

When the closing prayer is read I want to look around in honor at my fellow vets, the men and the women in their timeworn uniforms. Let me see them as they were, splendidly marching forward with the courage that allows us to have a choice of whether we come here today or not.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARMEL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein, Illinois, for being named a 2007 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Nearly 1500 students, ages 13 to 18, attend Carmel Catholic High School. Carmel Catholic is one of only 5 high schools nationwide to win the Blue Ribbon School award 4 times. With a great devotion to learning and academic achievement, Carmel is a faith-based community that attributes their success to the dedication and hard work of their teachers. As a result, these students consistently score above state and national averages on standardized tests in all subject areas. In addition, it is the only high school in Illinois and one of three private high schools in the nation to be recognized.

Carmel Catholic is among 287 schools from across the nation chosen by the Secretary of Education to receive this acknowledgement. These schools have distinguished themselves by embodying the goals of reaching high standards and closing the achievement gap. Schools selected for this honor either have students from all subgroups that have demonstrated significant improvement or have students that achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on statewide tests.

This is a great honor for the 10th district and I congratulate the principal, Fr. Robert C. Carroll, the students, and teachers at Carmel Catholic High School for this achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, it gives me tremendous pleasure to share news of a special Golden Anniversary occurring in my home district in California. The City of Pacifica, a jewel along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, celebrates 50 years of incorporation as an independent municipality on Nov. 22 of this year. In 1957, people along the Coast decided that they were tired of being second-class San Mateo County residents. The seaside villages and valley communities stretching from the Daly City border south to the Devil's Slide were fearful of being used as a dumping ground by their more prosperous and established neighbors. In fact, the City of San Bruno actually wanted to annex parts of the area for landfill purposes, a notion incomprehensible today.

Madam Speaker, those fiercely strong-minded Coastsiders held meetings, hired consultants, used graduate students to prepare surveys, canvassed their neighbors, and, in short, did everything they could to assess the possibility of incorporating as a city. There was an active resistance, as well, with a strong contingent of people who wanted things to stay the same. Let me say, Madame Speaker, with no small amount of pride, that the people who live in this special area have long been known to be politically active, inquisitive and resourceful. It actually took two separate elections before a majority, of only about 500 votes to be precise, decided to incorporate.

But once the decision was made, Madame Speaker, the people in this gorgeous geographical area of California embarked on a public adventure that created one of the truly unique cities in America, if not the world. Ahead of its time in many ways, the new city was christened "Pacifica" to highlight the ocean next to it as well as the 80-foot statue by sculptor Ralph Stackpole that represented the people of the Pacific Rim at the Golden Gate International Exposition on Treasure Island in 1939 and 1940. The very first mayor was a woman, Jean Fassler, starting a city tradition of politically active women sitting on the council. While Pacifica made international news in 1992 for having an All-Women City Council, it is often overlooked that the city has never actually had an All-Men elected body.

Madam Speaker, let me paint a picture of the history of this region. In 1769, a group of explorers led by Don Gaspar de Portola viewed San Francisco Bay from a point now known as Sweeney Ridge, which is within the eastern boundary of Pacifica and is part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, a part of the National Parks Service system with a tremendous influence on Pacifica's natural beauty. Panoramic views of the Bay Area greet hikers who make the climb up Sweeney Ridge. The Portola Discovery Site has been designated as a National Landmark. It is my great pleasure to have had a leading role in expanding the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include this beautiful site, along with other open spaces in the region.

Starting in 1785, crops were planted in San Pedro Valley at an outpost of Mission Dolores. In 1839, Don Francisco Sanchez was given a Mexican Land Grant with boundaries similar to the present City boundary lines. In 1846 he moved into the Sanchez Adobe, which is currently maintained as a San Mateo County Museum and park on Linda Mar Boulevard.

This coastal area remained for years primarily an agricultural Eden until the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Land speculators, stimulated by the construction of the Ocean Shore Railroad, subdivided and developed a series of small coastside communities with the hope of creating a suburban population for San Francisco. The vision then was to establish a tourist and commuter heaven along the Pacific Ocean. The Little Brown Church, Anderson's Store and San Pedro School (which later became City Hall) date from this period. In 1908, Henry Harrison McCloskey, an attorney for the Ocean Shore Railroad, built a castle-like home which still dominates a hill above Sharp Park. Mrs. Honora Sharp donated 410 acres to the City and County of San Francisco to develop a recreation area, which became the Sharp Park Golf Course and the Rifle and Archery Range.

Subdivisions were eventually created, although long after the demise of the Ocean Shore Railroad in 1921, to meet the needs of young families of returning World War II veterans. In less than a decade from its 1957 incorporation, the population had grown to 35,000 people. It has taken four more decades to increase that number by 5,000. This statistic alone points to one of the special qualities of Pacifica.

Pacifica is made up of 10 communities, including Edgemar, Pacific Manor, Manor Village, Westview, Sharp Park, Fairway Park, Vallemar, Rockaway Beach, Linda Mar and Pedro Point. Residents continue to identify with the specific personalities of their neighborhoods while maintaining a certain pride in being from Pacifica.

Green and white became the City colors and the fuchsia was designated as the City flower. "Wisdom in Progress" became the City slogan, although "Scenic Pacifica," later suggested by Carl McCarthy, is more widely used. In 1970, Balaguer, Spain, the birthplace of Portola, became the Sister City of Pacifica.

Madam Speaker, I want to share the news that in recent years Pacifica has completed a number of notable projects such as: the Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant—April 2001; Friendship Playground—June 2001; New Pacifica Police Station—November 2002; Pacifica State Beach Improvement Project; Rockaway to Crespi Multi-use Trail and Crespi to Pedro Point Multi-use Trail—October 2004; Pacifica Skatepark—December 2005; Calera Creek Water Recycling Plant Photovoltaic Project—July 2006; Esplanade 500 Block Blufftop Enhancement Project and the San Pedro Creek Flood Control Project and Fish Ladder renovation. These projects bring attention to the most successful aspect of Pacifica's existence—this is a city far ahead of its time in the way it capitalizes on maintaining strong environmental and ecological priorities.

Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to have represented the good citizens of Pacifica for more than half of the city's existence. It has also been my great honor to assist the city in achieving many of its goals, most recently the construction of the \$300 million Devil's Slide Tunnels transportation project.

The natural beauty of Pacifica, with its lovely cool climate, delightful valleys and hills and most of all, its innovative, talented, active and wonderful residents, helps it stand out as one of my favorite places in the world. I invite my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing the City of Pacifica and its inhabitants a Happy 50th Anniversary and a successful journey through the 21st Century.

SAUDI ARABIA IS HUB OF WORLD TERROR

HON. PETER HOEKSTRA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Madam Speaker, I believe that Congress should continue to encourage an open and robust debate about the threat from radical jihadists. I found the following report in the Sunday Times of particular interest. I would like to share it with my colleagues.

[From the Sunday Times, Nov. 4, 2007]

SAUDI ARABIA IS HUB OF WORLD TERROR: THE DESERT KINGDOM SUPPLIES THE CASH AND THE KILLERS

(By Nick Fielding and Sarah Baxter)

It was an occasion for tears and celebration as the Knights of Martyrdom proclaimed on video: "Our brother Turki fell during the rays of dawn, covered in blood after he was hit by the bullets of the infidels, following in the path of his brother." The flowery language could not disguise the brutal truth that a Saudi family had lost two sons fighting for Al-Qaeda in Iraq.

The elder brother, Khaled, had been a deputy commander of a crack jihadist "special forces" unit. After his "glorious" death, Turki took his place.

"He was deeply affected by the martyrdom of his brother," the Knights said. "He became more ambitious and more passionate about defending the land of Islam and dying as a martyr, like his brother."

Turki's fervent wish was granted earlier this year, but another Saudi national who travelled to Iraq had second thoughts. He was a graduate from a respectable family of teachers and professors who was recruited in a Saudi Arabian mosque and sent to Iraq with \$1,000 in travel expenses and the telephone number of a smuggler who could get him across the Syrian border.

In Iraq he was ordered to blow himself up in a tanker on a bridge in Ramadi, but he panicked before he could press the detonator. He was arrested by Iraqi police. In a second lorry, another foreign fighter followed orders and died.

King Abdullah was surprised during his two-day state visit to Britain last week by the barrage of criticism directed at the Saudi kingdom. Officials were in "considerable shock", one former British diplomat said.

Back home the king is regarded as a modest reformer who has cracked down on home-grown terrorism and loosened a few relatively minor restrictions on his subjects' personal freedom.

With oil prices surging, Saudi Arabia is growing in prosperity and embracing some modern trappings. Bibles and crucifixes are still banned, but internet access is spreading and there are plans for "Mile High Tower", the world's tallest skyscraper, in Jeddah. As a key ally of the West, the king had every reason to expect a warm welcome.

Yet wealthy Saudis remain the chief financiers of worldwide terror networks. "If I could somehow snap my fingers and cut off the funding from one country, it would be Saudi Arabia," said Stuart Levey. The U.S. Treasury official in charge of tracking terror financing.

Extremist clerics provide a stream of recruits to some of the world's nastiest trouble spots.

An analysis by NBC News suggested that the Saudis make up 55% of foreign fighters in Iraq. They are also among the most uncompromising and militant.

Half the foreign fighters held by the U.S. at Camp Cropper near Baghdad are Saudis. They are kept in yellow jumpsuits in a separate, windowless compound after they attempted to impose sharia on the other detainees and preached an extreme form of Wahhabist Islam.

In recent months, Saudi religious scholars have caused consternation in Iraq and Iran by issuing fatwas calling for the destruction of the great Shi'ite shrines in Najaf and Karbala in Iraq, some of which have already been bombed. And while prominent members of the ruling al-Saud dynasty regularly express their abhorrence of terrorism, leading figures within the kingdom who advocate extremism are tolerated.

Sheikh Saleh al-Luhaidan, the chief justice, who oversees terrorist trials, was recorded on tape in a mosque in 2004, encouraging young men to fight in Iraq. "Entering Iraq has become risky now," he cautioned. "It requires avoiding those evil satellites and those drone aircraft, which own every corner of the skies over Iraq. If someone knows that he is capable of entering Iraq in order to join the fight, and if his intention is to raise up the word of God, then he is free to do so."

The Bush administration is split over how to deal with the Saudi threat, with the State Department warning against pressure that might lead the royal family to fall and be replaced by more dangerous extremists.

"The urban legend is that George Bush and Dick Cheney are close to the Saudis because of oil and their past ties with them, but they're pretty disillusioned with them," said Stephen Schwartz, of the Centre for Islamic Pluralism in Washington. "The problem is that the Saudis have been part of American policy for so long that it's not easy to work out a solution."

According to Levey, not one person identified by America or the United Nations as a terrorist financier has been prosecuted by Saudi authorities. A fortnight ago exasperated U.S. Treasury officials named three Saudi citizens as terrorist financiers. "In order to deter other would-be donors, it is important to hold these terrorists publicly accountable," Levey said.

All three had worked in the Philippines, where they are alleged to have helped to finance the Abu Sayyaf group, an Al-Qaeda affiliate. One, Muham-mad Sughayr, was said to be the main link between Abu Sayyaf and wealthy Gulf donors.

Sughayr was arrested in the Philippines in 2005 and swiftly deported to Saudi Arabia after pressure from the Saudi embassy in Manila. There is no evidence that he was prosecuted on his return home.

This year the Saudis arrested 10 people thought to be terrorist financiers, but the excitement faded when their defense lawyers claimed that they were political dissidents and human rights groups took up their cause.

Matthew Levitt, a former intelligence analyst at the US Treasury and counter-terrorism expert at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, believes the Saudis could do more. He said: "It is important for the Saudis to hold people publicly accountable. Key financiers have built up considerable personal wealth and are loath to put that at risk. There is some evidence that individuals who have been outed have curtailed their financial activities."

In the past the Saudis openly supported Islamic militants. Osama Bin Laden was originally treated as a favourite son of the regime and feted as a hero for fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan. Huge charitable organisations such as the International Islamic Relief Organisation and the al-Haramain Foundation—accused in American court documents of having links to extremist groups—flourished, sometimes with patronage from senior Saudi royals.

The 1991 Gulf war was a wake-up call for the Saudis. Bin Laden began making vitriolic attacks on the Saudi royal family for cooperating with the U.S. and demanded the expulsion of foreign troops from Arabia. His citizenship was revoked in 1994. The 1996 attack on the Khobar Towers in Dhahran, which killed 19 U.S. servicemen and one Saudi, was a warning that he could strike within the kingdom.

As long as foreigners were the principal targets, the Saudis turned a blind eye to terror. Even the September 11 attacks of 2001, in which 15 of the 19 hijackers were Saudis,

could not shake their complacency. Despite promises to crack down on radical imams, Saudi mosques continued to preach hatred of America.

The mood began to change in 2003 and 2004, when Al-Qaeda mounted a series of terrorist attacks within the kingdom that threatened to become an insurgency. "They finally acknowledged at the highest levels that they had a problem and it was coming for them," said Rachel Bronson, the author of *Thicker than Oil: America's Uneasy Partnership with Saudi Arabia*.

Assassination attempts against security officials caused some of the royals to fear for their own safety. In May 2004 Islamic terrorists struck two oil industry installations and a foreigners' housing compound in Khobar, taking 50 hostages and killing 22 of them.

The Saudi authorities began to cooperate more with the FBI, clamp down on extremist charities, monitor mosques and keep a watchful eye on fighters returning from Iraq.

Only last month Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdul-Aziz al-Sheikh, the kingdom's leading cleric, criticised gullible Saudis for becoming "convenient knights for whoever wants to exploit their zeal, even to the point of turning them into walking bombs".

And last week in London, King Abdullah warned young British Muslims not to become involved with extremists.

Yet the Saudis' ambivalence towards terrorism has not gone away. Money for foreign fighters and terror groups still pours out of the kingdom, but it now tends to be carried in cash by couriers rather than sent through the wires, where it can be stopped and identified more easily.

A National Commission for Relief and Charity Work Abroad, a nongovernmental organisation that was intended to regulate private aid abroad to guard against terrorist financing, has still not been created three years after it was trumpeted by the Saudi embassy in Washington.

Hundreds of Islamic militants have been arrested but many have been released after undergoing reeducation programmes led by Muslim clerics.

According to the daily *Alwa-tan*, the interior ministry has given 115m euros (£14.7m) to detainees and their families to help them to repay debts, to assist families with health care and housing, to pay for weddings and to buy a car on their release. The most needy prisoners' families receive 2,000-3,000 euros (£286 to £384) a month.

Ali Sa'd Al-Mussa, a lecturer at King Khalid University in Abha, protested: "I'm afraid that holding [extremist] views leads to earning a prize or, worse, a steady income."

Former detainees from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba are also benefiting. To celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid, 55 prisoners were temporarily released last month and given the equivalent of £1,300 each to spend with their families.

School textbooks still teach the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. A notorious anti-Semitic forgery, and preach hatred towards Christians, Jews and other religions, including Shi'ite Muslims, who are considered heretics.

Ali al-Ahmed, director of the Washington-based Institute for Gulf Affairs, said: "The Saudi education system has over 5m children using these books. If only one in 1,000 take these teachings to heart and seek to act on them violently, there will be 5,000 terrorists."

In frustration, Arlen Specter, the Republican senator for Pennsylvania, introduced the Saudi Arabia Accountability Act 10 days ago, calling for strong encouragement of the Saudi government to "end its support for institutions that fund, train, incite, encourage or in any other way aid and abet terrorism".

The act, however, is expected to die when it reaches the Senate foreign relations committee: the Bush administration is counting on Saudi Arabia to help stabilise Iraq, curtail Iran's nuclear and regional ambitions and give a push to the Israeli and Palestinian peace process at a conference due to be held this month in Annapolis, Maryland.

"Do we really want to take on the Saudis at the moment?" asks Bronson. "We've got enough problems as it is."

SIKHS OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY OF DELHI MASSACRES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, on November 3, Sikhs from up and down the East Coast gathered here in Washington to protest the 23rd anniversary of the Delhi massacres. Over 20,000 Sikhs were killed in that massacre, which followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi. Sikh police officers were locked in their barracks to keep them from interfering with the massacre. State TV and radio called for "blood for blood," inciting the people to kill more Sikhs.

This was a massive atrocity by the Indian regime against the Sikhs. It made it clear that the Indian government had no intention of treating the Sikhs like people in a free and democratic country ought to be treated. Instead, they chose to inflict mass terror on their Sikh citizens. This is not the way a democratic government acts, Madam Speaker. It is the action of a terrorist regime. India should be declared a terrorist regime for acts like this, for creating the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and for its ongoing subversion of Pakistan by sponsoring cross-border terrorism in Sindh, as reported in the January 2, 2002 Washington Times.

Sikhs in attendance at the demonstration raised slogans in support of Khalistan as well as slogans in opposition to the massacre. As you know, the Sikhs declared their independence from India on October 7, 1987. Khalistan is their country, but it remains occupied by over half a million Indian forces. I would like to know why "the world's largest democracy" insists on maintaining authoritarian control of Khalistan instead of allowing the people there to have a free and fair vote on its status. This congress should put itself on record in support of such a vote, as well as the plebiscite that was promised to the Kashmiri people in 1948 and has never occurred. Nagaland, too, seeks its independence from India. The Nagas should also be granted the right to vote on their status. What would be wrong with that, if India is the democracy it says it is? And if India is the democracy it says it is, then why are so many peoples trying to get out from under its rule?

In addition to demanding that India allow the right to self-determination (which is the essence of democracy), we should demand that basic human rights be observed in "the world's largest democracy." The Delhi massacre is just one example of how basic human rights are ignored there. The murders of over 250,000 Sikhs, over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, more 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat, more than 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, and tens

of thousands of other minorities, including Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and others speak loudly on the lack of human rights in India. So does the fact that Amnesty International has not been allowed into Punjab since 1984. This situation cannot continue.

We should cut off our aid and trade with India until it allows basic human rights, including but not limited to the right to self-determination, to all people under its rule.

Madam Speaker, the Council of Khalistan issued an excellent and informative press release on the Delhi massacres and the demonstration that was held this month. I recommend it to all my colleagues and I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

SIKHS REMEMBER DELHI MASSACRES WITH VERY SUCCESSFUL DEMONSTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 13, 2007.—Sikhs from around the East Coast gathered by the Gandhi statue at the Indian Embassy in Washington, DC on November 3 to commemorate the Delhi massacres of November 1984 in which over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered while the police were locked in their barracks and the state-run television and radio called for more Sikh blood.

The rally was attended by Sikhs from Philadelphia, including Dr. Bakhshish Singh Sandhu, S. Kari Singh, and S. Dharam Singh, as well as Sikhs from New Jersey, Baltimore, Maryland, Virginia, Washington DC, and other locations. New York Sikhs led by Sardar Avtar Singh Pannu also participated. The attendees spoke, carried signs, and chanted slogans. Slogans included "Khalistan Zindabad" ("Long live Khalistan"), "India free Khalistan", "India stop killing minorities", "India free Kashmir", "India free Christian Nagaland", and others.

The Delhi massacres were a brutal chapter in India's repression of the Sikhs, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which is leading the demonstration. "This brutal, government-inspired massacre clarified that there is no place in India for Sikhs." Dr. Aulakh said. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. In the twenty years since then, India has continued its illegal occupation of Khalistan and stepped up the repression of the Sikhs while the Sikh Nation has continued to work to achieve its birthright.

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.

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, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide."

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, and then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. He was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family.

The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swaran Singh Ghotra murdered him. Ghotra has never

been brought to trial for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalra.

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.

"Only a sovereign, independent Khalistan will end the repression and lift the standard of living for the people of Punjab," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "Democracies don't commit genocide. 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. "Without political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish."

A TRIBUTE TO JEFFERSON AWARD WINNER RUSSELL EWELL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 13, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the achievements of a very special man within my home district in California. Russell Ewell, who has recently been honored with a Jefferson Award, is much deserving of the accolade, which spotlights outstanding public service.

Mr. Ewell brought the community E-Soccer, a unique athletic outreach program affiliated with the Hope Technology School, where his wife is the Executive Director. The unqualified success of E-Soccer in bringing together typical and special needs children of all ages on a soccer field is a testament to Russ Ewell's visionary concept.

Children are encouraged and enabled to develop skills, confidence and self-esteem through the sport of soccer. They also make lasting friendships. This wonderful program serves over 250 children on Saturday mornings in communities throughout the Bay Area. It is free and benefits from an all-volunteer staff. Showcasing the growing scope of E-Soccer is the fact that a team of nine coaches from the program recently visited Nairobi, Kenya, to train volunteers there on how to establish their own E-Soccer activities. There are plans for further outreach projects in other countries.

Madam Speaker, Russell Ewell established the E-Soccer program in April 2000 specifically for children with special needs in Foster City. His inspiration came from his two sons with special needs. Their younger sister, Jadyn, is not a special needs child. Russ wanted Jonathan, who has Down Syndrome, and Jordan, who is autistic, to be able to interact with typical children, benefiting from the athletic coordination practiced in soccer. He also wanted families with special needs children to have an opportunity to enjoy an athletic experience that is both positive and uplifting. To that end, he worked with soccer coaches, special needs educators and physical therapists on developing a program like no