

Grants and participating in the development of long-term management of the area. Worley also created and maintains the Friends of Wilson Canyon Web site which helps keep the public informed and teaches proper land use ethics and OHV responsibility.

Because of his dedicated service, Chuck has been chosen as one of the Bureau of Land Management's, BLM, national volunteer award winners. The national Making a Difference volunteer awards will be presented May 11, 2006, at a special ceremony at the Department of the Interior in Washington, DC. Chuck is one of 8 winners around the U.S. chosen for his outstanding volunteer service to BLM. The BLM's Making a Difference national awards program supports the President's call for increased service to America and is part of the Take Pride in America initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Chuck Worley on the floor of the House today. I commend him for his service to southern Nevada.

REMARKS OF DEMOCRATIC LEADER OF THE HOUSE, CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI, ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1906 SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE

**TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, very, very early on the morning of April 18, 2006, I joined thousands of San Franciscans and Bay Area residents on the corner of Kearny and Market Streets at Lotta's Fountain—one of San Francisco's most beloved landmarks. The Fountain was donated to the citizens of San Francisco in 1875 by Lotta Crabtree, a performer who began her show business career at age 6 dancing for miners in the gold country and eventually becoming one of America's most popular performers. During the 1906 Earthquake the fountain became a famous meeting place and bulletin board for families and survivors. It is the oldest surviving landmark in the city of San Francisco, and survivors of the 1906 Earthquake still gather for reunions around the fountain at each anniversary of the '06 quake.

This year's commemoration was a celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Earthquake. My dear friend and our most distinguished colleague Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom spoke at this historic occasion remembering this great tragedy. They spoke of the courage and the pioneering spirit of the people of San Francisco following this devastating event.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the 100th anniversary of the great San Francisco Earthquake, and I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the excellent statement by Congresswoman PELOSI be placed in the RECORD.

THE PEOPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO DID THE IMPOSSIBLE—REBUILT OUR CITY BETTER THAN BEFORE ADDRESS OF CONGRESSWOMAN NANCY PELOSI

Good Morning, San Francisco. Thank you all for coming this morning, and thank you Mayor Newsom. It is appropriate that the

Mayor would be presiding over San Francisco rising. He comes from good pioneer stock. His family was here at the time of the earthquake, and they have contributed to rebuilding this city ever since. Let's hear it again for Mayor Newsom.

I am pleased to be here with my colleague Tom Lantos of California and other members of the official family of San Francisco.

To some, it may have seemed impossible that San Francisco could be rebuilt when they saw this headline in the Call Chronicle Examiner on April 19th: "Earthquake and Fire: San Francisco in Ruins." But they had faith and they had the San Francisco Fire Department.

The City of San Francisco lived by the words of our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi: "Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." That is what the people of San Francisco did. The Mayor said 250,000 were left homeless. They lived in our parks, built temporary shelters, thousands lost loved ones, and they gathered here at this fountain to find news of the missing. Separated by class and race and neighborhood, they came together in common cause.

Frances Mae Duffy, who was 11 months old at the time of the quake and is here this morning, said it best: "No matter how rich or poor you were, you got shook up just the same."

One week after the quake, Governor Pardee declared, "I expect to see the great metropolis replaced on a much grander scale than ever before." And indeed that happened.

A year later, just a year later, a newspaper reported that "a miracle was wrought. Discipline was restored in a day; orderly government was established in a week; relief was organized almost before there was hunger to assuage; reorganization was planned before the destruction was complete, and begun before the ashes had cooled; courage was never lost." That is our San Francisco.

Courage was never lost because the San Franciscans of a century ago were pioneers or they were children of pioneers. Winston Churchill could have been speaking of them and our great survivors here whom we honor when he said: "We have not journeyed all this way across the centuries, across the oceans, across the mountains, across the prairies because we are made of sugar candy." We are made of sterner stuff. For many of them, just getting here was a dangerous journey—over the Rockies, through the swamps of Panama, across the Pacific, or around Cape Horn. They were pioneers and risk-takers. Once they arrived, they began building a city and a future limited only by their imagination. And when the earthquake and the fire leveled the city, their imagination was sparked even further, and they began rebuilding San Francisco better than before.

Today as we commemorate a tragedy, we also celebrate the survivors here today. You represent the heart and soul of San Francisco.

And when we have the moment of silence here at Lotta's Fountain we must remember that this is hallowed ground. This is where people came 100 years ago in the hopes of finding news of their loved ones, and sometimes they found their loved ones.

Over the years, these survivors and their fellow citizens did what was necessary, they did what was possible, and then did the impossible—they made San Francisco what it is today.

And so to the survivors I say, there's an Italian expression: Cent'anni—may you live 100 years. Well, they did. We are very fortunate indeed that they did and we are very honored by their great contribution to our city. Cent'anni all over again.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 91st anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide. We remember and mourn the mass killing of more than 1.5 million Armenians and the forced relocation of over one million others.

The painful memory of this brutal campaign is only compounded by the Turkish government's refusal to acknowledge the events of history. Instead of recognizing the crimes perpetrated by the Ottoman Empire, Turkish leaders have prosecuted journalists who write about the massacres. Turkey also continues to blockade Armenia and stifle its economic growth by locking Armenia out of the regional economy.

Despite these challenges, Armenia has worked diligently to overcome its difficult past and make progress on democratic reform, promote development and expand public services. The United States has been a strong partner in this effort. In March, the U.S. and Armenia signed a Millennium Challenge Corporation compact to provide \$235 million for programs to reduce rural poverty in Armenia over the next five years. Our close ties are further reinforced with the robust investment in the Armenian economy by Armenian businesses and communities across the United States.

Today, as we remember the victims of the Armenian Genocide, we endeavor to ensure that the atrocities are not forgotten. As we pay tribute to the survivors who preserved the history, culture and tradition that paved the way for the emergence of an independent Armenian state, let us pledge to continue building an even brighter future of prosperity and opportunity for the Armenian people.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANGELA BERG

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angela Berg, whose passion for nursing has greatly improved the lives of children.

Angela Berg began working as a licensed practical nurse in 1991 and subsequently got her nursing degree in 1992. She later earned her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing in 1999. Angela has worked with children throughout her career, and has looked for ways to assist parents to care for critically ill children. She has campaigning for their safety and creates plans to keep children with their families. Since 2001, Angela has been playing an advocacy role in the fight to immunize children from the threat of childhood disease. She has served as co-chair of the Southern Nevada Immunization Coalition and has created a number of campaigns to educate the medical community about the importance of immunization. Angela has also worked with the state of Nevada to create an electronic immunization database.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Angela Berg for her efforts to educate the public regarding the importance of childhood immunization. Her work has greatly contributed to the overall welfare of the children in the state of Nevada. I wish her the best in her future endeavors.

#### CONGRATULATING NORM SIELING

#### HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Norm Sieling of Lake Crystal, Minnesota, on his induction into the Minnesota Future Farmers of America Hall of Fame.

The Minnesota Future Farmers of America strives to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. By maintaining the ideals of the past and incorporating the ideas of the future, the Minnesota Future Farmers of America continually seeks new, innovative ways to join agriculture and education with today's world of technology. The Hall of Fame is an honor reserved for those alumni who are a living example of this mission.

For his commitment to these ideals, Mr. Norm Sieling was inducted into Minnesota FFA Hall of Fame. As an agriculture teacher for 39 years in Lake Crystal, Minnesota, and a mentor for new agriculture teachers at the University of Minnesota, Mr. Sieling has demonstrated his dedication to the future of agriculture. He has helped students to achieve their goals, while encouraging the expansion of the agricultural industry.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Mr. Sieling on receiving this achievement. His dedicated service to the young farmers of Minnesota and the agricultural community is greatly appreciated.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO FRANCES WRIGHT

#### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Frances Wright, a resident of Henderson Nevada, who died at the age of 101.

Born Fanny Schneider on Feb. 14, 1905, in Poland, she was the third of four children of Louis and Molly Schneider. Her family came to the United States when she was 6 months old. Her father was a tailor for an upscale men's clothier on Temple Street in Los Angeles. By the time she was 10, Frances was an aspiring child actress who took the stage name of Fanny Snyder. She claimed to have had a big part in the classic and controversial 1915 silent film "The Birth of a Nation" and often told friends that she enjoyed working on the film, which paid 50 cents a day and included a box lunch.

Fanny attended Los Angeles Polytechnic High School where she lettered in volleyball,

swimming and softball and was captain of those teams. She also was senior class president. Her yearbook listed her as most likely to become the "first woman president of the United States." After graduating in 1921, Fanny became a part of the flapper scene while attending business school. In 1927 she married car salesman David Wright. They were married for 71 years. He died in 1998.

Adept at poker, mah-jongg, canasta and pan, Fanny was a longtime regular in Southern California card rooms. From the early 1950s until the late 1990s, she would alternate residences between Los Angeles and Las Vegas. She worked at Bains and Sloats, a women's clothing store on the Las Vegas strip, but Fanny's real love was hanging around Strip resorts, getting a deep tan at the poolside and hobnobbing with celebrities. She was a frequent patron at the Sahara's Casbah Lounge when Louis Prima and the Mary Kaye Trio performed there.

Unconventional to the end, Fanny took her doctors' advice last month to start using medical marijuana so she would get "the munchies" and eat to bulk up her thin frame. Fanny credited her longevity to being a good athlete in her youth, maintaining a good diet and taking a shot of bourbon at 4 p.m. every day.

In addition to her daughter, Wright is survived by a son, Ronald Wright of Los Angeles; six grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize the life of Frances Wright on the floor of the House.

#### SIKH ACTIVIST ARRESTED FOR MAKING SPEECH—BETRAYAL OF DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to note that on April 20, Sikh activist Daljit Singh Bittu was arrested after making a speech. He was charged with sedition and "making inflammatory speeches." Mr. Bittu spoke out against the acquisition of the land of poor farmers by Punjab on behalf of private business firms. We have had cases in this country where the government has taken land by eminent domain for private usage, Mr. Speaker, and no one ever gets arrested for speaking out against it. Radio and television commentators across the spectrum have opposed this and they are still on the air. Yet in India, speaking out against this can now get you arrested.

Mr. Bittu is a proponent of freedom for Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. Recently, Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan, another Sikh activist, was arrested for predicting on television that Khalistan will be free by 2007. All he did was make a prediction. Is that a crime? If that is a crime, then the jails will overflow with sportscasters, weather reporters, psychics, and others who predict things routinely.

In addition, leaders of Dal Khalsa have been arrested for holding marches, making speech-

es, and raising a flag. A former member of Parliament was also arrested. It looks like the late General Narinder Singh was right when he said that "Punjab is a police state."

This is unacceptable, Mr. Speaker, especially as the United States and India move towards greater cooperation in numerous endeavors. We must insist on the full expression of democracy and basic human rights there if we are going to do business with India as a normal member of the family of free nations. And the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination.

The time has come to stop our aid and trade with India until it stops arresting people for making speeches, raising flags, and holding marches. The time has come for the U.S. Congress to put itself on record in support of freedom and self-determination for all the nations of South Asia. In 1948, India promised a free and fair plebiscite on the status of Kashmir. No such vote has ever been held in "the world's largest democracy." Why don't we insist on a simple democratic vote, with monitors, in Kashmir, in Punjab, Khalistan, in predominantly Christian Nagalim, and wherever people seek their freedom from India? As long as we turn a blind eye to the repression, the repression will continue. We must be the ones to strike a blow for freedom. Only when all people in the subcontinent enjoy freedom fully will there be stability and peace there.

Mr. Speaker, the Council of Khalistan recently published a press release on the arrest of Daljit Singh Bittu. I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

**DALJIT SINGH BITTU ARRESTED FOR MAKING SPEECH—WHERE IS FREEDOM OF SPEECH IN INDIA?**

WASHINGTON, DC., April 26, 2006.—Indian police arrested Daljit Singh Bittu, leader of the Shiromani Khalsa Dal, on charges of sedition and "delivering inflammatory speeches" at Fatehgarh Channa. Sardar Bittu was arrested on April 21 from his home in Ludhiana. He was held by the police, who sought "foreign currency" and a CD of his speeches.

"Where is the freedom of speech in India?" asked Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "How can a democratic state arrest people for making speeches? This shows us again that there is no place for Sikhs in India."

India proudly bills itself as "the world's largest democracy" and its constitution guarantees freedom of speech. But the arrest of Sardar Bittu is the latest incident in which people have been arrested for making speeches, holding marches, or raising a flag. "The drive for freedom is alive and strong in Punjab," he said. "What kind of democracy arrests people for demanding freedom?" asked Dr. Aulakh.

Leaders of Dal Khalsa have been arrested for sponsoring marches in Punjab in support of a free Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that declared its independence from India on October 7, 1987. In addition, Dr. Jagjit Singh Chohan was arrested for making a statement in which he made the prediction that Khalistan will be free by 2007. "Since when is making a prediction a crime in India?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "Will the weathermen in Delhi now be arrested for predicting rain?"

"The time is now to begin a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "India is showing its weakness with these arrests," he said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Sahib, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh.'" Every day in prayer Sikhs recite "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa," which means "The khalsa shall rule."