

COMMENDING MAURICE BELL, OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE ABOARD THE USS "INDIANAPOLIS" IN WORLD WAR II

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to rise today to recognize Mr. Maurice Bell of Mobile, Alabama, for his courageous service as a sailor aboard the USS *Indianapolis* during World War II.

Mr. Bell, along with 320 others, was pulled from the South Pacific following the sinking of the *Indianapolis*, a heavy cruiser brought down by torpedo attack on July 30, 1945. In what was later recognized as the worst single at-sea loss of life in the history of the Navy, Mr. Bell watched his fellow survivors succumb to shark attacks, exposure, and dementia while waiting five nights for rescue. It is estimated that 500–600 sailors died in the water while awaiting rescue.

Mr. Bell, one of 80 remaining *Indianapolis* survivors, tells the story of the *Indianapolis* in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War." The USS *Indianapolis* was no ordinary ship, and it was on no ordinary mission. The ship carried the first atomic bomb to the U.S. air base at Tinian Island. Having successfully delivered its precious cargo, the *Indianapolis* set out for home. Tragically, a pair of torpedo blasts from a Japanese submarine sunk the cruiser and left its crew to struggle for survival in the South Pacific.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Maurice Bell in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Bell and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

**ANOTHER POLICE MURDER BY POLICE IN INDIA**

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on September 22, the Tribune newspaper of Chandigarh reported that a Sikh woman by the name of Lakhbir Kaur held a press conference to expose the murder of her brother, Kinder Singh, by the Indian police. Kinder Singh was an innocent truck driver. He was killed in one of the fake encounters that continue to plague Punjab and other minority areas of India. Kinder Singh was just 20 years old when "the world's largest democracy" snuffed out his life.

Apparently, Kinder Singh was a victim of India's policy of paying bounties to police officers for killing "militants." When he was killed, the police claimed that they had killed a man named Jaspal Singh, who had a bounty of Rs. 5 lakh, 500,000 rupees, or about \$13,000, on his head. In a country where two-thirds of the populace lives on 40 cents per day, \$13,000 is a massive amount of money.

Jaspal Singh, the person who was allegedly killed in the encounter, sat right next to Ms. Kaur during her announcement. He is not the first person to have been proclaimed dead by the Indian government who has turned up alive. Several years ago, the New York Post reported on another man who had to sue the government to have himself declared alive. This is not uncommon in India.

Also there was Colonel G.S. Sandhu of the Majha Ex-Servicemen Human Rights Front. He detailed how Kinder Singh was pulled out of his truck by the police and killed for no apparent reason except to collect the bounty. This is one of over 41,000 cash bounties that our State Department says the Indian Government paid to police for killing Sikhs. One policeman got a cash bounty for killing a three-year-old boy.

Colonel Sandhu demanded that a retired High Court judge conduct a probe into the massive atrocities of the police. He has set up a hotline to report terrorist incidents. We salute Lakhbir Kaur for her courage and we salute Colonel Sandhu for his efforts. I second this call for an impartial probe of the atrocities committed in Punjab.

Unfortunately, the repression is ongoing. Even today, people get arrested for acts such as marching, making speeches, and raising a flag. We cannot accept this, Madam Speaker. We need to stop providing financial support for the Indian regime by stopping our aid and trade, and we need to put the U.S. Congress on record in support of self-determination for the Sikhs of Khalistan, the Christians of Nagalim, the Muslims of Kashmir, and all the oppressed minorities of South Asia. Until the people have their freedom and self-determination, atrocities like the one that happened to Lakhbir Kaur's family will sadly continue.

I would like to place the Tribune article on Lakhbir Kaur into the RECORD at this time.

**MISTAKEN IDENTITY OR FAKE ENCOUNTER?**

Amritsar, September 21, 2007: In what could be yet another case of mistaken identity or a planned fake encounter, the sister of a victim here today claimed that the actual "militant" the police claimed to have killed was still alive.

Lakhbir Kaur alleged that the police killed her brother, Kinder Singh, who was an innocent truck driver, on August 13, 1993, for no reason. Interestingly, Jaspal Singh, who had an award of Rs 5 lakh on his head and was shown killed in police files, was still alive. He was present with Lakhbir Kaur here today.

Addressing a press conference, Col G.S. Sandhu, chairman of the Majha Ex-Servicemen Human Rights Front & NGO Aapna Punjab, demanded a probe by a retired high court judge to bring out the truth of fake encounters so that compensation could be given to the families of the victims.

"Kinder Singh of Nagoke (20) was pulled out of a truck in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh, and shot dead. The story planted was that militant Jaspal Singh of Nangli, carrying a reward of Rs 5 lakh, was shot in a police encounter. Kunan Singh, father of Kinder Singh, sold his 3 acres of land and shifted to UP and the family is now living in abject poverty," said Colonel Sandhu.

"Already, leaks from police sources suggest that Kinder Singh and Sukhpal Singh of Kala Afghana were killed as a result of mistaken identity as no reward money was claimed and the records being old have been destroyed as per laid down rules and now it is difficult to pinpoint responsibility at this stage. The issue is why the families of the

two victims were not informed about their deaths," he questioned.

Colonel Sandhu demanded "the state should not shy away from admitting past mistakes, render apology, provide compensation and bring the guilty to the book." He also sought downsizing of the top-heavy police in Punjab. He has also started a terror help line in Tarn Taran.

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF JOSEPHINE B. GRENDELL**

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Josephine B. Grendell, whose selflessness and tireless devotion to her family made her a role model for other mothers.

Josephine was the wife of the late Edward J. Grendell and the mother of Dr. James H. Grendell, as well as Ohio State Representative Timothy J. Grendell. She was the grandmother of Kate, Mary Jeannette, Patricia, Michael and James and the great-grandmother of Patrick Joseph.

Also known as "Mrs. G" or "Aunt Jo," Josephine truly was a special lady. She embraced everyone she encountered with love and joy. She was always energetic and smiling.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in remembering Josephine Grendell, a woman whose warmth and kindness were an inspiration to all who knew her.

**TRIBUTE TO THE STERLING HEIGHTS FIREFIGHTERS**

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, on Friday, September 28, 2007 the Sterling Heights' Fire Fighters Union will host their Annual, Dinner-Dance, honoring Sterling Heights firefighters for their dedication to their community and recognizing their numerous contributions to the city.

They will also pay tribute to the career of one retiring firefighter, Patrick O'Lear. I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the tireless and courageous career of a good friend and public servant. Patrick O'Lear retires this year with twenty-one years of dedicated service, having been promoted three times in his career from lieutenant on August 16, 1997, to Captain on January 11, 2003, and to Fire Inspector on May 21, 2003.

Mr. O'Lear was appointed as a Sterling Heights firefighter on September 8, 1986. After graduating from St. Clement High School in Center Line in 1977, he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Mercy College in 1982. In December 1991, Mr. O'Lear received his Masters in Science Administration from Central Michigan. In 1989, he was temporarily assigned to the training division and in the same year was immediately recognized as the Employee of the Month. Mr. O'Lear became a Fire Equipment Operator on September 6, 1993.

In 1994, Mr. O'Lear received the Meritorious Unit Citation for a CPR run at Jefferson Elementary. He received Fire Chief Awards for the many training programs presented to the Sterling Heights Fire Department and for the Residence Assistance Program. He has served as a member of the local Safety Committee for nine years and a member of the Apparatus Committee. Mr. O'Lear also became nationally certified as a Fire Explosion Instructor.

Mr. O'Lear has also worked to represent and improve the employment for other firefighters through his service at the local, state and federal levels. He has served as the Secretary and President of the local union, as the State Representative of the International Association of Firefighters and as the 6th District Vice President.

Madam Speaker, I have been pleased to work with Pat over the years in many community service endeavors and have witnessed the tireless and compassionate devotion of Pat and his wife Joan to the individuals and families around them. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Patrick O'Lear, a good friend who has dedicated himself to the community with valor, commitment and honor.

COMMENDING THOMAS GALLOWAY OF MOBILE, ALABAMA, FOR HIS SERVICE IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Thomas Galloway of Mobile, Alabama, for his service in the United States Army during World War II. Serving as a lieutenant in the European Theater of Operations in the winter of 1944, Mr. Galloway fought bravely in some of the toughest and most brutal battles of the war, including the Battle of the Bulge and the Huertgen Forest.

In his career as a soldier, Mr. Galloway was captured twice, and he escaped twice. Escaping as part of an attempted rescue of Gen. Patton's son-in-law, he was captured and returned to the prisoner-of-war camp in Hammelburg, Germany. Later that spring, Mr. Galloway escaped while on a march toward Austria, eventually making it back behind American lines.

Upon returning home from the war, Mr. Galloway graduated from Auburn University and the University of Alabama School of Law and began a successful law career. He served as assistant attorney general for the state of Alabama and assistant district attorney for Alabama's thirteenth judicial circuit. He is now a member of Galloway, Wettermark, Everest, Rutens & Gaillard, LLP of Mobile.

Madam Speaker, the recognition of Mr. Thomas Galloway in Ken Burns' documentary series "The War" is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank him—and all of the soldiers who fought in World War II. They personify the very best America has to offer. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Galloway and his selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the 47th Anniversary of the Republic of Cyprus. It was on October 1, 1960, that Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

I am honored to represent Astoria, Queens—one of the largest and most vibrant communities of Greek and Cypriot Americans in this country. I truly enjoy participating in the life of this community and treasure the wonderful and vital Cypriot friends that I have come to know.

As a member of the European Union, Cyprus is playing a vital role in European affairs while also strengthening relations with the United States. Unfortunately, the commemoration of Cyprus' Independence Day this year, as in the past, is clouded by the fact that Turkish military forces continue illegally to occupy Cyprus, in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. On July 20, 1974, Turkey invaded Cyprus, and to this day continues to maintain an estimated 40,000 heavily armed troops on the island.

I have introduced legislation, H. Res. 407, which expresses the strong support of the House of Representatives for the positive actions by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus aimed at opening additional crossing points along the cease-fire line, thereby contributing to efforts for the reunification of the island. On March 8, 2007, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus demolished a wall at Ledra Street in Nicosia, a key thoroughfare through the divided capital, as a gesture to facilitate the opening of Ledra Street as a crossing point. Two months later, the Government demolished a National Guard post at Kato Pyrgos. I commend the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for taking these actions, and I continue to believe that it is time for Turkey to remove its troops from the island so that Cyprus can move forward as one nation. I remain hopeful that an end to this division will be achieved.

I believe that the United States must play an active role in the resolution of the serious issues facing Cyprus. Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under the law. The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring, and we stand together celebrating democracy and freedom.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I could not be present for votes on Monday, September 24, 2007 due to commitments in my district. As a result, I missed 4 rollcall votes.

I would like to enter into the record that if I had been present on September 24, I would have voted yes on H. Con. Res. 193, which would recognize U.S. hunters for their commitment to safety. As a sportsman myself, I appreciate hunters' commitment to safety and support their continued dedication to safe and responsible hunting.

I would have voted yes on H. Res. 668, which would recognize the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas by the Little Rock Nine.

I would have voted yes on H.R. 1199, which would extend grant programs for drug endangered children.

I also would have voted yes on H. Res. 340, which would emphasize the importance of providing a voice for the victims of missing persons cases.

ON THE PASSING OF MR. BILL WIRTZ

**HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late William W. Wirtz. Bill was a kind and charitable man, who generously gave back to the people of Illinois throughout his life.

Over 40 years, Bill was the President of the Chicago Blackhawks and chairman of the Wirtz Beverage Group, which operated in Illinois and the surrounding States.

Bill also served as chairman of the Board of Governors of the National Hockey League for 18 years and was responsible for negotiating the merger between the NHL and the World Hockey Association in the late 1970's as well as the expansion of the league. No one did more for hockey on both the professional and amateur levels than Bill. He served on both the 1980 and 1984 Winter Olympic Committees. For his efforts on both the professional and amateur levels, Bill was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame in 1976, was the recipient of the Lester Patrick Trophy in 1978 and was inducted into the U.S. Hockey Hall of Fame in 1985.

Under the guidance of Bill, Chicago Blackhawk Charities was established in 1993. Since that time, Blackhawk Charities has donated over \$7.5 million to worthy causes in the Chicagoland area such as Boys and Girls Clubs, Cathedral Shelter, Misericordia Homes, the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Blackhawk Alumni Association, and the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, AHAI. Bill also donated both the Chicago Stadium and the United Center to host the Blackhawk Cup, the annual High School Boys and Girls State Championship Game, over the past 20 years.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt condolences to Bill's wife Alice, his children Rocky, Gail, Kary, Peter and Alyson, and his seven grandchildren. Bill will always be remembered for his charity and goodwill towards the people of Chicago.