

Mrs. Holman has made significant contributions to society. She joined Chappelle Station African Methodist Episcopal Church in January of 1930, and was appointed to Stewardess Board Number E, where she served for 64 years before retiring in January 1994. In this capacity she also served as a Class Leader.

In July of 1930, Mrs. Holman began working with the Church's Missionaries, and served as President of the Missionary Society for 57 years. Her community involvement extended to serving as the Director of the Church's Young People's Division and as a Trustee of Allen University. She also served as President and Treasurer of the Zoie Social Club.

Reaching out to the widows of her community, she formed the Widows Club, and she still attends the Quadrennial Conventions of the Women's Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church. In addition to her extensive church and community involvements, Mrs. Holman has maintained tireless devotion to her family, raising her five grandchildren after the death of her son.

Her untiring efforts have not gone unrecognized by her peers and associates. Mrs. Holman has received numerous awards and honors for her active membership in her church and her public service. She was named Woman of the Year by Chappelle Memorial A.M.E. Church in 1995. In May of 2000 the Columbia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented her with the Golden Years Award. In addition to these distinctions, she has been selected as Mother of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of this venerable woman on her 100th birthday. She continues to blaze a trail in her community through Christian service. She remains a positive influence to future generations, and I wish her happy birthday and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 13 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING STELLA WELLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Ms. Stella Wells. On February 17, 2005, family and friends will gather to honor Stella, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Stella was born in 1905 in the town of Beech Grove, Arkansas. There, in 1922 under the same roof where she was born, she married farmer Charles Wells. Stella and husband Charley had six sons, 20 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-great-grand-

children. She has a total of 91 living descendants. The two enjoyed a marriage of 54 years.

Stella is a longtime resident of Genesee County. She originally moved to Michigan for a short time in the early 50's and later Stella and Charley moved back to become permanent residents in 1974.

Stella is currently the oldest living member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4087 of Davison. She is also a member of Harmony Baptist Church of Burton as well as Holly Grove Baptist Church of Beech Grove, Arkansas. Along with her many roles in the community, her greatest is as a beloved mother.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing Genesee County, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in not only recognizing Stella Wells for her outstanding life, but to wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is an extremely important conversation on the future of Social Security. Unfortunately, it is soured by the sharp rhetoric of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We simply cannot allow for misleading analysis and flowery language to disguise the truth of this debate. Not only do our current and future retirees deserve better, but also our children and grandchildren, who will be most directly affected by this new proposal, deserve better.

Social Security is truly one of our greatest success stories, virtually eliminating poverty for the aged. While we all agree that important concerns about Social Security should be effectively addressed, I do not believe turning this matter into a crisis should force us to accept what would otherwise be unacceptable. The scenarios touted by the Administration and their Republican allies are better suited for a work of fiction, not a domestic policy debate. Manufacturing a crisis in order to force this ideological agenda on retirees is unacceptable. The \$11 trillion shortfall is a figure plucked out of thin air using fuzzy math based on voodoo economics. And finally, the Administration is selling semi-privatization of Social Security as the solution to all of our problems.

Let's not be fooled by hyperbole. The facts are indisputable and should not be misrepresented by the President or Members of Congress. Crisis? What crisis? If we do absolutely nothing to Social Security, the Trust Fund will be able to pay out 100 percent of benefits for the next 50 years. The real, worst-case scenario shortfall based on a 75-year projection used by the economists at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) would be between \$2 trillion to \$3.7 trillion. While these numbers require our undivided attention, privatizing part of Social Security is not the solution. The President's plan to create private retirement accounts will cost at least \$2 trillion to implement, equivalent to the entire 75-year shortfall predicted by the CBO. In addition, most proponents of semi-privatization admit that the creation of these accounts will not avoid a shortfall on their own merits. In order to

achieve its goal, the Administration is also recommending the guaranteed benefits be cut by as much as 40 percent. This cut is in addition to the diversion of almost a third of Social Security funds to private accounts.

Social Security is the core of old-age support and was intended as an income supplement and a crucial safety net for seniors, not a money making scheme. We must preserve Social Security through sound fiscal discipline and legitimate policy adjustments to meet the demands of future generations. I believe that the Administration should immediately strengthen Social Security by submitting to Congress a balanced budget. If not a balanced budget this year, then the Administration should submit at least a plan or announced course of action on achieving a balanced budget. I also call on the President to reevaluate his tax cut proposal. Making the tax cuts permanent will cost as much as 3 to 5 times the cost of the Social Security shortfall. These fiscally responsible, common sense proposals will help protect Social Security and can be done now. Once these steps are taken we can more responsibly solve any unaddressed concerns. Instead of weakening Social Security I believe that it should be strengthened and made more secure ensuring its success for generations to come. We cannot turn Social Security into Social Insecurity.

SIKHS OBSERVE INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY AS DAY OF BETRAYAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday, January 26, was India's Republic Day, the anniversary of the adoption of their constitution. It is a very important day in India's calendar. The Indian constitution is supposed to guarantee freedom for everyone and ensure everyone full human rights and democratic freedoms. However, in practice, it has not worked that way in the 58 years that India has been independent. I salute the ideals of the Indian constitution, but I cannot urge India strongly enough to start living up to them.

Independent India has been no picnic for the minorities of India. They have suffered severe repression. Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others have suffered greatly at the hands of democratic, secular India. That is why Sikhs in Washington, London, and even Amritsar protested on Republic Day. In Amritsar, the Sikh organization Dal Khalsa hoisted the Sikh flag and distributed flyers saying that the Indian flag "is not our flag" and the Indian constitution "is not our constitution." No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Over a quarter of a million Sikh have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, along with over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and still more Christians elsewhere. Priests have been murdered throughout the country, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been vandalized. By now, the burning death of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons and the beating of missionary Joseph Cooper are well known. In recent days, evangelist Benny Hinn

had to travel under heavy security after being attacked and vandalized.

Over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been murdered, along with thousands of Muslims in other parts of the country. Recently, according to the BBC, the Indian government finally admitted that Muslims in Gujarat did not set the train fire that led to the massacre of 5,000 of them, a massacre that a policeman told an Indian newspaper was planned in advance by the Indian government.

India forced Untouchables out of a refugee camp after the tsunami, according to Yahoo! News. The Washington Post reported that they were being given only the leftover food of Brahmins and India has refused all efforts by the international community to come and help them. Even though the very Indian constitution that Republic Day celebrates outlawed the caste system, it is alive and well to this day.

Mr. Speaker, these are just the latest examples of the repression of minorities that continues to occur while India celebrates its secular, democratic constitution. This is unacceptable. In the President's recent Inaugural Address, he spoke about extending freedom to all the world. India is one place where that effort needs to be carried out before the country, a multinational, polyglot empire like Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, or Yugoslavia, falls apart. We must do whatever we can to ensure freedom and peace for all in the subcontinent.

The best things we can do are to stop our aid and trade with India until human rights are respected and the violent repression ceases and to put ourselves on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir (as promised in 1948), in Nagaland, and throughout the minority areas of the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to place an article about Dal Khalsa's protest in Amritsar and a press release about the Council of Khalistan's protest here in Washington into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC.

SIKHS MARK INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY BY
PROTESTING GENOCIDE, REPRESSION

WASHINGTON, DC, January 26, 2005.—Sikhs from all over the East Coast came to Washington today to mark Indian Republic Day by protesting the genocide and repression against the Sikhs and other minorities. They raised slogans such as "India out of Khalistan" and carried signs such as "India: Democracy for Brahmins, Tyranny for Minorities." The demonstration was organized by the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to establish a sovereign, independent Khalistan free from Indian occupation. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was established at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan from Indian oppression. It is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland.

Republic Day is the anniversary of the adoption of India's constitution, which is supposed to ensure a secular, democratic government. But the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." 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! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalra 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. Khalra was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs.

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

"Is Jaswant Singh Khalra celebrating? Is Jathedar Kaunke celebrating? Is Graham Staines celebrating?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "How can a democracy celebrate the kind of violent repression that claimed their lives?"

When India became Independent, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were to receive their own state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their consent. Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Last year, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab. Political leaders in Punjab have again called for an Independent Khalistan.

"This shows that the drive for freedom is still alive in Punjab," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is clear that India does not accept Sikhs," said Dr. Aulakh. "The Indian government continues to persecute and kill our Sikh brethren," he said. "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. "With-

out political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. A sovereign Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh religion."

[From WebIndia123.com, Jan. 26, 2005]

DAL KHalsa OBSERVE R-DAY AS "BETRAYAL DAY" IN AMRITSAR

AMRITSAR, January 26, 2005 (ANI).—Leaders of Dal Khalsa on Wednesday gathered at Gurudwara Shahid Ganj, Amritsar to observe the Indian republic day as betrayal day.

The Dal Khalsa leaders, including president of Dal Khalsa Harcharnjit Singh Dhami, Khalistan ideologue Jagjit Singh Chauhan, Satnam Singh Paunta Sahib, hijacker of Indian Airlines plan in 1981 performed a Ardaas for the freedom of the Sikh nation.

They hoisted the Khalsa flag of Maharaj Ranjit Singh's regime, which symbolises Sikh raj, and prayed for the freedom of the Sikh community as they took guard of honour and pledged to continue their struggle for a free Sikh nation.

Dal Khalsa leaders describe 26th January as "betrayal day" for the Sikhs as Indian leaders betrayed the Sikh nation and imposed the present Constitution on them.

They also believe that Sikhs have been massacred in Punjab, Delhi and elsewhere after the Blue Star Operation in 1984.

RECOGNIZING JOHN LANDERS UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TOM DAVIS
OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, for the past two years John Landers has served with utmost distinction as a professional staff member of our Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization.

Anticipating an active agenda on Federal workforce issues and oversight when I assumed the Chairmanship of the Government Reform Committee in January of 2003, I requested the loan of a subject expert on civil service law and regulation from the Office of Personnel Management.

The person selected by OPM for this assignment was John Landers. I expected John to be technically competent, but with over 30 years of experience in Federal personnel issues John brought with him an encyclopedic recall of pertinent statutes, regulations, court cases, and precedent that proved invaluable to our Committee's work.

John began his career at the U.S. Civil Service Commission as a retirement claims examiner in 1972. He quickly progressed through the benefits programs to lead the Retirement Policy Division and eventually became a Senior Advisor. As a legislative and policy analyst, John wrote Government-wide regulations as well as legislative proposals on the retirement, health, and life insurance programs. Having learned these programs from the inside out, John took over OPM's Technical Analysis Branch in 1984 and the Retirement Policy Division in 1987, where he helped develop and implement the Government's new retirement system known as "FERS."

In 1998, John became a Senior Advisor to OPM's Associate Director for Retirement and Insurance, and in 2001 became a Special Assistant to the Director of OPM. In these positions John assisted in shaping broad Federal