

see this support for the cause of a sovereign, independent Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan.

"We salute Sardar Atinder Pal Singh for organizing this important event and we salute all the presenters who presented their papers," Dr. Aulakh said. "They put the Indian government on notice that its effort to suppress the Sikh independence movement by force has failed and will continue to fail," he said.

"The mere fact that this seminar was conducted shows that there is a significant change in the repression in Punjab," Dr. Aulakh said. "It shows that people feel free to exercise their basic right of freedom of speech," he said. "This is a step forward for the liberation of the Sikh Nation. There is a new upsurge of support for the cause of Sikh freedom," Dr. Aulakh said. "The flame of freedom burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh people, in Punjab, Khalistan and outside as well."

"Every day, Sikhs pray 'Raj Kare Ga Khalsa,' which means 'The Khalsa shall rule,' said Dr. Aulakh. "Sikhs must claim their birthright by liberating Khalistan. I hope that this seminar will be the forerunner to a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) to establish a sovereign, independent Khalistan, thus fulfilling the desires of the Sikh Nation for Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," he said. "Guru Gobind Singh gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation and we must achieve it."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Mampuris, Dalits, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khaira 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 Sardar Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. Ghotna has never been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khaira. 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!

"As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted. "We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

HONORING JOHN W. LAKE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of Representative DOOLEY, Representative NUNES and myself, to honor John W. Lake on the occasion of his being distinguished as an Honorary Alumni Member

of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. This designation will be bestowed upon Mr. Lake at the annual conference of this organization.

Selection for this distinction is reserved for "special individuals who have, over a period of time, demonstrated consistent commitment and uncommon excellence in the furtherance of education and leadership in California agriculture." The mission of the California Agricultural Leadership Program is to enhance the long-term viability of California agriculture through leadership development, which in turn benefits the people and the communities that agriculture serves.

A native Californian, John graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1970 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mechanical Engineering. He also completed one year of graduate work in Mechanical Engineering at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. In 1974, Mr. Lake began his career with Rain for Rent, working his way through the Engineering and Manufacturing Departments and management of Lake and Lake International, irrigation subsidiaries of Western Oilfields Supply Company. He founded Lake Leasing Company in 1983, Rain for Rent's agricultural irrigation equipment financing division. John has served as President and Chief Executive Officer since April of 1990.

Since its beginning in 1934, Western Oilfields Supply Company/Rain for Rent has evolved and expanded in its product offering and the markets it services, providing solutions to temporary liquid-handling problems. Their products and services cover a wide variety of industries, including, but not limited to: construction, petro-chemical, municipal, environmental, agricultural, and other industrial businesses that are serviced by 47 branches and 650 professionals nationwide. During John's tenure as President, the company has expanded into the tank, pump and specialty rental markets.

Mr. Lake is active in the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Advisory Council, the California Agricultural Leadership Program, the Fellowship of Companies for Christ International, Quest Club, Idaho Irrigation Association and Safari Club International. John and his wife, Sheila, have two sons and attend Fruitvale Community Church in Bakersfield, California.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with Representative DOOLEY and Representative NUNES to pay tribute to John W. Lake as an Honorary Alumni Member of the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation's California Agricultural Leadership Program. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing John many years of continued success.

RECOGNIZING OF NELSON WESTERBERG INC.

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the leading corporate citizens in my district, the Sixth Congressional District of Illinois. This year Nelson Westerberg Inc., headquartered in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Not many

companies reach this milestone, especially under the same family ownership, and that is why I want to commend Nelson Westerberg Inc., for reaching this historic milestone.

Nelson Westerberg Inc. has been safeguarding and relocating people, products, and offices since 1904 when it opened its first office in downtown Chicago. In 1904, it moved coal, ice and "some furniture" via horse-drawn wagons. Today Nelson Westerberg Inc. has become one of the Nation's leading relocation companies, offering its services to individual households as well as corporate customers.

Nelson Westerberg Inc., also is an active participant in community activities such as the Special Olympics and the Elk Grove Police Department's annual Truck Pull.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that today I acknowledge the accomplishments of this fourth-generation business as it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2004.

HONORING MARGARET DAVIS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret Davis, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Margaret is almost a centenarian and at 99 she is a mother to 2 daughters, a grandmother to 5, a great-grandmother to 8, and a great, great grandmother to 9.

Mrs. Davis was born in New York City, but went to school in a schoolhouse in Stamford, Connecticut, on Long Ridge Road. She describes her happiest moments as when her daughters were married. One of her favorite activities today is crossword puzzles with friends.

After 99 years, Margaret says she wouldn't change anything about her life. When asked what advice she'd give to young people she says, "listen to your parents." She says the best thing about growing older is people are very kind because of her age.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Margaret Davis today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of family and time with friends.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF IDENTITY AND EMPLOYMENT OF COVERT U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICER

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, six months after a syndicated columnist disclosed the identity of a CIA employee, calling her a CIA "operative," the White House and the Department of Justice have yet to find and hold accountable the person or persons who leaked her name to the press. Congress and the men and women

of our intelligence community deserve answers.

I am today introducing a privileged resolution of inquiry to request that President Bush, the U.S. Attorney General, and U.S. Secretaries of State and Defense provide this Congress with factual information in their possession relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame as a covert employee of the CIA. I am pleased to be joined by U.S. Representatives ESHOO, REYES, TAUSCHER, LARSON, TURNER, SPRATT, MORAN, WAXMAN, LANTOS, and CONYERS as original cosponsors of this timely and important legislation.

If passed, this resolution will provide Congress with the information it needs to determine independently the facts surrounding this breach of confidentiality, to assess its effects on U.S. national security and intelligence gathering, and to determine whether legislative action is needed to prevent leaks of this nature in the future.

I submit that protecting our Nation's intelligence community, and all who serve in it, is vital to our national security and to the safety of all Americans. At this time, a resolution of inquiry is the best tool at the disposal of the House to determine how this leak occurred and who perpetrated it.

I am disappointed by the absence of public outrage among senior officials in our intelligence community and in this administration. They should be standing in solidarity with Ms. Plame and the other Americans who serve in our intelligence community, and they should be speaking out against anyone who would presume to unilaterally decide whose identity should be made public. Their silence is deplorable.

Protecting our country and the men and women who protect and defend us is not solely the responsibility of one branch of our Government. It is a shared responsibility under our system of checks and balances. Our Government—including both the Congress and the executive branch—has a duty to ensure that all who work within the U.S. intelligence community are not compromised and that all U.S. intelligence agencies are able to effectively do their jobs and protect the American people from more terrorist attacks and other threats. Some have used the weak excuses that this person's identity was already known by some people or that her work was not very important. These excuses are outrageous. Any unauthorized disclosure potentially puts our agents and our sources and their families at risk and thus weakens our ability to protect Americans.

At the least, I hope that this resolution will exert pressure on the ongoing Department of Justice investigation. I fully support the investigation, but there is no reason why it should be taking so long to get any answers at all. This investigation should be among the Department's highest priorities.

Over the longer term and after we have determined the origin of this leak, I believe that this Congress has an on-going responsibility to examine thoroughly and oversee how our intelligence community uses human sources, human case officers, and various kinds of cover, and how we go about protecting them. We simply cannot accept the public disclosure of an undercover intelligence operative. We must understand what happened and search for ways to prevent it from happening in the

future. The effectiveness of our intelligence agencies demands nothing less.

COMMENDING "MR. AMIGO,"
BERTHA NOEGGERATH

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to commend the 2003 "Mr. Amigo," Bertha Noeggerath, better known as "Dulce," chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Each year the Mr. Amigo Association honors a Mexican citizen with the title of "Mr. Amigo," and that person acts as a goodwill ambassador between our two countries.

The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" presides over the annual Charro Days Festival.

The Charro Days Festival is a pre-Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, held in Brownsville and Matamoros. Charro Days festivities last for several days; this year they will be February 25–28 and will include parades and appearances by Dulce. Charro Days is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area.

As Mr. Amigo 2003, Dulce will head the international parade of Brownsville Charro Days and Matamoros Fiestas Mexicanas festivities.

During Charro Days, South Texans celebrate the food, music, dances, and traditions of both the United States and Mexico. The United States-Mexican border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers.

The border has its own language and customs. On both sides of the border, there is a deep sense of history, much of which the border has seen from the front row. We have seen war and peace; we have known prosperity and bad times. Charro Days is a time for all of us to reflect on our rich history, to remember our past and to celebrate our future.

The 2003 Mr. Amigo, Dulce is a musician and actress who continues to have a long and successful career in the entertainment industry. She is originally from Matamoros, Tamaulipas. Her music career began while singing in small nightclubs in her hometown in the early 1990's, before joining the group "Toby y sus Amigos." Her 27-year career includes not only Gold Records and several Spanish-language hits, but numerous television appearances and work in Mexican telenovelas, including "Sonadoras" and "Mujeres Enganadas," with Andres Garcia, Laura Leon, Kuno Becker and Susana Gonzalez. This year she joins the cast of "Las Vias del Amor."

The Mr. Amigo Committee selected Dulce because "she is a good role model for local youths interested in the arts," and because "through her acting and her music she represents the Mexican culture."

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Dulce Noeggerath, the 2003 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and

Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL KATZ OF
BOULDER, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Michael Katz of Boulder, Colorado for his exemplary public service.

Over the past 25 years, Michael Katz has been a successful and well-respected federal public defender for Colorado and Wyoming. Since 1978, he has handled thousands of cases, giving quality legal counsel to defendants who could not afford representation. In doing so, he has demonstrated and protected some of the most precious aspects of our democracy and Constitution. Unfortunately, Michael will be retiring this year. Instead of pursuing justice, he and his wife Susan will be pursuing the beauty of the Atlantic Coast as they sail from Chesapeake Bay to Key West.

Michael began his law career in a small law firm with a staff of only three lawyers in a modestly-sized office. Over the years, he has been unswerving in his commitment to environmental protection. Yet his dedication to principles of justice and fairness enabled him to defend environmentally destructive people with professional integrity. Along the way he has also defended criminals whose civil liberties and individual rights are guaranteed by our Constitution.

He has persevered through every challenge, putting justice and the Constitution ahead of his personal beliefs. His tireless dedication has gained national acclaim and respect, as well as leading his office to prominence. After years of hard work, his retirement is well earned. The people of Colorado and Wyoming will certainly miss him and his honorable service to the justice system.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in expressing our gratitude to Michael Katz for his relentless defense of our Constitution. I wish Michael and his family good health and happiness in their future together.

HONORING GEORGIA TOMPKINS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Georgia Tompkins, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. On March 29th of this year, Mrs. Tompkins will become a centenarian and at nearly 100 she is a mother to 12 children, a grandmother to 32 grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to 12 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Tompkins was born in New York state and was a housewife. She describes her happiest moments as when each one of her children was born. One of her favorite activities today is playing dominoes.