

congregation, and renovating and expanding their facilities.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to the members of the Providence Missionary Baptist Church for their contributions to our city. I also invite my colleagues to join me in sending our congratulations as they celebrate the completion of their new church building, and offering our best wishes as they commemorate their 83rd anniversary later this year.

CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act (April 10), I wish to congratulate the people of Taiwan. For the last quarter century, the Taiwan Relations Act has been the cornerstone of the U.S. relationship with Taiwan. It has enabled Taiwan to move from an authoritarian state to a full democracy and has provided the people of Taiwan with the tools necessary to achieve the highest standards of living.

Taiwan has now completed its third ever direct presidential election. Even though incumbent President Chen Shui-bian won a razor thin victory over his opponent, Taiwan's latest presidential election has demonstrated to the world that the people of Taiwan have exercised their democratic right through a remarkable 80 percent voter turnout.

Let us hope that in the days and months ahead Taiwan President Chen will use the power of his office to lead Taiwan's 23 million people, and that peace and stability will continue to prevail in the Taiwan Strait for the next 25 years and beyond.

In the meantime I wish to salute Taiwan Ambassador C.J. Chen, who will be returning to Taipei next month. He has served Taiwan well as his country's top diplomat in Washington during the last 4 years. He and his wife Yolanda will be missed by their friends in Washington.

CONGRATULATING FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT ALOYSIUS P. KELLEY, S.J.

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Aloysius P. Kelley, S.J., the seventh and longest-serving President in Fairfield University's history, who plans to retire on June 30, 2004, after 25 years of service.

Father Kelley's decision marks the end of a tremendously successful 25-year tenure during which Fairfield University has become one of the preeminent Jesuit schools in the country. As the longest serving president of the nation's 28 Jesuit colleges and universities, arriving at the University in 1979, Father Kelley has presided over the graduation of 64 percent of Fairfield's 38,000 alumni.

During his tenure, Father Kelley worked tirelessly in collaboration with the University's faculty, alumni, parents and friends to achieve extraordinary results. He has overseen facility expansion that has transformed the campus, including the construction and acquisition of 14 new facilities and the renovation and expansion of 12 others.

The student body and faculty of Fairfield University have been strengthened over the past 25 years. On the undergraduate level, Fairfield this year set an all-time record in the number of applications, with 7,655 for 850 seats in the incoming class. During Father Kelley's tenure, the average combined SAT score for the entering class has increased from 1,065 to 1,197. Fairfield's admission for this year's entering class placed it among the top five percent of four-year colleges and universities in the nation in terms of selectivity. The intellectual environment thrived during Father Kelley's tenure.

This is the end of an extraordinarily successful era. Under Father Kelley's leadership, Fairfield University has experienced dramatic growth and success. To top it all off, the institution's endowment has increased from under \$2 million in 1979 to \$131 million currently.

Father Kelley will be greatly missed. He leaves a strong legacy and bright future on which his successor may build. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Father Kelley for his tremendous accomplishments.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 1, 2004

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3550) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Chairman, my primary objective being named to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in the 107th Congress was to improve Michigan's minimum rate of return for highway dollars from the current 90.5 percent in the reauthorization of TEA-21. Sadly, the bill reported from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, H.R. 3550, while increasing the overall pot of money to \$284 billion over six years, decreases the amount of programs or "scope" that the minimum rate of return applies to, effectively decreasing our share to about 79 percent of every road dollar. The amendment offered by Mr. ISAKSON of Georgia on the House floor would have corrected this flaw and at least allow Michigan and other donor States to continue receiving the same rate of return on the same scope of projects as in current law. The net effect of this amendment would have been an additional \$300 million to meet Michigan's needs. While I voted in favor of this amendment, it was defeated by a vote of 170-254.

Given the fact that under H.R. 3550, Michigan will receive less of a percentage of road dollars than they do today, I am voting against it on final passage. Michigan's roads and infra-

structure have taken a back seat to other States for far too long. Enough is enough—it is time these Federal road dollars go to Michigan projects and create Michigan jobs. I am hopeful that we can work to make the final product better for Michigan's citizens in conference committee.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED CEREBRAL PALSY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to praise a valuable organization located in the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania that has striven to advance the independence of individuals with disabilities for 50 years. I am proud to represent the congressional district that has housed, for 50 years, the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Western Pennsylvania.

Building on the vision of the founding families who purchased and renovated a three-story home in Spring Church, Armstrong County, where a day clinic for children with disabilities was housed, UCP today serves some 1,500 individuals, adult and children, in their homes and communities. For half a century the agency, serving Armstrong, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties in southwestern Pennsylvania, has been providing programs and services for physically and mentally challenged individuals. Most of the consumers are diagnosed with cerebral palsy, mental retardation, Down syndrome, developmental delays, speech and language disorders, spina bifida, multiple sclerosis or spinal cord injuries. The accomplishments that UCP has made in the last 50 years have made significant improvements to the lives of the physically and mentally challenged in southwestern Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring this fine organization and the benefits that it has bestowed on so many individuals in southwestern Pennsylvania. It is truly an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District and to recognize the 50th anniversary of the United Cerebral Palsy of Western Pennsylvania.

VAISAKHI DAY, SIKH HOLIDAY— USE OPPORTUNITY TO FREE KHALISTAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, April 13 is Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the founding of the Sikh Nation in 1699. The Sikhs love freedom as we do, Mr. Speaker. They have a long tradition of fighting oppression wherever it rears its ugly head and they have a history of self-rule.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Sikhs in America and the Sikhs around the world a happy Vaisakhi Day.

The Council of Khalistan, the organization that is leading the Sikh movement to liberate

their homeland, Khalistan, recently published an open letter to the Sikhs, a Vaisakhi Day message. It urged the Sikhs to use the opportunity to liberate their homeland. The letter called upon them to remember the Sikh Nation's heritage of freedom.

The letter pointed out the suffering of the Sikhs at the hands of the Indian government. That repression has taken the lives of over 250,000 Sikhs in the last 20 years, in addition to over 50,000 Sikhs who were picked up, tortured, killed, and secretly cremated, declaring their bodies "unidentified." Another 52,000-plus are being held as political prisoners, according to the Movement Against State Repression, a Punjabi human-rights organization. In addition, India has killed more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 85,000 Kashmiri Muslims, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Yet the U.S. taxpayer continues to be taxed to send foreign aid to this brutal country.

The letter calls on the Sikhs to take the opportunity of Vaisakhi to demand a free and independent Khalistan by means of slogans, by peaceful resistance, and by bringing forth new leadership. It takes note of the death of Gurcharan Singh Tohra, the President of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, and the political collapse of former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal to call for new leadership that supports freedom for Khalistan. It notes the seminar held on Khalistan last year, which shows that the desire for freedom remains strong in Punjab.

This letter makes a very strong case for a sovereign, independent Khalistan and it does a good job of exposing the brutal tyranny that India has inflicted on the Sikh Nation.

Mr. Speaker, how can we, as the bastion of freedom, sit idly by and close our eyes to this terror? The time has come to stop U.S. aid to India. This may be the most effective way that we can influence them to stop the repression of Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities. And if India is the democratic state that it says it is, it should conduct a free and fair vote on the question of independence. This Congress should put itself on record urging India to do this as soon as possible. That is the democratic way to settle issues, and we should use our influence to help this occur.

Mr. Speaker, the letter from the Council of Khalistan is very informative. For the information of my colleagues and the public, I would like to insert it into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, April 6, 2004.

VAISAKHI DAY MESSAGE TO THE SIKH NATION:
SIKHS WILL CELEBRATE VAISAKHI DAY
APRIL 13

DEAR KHALSA JI: On April 13, the Sikh Nation will celebrate Vaisakhi Day, observing the 305th anniversary of the day Guru Gobind Singh established the Khalsa Panth. The Guru granted sovereignty to the Sikh Nation, saying "In Grieb Silrhin Ko Deon Patshahi." We must remind ourselves of our heritage by raising slogans of "Khalistan Zindabad" and beginning a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan. Every morning and evening we recite, "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." Now is the time to act on it. Do we mean what we say every morning and evening?

The Sikhs in Punjab have suffered enormous repression at the hands of the Indian regime in the last 20 years. The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs

since 1984. In addition, over 50,000 Sikh youth were picked up from their houses, tortured, murdered in police custody, then secretly cremated as "unidentified bodies." Their remains were never even given to their families! Over 52,000 Sikhs sit in Indian jails as political prisoners without charge or trial, according to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in illegal custody for 20 years!

The Indian government forgot the Sikh tradition. Sikhs can never forgive or forget the Indian government's military attack on the Golden Temple and 125 other Gurdwaras throughout Punjab. Over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered in those attacks, known as Operation Bluestar, including Sant Janail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, Bhai Amrik Singh, and over 100 Sikh religious students ages 8-13 who were taken out into the courtyard and shot. These attacks accelerated the Sikh independence movement and deepened the desire for independence in the hearts of Sikhs, a fire that burns brightly in the hearts of the Sikh Nation to this day. Sant Bhindranwale said that the attack on the Golden Temple would "lay the foundation stone of Khalistan" and he was right. Late in 2003, former Member of Parliament Atinder Pal Singh organized a seminar on Khalistan at Baba Makhan Shah Labana Hall, Sector 30, Chandigarh. This shows that the flame of freedom is still burning in the hearts of Sikhs. It is time to take action to free our homeland. Repression and genocide of this magnitude at the hands of the Indian government is unparalleled in the late part of the 20th century. India should be ashamed of the genocide it has committed against Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities.

With the passing of Gurcharan Singh Tohra, new leadership must emerge at the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC.) In addition, new political leadership must emerge with Prakash Singh Badal under indictment. Mr. Badal's time is not long either. He has had cancer already and he is an old man. This new leadership must be committed to the cause of freeing our Sikh homeland from the repression and brutality of the Indian government by reclaiming our lost sovereignty in a free and independent Khalistan.

Khalisa Ji, at this time of Vaisakhi, the whole Khalsa Panth must be energized to re-establish a sovereign, independent Khalsa Raj by freeing our homeland, Khalistan. It is time for Sikhs to look back at our history of persecution and suffering over the past 20 years. The Hindu government of India, whether run by the Congress Party or by the BJP, wants minorities either subservient to Hinduism or completely wiped out. The Indian government and its allies have tried to weaken the Sikh religion by saying that Sikhism is part of Hinduism. If that is true, why have they murdered so many Sikhs? Hindus practice idol worship; Sikhism is monotheistic, worshipping only one God. Hindus believe in the caste system; Sikhs believe in the equality of the whole human race. Remember the words of Guru Gobind Singh: "Recognize ye all the human race as one." In spite of the fact that the religions believe completely opposite things, Hindus desire to engulf Sikhism just as they did with Jainism and Buddhism in India. They think that Buddhism is part of Hinduism because Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, was born in India. Similarly, Guru Nanak was born Hindu, so they proclaim Sikhism to be part of Hinduism. Yet Guru Nanak said that he was "neither Hindu nor Muslim." Jesus was born Jewish. Does that mean that Christianity is merely part of Judaism?

On this auspicious occasion celebrating the birth of the Khalsa Panth, we must bring

back our Khalsa spirit. We must remember our heritage and tradition of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah" by committing ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan, from Indian occupation. We need a new Sikh political party which has a dedication to the interests of the Sikh Nation as its sole objective, to establish Khalsa Raj by liberating Khalistan, severing all political ties with India. If the BJP wants Hindu Raj, it cannot object to Khalsa Raj.

The Indian government wants to break the will of the Sikh Nation and enslave them forever, making Sikhism a part of Hinduism. This can only be stopped if we free Punjab from Delhi's control and reestablish a sovereign, independent country, as declared on October 7, 1987. We must recommit ourselves to freeing our homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. Raise slogans of "Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah," "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," "Khalistan Zindabad," and "India out of Khalistan." Use this Vaisakhi to launch a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan.

Last year's seminar on Khalistan shows that the flame of freedom still burns brightly in Punjab in spite of the Indian government's brutal repression. Perhaps this is why India is afraid to hold a free and fair vote on the subject of independence. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

Remember the words of Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, during the celebration of Guru Nanak's birthday: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." He was only reiterating the Guru's blessing, "In Grieb Sikhin Ko Deon Patshahi." The time to achieve our independence is now.

Always remember our heritage: Raj Kare Ga Khalsa; Khalsa Bagi Yan Badshah. Freedom for Khalistan is very close.

Panth Da Sewadar,

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICAN WORKERS AND MANUFACTURERS SUPPORT ACT

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 20, 2004

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, many of my colleagues and I have been watching with great interest the nightly news report on Lou Dobbs Tonight entitled "Exporting America." The series has highlighted the disturbing trend of good paying American jobs that are being sent overseas. In the past three years, more than 2.8 million Americans employed in manufacturing have lost their jobs. Because each manufacturing job supports two non-manufacturing positions; that means at least 8.4 million people have been affected, directly or indirectly, because of the loss of American manufacturing to overseas companies. Despite these job losses, over 16 million Americans are still employed in the manufacturing sector. Additionally, manufacturing contributes roughly 17 percent of our nation's gross domestic product, provides 71 percent of our exports, and funds 67 percent of our nation's research and development investment. As these numbers indicate, manufacturing is the backbone of our economy and action must be taken to protect and create jobs here at home and stem the tide of American manufacturing jobs moving overseas.

Current free trade policies have enticed many large corporations and retailers to take