

and diversified, Annandale High School has followed the community's example. The school boasts such a great diversity that it recently received national attention. During his second term, President Clinton publicly recognized Annandale as a "model school for diversity", commenting on the fact that Annandale's student body represents over 80 countries and more than 40 native languages.

To this day, Annandale High School remains a distinguished and greatly lauded school in all aspects from sports to the arts to academics. Annandale High School has won six state football championships and many other state-level recognitions. In addition, the band program, accompanied by the choral department, has won multiple awards in national competition and has performed in concerts at the Kennedy Center. This summer, a select choir will participate in the second part of an international exchange program with Germany. Furthermore, Annandale High School has taken the initiative to pioneer the International Baccalaureate program within the Fairfax County Public School System. This program, which allows students to take accelerated, honors courses that count towards an internationally recognized diploma, is one that other schools throughout the county remain reluctant to adopt due to its rigorous nature.

Annandale High School plays an instrumental role in shaping its students into kind, considerate, and generous individuals devoted to helping others and improving their community. Most recently, three sisters, all students at Annandale, founded Wash America, a car wash initiative designed to provide financial support to families of the victims of the September 11th attacks.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank Annandale High School faculty and staff for the immeasurable contributions that they have made to the community by shaping today's youth and tomorrow's future. I congratulate the High School on its successes over the last 50 years and I wish it more successful years in the future. I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this outstanding and distinguished institution.

RECOGNIZING SETH THOMAS JOHNSEN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Seth Thomas Johnsen, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 135, and by earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Brian has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the 4 years Brian has been involved with Scouting, he has earned 26 merit badges and held numerous leadership positions, serving as Patrol and Senior Patrol Leader, 4-year camper at H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation, and as a Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say.

For his Eagle Scout project, Tommy organized the Scouts and Leaders into teams for

the purpose of cleaning and painting fire hydrants in the City of Kearney to the color of safety yellow.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Seth Thomas Johnsen for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FALLEN HEROES

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gary Weston, who was recently killed in Kosovo.

Gary Weston was an employee of DynCorp International, which was serving with the United Nations as international police officers. Gary and other members were fired upon by a Jordanian police officer for unknown reason. Two fellow workers were killed in the resulting firefight. Gary was flown to a hospital after receiving several gunshots. He later died from complications of the gunshot wounds, his wife Nina Weston was there by her husband's side.

Gary Weston was 52 years old and lived in Vienna, Illinois. Not enough can be said about the great sacrifice this man made for his country, the ultimate sacrifice. He is survived by wife, Nina Weston; his mother, Christine Weston of Metropolis; a son, Richard N. Weston of Granite City; two daughters, Rachel A. Weston of Honolulu, Hawaii and Elizabeth E. Weston of Vienna; five grandchildren, Trey, Derek, Heather, Dalton and Parker; two brothers, Ben and wife Jan Weston of Vienna and Ed and wife Susan Weston of Cape Girardeau; a sister, Melinda and husband Ron White of Austin, Texas; and his mother-in-law, Marilyn Whiteside of Vienna. My thoughts and prayers go out to his families and loved ones. Gary Weston gave his life in an effort to improve the lives of others. This sacrifice should never be forgotten.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the dedication of the National World War II Memorial on the National Mall on Saturday, May 29, 2004.

Dedicated almost 60 years after the end of World War II, this stunning memorial honors all military veterans of the war, citizens on the home front, the nation at large and the high moral purpose and idealism that motivated the nation's call to arms.

We must never forget the 16 million troops who served in the armed forces during World War II and the more than 400,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice. As a member of the

House Armed Services Committee, I know the importance of the troops' sacrifice to protect our freedom.

I am especially pleased to welcome over 200 Long Island veterans to Washington, DC for the dedication. Serving those who have served our country has been one of my greatest honors as a Member of Congress. I am proud to have secured over \$1.16 million in retroactive benefits for veterans in my district.

On this historic occasion, we must remember to honor our troops and veterans not only with memorials and red poppy lapel pins, but also in our policies and budgets. Restoring cuts to veteran's services and making VA spending mandatory, not discretionary should be a top priority. We in Congress have a duty to make America a fit country for these heroes to live in.

This memorial is a long-overdue tribute to the "Greatest Generation." They risked and gave their lives to protect our freedom, and we must ensure our debt to them is repaid.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. PAMELA LYNN WILEY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding and devoted citizen in my state, Mrs. Pamela Lynn Wiley. On Sunday, June 6, 2004, she will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at St. Paul's Calvary United Church of God Usher's Annual Day.

Pamela was born on November 16, 1958 in Summit, New Jersey to the late Thomas and Gloria Peterson. She grew up in Vauxhall, New Jersey, where she attended the Union County school system and graduated from Union High School in 1977.

Pamela has been an active member of Saint Paul's Calvary United Church of God for over 40 years, ministering to its members through her service on many of the church boards and committees.

She is a member of their missionary department, as well as the Saint Paul's Calvary Young Adult Choir, The Voices of Praise. She is also an advisor to the CLC ensemble.

She is a beloved member of the usher board, having joined at a very young age, and is actively serving as their Vice President.

Pamela will be joined at this celebration by many friends and family, including her husband, Nathan Lamont Wiley, Sr.; her oldest daughter, A1C Joyita Kwamina Wiley-Jackson (U.S. Air Force); her son, CS3 Nathan Lamont Wiley, Jr. (U.S. Navy); her youngest daughter, SFC Gloria Lynette Wiley (Union High School JROTC); and her sisters, Kimm and Kiesha Peterson.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in extending my thanks to Pamela Lynn Wiley for her years of ministry and service to her congregation and to our community, and I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing her the strength and grace to continue for many years to come.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN CONGRATULATES INDIA'S NEW SIKH PRIME MINISTER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, as you know, a Sikh, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has been named as the new Prime Minister of India. Dr. Singh is a former Finance Minister in the government of Narasimha Rao from 1991 to 1996. He is a very experienced Indian official.

I hope that this will be a step forward for good relations between the United States and India, Mr. Speaker. We all seek good relations. However, the support of India's Communists for the governing coalition makes me wonder if good relations are possible under this particular government.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan has sent a letter to Prime Minister Singh congratulating him on his new position. In the letter, Dr. Aulakh notes that it is good for the image of Sikhs worldwide that Dr. Manmohan Singh is now Prime Minister. He also notes that it was the RSS, parent organization of the ousted BJP, that assassinated Mohandas Gandhi and takes note of India's violent history, urging Prime Minister Singh to take strong measures to avoid repeating this history, such as releasing the political prisoners that India holds, punishing those responsible for atrocities, ending the taking of Punjabi water to nonriparian states without compensation, and other such policies. I think we can all support India will be a better place if Prime Minister Singh implements these policies.

According to the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners. Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners. A democracy should not hold political prisoners. I am sure all my colleagues will agree with me that all these political prisoners should be released immediately.

The letter also reminds Prime Minister Singh that while ending the BJP's policy of Hindutva—total Hinduization of every aspect of Indian life—will be welcome, it was the Congress Party under Dr. Singh's political patrons, the Gandhi family, that carried out the military attack on the Golden Temple, the center and seat of the Sikh religion and the massacre of Sikhs in Delhi and elsewhere in India. Dr. Aulakh urges Dr. Singh to make a complete break with these policies by punishing those responsible.

In 1987, the Sikhs declared themselves independent from India, naming their new country Khalistan. As Dr. Aulakh points out in his letter, allowing Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations seeking their freedom from India to be free is the best way to spare the subcontinent any more bloodshed.

I join in that call, Mr. Speaker. We should support a free and fair plebiscite on the question of independence for the minority nations of South Asia. And until human rights are fully observed and a complete break is made with the bloody and repressive policies of the past, the United States should stop providing aid to India. These measures will encourage India to

take the steps necessary to bring peace, freedom, prosperity, and dignity to everyone in the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert the Council of Khalistan's letter to Prime Minister Singh into the RECORD at this time.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC, May 26, 2004.

The Hon. Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister of India, Chanakyapuri, New
Delhi, India.

DEAR PRIME MINISTER SINGH: Congratulations on becoming Prime Minister of India. You have been entrusted with a significant responsibility.

We are very pleased to see a Sikh as Prime Minister. You have reached this high office because of your intelligence and hard work and your presence in this position gives the world a strong and positive impression of Sikhs. However, remember the way that the Gandhi family used Giani Zail Singh when he was President of India. He became the figurehead for their repression of the Sikhs. Unlike Zail Singh, you are in a position of real power. Sikhs around the world will be watching what you do and hoping that you will not allow yourself to be used in a similar manner.

As a Sikh, you are in a position to understand the problems of the Sikh Nation. The Movement Against State Repression (MASR) did a report that showed the government admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners. They have been held without charge or trial, some for as long as 20 years! If you are truly committed to secularism, one of your first acts should be to release all political prisoners. If any have died in custody, their bodies should be released to their families. These are people who have committed no crime but opposition to the government. How can there be political prisoners in a democracy?

I urge you to restore to Punjab what is rightfully Punjab's. I call on you to restore the Punjabi-speaking areas that were removed from the state of Punjab to it. Punjab was meant to be a unified Sikh state and Indian governments of the past have pursued a deliberate policy of dividing, bankrupting, and weakening it to divide and weaken the Sikhs. As a Sikh and as Prime Minister, you are in a position to put a stop to this policy. You are also in a position to restore Punjab's water rights. For years, Punjab's water has been diverted to non-riparian states with no compensation to Punjab or to the people of Punjab. Please put an end to the diversion of Punjab's water to non-riparian states and when such diversion is necessary, please make certain that the Sikh farmers of Punjab get appropriate compensation for their water. This is only fair and right, and it is a policy that will earn you greater support among the Sikhs. All other states control their water resources.

We are also pleased that the BJP is out of power. Rahul Gandhi, MP, the son of Sonia and Rajiv Gandhi and a member of your party, pointed out that the RSS, which is the parent organization of the BJP, assassinated Mahatma Gandhi. The RSS is a pro-Fascist organization and both Vajpayee and Advani are proud RSS members. The end of the policy of Hindutva will be a welcome development. Sikh support for the Congress Party is also a by-product of the corrupt Parkash Singh Badal regime in Punjab, the most corrupt government in Punjab's history. The Badal government even invented a new word for bribery: fee for service. However, it was a Congress government that attacked the Golden Temple and carried out the massacre of Sikhs in Delhi and throughout India.

As your own nephew pointed out, Sikhs can never forget the attack on the Golden

Temple. Thus it is disturbing to read that you have said you intend to follow the policies of Rajiv Gandhi. His policy was the murder of at least 8,000 Sikhs in Delhi alone and over 20,000 throughout India. It is also disturbing that your party gave tickets to Jagdish Tytler and Sajjan Kumar, who are responsible for ordering the murders of thousands of Sikhs in Delhi, and that Tytler was appointed to your Cabinet. Tytler and Sajjan Kumar supplied gasoline for these murders and incited the crowd. These people belong in jail, not in the government.

I hope that you will not follow such undemocratic, anti-secularist, anti-Sikhs policies. Policies such as these have made it clear that there is no place for Sikhs in India. If you are truly committed to secularism, you cannot follow such brutal, repressive policies against Sikhs and other minorities. The brutal policies have brought about the murders of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 87,000 Kashmiri Muslims since 1988, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, and other minorities. The United States State Department exposed the fact that between 1992 and 1994, a Congress government paid out more than 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. One officer received a bonus for murdering a three-year-old boy, claiming the toddler was a "terrorist."

The time has come for India to make a clean break with its past by punishing those responsible for these actions, compensating the victims' families, and committing itself to preventing and punishing such acts in the future. This will show your commitment to secular, democratic government and not the theocratic repression of the country's past governments.

India is a very fractured country. Because of past history, no party is able to unify the people and command a majority of the support, so coalition governments are inevitable. Coalition governments are inherently unstable. For example, the support of India's three Communist parties for your coalition weakens your ability to pursue good relations with the United States and other Western countries, which could increase India's isolation from the world.

History also shows us that multinational countries are doomed to failure. Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia are examples of this. India is a multinational state, not a single country, thrown together by British colonialists and with 18 official languages. How can such a country be held together except by massive repression and bloodshed? And the repression has simply created greater resentment of the central government, which also strengthens the support for the 17 independence movements throughout India. Either way, holding India together is a futile enterprise destined to fail.

Since India is a democracy, I urge you to solve this problem the democratic way. In 1947, India committed itself to a plebiscite on the status of Kashmir. The Sikhs also seek their freedom and sovereignty, as the Nagas and others also do. If India is truly the world's largest democracy, why not simply allow the people to decide their status by a free and fair vote. That is the way that you achieved power, by the people's votes. Why not let the people vote on this critical issue? The essence of democracy is the right of self-determination.

As a Sikh, you are aware that the Sikh Nation is a separate nation which was supposed to receive sovereignty at the time of India's independence. As you know, Sikhs ruled Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. No Sikh representative has signed the Indian Constitution to this day. Every day,