

like bulletproof vests and armored vehicles to our troops in the field. Our brave men and women in uniform depend on these resources to carry out their mission and minimize loss of life.

I have heard from many deeply concerned families in my district about equipment deficiencies. One of my constituents, Dr. Donald W. Walsh, is the father of a soldier in the 933rd MP Company. Like so many parents, Dr. Walsh is very proud of his son but he is also worried about his son's safety due to the shortage of body armor and armored Humvees.

Given all the strains on the troops and their families as a result of overextended tours and uncertainty, the last thing they need is to worry about their loved ones engaging in hostilities with outdated vehicles and insufficient body armor. I am glad that Dr. Walsh came to me with his concerns. I promised him that I would do all I can to help his son. Supporting this legislation is a step in that direction.

Also, I am pleased to support H. Con. Res. 260, which recognizes and honors the service of non-active duty personnel who participate in funeral honor guards for deceased veterans. In times of war, there are not always enough active duty honor guards available to perform funeral services for our distinguished military personnel. These services are very important to the families of the deceased, and we should honor those who volunteer their time to provide these patriotic services.

In recognition of their contributions, the House recently passed this bill with unanimous support. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to these dedicated men and women who bring comfort and honor to our deceased veterans and their families.

RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT SITING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to legislation that would significantly weaken the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

The bill on the floor today exempts any federal agency from considering alternatives when assessing the environmental impact of renewable energy projects. It eliminates input from local communities, states and the public.

I strongly support wind, solar and other clean, renewable energy projects. They are critical to our clean energy future.

I have cosponsored legislation that permanently extends the wind energy tax credit. This tax credit will spur additional windmill development in Minnesota.

I have cosponsored legislation that increases the use of biodiesel and ethanol. Minnesota is a national leader in producing these renewable fuels.

The Republican leadership, however, isn't allowing these bills to be considered today.

Renewable energy projects can adversely impact our environment and public health if not designed and operated properly. We have rules that ensure that all energy projects on public lands are subject to a full environmental and public health review required by NEPA.

Congress must recognize the renewable energy development is key to our energy future. We must not pass legislation that fails to ensure that environmentally important renewable energy development occurs in a timely manner, in the right locations, is subject to the terms that fully protect the public interest and that there is ample public input.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill today.

HONORING ARC-DIVERSIFIED AS THE USDA'S JWOD CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Arc-Diversified for being named the Department of Agriculture's Javits Wagner O'Day Contractor of the Year. Arc Diversified is located in Cookeville, Tennessee, which I have the pleasure of representing in Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Arc-Diversified is a truly remarkable organization that specializes in the employment and training of people with disabilities. Currently, Arc-Diversified employs 183 such people. These workers provide a valuable service to the community as they manufacture foods for military feeding programs, the USDA and commercial and prime vendors.

Not only does Arc-Diversified manufacture quality products, but it also provides quality training to its employees. The workers learn valuable industrial skills and have access to a wealth of vocational services such as on the job training, job coaching and supported employment.

The USDA award is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the employees and the administration of Arc-Diversified. They are the sort of people who make Middle Tennessee such a fine place to call home.

SIKHS REMEMBER 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATTACK ON GOLDEN TEMPLE—FREEDOM FOR KHALISTAN WILL END THE BRUTALITY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Sikhs observe the twentieth anniversary of India's brutal attack on the Golden Temple, the seat of their religion, this month. From June 3 to 6, 1984, the Indian military brutally attacked the Golden Temple and 125 other Sikh Gurdwaras all over Punjab. This brutal and devastating attack, carried out by the Indira Gandhi government, which was always proudly proclaiming its commitment to secularism, killed over 20,000 Sikhs.

This attack made it clear that even when the secular parties are in power, the minorities in India are not safe and they have no real rights, despite what is written in India's constitution. Whether the Hindu nationalist BJP is in power or the secularist Congress Party is in

power, the policy of killing the Sikhs and other minorities in the futile effort to preserve what India considers its territorial integrity marches brutally on.

Among those killed in the Golden Temple attack were major Sikh leaders like Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, Bhai Arnik Singh, General Shabeg Singh, and many others. The Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy scriptures, were shot full of bullets from the guns of the Indian military. Sikh boys were taken outside and asked if they supported Khalistan. Then they were shot to death. Khalistan, of course, is the name of the independent Sikh homeland.

There is no place for Sikhs or other minorities such as Christians and Muslims in India despite its claims of secularism. On October 7, 1987, Khalistan formally declared its independence. If India is the democratic country it claims to be, why not simply decide the issue in a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan on the subject of independence? Isn't that the democratic way? I was under the impression that in democracies, things were decided by votes. The United States allows the people of Puerto Rico to vote on independence every few years. Canada has held democratic plebiscites on the status of Quebec. In 1947, India promised to settle the Kashmir issue by plebiscite, but it has never allowed that vote to be held. Why not simply put the question to a democratic vote? That is self-determination and self-determination is the essence of democracy.

The Sikh Nation was independent from 1765 to 1849. The Sikhs were supposed to receive sovereignty when India became independent. Although the Indian constitution was adopted in 1950, more than half a century ago, to this day no Sikh representative has ever signed it. How can India claim that it holds sovereignty over the Sikh Nation?

Unfortunately, the Sikhs are not the only victims of India's repressive tyranny. More than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland have been killed by the Indian government since 1947. They have seen priests murdered, nuns raped, schools, prayer halls, and festivals attacked—the government even shut down one festival with gunfire—missionaries murdered, beaten, and thrown out of the country, and so many other atrocities carried out against them. Almost 88,000 Kashmiri Muslims have fallen victim to India's brutal tyranny since 1988. Another 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were massacred in Gujarat with the connivance of the government. And these are just a few of the atrocities committed against minorities by the Indian forces.

Mr. Speaker, we must do something to stop these atrocities. If real democracy and real freedom is going to come to all the people of South Asia, the United States must take a stand. It is good that a Sikh is now Prime Minister. He must know the feeling of India's brutality against his people. Therefore, I call on him to use his office to release all of India's political prisoners and bring the persons who carried out these atrocities to justice. We must stop our aid to India until it shows that it is willing to act like a democracy and protect human rights. We are setting up a democratic government in Iraq with a new President and a new Prime Minister. Isn't it time that real democracy finally came to India?

In addition, it is vital for the Congress to declare its support for a free and fair plebiscite

on the issue of independence for Khalistan. There should also be similar plebiscites for Kashmir, Nagaland, and every other nation that seeks its freedom from Indian rule. India says there is no support for these freedom movements. Well, it is time for India to prove its point by holding a free vote on the matter. This is the only way for the people of South Asia to live in freedom, peace, democracy, and stability.

Mr. Speaker, there will be demonstrations around the world this weekend to commemorate the Golden Temple attack. The one in Washington will be led by the Council of Khalistan. I would like to insert their very informative flyer into the RECORD at this time.

TRIBUTE TO ENNIS JAMES
MCCORVEY, JR.

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deacon Ennis James (E.J.) McCorvey, Jr., a noted family man and community servant. A native of Tunnel Springs, Alabama, Deacon McCorvey was also a member of the prestigious Tuskegee Airmen crew.

Deacon McCorvey entered into eternal rest earlier this year, but his memory will remain with us because of his substantial commitment to his faith and contributions to his fellow citizens.

Deacon McCorvey attended Tuskegee Institute, leaving when he was drafted into the armed forces. He served his country as a mechanic for the famed Tuskegee Airmen. He subsequently worked as an aircraft mechanic and power collator operator at both Maxwell and Gunter Air Force Bases. After leaving active duty he became a successful entrepreneur in Montgomery, Alabama along with his three brothers. Throughout his business career, he continued to serve the public interest by helping numerous Alabama State College students acquire off campus housing while encouraging them to continue their academic studies.

A leader in all respects, Deacon McCorvey stood out the most while communing among the people of Beulah Baptist Church, where he was a member of the Deacon Board. He developed initiatives that included purchasing junior choir robes and chairs for the Sunday School classes. His selflessness became legendary in his church and throughout his community.

Deacon McCorvey is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mavis Davis McCorvey, his devoted son Ennis and daughter-in-law, Pamela, a loving daughter, Amanda Bowers and four grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring the late Deacon Ennis James McCorvey, Jr., for a lifetime of family commitments and community fellowships. The people of his native Alabama, his family in South Carolina and all those who knew him will always remember him for his passion, integrity, and dedication to God and Country.

CONGRATULATING JOHN H. BRYAN
OF CHICAGO

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend John H. Bryan of Chicago on being presented the Restore America Hero Award by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America's Treasures, and Home & Garden Television at their Second Annual Preservation Gala.

Mr. Bryan epitomizes the principles on which this award is bestowed. His meaningful involvement to maintain America's historic and cultural treasures provides future generations the opportunity to experience American history. Mr. Bryan continues to distinguish himself through his relentless commitment and leadership to the preservation of historic American landmarks.

While Mr. Bryan is a Mississippi native, he has spent much of his time in Chicago, serving as the Chairman and CEO of the Sara Lee Corporation. It was in these positions that he helped instill the value of community involvement into the corporate world. Mr. Bryan, changed the paradigm of Sara Lee, creating the notion that it was in the best interest of the company and society at large for a business to involve itself in the community. The result at Sara Lee is a community of people that enjoy volunteering with civic and social organizations. Sara Lee additionally donates five percent of its net income to charities.

Mr. Bryan also sits on the board of Goldman Sachs, Bank One Corporation, British Petroleum, and General Motors where his vision and leadership are recognized as essential assets to company and community growth.

Mr. Bryan has also donated tremendous amount of time and energy to the arts. He is affiliated with many non-profit organizations and has had the opportunity to serve as a trustee of the University of Chicago and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Because of his appreciation and love of Chicago, Mr. Bryan was appointed to the Board of Directors of Millennium Park by Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. In this role Mr. Bryan has worked to change the urban landscape of Chicago, by dedicating his time to developing this uniquely Chicago treasure. Under his guidance, \$200 million, or one half of the funding needed to erect the park, was raised from Chicago's business community. Mr. Bryan was able to communicate to these two groups that the opportunity to create a lasting legacy in Chicago was in their hands.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I am privileged to congratulate John H. Bryan, one of Chicago's great benefactors, on receiving the Restore America Hero Award and recognize the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Save America's Treasures, and Home & Garden Television for bestowing this award on such an admirable recipient. I wish him, his wife, and their four children continued happiness and success in the future.

ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 15, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, the House today is considering legislation that continues to ignore the real needs of our families.

Today's energy bill won't create jobs, won't lower gas prices and weakens our strong environmental standards that protect our nation's health.

America needs a comprehensive energy plan that strengthens our national security, grows our economy and protects our environment.

We need to pass legislation that invests in energy-efficient technologies of the 21st century, expands conservation efforts and builds an infrastructure based on renewable, home-grown fuels.

Democrats have a plan that would appropriate sufficient funds for the development of domestic energy sources. This includes measures to increase the use of renewable energy resources and the use of emerging technologies that could increase energy efficiency and reduce overall energy consumption.

Unfortunately, Republicans won't allow this plan to be considered.

Once again the House is considering pork-laden energy legislation that adds \$140 billion to our deficit, benefits the Republicans special interest friends and fails to create twenty-first century jobs without providing energy independence.

The Republican energy plan on the floor today is the same one the House passed last year. Their plan still tilts too far towards oil and natural gas production. I support domestic production of oil and natural gas. It must be done sensibly, however, to not harm our nation's environment.

I also strongly support investing in energy efficient technology and renewable fuels. Minnesota leads the nation in wind power, ethanol and biodiesel. The energy bill we are passing yet again fails to adequately recognize these homegrown fuels.

Instead of passing the balanced energy plan Minnesotans demand, the Republicans have loaded this bill up with giveaways to corporations making record profits.

I will not vote for a pork-filled energy bill that doesn't meet our nation's energy needs for the first century.

I urge my colleagues to vote no today.

HONORING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 35th year of existence of the Bible Baptist Church of Hendersonville, Tennessee. The congregation will celebrate the church's 35th anniversary on July 24–25, 2004.

Bible Baptist Church has grown from its original 60 members to more than 500 members today. The church has served the community and its congregation well for the past