

the church was rebuilt in 10 months. The church community celebrated with a service of Thanksgiving.

The Church Community is very thankful for their present pastor, Charles Olah, CLP, Certified Lay Pastor, who conducts services every Sunday in both English and Hungarian. Without him and their wonderful congregation, they would not be able to do the great job that they do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Hungarian Presbyterian Church on the celebration of its 100 years serving the western part of Morris County.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MT. PLEASANT COMMUNITY CHURCH

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege today to recognize the Mt. Pleasant Community Church near Stayton, OR, a historic church that has served as a place of worship since its construction in 1854. As the oldest building west of the Rocky Mountains that has been continuously used as a church, Mt. Pleasant Community Church will celebrate its 150 years of history on Saturday.

The permanence of this church is remarkable considering the massive changes that have occurred in the surrounding world since it was built. When Mt. Pleasant Community Church was founded, Oregon was a sparsely populated territory that had not yet become a state; Abraham Lincoln was a former Member of Congress who had retired from politics to return to law; and the union had not yet been torn apart by the Civil War. Over the church's 150-year history, our country has seen amazing technological change, from the Industrial Revolution and the invention of the car and the airplane to the rise of information technology and the birth of the Internet. And the position the United States occupies in the world has changed as well: During this century and a half that Mt. Pleasant has stood in the Willamette Valley, empires have risen and fallen, and the United States has risen to a position of unparalleled power in the world.

Yet despite all these changes, Mt. Pleasant has remained, one small church serving the spiritual and social needs of the community. Even as members have come and gone, the church remains, both as a building and an institution, as a place of worship and fellowship, a vital part of the spiritual life of the community.

CONGRATULATING NEW PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER SHAUKAT AZIZ

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan has installed a new Prime Minister, Shaukat Aziz. His installation was reported in the news-

papers September 2. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Aziz on his new position.

Mr. Aziz takes the helm in Pakistan at a critical time for the people and nations of South Asia. I wish him well in his time as Prime Minister and I hope that he will dedicate himself to pursuing peace in the subcontinent.

The best way to achieve peace in South Asia, Mr. Speaker, is to work for self-determination for everyone in the region. Only by allowing everyone in the subcontinent to enjoy this cornerstone of democracy can all the peoples and nations live in peace, freedom, and prosperity.

I would also urge Mr. Aziz to work for a more open border so that Sikhs and Muslims, as well as members of other minorities, can trade and travel freely and raise their standard of living by doing so. This will be good for Pakistan and for India.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued a press release congratulating Prime Minister Aziz, which I intend to insert into the RECORD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRIME MINISTER SHAUKAT AZIZ

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 10, 2004.—Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, today congratulated the new Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz, on his ascension to the position.

"I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Prime Minister Aziz and wish his government well," Dr. Aulakh said. "I hope that this will be a step forward for peace in South Asia," he said. "Prime Minister Aziz has done excellent work on Pakistan's finances," said Dr. Aulakh. "We are sure that he can bring that wisdom and expertise to all areas of life in his country," he added.

"Prime Minister Aziz must stand firm, as President Musharraf has done, in supporting the interests of freedom for the oppressed people in South Asia," said Dr. Aulakh. "We urge him to work to open the border, enhance trade in the border regions, establish peaceful relations, and assist the cause of freedom, not just in occupied Kashmir, but wherever people are struggling to be free," he added. "We look forward to easy passage to visit the birthplace of the first Sikh guru, Guru Nanak, in Nankana Sahib."

"Only when all people and nations in South Asia have freedom and self-determination can the subcontinent live in peace, prosperity, and dignity," said Dr. Aulakh. "Prime Minister Aziz has influence by virtue of his position," he said. "We urge him to use it for the benefit of the people of Pakistan and all the people of the subcontinent by supporting freedom and self-determination."

The Council of Khalistan was constituted to lead the struggle to liberate Khalistan, the Sikh homeland which declared its independence on October 7, 1987. It is the government pro tempore of Khalistan. Khalistan has been under Indian occupation since then. India has sent over 500,000 troops to Punjab, Khalistan, and over 700,000 to neighboring Kashmir to suppress the independence movements there. Yet India is on the verge of collapse. As former Home Minister L.K. Advani said that "if Kashmir goes, India goes."

At the time of India's independence, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were supposed to receive their own sovereign 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. That promise was broken immediately after independence was achieved.

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.

"Sardar Atinder Pal Singh's question of 14 years ago is still the question facing the Sikh Nation: Why don't we liberate Khalistan?" Dr. Aulakh said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" he noted.

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 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." A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India is holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

"We must move forward with the cause of Sikh freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "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."

EXPRESSING SENSE OF THE HOUSE ON ANNIVERSARY OF TERRORIST ATTACKS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 9, 2004

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to join my colleagues in support of H. Res. 757, which condemns the horrific attacks on both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon September 11, 2001, and reaffirms our nation's commitment in protecting our land from terrorists.

The events of three years ago will be forever etched in the memories of the American people. The horrible images from downtown New York, the Pentagon and Pennsylvania, brought sorrow and sadness as a nation collectively mourned the lives lost.

On this day, we salute the Pentagon employees who perished, the inhabitants of the World Trade Center who had their lives snuffed out in a brutal act of terrorism, and the brave men of United flight 93, who sacrificed their lives to save the lives of people they had never even met.

Mr. Speaker, even as a nation mourned, the collective resolve and faith of Americans nationwide began the process of rebuilding, and we continue that process today.

America is strong and its people are committed to the values of liberty. Even today, Americans nationwide are helping the families and children of those killed three years ago.

Mr. Speaker, our nation is engaged in a war against terrorism that continues to this day, and the resolve and faith of the American people will ensure that our nation remains forever strong.

We in Congress continue to pray for all affected by the horrible events of three years ago and will continue to be vigilant on the war on terror. May God bless all the families and their loved ones, and may God bless America.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND SERVICE OF ANN JEMISON

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Representative JOHN CONYERS and myself, I wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to Ann Jemison, who is retiring this week after almost 30 years of service to the House of Representatives. We also wish to extend our very best wishes to Ann, on her upcoming wedding on September 25, 2004.

Ann hails from the Land of Lincoln and began her career on the Hill as an Assistant Manager and then Manager in the House Restaurant System from 1975 through 1994. She moved into the position of Staff Assistant/Receptionist, first, for the Committee on Public Works and Transportation in 1994, and then with the Committee on the Judiciary Committee in 1995.

Ann is the first smiling face you see when you enter the Committee's front door and the friendly and knowledgeable voice you hear when you call our office.

Mr. Speaker, Ann has served the House Judiciary Committee, the Congress and the American people over all these years with commitment, dedication and integrity. We thank her and want her to know that she will be missed.

JOBS ACTION TEAM'S COMPETITIVENESS AGENDA

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the focus of the Jobs Action Team's "Competitiveness Agenda" this week is ending lawsuit abuse, and with good reason. The United States is the lawsuit capital of the world, and this puts American companies at a competitive disadvantage.

F frivolous lawsuits are costing American businesses \$129 billion each year. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce found the greatest impact is on small businesses—which contribute three-fourths of all new jobs, which face additional costs of \$17,000 each year. This is unacceptable.

The House of Representatives has responded by passing numerous legal reform bills. H.R. 4571, introduced by Representative LAMAR SMITH, passed the House yesterday. This bill provides for appropriate sanctions against those who file junk lawsuits. The Senate must act now.

Americans should not have to fear life-ruining lawsuits. This should not be a country where individuals can file cases to get money wherever they can—many with no intention of going to court. Let's end lawsuit abuse now.

LIABILITY COSTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

FAST FACTS

"America's small businesses are the driving force behind our economic achievements, and the U.S. Chamber is proud to support and represent this country's small business owners."—Thomas J. Donohue, president and CEO, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

The total annual cost of the tort system to U.S. businesses (large and small) is \$129 billion.

Small businesses with \$10 million or less in annual revenue bear 68 percent of that cost, paying \$88 billion a year.

Very small businesses (\$1 million or less in annual revenue) bear 26 percent of the business cost, paying \$33 billion a year.

A small business with \$10 million annual revenue pays about \$150,000 a year in tort liability costs—money that could be used to hire additional employees.

A small business with \$1 million annual revenue pays about \$17,000 a year in tort liability costs—money that could be used to expand or improve health benefits for employees.

Very small businesses (\$1 million or less in annual revenue) pay 44 percent of their tort liability costs (\$15 billion) out-of-pocket, as opposed to through insurance.

There are over 4.5 million U.S. small businesses with \$10 million or less in annual revenue.

There are about 3.8 million U.S. small businesses with \$1 million or less in annual revenue.

Small businesses contribute approximately three-quarters of all new jobs added to the economy.

The Liability Costs for Small Business study was conducted for the U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform by NERA Economic Consulting.

HONORING THE NATIONAL GUARD'S SERVICE IN WINNING THE WAR ON TERROR

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President George W. Bush praised the valor of guardsmen and reservists fighting to win the War on Terror. President Bush is the 19th former guardsman to be president and he rightly pointed out that the National Guard is America's oldest fighting force. The Guard has played a vital role in all of our major conflicts, and especially in recent decades fighting in Vietnam, the Gulf War, and the War on Terror.

The Guard is also called on in times of national emergency to provide invaluable support to local authorities. After the attacks of September 11th, thousands of Guardsmen across the country voluntarily stepped forward to help. When hurricanes strike our shores, it is the Guard that provides necessary communications and rescue services.

As a proud 31-year veteran of the South Carolina Army National Guard, with two sons in the Guard one of whom is serving in Iraq, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in thanking all of the men and women serving in the Guard and Reserves today for protecting American families in the War on Terror.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

IN HONOR OF MISS IDAHO 2004

HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 2004 Miss Idaho, Elizabeth Margaret Barchas of Boise. Elizabeth will be proudly representing the Gem State in this weekend's Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, NJ.

Elizabeth received her bachelor's degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She then studied abroad and received her master's degree from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland and was a Fulbright Scholar. She has been accepted to Harvard Law school; however, she has deferred her matriculation for one year to pursue her duties as Miss Idaho. Elizabeth's platform is understanding individuals with disabilities, and I am very proud of her continued commitment of community service for Idaho and across the globe.

I am confident that Elizabeth will do an outstanding job in representing Idaho, as I am pulling for her to be crowned the next Miss America. I wish Elizabeth, and the entire Barchas family all the best for this weekend's pageant.

INTRODUCTION OF H.J. RES. 104

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I have just introduced the House counterpart to Senator HATCH's constitutional amendment (S.J. Res. 15) allowing those who have been citizens of the United States for at least 20 years to serve as President and Vice President.

We all agree that constitutional amendments should not be taken lightly and should only be considered when the betterment of this country is in question. It is my strong belief that "betterment" is what would be achieved if such an amendment is adopted.

The reasons the founding fathers added this clause to the constitution are archaic at best. The main rationale was to protect the U.S. from undue foreign influence from the election of a foreign leader in the executive office. This mindset prevailed not long after the founders freed the country from the control of a foreign body. Interestingly, however, in what is called "the Hamilton loophole," they exempted their own generation from the burdens of the "natural born" requirement. Seven of the 39 signers of the Constitution in Philadelphia in 1787 were foreign born, as well as 8 of America's original 81 Senators and Representatives, 3 of our first 10 Supreme Court justices, 4 of our first 6 secretaries of the treasury, and one of our first 3 secretaries of war. Most, if not all, of these immigrants were eligible to serve as president, since the constitution exempted all those who were citizens at the time the constitution was adopted from the "natural born" requirement.

Today, the offices of President and Vice President are the only offices where a person who is not U.S. born is disqualified from serving. Is this still appropriate when we have