

achievement that drives him. No matter the source of his inspiration, I know the numerous organizations that have benefited from his service are extremely grateful.

Also, as someone who admires Dr. Wright greatly, I feel blessed to have known him. I am honored to call Dr. Wright a constituent, and friend. May our community and our country continue to benefit from his tremendous legacy of service.

TRIBUTE TO THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMPANY

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Washington Fire Company No. 1 on the dedication of its firehouse and the housing of its equipment.

The station will be home to the fire company's new 2007 E-One Rescue Pumper as well as its 1999 E-One Ladder truck and its 1990 E-One Rescue Pumper. It will also house the pride and joy of the company, a beautiful, fully restored 1924 American LaFrance Pumper.

This new station is twice the size of the previous station, and will allow the members of the Company to more effectively protect the Borough of Conshohocken, which they have proudly served since 1874. From a small hose house 128 years ago to a new modern facility with a banquet hall, the Washington Fire Company has remained a staple of the Borough of Conshohocken.

The fire company's mission has expanded over time to include not only protecting the community, but also educating it. The company hosts an annual "Fire Prevention Show" that teaches the community about fire prevention and what to do in the case of a fire emergency.

The members of Washington Fire Company No. 1 selflessly serve the community while balancing their full-time careers and families. Through the years, their names and faces have changed, but the commitment and pride with which they serve the community has persevered. I ask everyone to join me in commending the members of the Washington Fire Company, past and present, and to congratulate them on the dedication of their new firehouse.

TRIBUTE TO SHERRY L. CART

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sherry L. Cart, a dedicated woman with a long history of service to our country. Mrs. Cart, a resident of Brandenburg, Kentucky, is retiring on September 28, 2007 after thirty-three years of active federal service.

Sherry Cart began her civilian service career on January 2, 1974. She is retiring, as Deputy Protocol Officer, United States Army Armor Center, Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Mrs. Cart's hard work has not gone unnoticed during her time at Fort Knox. She was the recipient of the Commander's Award for Civilian Service along with numerous performance awards and service awards.

It is my privilege to honor Sherry L. Cart today, before the entire United States House of Representatives, for her service to the soldiers of Fort Knox, the United States Army, and this Nation. I wish Sherry, her husband Steve, and the rest of their family a safe and happy retirement.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, last month this House approved landmark legislation to put our nation on the path toward energy independence. Among other provisions, this bill would provide incentives to encourage the production and use of renewable energy, and calls for greater energy efficiency in both public and private sectors.

When it comes to energy usage, my home town of Las Vegas has received more than its share of scrutiny. But I would like to share with my colleagues an example of how Las Vegas is leading the nation in the effort to become more energy efficient. The following is a response from MGM MIRAGE, the largest employer in my district and a good corporate citizen, to an accusation that the casinos of Las Vegas use too much energy. I would suggest to my colleagues that if more businesses would follow the lead of MGM MIRAGE, the impact on our nation's energy consumption would be substantial.

SEPTEMBER 17, 2007.

Hon. CANDICE MILLER,
228 Cannon House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MILLER: We recently read reports of your comments regarding energy consumption by the Las Vegas gaming and tourism industry. We would like to share with you some of the initiatives that we are taking at MGM MIRAGE to reduce our energy impact in our state.

Currently, we are in the process of building the largest privately funded construction project in the history of our country. CityCenter, a 76 acre, mixed-use urban development in the heart of the Las Vegas Strip, will include 2,700 residences and a 4,000 room resort and casino. In keeping with our commitment of green building design and construction, CityCenter is being built according to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification standards. Once complete, it will be the largest green campus in the history of the United States.

The following is a list of some of the energy efficiency features being incorporated into CityCenter: CityCenter will have a highly efficient state of the art central plant with combined heat and power capability. This combined heat and power plant will utilize excess heat, reusing it for heating domestic water; Facades will have higher glazing to reduce air conditioning costs; "Air-brows" or "shades" on the facade will help to prevent overheating of units from direct sun; A docking station for the room key is being considered for some hotel rooms; when the key is removed most of the lights will

shut down and thus conserve energy; The design maximizes the use of natural light in residential units, thus helping to reduce energy consumption; Most structures will have a reflective roof, also helping to reduce air-conditioning and therefore energy consumption.

In addition to these energy efficient features, we have taken many steps to also improve the efficiency of our existing buildings.

MGM MIRAGE recently implemented improvements in lighting technologies and mechanical equipment that will conserve 23 million kilo-watt hours annually; this is the equivalent of removing over 1,700 homes from the Las Vegas power grid.

The impact on air emissions by not having to produce this energy is equivalent to a reduction of approximately 17,000 tons of greenhouse gas per year; it would take about 500,000 trees to offset that amount of greenhouse gasses each year.

We are also working with the Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), a not-for-profit think tank that assists companies in identifying and using energy and resources efficiently. The RMI will aid MGM MIRAGE in the development of a corporate strategy for alternative and renewable energy.

We also strive to work in a partnership with our local government in Nevada. Recently, our Senior Vice President of the Energy and Environmental Services Division, Cindy Ortega, was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Nevada's Climate Change Advisory Committee. In addition, we have recently been joined by Gary Mayo as our Vice President of Energy and Environmental Services Division. You might remember Gary in his former capacity as Director of Government Affairs and Corporate Responsibility for Visteon Corporation in Van Buren Township, Michigan.

MGM MIRAGE is committed to continue to demonstrate leadership in the areas of energy and water conservation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about CityCenter, or our efforts with regard to energy and natural resource conservation, please contact Robert Elliott, Vice President of Government Affairs.

Sincerely,

ROBERT ELLIOTT,
Vice President of Government Affairs,
MGM MIRAGE.

SONIA GANDHI SHOULD NOT SPEAK ON NONVIOLENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I was distressed to learn that the United Nations invited Sonia Gandhi to speak on nonviolence next month. She is the leader of the Congress Party, which has presided over massive atrocities against Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities.

Mrs. Gandhi is Catholic. How can she speak on nonviolence when her party presides over a country in which nuns have been raped and forced to drink their own urine, priests have been murdered, Christian schools have been burned to the ground, and prayer halls have been vandalized?

It was Mrs. Gandhi's party that carried out the Golden Temple massacre that killed so many thousands of innocent Sikhs, including young boys ages 8 to 13. Her party presided

over the Delhi massacres in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered while the Sikh police were locked in their barracks.

It was Beant Singh, a Congress Party Chief Minister, who presided over the murders of over 50,000 Sikhs while he was in office. No one from that party has the moral authority to speak on nonviolence, especially when there are so many better spokespersons, such as the Dalai Lama, who will be in America to receive an award right after Mrs. Gandhi's speech.

Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan wrote an excellent letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, which follows.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
September 12, 2007.

Hon. BAN KI-MOON,
Secretary-General of the United Nations, Dag
Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY.

DEAR SECRETARY GENERAL BAN: It has come to my attention that you are having Sonia Gandhi speak to the United Nations on nonviolence on October 2. Mrs. Gandhi has no moral standing to be discussing this subject. I urge you to find someone else. Perhaps the Dalai Lama, who will be in the United States the following weekend to receive an award, would be a good choice. There are other people more qualified than Mrs. Gandhi, as well.

How could you pick the head of India's Congress Party for this talk? India is one of the most violent countries in the world. According to the Punjab State Magistracy, over 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government. Between 1993 and 1995, according to the United States Department of State, the Indian government paid out over 41,000 cash bounties to police officers for killing Sikhs. A report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR) reveals that over 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984!

Amnesty International reports that tens of thousands of other minorities are being held as political prisoners as well. In addition, the regime has killed 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims and tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians in the rest of the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits (the dark-skinned aboriginal people of South Asia, referred to as "Untouchables"), Manipuris, Tamils, and others.

The Gandhi family were perhaps the most cruel of Indian rulers; it was Mrs. Gandhi's mother-in-law, Indira Gandhi, who suspended democracy and imposed martial law (dictatorship) on the country. It was the Congress Party under Indira Gandhi, then under Mrs. Gandhi's husband, Rajiv Gandhi, who succeeded Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister, that the government carried out the brutal attack on the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the center and seat of the Sikh religion, in June 1984, as well as 224 other Gurdwaras (Sikh places of worship) throughout Punjab. Sikh leaders Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, General Shabeg Singh, and others, as well as over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in these attacks. The Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib, written in the time of the Sikh Gurus, was shot full of bullet holes by the Indian Army. Over 100 young Sikh boys ages 8 to 13 were taken out into the courtyard and asked if they supported Khalistan, the independent Sikh state. When they answered with the Sikh religious incantation "Bole So Nihal" they were summarily shot to death.

After Indira Gandhi was killed, Rajiv Gandhi said, "When a tree falls, the Earth shakes." Then he locked the Sikh Police in their barracks while the government mur-

dered another 20,000 Sikhs in Delhi and the surrounding areas in the massacres of November 1984. Sikhs were burned alive, Sikh businesses were burned, Sikhs were chained to trucks. The driver for Baba Charan Singh, a Sikh religious leader, was killed by tying his legs to jeeps which then drove off in different directions.

Sardar Jaswant Singh Khalra looked at the records of the cremation grounds at Patti, Tarn Taran, and Durgiana Mandar and documented at least 6,018 secret cremations of young Sikh men ages 20-30. These young Sikhs were arrested by the police, tortured, murdered, then declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Their bodies were not even returned to their families. They have never officially been accounted for. The Punjab Human Right Commission estimates that about 50,000 such secret cremations have occurred.

For exposing this horrendous atrocity, Sardar Khalra was abducted by the police on September 6, 1995 while he was washing his car, then murdered in police custody. The only witness to his kidnapping, Rajiv Singh Randhawa, has been repeatedly harassed by the police. Once he was arrested for trying to hand a petition to the then-British Home Minister, Jack Straw, in front of the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

Police SSP Swaran Singh Ghotna tortured and murdered Akal Takhl Jathedar Gurdev Singh Kaunke and has never been punished for doing so. K.P.S. Gill, who was responsible for the murders of over 150,000 Sikhs in his time as Director General of Police, is still walking around scot-free. He was even involved in leading the Indian Olympic field hockey team. His trip to the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 was protested by the Sikh community in the United States, which is over half a million strong, but he was allowed to come to the Olympics on an Olympic Committee visa. Immediately after the Olympic hockey game, he was shipped back to Punjab as a threat to peace and an affront to the Sikh community. 50 members of the U.S. Congress from both parties wrote to the President protesting his appearance in the United States.

Unfortunately, other minorities have also suffered greatly under the boot of Indian repression. In March 2002, 5,000 Muslims were killed in Gujarat while police were ordered to stand by and let the carnage happen, in an eerie parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in November 1984 in which Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks while the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood.

Christians have suffered under a wave of repression since Christmas 1998. An Australian missionary, Graham Staines, and his two young sons, ages 8 and 10, were burned to death while they slept in their jeep by a mob of Hindu militants connected with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), an organization formed in support of the Fascists. The mob surrounded the burning jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. None of the mob has ever been brought to justice; instead the crime has been blamed on one scapegoat. Mr. Staines' widow was thrown out of the country after the incident. An American missionary, Joseph Cooper of Pennsylvania, was expelled from India after being beaten so severely that he had to spend a week in the hospital. None of the persons responsible for beating Mr. Cooper has been prosecuted. Churches have been burned. Christian schools and prayer halls have been attacked and vandalized, priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, all with impunity. Police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire. Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1978. Even Castro's

Cuba has allowed Amnesty into the country more recently. What is India hiding?

My organization, the Council of Khalistan, is leading the Sikh struggle for freedom and sovereignty. Working with the Congress of the United States, we have internationalized the struggle for freedom for Sikhs and all the people of South Asia since the Council of Khalistan's inception on October 7, 1987, the day that the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India. We have worked to preserve the accurate history of the Sikhs and the repression of minorities by India by preserving the information in the Congressional Record. We continue to work for freedom for the Sikh Nation. Self-determination is the essence of democracy.

We cannot accept the leader of the Congress Party, the party that carried out the bulk of these atrocities, speaking to an organization like the United Nations on a subject like non-violence, especially when there are much better spokespersons available. I cannot urge you strongly enough to cancel this appearance.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this situation and helping the people of South Asia.

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT, SINGH AULAKH,
President, Council of Khalistan.

HONORING MAJOR BERNARD
PROCTOR, PHD

HON. JOE SESTAK
OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, our Nation will soon commemorate the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. Let me take this opportunity to relate the importance of that battle, the largest land battle of the Revolutionary War, and to remember the brave soldiers who fought for the independence of our country.

In 1777, the British army campaigned to control Philadelphia, which was then the capital of the newly-declared United States of America. British General William Howe and his troops approached Philadelphia through the Chesapeake, landing in Elkton, Maryland in early September of that year.

American General George Washington was confident that his army would secure the capital city. On September 9, 1777, American troops were stationed along the Brandywine River, guarding the fords. Washington's strategy was to force a fight at Chadds Ford, where the Americans would have the advantage.

On September 9, a small portion of British troops marched from Kennett Square as if they would battle the Americans at Chadds Ford. However, the majority of British troops this time marched north to cross the river at a ford unknown to Washington and his army.

The battle began in the early morning on September 11. Washington, believing that all of Howe's army would fight at Chadds Ford, was unprepared when British troops arrived at the right flank of the American line. He ordered his troops to take the high ground, near the Birmingham Friends Meetinghouse to defend their position. However, British troops were already stationed nearby, and the Americans were unable to secure these grounds.

General Howe's army soundly defeated the Americans due to their superior position and