

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

HONORING THE JOHN BOY AND
BILLY RADIO SHOW

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize the John Boy and Billy radio show. I have known John Boy, Billy, their producer Randy, their guest coordinator Marci, and their entire staff for many years. In fact, I knew them long before they became famous. They have been a great help to me by informing their listeners about important issues that face Congress.

Recently, the John Boy and Billy "Big Show" has been keeping their listeners informed about the War on Terror and the status of our troops overseas. As their listeners know, John Boy and Billy are the two funniest guys you will ever meet, but they are very serious when it comes to supporting our troops. The "Big Show" deserves to be recognized because they set up a United Service Organization (USO) care package drive to help support our troops during the 2003 holiday season.

Through their efforts they helped the USO collect more than \$75,000 from more than 1400 of their great listeners. I commend both the John Boy and Billy radio show, and the "Big Show" listeners, for supporting the troops and providing for them during the 2003 holiday season. Due to their efforts, our troops will receive care packages to let them know that they are supported back home, and that we appreciate what they are doing to protect us.

TAIWAN

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has been a close and valuable ally of our nation since its inception as the Republic of China in 1949. In contrast to the People's Republic of China, both democracy and capitalism have flourished in Taiwan, as demonstrated by its peaceful transition to a multi-party political system and its thriving free market economy.

I support the notion of a united China, but not if it means the assimilation of Taiwan into anything resembling the current People's Republic. Rather, I look forward to the day when both peoples are united in a truly democratic state, and are able to share in the political and economic freedoms of Taiwan. Until this is possible, the United States must use the tools at our disposal to maintain the status quo, guaranteeing the people of Taiwan the freedom they currently enjoy.

Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian has called for a nationwide referendum in March

regarding China's deployment of hundreds of missiles aimed at Taiwan. Asking the Taiwanese people whether Taiwan should purchase more anti-missile defenses in response to this obvious threat does not represent an escalation of tensions with China. On the contrary, this "defensive referendum" is an affirmation of Taiwan's democratic system. We must support this exercise of the right of free expression, which is consistent with our own values.

In this instance, China's inflammatory statements, not Taiwan's referendum, threaten to upset the delicate balance that exists in the region. The United States must remain firm in its support for the people of Taiwan. And until China is ready to adopt a democratic system of government and a free market economy, that means maintaining the status quo.

HONORING MYRA MACK

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 Myra Mack, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Mack is a centenarian and at 101 has lived a full life.

Myra was born in London, Ontario and attended St. George's School. She left school to attend the Army, but joined the women volunteer services instead. She worked as a telephone operator. Following school, she worked as a box girl in a dry goods store. Myra said the happiest event in her life was when she married her husband Joseph. She is most proud of her eighty plus trophies she won over the years in dance competitions.

After 101 years, Myra says she enjoys sitting on her front porch and doing her sewing. Her best advice for young people is to enjoy themselves and play while they are young.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Myra Mack 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 friends and neighbors.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF SAN BERNARDINO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to honor the 25th Anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino and the leadership of Bishop Barnes.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI created the Diocese of San Bernardino. Serving over 1,000,000 Catholics in ninety-seven parishes, the Diocese has served as the moral compass and religious center to the citizens of San Bernardino.

Not only has the Diocese of San Bernardino served the Catholic citizens of San Bernardino, its thirty-four Catholic schools

have provided quality education to 8,500 students of all faiths and its two Catholic hospitals continue to save lives and keep the residents of San Bernardino healthy.

Since 1996, Bishop Gerald Barnes has led the Diocese of San Bernardino. Always a devoted teacher and educator, Bishop Barnes has also dedicated himself to fighting against the injustices that people of all races and backgrounds face.

Under the guidance of the founding Bishop, Phillip Straling and then Bishop Barnes, the Diocese has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of all citizens of San Bernardino.

I am pleased to honor the 25th anniversary of the Catholic Diocese of San Bernardino and the leadership of Bishop Barnes.

NEW YEAR'S WISHES FOR
FREEDOM FOR THE SIKHS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, recently my friend Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, issued a New Year's message to the Sikhs. In it, he took note of the progress that has been made towards freedom for the Sikhs and other minority nations in South Asia. He also wrote that the effort to liberate the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, must continue.

As you may know, the Sikhs declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987. They named their country Khalistan. Since that time, tens of thousands of Sikhs have been murdered to suppress the Sikh freedom movement and tens of thousands more have been held as political prisoners.

Dr. Aulakh noted that seminars on Khalistan were held openly last year. He noted the ceremony honoring Sikh martyrs Satwant Singh, Beant Singh, and Kehar Singh. He wrote about recent initiatives by the Khalsa Panchayat to move the cause of freedom for the Sikhs forward.

Mr. Speaker, the right to self-determination is the cornerstone of democracy. It is time for the United States, founded on the principle of self-determination, to support self-determination for the Sikhs. We can do this by cutting off our aid to India until the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagaland, and all the minorities enjoy full rights and freedom and by putting the Congress on record in support of self-determination for Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom in the form of a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place Dr. Aulakh's letter into the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE TO THE KHALSA PANTH
WASHINGTON, Jan. 19.—Happy New Year to you and your family and the Khalsa Panth. May 2004 be your best year ever.

The Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation. ("In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi.") The Sikh Nation must achieve it. We always remember it by reciting every morning and evening, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The fire of freedom still burns strong and bright in the heart of the Sikh Nation. 2003

was an encouraging year for the Sikh freedom struggle. Sikhs openly held seminars in Punjab on the subject of Khalistan. This is a very good sign and we salute the people who participated in these seminars. They are keeping the flame of freedom lit. Now I urge Sikhs to unite and take action to liberate our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation.

Never forget that the Akal Takht Sahib and Darbar Sahib are under the control of the Indian government, the same Indian government that has murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs in the past twenty years. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht and the head granthi of Darbar Sahib toe the line that the Indian government tells them. They are not appointed by the Khalsa Panth. The SGPC, which appoints them, does not represent the Sikh Nation anymore. They have become the puppets of the Indian government and have lost credibility with the Sikh Nation. Otherwise they would behave like a real Jathedar, Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke, rather than like Indian government puppet Jathedar Aror Singh, who gave a Siropa to General Dyer for the massacre at Jalianawa Bagh. These institutions will remain under the control of the Indian regime until we free the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation and oppression and sever our relations with the New Delhi government.

The Sikh Nation is a nation of martyrs. It is encouraging that the SGPC and the Akal Takht honored the Sikh martyrs S. Satwant Singh, S. Beant Singh, and S. Kehar Singh. Recent initiatives by the Khalsa Panchayat to bring the Sikh tradition and glory to the Khalsa Panth are highly appreciated. This is a good start to establishing Khalsa Raj as the Akali movement in the 1920s freed the Sikh Gurdwaras from the Mahants who were puppets of the Indian government. Today, the Akali leaders are the new Mahants.

The Akali Dal conspired with the Indian government in 1984 to invade the Golden Temple to murder Sant Bhindranwale and 20,000 other Sikh during June 1984 in Punjab. If Sikhs will not even protect the sanctity of the Golden Temple, how can the Sikh Nation survive as a nation?

The Akali Dal has lost all its credibility. The Badal government was so corrupt openly and no Akali leader would come forward and tell Badal and his wife to stop this unparalleled corruption. That is why the Akali Dal was defeated in the elections by the Congress Party.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has done one good thing for which we must appreciate him. He is prosecuting Badal, his son, and his wife for their corruption during their five years in power, 1997-2002. How could a Chief Minister of modest means amass over Rs4300 crore? He should pay the taxes on this wealth and account to the Sikh Nation where he got it. This ill-gotten wealth should be confiscated.

Badal has destroyed the moral fabric of the Sikh religion. What happened to the concept of fairness and honesty? Because Sikhs are slaves in India, there is nobody to defend the Sikh interests internationally. Recently, an issue came up of the French banning the wearing of turbans in school. If Khalistan were free, the Sikh Nation could call the French Ambassador and tell him to stop this harassment of Sikhs. Our Ambassador to France would tell the French government the same thing: the turban is part of the Sikh religion and Sikhs should not be harassed.

When Sikhs ruled Punjab, a French general, General Ventura, commanded the Sikh artillery. He himself wore a beard and a turban. In World War II, the Sikh army wearing

turbans helped to liberate France so that France could enjoy freedom.

Khalsa Ji, let's pray to Guru for freedom, unity, sovereignty, prosperity, and happiness for the Sikh Nation around the world and for everyone. The Khalsa Panth is determined to establish Khalsa Raj, as the events of this past year show.

India is not one country. It has 18 official languages. Soon Kashmir will be free from Indian occupation. Now America is involved in it. As L.K. Advani predicted, "When Kashmir goes, India goes." We agree with him.

When I met President Bush on December 5, he personally told me, "I am aware of the Sikh and Kashmiri problem and we stopped India and Pakistan from going to nuclear war." The Sikh diaspora has a moral responsibility to help the Sikh Nation to achieve its sovereignty by freeing Khalistan from Indian occupation.

As President of the Council of Khalistan, I wish everybody a 2004 that brings freedom, prosperity, and happiness to you and to the Khalsa Panth. A free Khalistan is a must for the survival of the Sikh nation and will provide an optimal environment for the Sikh Nation to progress to its optimum potential politically, religiously, and economically.

Panth Da Sewadar,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING WILLIAM J. ANDERSON

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 William J. Anderson, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a man who has become something very few of us ever will. William Anderson is a centenarian and at 101 years old he is a father to one child, a grandfather to four grandchildren and a great-grandfather to three great-grandchildren!

Mr. Anderson was born in Boston but went to school in Wellesley, Massachusetts. Following school, he became a teacher. He describes his happiest moment as the birth of his son and most fondly remembers his childhood summers in Prince Edward Island.

After 101 years, Mr. Anderson says if he had it all to do over again, he'd like to work for the government—maybe even the IRS! When asked what advice he'd give to young people he said he'd tell them to work hard, stay out of trouble and drive safely. He says the best thing about growing older is the freedom to do what you want to and the time to travel.

Mr. Speaker, and my Colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring William Anderson today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as he has. He is truly a great man and someone with an appreciation for the importance of happiness and freedom.

RUDY DELEON'S ELOQUENT TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN NICHOLAS MAVROULES

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened to learn of the death of former Congressman

Nicholas Mavroules, a dedicated public servant, leader, and family man.

At the funeral service for Congressman Mavroules on December 30, 2003, at St. Vasilios Greek Orthodox Church in Peabody, Massachusetts, Mr. deLeon delivered an eloquent tribute to Congressman Mavroules that touched me and all others who were present. He described the lifelong dedication that Congressman Mavroules gave to his beloved family, friends, colleagues, and constituents in Massachusetts, and his devoted service to this country.

Rudy deLeon's touching eulogy to Congressman Mavroules should be of interest to all of us. I ask that it be submitted to the RECORD.

His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios; Current and former Members of the Massachusetts Congressional Delegation: Congressman Tierney, Congressman Neal, Congressman Meehan, former Congressman Harrington—Then as now, one of the most capable delegations in the Congress.

On behalf of the family of Nicholas Mavroules—his wife of 53 years, Mary—his daughters Debbie, Gail and Brenda and their families—and the other family, friends, colleagues and constituents—I would like to thank you for remembering and honoring a remarkable man. A man of family; a man of community; and, a man of public service.

Nick began his political career in the late 1950's, and I once asked—did you ever meet John F. Kennedy.

He responded, "yes, Senator John F. Kennedy."

His daughter—very young daughter Gail—was with him. Her response, "Dad, that man should run for Mayor of Peabody."

In 1978, Nick Mavroules would be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving the 6th Congressional District of Massachusetts for 14 years.

But it was in the 1980's, serving on the Armed Services Committee, where Nick would have his greatest impact.

The decade began with the inauguration of Ronald Reagan as the 40th President of the United States. It ended when the Berlin Wall came down in 1989, followed by the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991—ending communist rule in Russia.

In between was one incredible debate—and, of course—Nick Mavroules was right in the center. Along the way there were discussions of human rights in Central America, nuclear disarmament, Pentagon accountability, and the morale and welfare of U.S. troops.

In the course of his service, he would join and lead the debate—both in the Nation's Capital and on the North Shore—about the direction and course of our nation. The debate would take Nick to many places:

1981: Visit with U.S. forces in Germany.

1982: Northern Ireland.

1983: Two trips to Beirut, Lebanon. The first to spend July 4th with the troops; the second to lead an Armed Services Committee investigative team after 283 U.S. Marines were killed in a terrorist bombing during a peacekeeping mission at the Beirut International Airport. In the Committee's final report of December 1983, Nick would write, "A war of terrorism has begun and is likely to continue for the foreseeable future."

1985: A session with U.S. negotiators in Geneva—center of talks with the Soviet Union on nuclear weapons. He would meet with President Reagan in the Oval Office after this trip.

1986: San Salvador, El Salvador. A meeting with the Jesuit's at the University of Central America—priests would later be assassinated in their rectory.