

rights advocates nationwide to ensure that the issue of Sikh identity was understood and respected. When a Sikh man named Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in Arizona five days after 9/11, Yogi Bhanan worked with community and government leaders in Arizona to help raise awareness about the Sikh community there, and to honor Balbir Singh with a major memorial event.

I had the privilege of Yogi Bhanan's friendship and support for more than 20 years. He was a dynamic, powerful person with a strong devotion to human rights, religious freedom, and good health. Whatever one's faith, he had the right words, the right lesson, and the right message. He spoke to us all, and he inspired us. Around the world he was a powerful voice for peace.

The resolution I am introducing today recognizes Yogi Bhanan as a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace and compassionate human being, and extends condolences on his passing. I would like to thank Representatives JOE WILSON and JOE CROWLEY, the Co-Chairs of the House India Caucus who have helped build support for this resolution, as well as Senators JEFF BINGAMAN and PETE DOMENICI, who will introduce the Senate companion. I also thank the bipartisan groups of original cosponsors who join me in urging my colleagues to support this important resolution.

IN HONOR OF THE THIRD ANNUAL  
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR  
VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of every victim of gun violence within our Greater Cleveland community. We gather in honor, support and hope for each family member and friend, whose lives have been forever altered in the wake of gun violence.

We also stand in honor of the members of the Million Mom March, Greater Cleveland Chapter; InterAct Cleveland, Ohio Coalition Against Gun Violence; Black on Black Crime, Inc.; Survivors/Victims of Tragedy; VOICES; and the National Council of Jewish Women, for their collective efforts and dedication focused on preventing gun violence.

Today, on the Third Annual Day of Remembrance of Victims of Gun Violence, we honor and recognize the dedicated residents of our Cleveland neighborhoods. The unwavering commitment of our neighborhood activists and leaders continues to raise up our community, one avenue at a time. The work of our neighborhood leaders, young and old, serves to build strength, hope and creates the power to eradicate violent crime within our homes and along our streets.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of the victims of gun violence. Our thoughts and prayers are with every family member and friend of loved ones lost. Let us remember that our unified energy, focused on peace and security within our neighborhoods, provides light and hope to the families touched by gun violence, and radiates outward, offering the promise of peace for us all.

RECOGNIZING BUCKNER  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the Buckner Christian Church. On November 14, 2004, the Buckner Christian Church celebrated 120 years of service. In 1884, after much thought and prayer, twenty-six devout Christians in or near Buckner Hill, most members of Sibley Christian Church, elected a building committee of four. Together they founded the church. They organized themselves "into a congregation of worshipping Disciples, by renewing our covenant with our Heavenly Father, and pledging our mutual faith to each other, promising thereby to take the Word of God as our only rule of faith."

On November 8, 1884, the trustees purchased four lots for \$100 in the town of Buckner Hill. Despite many weather disasters and set-backs, a simple, almost austere, building was erected and the congregation was able to attend church in their own sanctuary. In 1923, plans were made to build a new church. On March 24, 1924, the old building was moved to the lots at the back of the site where services continued while a new church was built. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on June 15, 1924, and on Sunday, May 3, 1925, the new church was dedicated debt-free, with services in the morning, a basket dinner at noon, and an afternoon formal dedication service. The Independence Christian Church loaned an old pulpit to the church which is still in use today. This pulpit was once used by Alexander Campbell during one of his visits to Independence. In 1957, city water was installed and the baptistery remodeled. In 1963, the first telephone was installed. In 1995, the stained glass windows were replaced and a new wooden window-sash was made. In 1997, a new slate roof replaced the old one.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating the Buckner Christian Church on 120 years of service. I honor the early members of the church as they tried to keep their Christian commitment in their community. Today, I honor the young people of the church and those who will lead it in the future. May the Buckner Christian Church grow and prosper in this new century.

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF  
MARY F. PARSONS

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas:

I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Mary F. Parsons; and Whereas, Mary F. Parsons was a loving sister, wife, mother, and grandmother to the members of her family; and

Whereas, Mary F. Parsons will certainly be remembered by all those who knew her because of her compassionate nature towards her family, friends, and community; and

Whereas, the understanding and caring to which Mary F. Parsons gave to others will

stand as a monument to a truly fine person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her.

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends of Mary F. Parsons.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARDSVILLE  
TIGERS GIRLS' GOLF TEAM

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Edwardsville Girls' Golf Team. The Tigers recently won their first state championship in golf, finishing their season with a perfect record. This outstanding southern Illinois sports team is the first girls' golf team south of the state capitol to capture a state title.

The Tigers' hard work and dedication to the sport this season has allowed them to capture this title. The Tigers performed twenty-three strokes better than all other teams in competition for the state title.

My congratulations go to the Edwardsville Tigers Girls' Golf Team and retiring Coach Gary Bair on an outstanding season!

TRIBUTE TO JUDITH AND LARRY  
MOORE

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two individuals from my state who have played a major role in the war in Iraq. Judith and Larry Moore, both civilians from Somers, Connecticut, played a very special role in the war effort.

As everyone knows, it happens rarely but occasionally that military spouses are simultaneously deployed. Christopher and Bryony Soltis, both Army doctors, were sent to Iraq last year with the Army's 1st Armored Division. With a new child in tow, it was a difficult time. The entire family was separated for over a year as Christopher and Bryony cared for wounded soldiers and civilians in Baghdad. They turned to Christopher's mother and stepfather to care for their 7-month-old daughter, Madeline.

Judy and Larry Moore were up to the task. Together, Judith and Larry provided an environment in which Maddie thrived. They cared for Madeline every day from August 2003 to July 2004 while her parents were deployed. They put photos of her parents throughout the house, read her letters from afar, and reminded her daily that her parents would come home soon. Christopher and Bryony came home in late July 2004 to find their baby had grown into a loving, well-adjusted, beautiful toddler. I am told that Maddie recognized them immediately and ran to their arms when they arrived home.

Judy Moore knows full well the toll that deployment can take. She is a remarkable woman who has contributed enormously to her country. She served as a U.S. Air Force

nurse from 1958–1960 and cared for Turkish prisoners while living abroad with her late husband, Lt. Colonel Ronald Soltis, a U.S. Air Force pilot. After more than 19 years of active duty service, LTC Soltis died suddenly in a tragic training accident, leaving behind Mrs. Moore and their three children.

Larry Moore is a retired small businessman who ran his own auto repair shop before retiring. Although he has considerable back pain from spinal stenosis, Larry provided “sole care” for Maddie when Judy broke her arm after a fall on an icy road during the winter. By all accounts, he succeeded fantastically.

Mr. Speaker, all Americans should share the pride that I feel for the Moore and Soltis families. They represent the best of American military service, our responsibility to our children, and our willingness to sacrifice in times of national need.

---

HONORING OAKLAND POLICE  
CHIEF RICHARD L. WORD

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Chief Richard L. Word of the Oakland Police Department in Oakland, California. After more than two decades of dedicated service, Chief Word will be leaving the Oakland area, and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize his contributions not only to the Police Department, but to the community as a whole.

Born and reared in San Francisco's Ingleside District, Chief Word graduated from Riordan High School in 1980. Following his time at Riordan, where he excelled academically and was a valued leader in the campus' Black Student Union, Chief Word attended San Francisco State University as well as the University of San Francisco. He then devoted two years to the San Francisco Sheriff's Department as a cadet and subsequently entered the Oakland Police Academy, where he would go on to become the valedictorian of the 1984 recruiting class.

Following his graduation, Chief Word rose quickly through the ranks of Sergeant and Lieutenant before being promoted to Captain in 1997 and was later sworn in as Oakland's Chief of Police on July 2, 1999. As the Chief of Police for the past five years, Chief Word has been a distinguished leader in many ways. Not only was he the youngest Chief in the Oakland Police Department's history, but his selection was also one of the first steps taken by Mayor Jerry Brown as part of his plan to dramatically reduce crime rates in the City of Oakland. In working to reach this goal, Chief Word employed a number of methods and strategies, such as strengthening the Department's Crime Analysis Section, assigning more officers to the field, and building closer ties to Oakland's neighborhoods through community policing, the use of joint problem-solving programs by community policing officers and neighborhood residents, and the establishment of the Youth Citizens Police Academy, which is comprised of youth from all of Oakland's high schools.

In addition to his work within the Police Department, Chief Word is involved with a num-

ber of community and professional organizations. He sits on the Board of Directors of the Oakland Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland, and the California Police Chiefs Association. He also serves as Vice President of the Alameda County Police Chiefs' and Sheriffs' Association, and is a member of both the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the National Black Forum of Black Public Administrators. In addition to his accomplishments within the police force, Chief Word also earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from John F. Kennedy University, from which he graduated cum laude, and a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University. Furthermore, he completed the FBI National Academy, and recently graduated from the FBI National Executive Institute.

On November 12, 2004, Chief Word will be honored in Oakland, California for twenty years of outstanding service to the Oakland Police Department and the City of Oakland. This occasion is an opportunity for us to recognize him not only for his service within the Police Department, but also for his outstanding leadership on the issues of crime prevention and the development of community partnerships between law enforcement officers and neighborhood residents. By remaining active in and dedicated to these vital areas, Chief Word has contributed enormously to the City of Oakland and California's 9th Congressional District. I salute and congratulate Chief Word for his many years of invaluable service.

---

RECOGNIZING ADMIRAL RICHARD  
TRULY ON HIS RETIREMENT AS  
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL  
RENEWABLE ENERGY LABORATORY

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American. At the end of this year, after a lifetime of dedicated service to his country, Admiral Richard Truly will be stepping down as Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) located in Golden, Colorado.

As many of you know, NREL is the U.S. Department of Energy's premier laboratory for renewable energy research and development and a leading laboratory for energy efficiency research. Since first being elected to Congress two years ago, I have had the distinct pleasure of representing NREL and the many talented and dedicated employees that work at the lab. Through the leadership of Admiral Truly, NREL has continued to be at the forefront of new scientific discoveries, developing new energy technologies to benefit both the environment and the economy.

I first became acquainted with Richard Truly through his position as Director of NREL, but as I later learned this is but one of the many great contributions he has made to his country in his storied career as a public servant. Prior to his service at NREL, Admiral Truly served as NASA's eighth Administrator under President Bush from 1989–92, and his career in aviation and space programs of the U.S. Navy and NASA spanned 35 years. He retired as a

Vice Admiral after a Navy career of more than 30 years. As a naval aviator, test pilot and astronaut, he logged over 7,500 hours and made over 300 carrier arrested landings, day and night.

Under his leadership, NASA matured the Space Shuttle, solidified Space Station plans and initiated new space science and aeronautics programs. He initiated major acquisition reforms and significantly streamlined the agency. He continually placed a very strong emphasis on NASA's math and science educational programs. In recognition of these accomplishments, President Reagan awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal to Admiral Truly in 1989.

While I am quite certain that the great works that Admiral Truly and his staff have been able to accomplish since he began serving as Director of NREL in May of 1997 will continue under new leadership, the next Director will certainly have big shoes to fill.

Again, I want to congratulate him for his many outstanding years of public service. I wish both him and his wife many years of happiness as they move into this new stage of their lives.

---

HONORING NEW JERSEY BLOOD  
SERVICES

**HON. MIKE FERGUSON**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the members of New Jersey's Blood Services on their 30th Anniversary.

Since September 1973, New Jersey Blood Services has been serving the residents of New Jersey by collecting blood, holding blood drives and recruiting donors. NJBS has collected more than 2.2 million blood donations throughout its 30-year history, has developed important relationships with the American Red Cross and fostered several partnerships to provide health services throughout the State of New Jersey.

NJBS has pioneered efforts in mobile apheresis collections that have gained the attention of collection organizations throughout the country. The group also has piloted several programs to ensure the safety of both blood donors and recipients. Its efforts, combined with those of New Jersey-based businesses, have lead to tremendous success in local blood drives to provide for New Jersey's blood needs.

Mr. Speaker, I commend all Americans who work hard to support the blood supply needs of the United States. These men and women work tirelessly to protect and preserve the lives and health of their fellow citizens.

I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the New Jersey Blood Service for its 30 years of service to our communities.

---

HONORING STAFF SERGEANT  
THEODORE “SAM” HOLDER II

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 17, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep regret and heartfelt admiration that I rise