's most troubled regions. Perhaps the best memorial we can give to President Reagan is to help the people of South Asia achieve their freedom, just as we did in so many other countries during his Administration.

I would like to have the text of Council of Khalistan's letter to President Bush placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN
Washington, DC, June 15, 2004.

The Honorable GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT BUSH: On behalf of over 500,000 Sikh Americans and the 25 million strong Sikh Nation, I would like to send our condolences to the people of the United States on the passing of President Ronald Reagan. Although his illness had already taken him from us in many ways, the finality of his death is still a cause for grief.

We appreciated your very classy remarks at President Reagan's state funeral, as well as those of your father, Lady Thatcher, and former Prime Minister Mulroney. All of you gave moving tributes to President Reagan that helped to inspire and uplift a grieving nation.

President Reagan was a great American leader. His rise from humble beginnings in Dixon, Illinois to becoming a sportscaster, a movie star, governor, and President inspires us all to continue trying to achieve the very highest and best that we can.

His Words, "Whatever else history may say about me when I'm gone, I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears; to your confidence rather than your doubts. My dream is that you will travel the road ahead with liberty's lamp guiding your steps and opportunity's arm steadying your way" serve as an inspiration to Americans of all backgrounds today. That is exactly how he will be remembered.

President Reagan believed in the greatness of America and its people and in extending

freedom throughout the world. His work in defeating the Soviet Union and in restoring the American economy marked the greatness of President Reagan and of the people of the country he so loved. We must continue to extend freedom in his memory.

One place where freedom needs to be extended is the Indian subcontinent. Today in India, the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of other minorities. More than 52,000 Sikhs as well as tens of thousands of other minorities are held as political prisoners without charge or trial, some since 1984. I hope that you will press India to support human rights and self-determination for these oppressed minorities. I am convinced that this would be a great follow-through to President Reagan's vision.

Once again, our condolences to the American people on the loss of President Reagan. Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan

HONORING ONE HUNDRED FIFTY YEARS OF THE HUMBOLDT MASONIC LODGE NO. 79

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the formation of Masonic Lodge No. 79 in Humboldt County, California.

On April 25, 1854 the known Masons of Humboldt Bay held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a lodge. Present at the meeting were Elias Harold Howard, James R. Malony, A.H. Shafer, Jacob DeHaven, Robert M. Stokes and A.J. Huestis. These founders were Master Masons from different jurisdictions who took the necessary steps to establish a lodge in Humboldt County and to raise funds to construct a Masonic Hall. Work began on July 15, 1854 in the town of Bucksport and was completed in September of the same year. The lumber used was all first growth redwood from the forests of the surrounding area.

On September 6, 1855, acting Master James R. Malony announced that the Charter had arrived from San Francisco and that the first order of business would be the election of officers. The Charter was dated July 1, 1855 and Humboldt Lodge thereafter progressed and prospered. By 1857 the city of Eureka had become the leading settlement on Humboldt Bay. Eureka was the County Seat of Humboldt County, the center of the lumber industry and home to many members of the Lodge. It was decided that the Masonic Lodge should relocate to Eureka and in 1858 the first meeting in Eureka took place in leased rooms on First Street. In June 1870 Humboldt Lodge purchased a lot on the southwest corner of Second and G Streets where a building was constructed which still stands in that historic part of Eureka.

Membership grew rapidly and other lodges were formed. A new Masonic Temple was needed and the cornerstone for a new building was laid on April 22, 1922 at Fifth and G streets in Eureka.

The Lodge is very proud of its outstanding membership whose devotion to community

and country has been a worthy contribution to the betterment of our Nation. Over 1,800 members have been raised to the degree of Master Mason. The Lodge is also very proud of its past Masters who rose to the high office of Grand Master of California.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Humboldt Masonic Lodge No. 79 on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE ARTHRITIS PREVENTION, CONTROL AND CURE ACT OF 2004

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Arthritis Prevention, Control, and Cure Act of 2004.

The prevalence of chronic diseases in the U.S. has become the most significant public health problem of our current day. It is estimated that by the year 2020, 157 million Americans will suffer from some chronic illness. Whether it is asthma, diabetes, heart disease or arthritis, these conditions are costly to our health care system and erode quality of life.

With more than 100 different forms, arthritis is one of the most widespread and devastating conditions in the United States. Nearly 70 million, or one in every three, American adults suffers from arthritis or chronic joint symptoms, and nearly 300,000 children live with the pain, disability and emotional trauma caused by juvenile arthritis. In some cases, the disease causes deformity, blindness and even death. As the number one cause of disability in the United States, arthritis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting men, women and children alike—arthritis has no boundaries. Simple, daily tasks like brushing teeth, pouring a cup of coffee and even just getting out of bed become excruciating obstacles for millions of people with the disease.

The costs associated with arthritis are immense. The disease results in 750,000 hospitalizations, 44 million outpatient visits and 4 million days of hospital care every year. The estimated total costs of arthritis in the U.S., including lost productivity exceeds \$86 billion.

Arthritis is an overwhelming and debilitating hardship for countless families. While the current impact of the disease is quite astounding, there is much that can be done to prevent and control arthritis. Despite myths that inaccurately portray this illness as an old persons' disease, some forms of arthritis, such as osteoarthritis, can be prevented with weight control and other precautions. More broadly, the pain and disability accompanying all types of arthritis can be minimized through early diagnosis and appropriate disease management.

The goal of this legislation is to lessen the burden of arthritis and other rheumatic diseases on citizens across our Nation, like my constituent, Alfred Price of Brandon, Mississippi. Mr. Price has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis for more than 49 years and has shown me over the years the damaging effects of the disease to his body.

In recent years, increasing effective research into the prevention and treatment of arthritis has led to measures that successfully

reduce pain and improve the quality of life for millions who suffer with this disease. Cooperative efforts at every level have led to the development of a National Arthritis Action Plan, with emphasis on public health strategies to make timely information and medical care much more widely available across the country. This legislation would develop a National Arthritis Education and Outreach Campaign to educate health-care professionals and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis.

To ensure greater coordination and intensification of federal research efforts, this legislation would create a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit to look at challenges and opportunities related to arthritis research within all the agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services.

For the 300,000 children who are affected by this disease, this legislation expands and intensifies research for juvenile arthritis at the National Institutes of Health through the creation of planning grants for innovative research. It also creates incentives to encourage health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology through the establishment of education loan repayment and career development award programs. These incentives would help to address the severe shortage of these specialists in our country, so that all children will have greater access to physicians trained in state-of-the-art care for arthritis.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make the necessary investments in the fight against arthritis—our nation's number one cause of disability. This legislation will improve the quality of life for large numbers of adults and children and avoid thousands of dollars in medical costs for each patient. I urge all my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support this legislation and enact it in a timely manner so millions of Americans, like Mr. Price, can live life with more hope and less pain.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

SPEECH OF

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, in the week following the celebration of President Reagan's life and the mourning of his death, I am reminded of the impact his legacy has left on our country and on my job as a Member of the United States House of Representatives. It also makes me think about my role as a father and the legacy I will leave for my family. What will my children say about me when I die? Will I have left a legacy to them worthy of praise and fond memories and strong self-confidence? Will they be better parents themselves because of the father I was to them? This is the legacy that will matter the most—the one I leave my children and future grandchildren.

The National Center for Fathering is based in Shawnee Mission, Kansas, and I am proud of the efforts of Founder and President Dr. Ken Canfield and his vision to equip and sup-

port fathers across the country. Thirty-nine percent of all children live in a home without their father. That's 27 million children without a stable male role model in their home. According to Focus on the Family, "Children with married parents consistently do better in every measure of well-being than their peers who have single, cohabiting, divorced or step-parents, and this is a stronger indicator than parental race, economic or educational status, or neighborhood. The literature on this is broad and strong."

The liberal Center for Law and Social Policy, a child advocacy organization, and Child Trends agree that "children do best when raised by their two married biological parents. Young men without married parents are 1.5 times more likely than those with married parents to be out of school and out of work. Young girls without married parents are twice as likely to be idle. A major study published in the Journal of Marriage and the Family found that boys and girls who lived with both biological parents had the lowest risk of becoming sexually active. Teens living with only one biological parent, including those in stepfamilies, were particularly at risk for becoming sexually active at younger ages.

White and black girls growing up in single-parent homes are 111 percent more likely to bear children as teenagers, 164 percent more likely to have a child out of marriage, and—if they do marry—their marriages are 92 percent more likely to dissolve compared to their counterparts with married parents. Where are the fathers? Single mothers have the hardest job in America, and it is past due time when fathers need to take responsibility and be a father to their children.

We celebrate Father's Day June 20th and I applaud my father-in-law and my father for the legacy they left my wife and me. I pray that my legacy to my children will be strong, loving, and proud. May God continue to bless America.

**ARTHRITIS PREVENTION,
CONTROL AND CURE ACT OF 2004**

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mrs. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to join my colleague Representative PICKERING in introducing the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2004, which authorizes programs and funding that will allow the Federal Government to better coordinate and increase our investment in efforts to prevent, treat, and care for persons with arthritis and related diseases. The bill represents the most significant Federal effort to address arthritis in a generation. The Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2004 addresses this important issue by:

Enhancing the National Arthritis Action Plan by providing additional support to federal, state, and private efforts to prevent and manage arthritis;

Developing a National Arthritis Education and Outreach Campaign to educate the healthcare profession and the public on successful self-management strategies for controlling arthritis;

Ensuring greater coordination and intensification of federal research efforts by orga-

nizing a National Arthritis and Rheumatic Diseases Summit to look at challenges and opportunities related to basic, clinical and translational research and development efforts;

Providing greater attention to the area of juvenile arthritis research through the creation of planning grants for innovative research specific to juvenile arthritis, as well as the prioritization of epidemiological activities focused on better understanding the prevalence, incidence, and outcomes associated with juvenile arthritis; and

Creating incentives to encourage health professionals to enter the field of pediatric rheumatology through the establishment of an education loan repayment and career development award programs.

Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the U.S. with 70 million Americans living with a form of the disease. With the aging of the baby boomers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) predicts the number of people over 65 with arthritis or chronic joint symptoms will double by 2030. Nearly 300,000 children in the United States are living with a form of juvenile arthritis. Arthritis is a painful and debilitating chronic disease affecting men, women and children alike.

Currently, the Federal investment in juvenile arthritis research is only \$23 per affected child. The CDC estimates that the annual cost of medical care for arthritis is \$51 billion, and the annual total costs, including lost productivity, exceed \$86 billion. Early diagnosis, treatment, and appropriate management of arthritis are critical in controlling symptoms and improving quality of life.

In 1975, nearly 30 years ago, Senator Alan Cranston of California introduced the last major piece of arthritis legislation. It was signed into law by President Gerald Ford. The bill, the National Arthritis Act, set our Nation on an important path in the fight against arthritis. It led to the creation of an institute at NIH focused on arthritis, and laid the foundation for a national arthritis public health strategy.

However, arthritis is still claiming the lives of millions of Americans and we must reinvigorate our research and education efforts to offer individuals with arthritis a better chance at life and eventually a cure. I believe the Arthritis Prevention, Control and Cure Act of 2004 will do just that.

**HONOR THE MEMORY OF U.S.
ARMY 2ND LIEUTENANT DONALD
AMES O'BRIAN**

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the late U.S. Army 2nd Lieutenant Donald Ames O'Brian, who served proudly as an Infantry platoon leader with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division.

O'Brian was killed in action on June 17, 1945, by an exploding Japanese artillery shell, near Calinan, Mindanao, Philippine Islands.

O'Brian was born on March 20, 1923, in Berwyn, Illinois. He was the son of Harold and Florence O'Brian, and graduated from my alma mater, Cleveland Heights High School, in June 1941. He attended Fenn College (later to become Cleveland State University), and