

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I want to recognize the City of Berkley, in Oakland County, MI, which is celebrating its 75th anniversary this week. This City's rich history and enduring perseverance serves as a shining example of the mettle of all Michiganders.

Before being established as a village in 1823, Berkley was part of a vast forest and swamp teeming with quicksand and other perils. Despite these hardships, settlers pressed on through the wilderness outside of Detroit to stake their claims in Berkley. By 1832, the burgeoning number of settlers arriving in Detroit warranted a stagecoach route that ran through Berkley on the way to Pontiac.

Berkley, along with many other communities, suffered through many adversities during the Great Depression. However, the village met those challenges head on and established a pay-as-you-go plan, spending only what it took in, in order to continue to govern responsibly. Many of the residents became active in local politics, and upon learning of the benefits of becoming a city, the discussion commenced.

After a year of debate and preparation, the residents of Berkley adopted a city charter, and elected a mayor and six commissioners. On May 23, 1932, now with a population of 6,000, the City of Berkley was established. With Detroit opening up its factories to produce materials at the onset of World War II, the residents of Berkley joined in the war effort. In 1946 Berkley had spent more for constructing new facilities and factories than any other city in Oakland County.

Madam Speaker, today Berkley is a vibrant community in Oakland County that is home to over 15,000 residents, a state-of-the-art library, and a bustling downtown district. I congratulate them on their 75th anniversary and wish the residents many more years of prosperity.

PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER ATTACKED FOR ANTI-SIKH BEHAVIOR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, recently it has been discovered that the Chief Minister of Punjab, Parkash Singh Badal, went and met with a Punjabi cult leader named Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, who claimed to be a baba and was recently in the news for dressing up as the last Sikh guru, Guru Gobind Singh, and offering Amrit to anyone who called. Amrit is a very sacred ceremony in the Sikh religion and it cannot be done by just anyone. Ram Rahim also has murder and rape charges pending against him. Yet Mr. Badal went to him and bowed, seeking votes. Ironically, Ram Rahim came out for Mr. Badal's political opponents, the Congress Party.

As Chief Minister, one of Mr. Badal's chief responsibilities is maintaining law and order. Yet he seeks support from this fake religious leader instead of prosecuting him for the damage he has done to the Sikh community and to Punjab.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, has issued a press release condemning Badal's activities. It shows that chief Minister is allied with the Indian government against the Sikh people. Remember that when Badal was chief Minister before, he presided over the most corrupt government in Punjab's history. They even renamed bribery "fee for service." His wife could tell the amount of money in a bag just by picking it up.

Only by freeing themselves of Indian rule will the Sikhs be able to rid themselves of this kind of anti-Sikh leadership. The U.S. government can help by stopping aid and trade with India until criminals such as Ram Rahim are prosecuted and all human rights are observed and by putting ourselves on record publicly in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Christians of Nagalim, and all the people seeking freedom in South Asia in the form of a free and fair vote. Isn't that the democratic way? The people of Kashmir were promised a vote on their status in 1948. They're still waiting.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN DEPLORES ANTI-SIKH BEHAVIOR OF PARAKSH SINGH BADAL

WASHINGTON, DC, May 22, 2007.—The Council of Khalistan condemned the behavior of Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. It has recently surfaced that before the Punjab elections, Badal and his son Sukhbir went to meet with Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, leader of the Dera Sacha Sauda cult which has brought about so much strife in Punjab. While there, they bowed their heads to Ram Rahim. A Sikh is not supposed to bow except to the Guru Granth Sahib. This is the moral degeneration of the Akali leadership.

Ironically, despite Badal's begging and pleading, Ram Rahim supported the Congress Party in the recent elections in Punjab. Now Badal is blaming his predecessor, Captain Amarinder Singh, for the problem. Badal didn't even get votes out of his shameful actions. Perhaps it's time he paid attention to the Sikhs who elected him rather than the anti-Sikh BJP, his coalition partner, and the leaders in Delhi.

Badal is the Chief Minister. As such, he is responsible for law and order. Yet he refused to prosecute this fraudulent baba pretending to be Guru Gobind Singh. There are pending charges of murder and rape against Ram Rahim. Why does Badal kowtow to him?

"There are no Deras or sects in the Sikh religion. There is only one Sikh religion and Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Fake Babas like Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh are part of the Indian government's ongoing effort to weaken the Sikh religion and prevent Sikhs from achieving freedom," he said. "Sikh leaders should not be dignifying them. Badal should be prosecuting this fraudulent baba for these despicable acts."

"Badal's conduct is shameful for a Sikh leader," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "This shameful conduct shows that Badal is under the complete control of the Indian government, rather than working for the Sikhs. We must free ourselves of corrupt, anti-Sikh

leaders like Badal and his friends by liberating Khalistan," he said. "Remember what former Akal Takht Jathedar Professor Darshan Singh said: 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'"

A report issued by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) shows that India admitted that it held 52,268 political prisoners under the repressive "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA) even though it expired in 1995. Many have been in illegal custody since 1984. There has been no list published of those who were acquitted under TADA and those who are still rotting in Indian jails. Additionally, according to Amnesty International, there are tens of thousands of other minorities being held as political prisoners. MASR report quotes the Punjab Civil Magistracy as writing "if we add up the figures of the last few years the number of innocent persons killed would run into lakhs [hundreds of thousands.]" The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir, tens of thousands of Christians and Muslims throughout the country, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

"The Sikh masses must rise to the occasion and establish new leadership that works for the interest of the Khalsa Panth and abides by Sikh tradition," said Dr. Aulakh. "Badal and his son have betrayed the Sikh Rehat Maryada, Sikh principles, and Sikh tradition. Their leadership must be rejected for the interests of the Khalsa Panth. The Jathedar of the Akal Takht must censure him for violating the Sikh Rehat Maryada, betraying the Sikh Nation, and defaming the Sikh religion," he said. "Incidents like this test the resolve of the Sikh Nation. The Khalsa Panth will never allow the cult babas to dare to compare themselves with our revered Guru Gobind Singh Sahib, who sacrificed his whole family for the Chardi Kala of the Khalsa Panth," said Dr. Aulakh. "Remember Guru Gobind Singh's words: 'Sava lath se ek laraon, tabe nam Gobind Singh kahaon.' Also remember Guru's blessing, 'In grieb Sikh in ko deon patshahi.' Only a free Khalistan will put a stop to occurrences like this. We must continue to pray for and work for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. The time is now to free Khalistan."

[From the Panthic Weekly, May 17, 2007]

BADAL AND FAMILY ARE SACHA SAUDA PREMIS: CULT SPOKESMAN

Amritsar Sahib (KP)—At a news conference organized by the Sacha Sauda Cult, photographic evidence was released indicating that as recent as January of 2007, Shiromani Akali Dal's president Parkash Badal, his son Sukhbir Badal, and other Akalis met with the dehdahri-cult guru Ram-Rahim and asked for his blessings.

This announcement was made after a large Sikh conclave held at Takht Sri Damdama Sahib called upon the Sikh Nation to socially boycott the entire Sirsa cult, and demanded the Punjab and Haryana Governments to take stern action against the cult leader.

Panthic observers doubt any action would be taken by the Akal Takht Jathedars against the Badals, nor will the Punjab Government take action against the cult. Parkash Badal's cozy relationship between the Sauda leader and other similar cults is now a widely accepted fact.

The recent softening of the tone by Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti is an indication that he does not want to ruffle the

feathers of his Akali bosses. The recent call for a boycott was not what Vedanti wanted—as evidenced by his silence at the meeting—instead pressure from Jathedar Balwant Singh Nandgarh and the Sikh Sangat left him no other option. Observers predict ultimately it would be the Sikh Sangat that will rise up against the onslaught of derawaad that has been flourishing in Punjab under the Akali administration. Photos such as the above should be ample proof for the agitating Sikh Sangat which side of the fence the Akalis and their puppet Jathedars are really standing on.

HONORING COLONEL KATHLEEN M. SPENCER ON HER RETIREMENT FROM THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Colonel Kathleen M. Spencer, a soldier who has served her country with honor and distinction. Colonel Spencer is retiring at the end of this month following 30 years in the United States military.

First commissioned in the U.S. Air Force on June 23, 1977, Colonel Kathleen M. Spencer received her B.S., cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts. Upon her entry into the Air Force, she was commissioned a munitions officer.

Colonel Spencer served honorably in 16 different assignments throughout the United States, including a 3-year stint in Germany. She will complete her military career as the Chief of Munitions at Hickam Air Force Base, Honolulu, Hawaii.

During her career, Colonel Spencer served as a munitions maintenance officer and supervisor, as a munitions staff officer and an instructor to Squadron Officer School. She has also held multiple commander positions, served as a military assistant to the Executive Secretary in the Pentagon, as a chief of logistics, and deputy director.

Retiring with numerous decorations for her years of service, Colonel Spencer is especially proud of her Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, her Air Force Commendation medal with two oak leaf clusters, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

Madam Speaker, it is service members like Colonel Spencer who help make our military the finest fighting force in the world. This Congress congratulates Colonel Spencer on her retirement and wishes her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING STEPHEN E. MILLARD

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Stephen E. Millard, who passed away on Saturday, May 19th, 2007, and to offer his family and friends my sympathies as they grieve and reflect on their time spent with him. In his passing, Steve leaves us all with occasion to consider our

own pursuits of integrity and honesty as we remember a life distinguished by both.

Steve Millard came to Colorado's Second Congressional District late in life and, at the age of 40, began a career in professional journalism with the Boulder Daily Camera. In a fairly quick manner Steve transitioned to the editorial staff of the paper and then to a well-suited perch as the editorial-page editor, which is perhaps the professional position for which he will be best remembered. Steve's editorial writing was remarkable not only for its deep well of knowledge and insight, but also for its adherence to logic and restraint. His arguments were the results of intellectual curiosity and clear thinking, not the pursuit of a political agenda. Steve chose to provoke thought with reason and forceful writing which, in a time of increased media and political sensationalism, is a sobering reminder of the public trust held in our journalists and public servants.

As his family reminds us in a May 22 eulogy in the Boulder Daily Camera, Steve Millard lived his life by those same terms, setting an example of integrity, honesty, and intellectual curiosity for those who had the pleasure of knowing him. For members of the Boulder community and readers of the Boulder Daily Camera, he reminds us of the importance of engaging in issues as an informed, thoughtful citizen. As his family and friends mourn their loss, I hope my colleagues will join me in praising Stephen Millard's example and recognizing his contribution to the public discourse.

CONGRATULATING CASEY LEEK

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Casey Leek. Ms. Leek is a student of anthropology and a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Leek and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ELENİ P. KALISCH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the attention of the House to the exceptional work of Eleni P. Kalisch at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It has come to my attention that she will be stepping down as assistant director of the Office of Congressional Affairs and I want to take this opportunity to recognize her leadership within the FBI, and dedication to her work with the Science-State-Justice-Commerce (SSJC) Appropriations subcommittee, which I chaired during the 109th Congress.

FBI Director Robert Mueller recently stated that Eleni "has been directly involved in every issue facing the FBI over the past five years. . ." and that "as an advocate for the FBI and its mission, Eleni's abilities and professionalism have earned her the respect of both lawmakers and colleagues." I could not agree more with Director Mueller. Eleni worked with the SSJC subcommittee not only to increase resources for the FBI, but to help transform the FBI from an organization focused on arresting criminals to one focused on terrorism prevention after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that forever changed America. Eleni's public service deserves to be recognized.

During her tenure as assistant director of Congressional Affairs the FBI received funding from Congress to establish more than 100 joint terrorism task forces; increase the number of translators by 82 percent, including a 284 percent increase in Arabic translators since FY 2001; enhance the FBI's capability to communicate classified information with the intelligence community and state and local law enforcement; increase the number of legal attaché offices from 44 to 57; increase training for new agents to include classes on terrorism investigate techniques; establish field intelligence groups in every field office, and hire thousands of new agents and analysts.

While I was chairman, we also conducted vigorous oversight of the FBI and Eleni was cooperative and essential in preparatory work to help facilitate FBI transformation hearings each year in addition to the annual budget hearings. Her professionalism and willingness to ensure that the committee had all appropriate information was superior. I also want to recognize Eleni's work with Congress to help enact the PATRIOT Act Reauthorization and Intelligence Reform acts.

In short, Eleni has been a great asset to the FBI, has served the director well, and been an excellent resource for Congress. I wish Eleni the best in her future endeavors and ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Eleni for her hard work and dedication.

IN HONOR OF TIMOTHY J. CRADDOCK, MARGUERITE GABRIELE, JESSICA E. SHAY, AND AVI M. WOLFSON AS THE RECIPIENTS OF UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the accomplishments of Timothy J. Craddock, Marguerite Gabriele, Jessica E. Shay, and Avi M. Wolfson as the recipients of this year's Undergraduate Research Fellowships at the University of Texas at Austin. They have been selected to receive scholarships to pursue research in their respective areas of interest.

The University of Texas in Austin offers financial support for students who undertake