

it comes time to sell produce, the government sets the price very low. This leads to thousands of farmers committing suicide because of their colossal financial indebtedness to the Indian government.

It is time to take control of the Bhakra Dam and the Nangal hydroelectric project. These belong to Punjab but are controlled by the Delhi regime. Punjab must take complete control of these projects and sell electricity at market rates. The Gobindgarh Fort, which was built by the Sikh missal Bhangian, was recently returned to Punjab by the Indian government. That is a good first step. Now all that is the Khalsa Panth's, including the sovereignty that is our birthright, must also be returned so that Sikhs can flourish in the glow of freedom promised by the Indian National Congress during the independence struggle.

The capital of Chandigarh was built by Punjab. Punjab must get it back from the Indian government. It is the height of high-handedness to make Chandigarh a Union Territory. I ask Chief Minister Amarinder Singh to take this good opportunity to regain control of Chandigarh. This will help him politically as well. Haryana is a wealthy state; let Haryana build its own capital.

In November we met with Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz. He said he would build a road from Kartapur Sahib to the Indian border, provided that the Punjab government builds its portion as well. I have visited Kartapur. There is only a mile or so of the road and the Ravi River is completely dried up. The bridge, which is on the Indian side, needs minor repairs. This road would be good for the people on both sides of the border. It would help build good relations between India and Pakistan, particularly between Pakistan and the Sikhs of Punjab. I urge Captain Amarinder Singh to build the road immediately so that Sikhs from Punjab can visit Kartapur Sahib where Guru Nanak departed this Earth for his heavenly abode. It is a serene place.

The RSS and its political arm, the BJP, want to divide the Sikh Nation. The Dasam Granth is RSS mischief. The issue of its authorship has been settled long ago, despite what any Indian-controlled Sikh leader may say now. I urge Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti to stop the discussion of the Dasam Granth completely and concentrate his efforts on achieving freedom for Khalistan and stopping the vices that have percolated in the Sikh religion, including abortion of female fetuses, drinking liquor, and the caste system. Guru Gobind Singh created the Khalsa as equals. Mazhabi Sikhs are as good Sikhs as anyone else. They are our brothers and sisters and we must treat them as equals. Remember what Guru Gobind Singh said: "Ragrete Guru ke Bete." ("The Mazhabi Sikhs are the sons of the guru.") Guru Gobind Singh lifted them up and Sikhs established Sikh rule from 1710 to 1716 and from 1765 to 1849. When America declared its independence in 1776, Punjab was already ruled independently by the Sikh missals.

Twice last year, Sikhs were arrested for making speeches in support of Khalistan and raising the Khalistani flag. The Indian regime is clearly worried about the rising tide in support of Sikh sovereignty. Let us dedicate our energy this year to achieving the establishment of Khalistan. Any organization that sincerely supports Khalistan deserves the support of the Sikh Nation. When Khalistan is free, the Sikhs can resolve these issues in a way that benefits the Khalsa Panth, not the forces of Hindutva.

However, the Sikh Nation needs leadership that is honest, sincere, consistent, and dedi-

cated to the cause of Sikh freedom if we are to continue to move the cause of freedom for Khalistan forward in 2007 as we did in 2006. Remember the words former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Professor Darshan Singh: "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh." Khalistan is the only way that Sikhs will be able to live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and dignity. It is time to start a Shantmai Morcha to liberate Khalistan from Indian occupation. We must achieve our freedom by peaceful, democratic, nonviolent means. Let that be the mission of 2007.

Elections for the Punjab Legislative Assembly will be held on February 13. Vote only for candidates who are committed to establishing Khalistan and will work to make it a reality. Every morning and evening the Khalsa Panth recites "Raj Kare Ga Khalsa." We must dedicate ourselves to realizing this. The time is now. We can do it by the ballot. I ask Sikhs of every political shade not to miss this opportunity. We must realize it now. When the Punjab Legislative Assembly reconvenes it must pass a resolution for the independence of Khalistan. As soon as that resolution passes, India will no longer be able to repress the Sikhs. Three million Sikhs living outside India will make sure that Khalistan is free without any further loss of human life. In a democracy, you can't rule the people against their wishes.

Sikhs will never get any justice from Delhi. Ever since independence, India has mistreated the Sikh Nation, starting with Patel's shameful memo labeling Sikhs "a criminal tribe" even though the Sikh Nation gave over 80 percent of the sacrifices to free India. How can Sikhs continue to live in such a country? There is no place for Sikhs in supposedly secular, supposedly democratic India.

Let us make certain that 2007 is the Sikh Nation's most blessed year by making it the year that we shake ourselves loose from Indian oppression and liberate our homeland, Khalistan, so that all Sikhs may live lives of prosperity, freedom, and dignity. Now it is up to us. Do not waste this opportunity.

May Guru bless the Khalsa Panth in 2007 and always.

Sincerely,

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

HONORING DOCTOR CRAIG C.
MELLO, PHD

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Craig C. Mello, PhD of the University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS) in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts for his great work in the advancement of genetic research.

Born in New Haven, CT in 1960, Dr. Mello is an alumnus of Brown University where he received a Bachelor's of Science in Biochemistry in 1982 and Harvard University where he received his PhD in Cellular and Developmental Biology.

Dr. Mello and his colleague Dr. Andrew Fire are today's pioneers in RNA interference (RNAi). Their dedication to science and research has provided the world with evidence that will lead to the saving of lives around the

world. Dr. Mello's research is not only groundbreaking but revolutionary.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Mello's and Dr. Fire's discovery was published in Nature magazine in 1998. They have received several awards, including the National Academy of Sciences Award in Molecular Biology and the Wiley Prize in Biomedical Sciences as well as international awards in Germany and Canada. Most recently, Dr. Mello and Dr. Fire received the Nobel Prize in Physiology in 2006 for their work on RNAi, the highest honor in the world in the field of medicine and physiology.

Dr. Craig C. Mello has instilled a sense of pride among the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Worcester with his research in the field of developmental gene regulation.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that the entire U.S. House of Representatives joins me in thanking Dr. Craig C. Mello for his contribution to the field of genetic research and congratulating him on his achievement of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine.

IN LASTING MEMORY OF Q.
BYRUM HURST

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. ROSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Q. Byrum Hurst, who passed away December 4, 2006, in Hot Springs, AR, at the age of 88.

Mr. Q. Byrum Hurst had two passions—law and politics. He passed the Arkansas bar exam in 1941 and spent his life in politics with the exception of his stint in the U.S. Army from 1943–1945. Q. Byrum Hurst was elected Garland County Judge in 1947 and then elected to the State Senate where he served 22 consecutive years. In 1967, Mr. Hurst was elected President Pro Tempore of the Senate where he also served as Acting Governor of Arkansas during the absence of the sitting Governor.

Q. Byrum Hurst was recognized as one of the most powerful and influential men in Arkansas politics where he earned a reputation for his hard work on behalf of Hot Springs, his hometown.

Q. Byrum Hurst was an active, lifelong member of the First Church of God where he also served as Sunday School Superintendent. He was also a long-time supporter of the Boy Scouts of America and the Optimist International Club.

My deepest condolences go to his children, Q. Byrum Hurst, Jr., of Hot Springs; Lezah Stenger of Springfield, MO; Byretta Fish of Bentonville; to his 17 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren; and to his brother F.L. Hurst of Hot Springs and his sister Norma Jean Austin of San Antonio, TX. Q. Byrum Hurst will be greatly missed in Hot Springs, Garland County and throughout the State of Arkansas.

HONORING CHERI DEAN OF LAKE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cheri Dean on the occasion of her retirement from the Social Security Administration after 31 years of service to the government and people of Lake County.

Ms. Dean was hired as a claims development clerk in 1976 and was promoted through a series of positions from administrative assistant to service representative and finally to claims representative. At each stage of her career she has been a model of professional excellence and has worked hard to ensure that the needs of Lake County's residents are met. Her timely action has ensured the continuity of payments to many people who relied on her work.

After her retirement, Ms. Dean will move to Oklahoma where she will live near her family. She plans to spend time working on a family genealogy and traveling throughout the region.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Ms. Dean for her decades of service with the Lake County branch of the Social Security Administration, and I wish her all the best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG NEGOTIATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, seniors, individuals with disabilities and the taxpayers of America were done a disservice in 2003 when the Medicare Prescription Drug legislation passed with a provision that prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating with drug manufacturers for lower prescription drug prices. Representatives EMERSON, RANGEL, PORTER and I are introducing the Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007 today to help seniors get the lowest prices possible on prescription medications under Medicare.

This legislation removes the prohibition of the Secretary from negotiating lower prescription drug prices. Moreover, it requires the Secretary to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices in Medicare without restricting access to any medications.

Drug prices under the Medicare prescription drug plan are more than 80 percent higher than prices negotiated by other agencies in the Federal government and more than 60 percent higher than prices in Canada. And this year the prices for each of the top five most popular drugs taken by seniors have gone up.

Currently, each of the 1200 plus prescription drug plans can use its volume of enrollees as leverage to purchase at bulk and other discount rates from drug companies. The Government, however, cannot do the same on behalf of Medicare's 40 million beneficiaries. We are now requiring that the Secretary do just that.

This simple legislation could save billions in prescription drug costs, premiums, and cost sharing for the millions of Medicare beneficiaries. It leaves the details up to the Secretary of HHS, who has the necessary experience and expertise to secure lower prescription drug prices. This bill has the support of the AARP, Consumer's Union and the AFL-CIO.

It is time we put the best interests of Medicare beneficiaries ahead of those of the drug companies. Seniors are clamoring for relief, and Americans overwhelmingly support having the Secretary of HHS negotiate for lower prescription drug prices on behalf of Medicare. The Medicare Prescription Drug Negotiation Act of 2007 is specifically designed to correct the shortfalls of the flawed 2003 Medicare Prescription Drug legislation and to provide affordable prescription drugs to Medicare beneficiaries.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION CHARGING IRANIAN PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD WITH VIOLATION OF THE 1948 CONVENTION ON THE PREVENTION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 9, 2007

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today, along with my colleague STEVEN ROTHMAN (D-NJ), I introduce a resolution charging Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad with violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This resolution urges the United Nations Security Council to use its power under international law to hold the Iranian leader accountable for his genocidal statements targeting the Israeli people.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide was designed by the international community to outlaw genocide; to never again allow a massive crime similar to the Holocaust by Nazi Germany during World War II.

But now we are faced with an Iranian leader whose public statements call for a second Jewish Holocaust.

The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide prohibits not only acts of genocide, but also prohibits "direct and public incitement to commit genocide."

This resolution urges the United Nations Security Council to examine the evidence of Ahmadinejad's incitement. In order to present the evidence in a clear and concise manner, I recently asked the Congressional Research Service to compile a list entitled "Ahmadinejad in His Own Words," and I present it to the House today.

On October 26, 2005, in advance of Iran's Jerusalem Day, established by Ayatollah Khomeini, Ahmadinejad spoke at a conference of the Society for the Defense of the Palestinian Nation, and members of the Islamic Students Union, and an audience of hundreds of students.

In his speech, he described his vision of an age-old confrontation between the world of

Islam and the "World of Arrogance," that is the West; portraying Israel and Zionism as the spearhead of the West against the Islamic nation. He emphasized in that speech the need to eliminate Israel which, he said, was an attainable goal.

He delivered this speech before several representatives of Hizbullah and its leader Hassan Nasrallah and Hamas leader Khaled Mash'al.

Speaking to a student conference then, entitled "World without Zionism," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad stated:

"Very soon this stain of disgrace (i.e. Israel) will vanish from the center of the Islamic world—and this is attainable. . . .

The people who sit in closed rooms cannot decide on this matter. The Islamic people cannot allow this historic enemy to exist in the heart of the Islamic world. . . .

I hope that the Palestinians will maintain their wariness and intelligence, much as they have pursued their battles in the past ten years. This will be a short period, and if we pass though it successfully, the process of the elimination of the Zionist regime will be smooth and simple. . . .

Our dear Imam [Khomeini] ordered that the occupying regime in Jerusalem be wiped off the face of the earth. This was a very wise statement."

On April 15, 2006, at the opening of a conference on supporting the Palestinians, he said:

"Like it or not, the Zionist regime is heading toward annihilation."

On April 27, 2006, he stated in a speech in the western Iranian town of Zanjan, carried on live national television.

"This regime (Israel) will one day vanish."

On May 11, 2006, Ahmadinejad made a reference to Israel in a speech to students and instructors at University of Jakarta, he said:

"I advise them to pack up and move out of the region before being caught in the fire they have started in Lebanon."

On July 8, 2006, speaking to regional officials at the opening of a two-day conference in Tehran on security in Iraq, he said: "The basic problem in the Islamic world is the existence of the Zionist regime, and the Islamic world and the region must mobilize to remove this problem."

On July 29, 2006, during an emergency meeting with Muslim leaders, he said:

"The real cure for the (Lebanon) conflict is elimination of the Zionist regime, but there should be first an immediate ceasefire."

On August 3, 2006, in a speech before the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to presidents, prime ministers and policy-makers of 17 Muslim-majority nations in Malaysia, a major international conference, he said:

"The Zionist regime is fraudulent and illegitimate and cannot survive."

On October 19, 2006, speaking to crowds of people in Islamshahr, southwest of Tehran, he said:

"This regime will be gone, definitely. You should know that any government that stands by the Zionist regime from now on will not see any result but the hatred of the people."

On December 12, 2005, in a speech to thousands in the southeastern city of Zahedan in the southeastern Sistan va Baluchistan Province and this was carried on Iranian television, Ahmadinejad said:

"Today, they (Europeans) have created a myth in the name of Holocaust and consider