

make sure that whoever perpetrated this heinous crime is brought to justice.

It seems obvious from the graffiti left at the scene that whoever committed this crime intended to target Muslims—not Sikhs—proving that this unknown arsonist was not just a bigot, but an ignorant bigot. If they had been Muslims, this would still be a senseless and horrific crime, and one to be condemned in the strongest possible terms, because to attack innocent practitioners of any religion for the acts of a handful of misguided fanatics is inexcusable.

But these men were Sikhs. Sikhs are not Muslims; they are not Hindus. Sikhism is a noble independent religion that traces its roots back hundreds of years. It is not part of any other religion. Furthermore, Sikhs believe in one God and in equality for all—an ideal that forms one of the very pillars of our own society.

Swift prosecution and severe punishment of the perpetrators of this crime is the best way to combat this type of bigotry. I am sure every Member of this House joins me in urging the police, FBI, and Justice Department to promptly and thoroughly investigate this matter and bring the perpetrator or perpetrators of this crime to justice. I am sure all of my colleagues will also join me in extending our best wishes and prayers to Sarabjit Singh, Sukhjinder Singh, and their families during this traumatic time.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that one day—a day in the not too distant future—we will live in an America where this type of crime, born out of ignorance and fear, is forever a thing of the past.

INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, now that Congress is close to passing landmark legislation that will help our intelligence community, it is time to take a closer look at streamlining congressional intelligence oversight responsibilities. I believe the time for change is now and I am pleased to share with my colleagues a recent editorial in the News-Leader, Florida's oldest weekly newspaper, which explores some of the options once again available to us:

[From the News-Leader, Dec. 3, 2004]

JOINT INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE OVERDUE

The collapse of Congressional efforts to reform the intelligence community dominated the news just before Thanksgiving. The proposed legislation embodied many of the major recommendations of the 9/11 Commission for fixing the executive branch's intelligence problems. Largely overlooked in this reform debate is Congress' failure, so far, to do enough to address its own problems. Yet the 9/11 panel noted that "of all of our recommendations, strengthening Congressional oversight may be the most difficult and important." The commission also pointed out that, "Congressional oversight for intelligence and counterterrorism is now dysfunctional."

The main reason this critically important congressional responsibility is malfunctioning is because it is spread amongst too many committees. That is why the 9/11 Com-

mission urged Congress to replace the current fragmented oversight arrangement with either a House-Senate joint committee or single panels in each congressional body with exclusive oversight and legislative power.

Consolidation along these lines would drastically reduce the time high level intelligence community officials spend on Capitol Hill repeating over and over again the same briefings and testimonies to the various committees now exercising jurisdiction over intelligence activities. Redundant congressional demands are becoming so time-consuming that it is increasingly difficult for these senior officials to discharge their primary duties of attending to the many security issues confronting this nation.

The need to reform Congress' oversight of the intelligence community has been recognized by some members of Congress for years. Henry Hyde, currently chairman of the International Relations Committee in the House of Representatives, proposed legislation to create a Joint Intelligence Committee in 1984. He spelled out what he had in mind in numerous forums, including op ed pieces that appeared in major newspapers. Nearly 17 years ago, Hyde's idea was the top recommendation of the Republican members of the Iran/Contra Committee. Among those endorsing the Hyde initiative were Dick Cheney, Mike De Wine and Orrin Hatch, who served with Hyde on the Iran-Contra Joint Committee. All of these political figures remain major players in Washington.

The reluctance of Congress to get its own house in order is politically understandable. A Joint Intelligence Committee would require a number of committees and their powerful chairmen to sacrifice their jurisdictions over intelligence matters. But given what is at stake, it is time to subordinate such parochial concerns to the national interest.

To really, be effective, a Joint Intelligence Committee must have both oversight and legislative authority. Otherwise, those committees with an interest in intelligence issues will try to recapture their lost purviews. Historically, those committees have been Armed Services, Judiciary, Appropriations and Foreign/International Relations. To mollify these traditional bailiwicks, membership on the joint committee should include representatives from each of these committees. The panel must be small to ensure secrecy and promote individual responsibility and accountability. To encourage bipartisanship, neither political party should have more than a one-vote edge. The committee staff should be composed of apolitical professionals.

In summary, the time has come to think outside of the box and adopt radical congressional reforms to meet national security challenges in the post 9/11 world. The 9/11 Commission put it best when it warned that "the other reforms we have suggested—for a national counter-terrorism center and national intelligence director—will not work if congressional oversight does not change too. Unity of effort in executive management can be lost if it is fractured by congressional oversight."

A TRIBUTE TO KEYONA DAVIS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Keyona Davis for her academic and extra-

curricular accomplishments as well as her commitment to the church and civic organizations.

Keyona was born and raised in the borough of Brooklyn. She is the second daughter of Brenda and John Davis. Currently, she is a senior at the Brooklyn High School of the Arts, where she maintains a 3.0 grade point average and has been continuously on the Honor Roll. She is now enrolled in a Sociology course at New York City Technical College. Keyona is featured in "Who's Who Among American High School Students."

Keyona has been involved in many extra curricular activities that have helped shaped her to become the young woman she is today. For 2 years, she participated in a teen dance company that performed in competitions including the Eastern Dance Association, International Dance Challenge, and ESPN's own dance competition. She is a member of the Berean Baptist Church's Ministry of Sacred Dance where dance is used to present God's message. Keyona is a Girl Scout of the Greater New York area where she has acquired skills to assist in planning various scout activities and setting an example for young girls and her peers. Keyona gives back to her community by donating clothing and volunteering at her church's annual Thanksgiving feed the homeless program.

As an independent young woman, Keyona has had many jobs since the age of 14. She was a camp counselor at the Professional Center for the Arts Dance Camp, clerical assistant at the Office of Children and Family Services, and at the New York State Child Support Office in 2002. She is currently a Senior Operations Specialist at Chase Bank. These employment experiences have helped Keyona grow mentally and gain an understanding of being a positive part of the workforce.

After graduation this June, Keyona plans to be a pre-law student at a 4-year university. A long-term goal has always been to become a prosecutor and a part-time dance teacher. Iyanla Vanzant once said, "Faith and fearlessness fuel your dreams!" Keyona tries to live by this motto with her strong focus and dedication to things she loves.

Mr. Speaker, Keyona Davis, through her accomplishments and maturity, serves as an outstanding role model for all of our young people in the community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable young lady.

RETIREMENT OF RITA THOMPSON

HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Rita Thompson upon her retirement from the House Armed Services Committee after 30 years of loyal and dedicated service to the United States Congress.

Rita grew up in southwestern Virginia and before coming to work for Congress, she worked for the Department of the Army in the Pentagon for 5½ years.

Rita began her career on Capitol Hill in January 1974 with the House Armed Services

Committee. During her years on the committee she has worked on the Personnel Subcommittee, and directly with the General Counsel and the Staff Director. For the past 20 years she has held the position of Professional Staff Member and served as the committee's senior administrator, managing a multi million-dollar annual budget, and organizing Congressional travel, among many other duties. As a result of her position and responsibilities, Rita has regularly interacted not only with Members of Congress, but also with Senators, foreign dignitaries, and high ranking military officials.

Rita's committee service has spanned six presidents, seven committee chairmen, and seven staff directors. I speak for myself, past chairmen and ranking minority members, and any and everyone who has had the privilege of working with Rita, in thanking her for her tireless work and dedication to the House Armed Services Committee.

Rita's charm has always been a trademark of her personality. In a place where many people come and go, Rita has been a symbol of commitment and dedication from which many of us could learn. I congratulate her on her retirement and thank her for over three decades of honorable service to this Congress and her country. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the United States Congress, I wish you the best of luck as you begin this new chapter of your life.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM NEIDIG

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor William Neidig, who was recently honored with the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Medal by the Schools of the Sacred Heart in Atherton, California.

Bill grew up on the east coast and graduated from Princeton University with an engineering degree before coming West to attend the Business School at Stanford University. After graduation, Bill and his wife Christy settled in Palo Alto because of the city's outstanding public school system, and Bill began in the real estate business.

Fate intervened and the Neidig's enrolled their daughter Stephanie in the kindergarten at St. Joseph's. Bill says that growing up he had never really known a nun. But after meeting the Religious of the Sacred Heart he came to appreciate the well educated women who have devoted themselves to educating his children, and he was sold on the school and wanted to help out.

Bill joined the Building and Grounds Committee in 1990 and joined the board of trustees in 1991, where he has continued to serve ever since, except for a mandatory one year sabbatical. In this capacity, Bill worked diligently to maintain and upgrade the facilities and grounds at Sacred Heart. He has been involved in upgrading St. Joseph's classrooms, offices, and science lab. He developed Spieker Pavilion, the Main Building, the Aquatics Center, the West Wing and the library, the football field, the track and tennis facilities, and most recently the Performing Arts Center. At no other time in the history of Sa-

cred Heart Schools Atherton has so much been accomplished in such a short time period.

Bill has also served on the Finance Committee, where his familiar cry, "Less is more, but will it do everything you need?" has been a guiding principle in the financial decisions of the school.

Bill knows how to ask the right questions and get the right answers. Whenever something needs to be done, he can be counted on to make sure it gets done. He has been extraordinarily giving of his time and talent, and his support for Sacred Heart Schools is an inspiration to all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this great and inspiring man, William Neidig, as he is honored with the St. Madeleine Sophie Medal.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTOPHER EARLEY

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Earley, 2004 graduate of Chillicothe High School.

This year Christopher completed a distinguished career as a wrestler at Chillicothe High School, under the tutelage of coaches Dave Kinnen and Ken Stull. Christopher was named to the All District Wrestling Team in 2003, and a State Wrestling Qualifier in 2003 and 2004. During his senior season Christopher enjoyed a great deal of success, as he won the Coach's Award, was named to the Midland Empire All-Conference, and won the District Wrestling Championship. Christopher was also a four-year letterman in wrestling. His academic achievements are equally impressive, as he was the recipient of four consecutive academic letters at Chillicothe High School as well.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in congratulating Christopher Earley and wishing him continued success. Christopher is a great role model for student-athletes in our state, and I am proud to serve him in the United States Congress.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF PETER V. KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Peter V. Kilbane—United States Veteran of WWII, thirty-six year member of the Cleveland Police Department; and most significantly, devoted family man; and friend and mentor to many.

Mr. Kilbane's life centered around his unwavering commitment to his family, to community, and to our nation. He embraced his Irish heritage, and embraced the values, traditions and ethics taught to him by his parents, Mihal Moor and Honora Joyce. Together, Peter and his beloved wife of sixty-two years, Margaret Mary, offered these vital life lessons to their

children: Karen, Grace Ann, Peter G., Peggy, and Mary. He will also be remembered as a loving father figure to Mary Lou Wallish, and to the memory of Harry Spencer.

Mr. Kilbane served our country with honor and courage. His decorated service during WWII reflected his heroic actions in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, including the Battle of the Bulge. From the front lines fighting for liberty during the war, to the front lines fighting crime along the streets of Cleveland, Mr. Kilbane exhibited the same unyielding dedication and concern for others. He worked in every district within the Cleveland Police Department, and held the position of Lieutenant of Special Operations, Detective Bureau, when he retired in 1987. Beyond his professional commitments, Mr. Kilbane consistently reached out into our community. He held board positions and was an active member of many civic organizations, including St. Malachi Parish, the Holy Name Society, the Fraternal Order of Police, the Emerald Society, and the Retired Irish Police Society. In 2000, the Retired Irish Police Society named him the Retired Irish Police Officer of the Year.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and remembrance of Mr. Peter V. Kilbane—a man of heart, courage and integrity, who lived life with a joyous focus on family, friends and helping others. I extend my deepest condolences to his beloved wife, Margaret Mary, to his children, grandchildren, great-children and to his extended family members and many friends. His kindness, heart and courageous service has served to uplift our Cleveland community, and his shining legacy, spirit and memory will live on forever within the minds and hearts of all whom knew and loved him well.

IN HONOR OF ADM SAMUEL LEE GRAVELY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2004

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of an extraordinary American, ADM Samuel Lee Gravelly, Jr.

Admiral Gravelly passed away recently, but he leaves behind a legacy of stunning accomplishment, which undoubtedly renders him as one of the most significant figures in American military history.

Admiral Gravelly was born in Richmond, Virginia on June 4, 1922. After attending Virginia Union University for 2 years, he enlisted in the Navy Reserve in 1942 and was trained as a fireman apprentice.

In 1943, he participated in a Navy program known as V-12, which was designed to select and train highly qualified men for commissioning as officers in the Navy. As part of his V-12 training, he attended the University of California in Los Angeles and the Midshipmen School at Columbia University in New York City.

On December 14, 1944 Admiral Gravelly successfully completed midshipman training, becoming the first African American commissioned as an officer from the Navy Reserve Officers' Training Course, ROTC.

As a newly commissioned ensign, his first duty assignment was at a naval training station in Illinois, where he was assistant battalion commander for new recruits. Following