

SIKH RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF
INDIANA

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the Sikh Religious Society of Indiana and its Board of Directors as they celebrate one of their most significant religious and historical events, Vaisakhi. The day will be commemorated on Sunday, April 18, 2010, at the Sikh Temple in Crown Point, Indiana.

The Sikh Religious Society is a non-profit religious and social organization that has served the Sikh community of Northwest Indiana since 1994. Each year the Sikh people celebrate Vaisakhi, a festival that commemorates the establishment of the "Order of the Kahlisa" or "Pure Servants of God." In 1699, Sahib-E-Kamaal, Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the tenth guru, initiated the process of the conversion of the people of India into a morally receptive and disciplined army of the pure and courageous, whose main purpose was to overcome religious oppression and considerable human rights violations that were occurring in India at that time. He empowered the people of India by giving them a choice to control their own destiny, teaching them to stand unyielding to confront the forces of intolerance that had been placed upon them by the bigoted and cruel leaders of the time. Guru Gobind Singh Ji, in his courage to act, willingness to meet challenges, and ability to achieve, embodied all that is good and true in the battle for liberty. On Vaisakhi day, Guru Gobind Singh Ji assigned a specific code of conduct to the Sikh followers—belief in one God, brotherhood of mankind, equality among all human beings, justice, peace, and truth. Sikh followers are encouraged to work hard, earn an honest living, and live a life of service to people in need. Today, the Sikh community holds high the beliefs that were brought forth on that day. The true meaning of Vaisakhi lives on in the Sikh people as they continue to pass on their peaceful beliefs and messages of equality through their unwavering strength and determination.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the Sikh Religious Society of Indiana, its Board of Directors, and congregation, as well as Sikh followers throughout the world, as they celebrate and observe the religious and historic event of Vaisakhi. Through their words and teachings, these honorable individuals and organizations remind us all of the struggles and accomplishments of the Sikh people throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR DEEDRA L.
ZABOKRTSKY—SCOTTSDALE
HEALTHCARE'S "SALUTE TO
MILITARY" HONOREE

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a member of the Armed

Forces from my home State of Arizona. Every month, Scottsdale Healthcare honors service members who perform diligent service to this country. For the month of April, they have recognized U.S. Air Force Major Deedra L. Zabokrtsky.

I commend Scottsdale Healthcare for paying tribute to such an outstanding service member for her dedication and service to our country.

During her service, Major Zabokrtsky served as an Intermediate Ward Flight Commander with the 332d Expeditionary Medical Operations in Balad, Iraq. She led a team of 46 providers, nurses and medical technicians that cared for 920 patients in the course of 4 months. Under her outstanding leadership, the hospital achieved an astounding 98 percent survival rate for United States military casualties and set an example for high standards of care. For her superb achievements Major Zabokrtsky was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal.

Currently, Major Zabokrtsky is stationed at Luke Air Force Base with the 56th Medical Group. She is assigned as a full-time faculty member at Scottsdale Healthcare for the Air Force Nurse Transition Program. Her accomplishments at Scottsdale Healthcare have significantly enhanced the hospital's military partnership training programs.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring this outstanding Air Force officer for serving our country and caring for our fellow service men and women in combat.

HONORING THE 89TH BIRTHDAY OF
MRS. MARTHA YUSEM

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Martha Yusem of Cherry Hill, NJ on the occasion of her 89th birthday.

Mrs. Yusem has long been admired by her community. She was born April 5, 1921 in Vienna, Austria. Martha and her family lived through Krystal Nacht on November 10th, 1938. While many in her community were sent to the Dachau concentration camp, her family was able to remain hidden and protected. On February 16, 1939, at the age of 17, she emigrated on to the United States aboard the *Aquatania*. The day after the ship departed for New York, the borders closed and war broke out in Europe. This would also be the very last voyage of the *Aquatania* as it was torpedoed and sunk by the Germans on its return to Europe.

In America, Martha quickly picked up the English language and went on to attend Temple University. She proudly became an American citizen in 1944 and married an American psychologist and WWII veteran, David Yusem, in December, 1952. Together, they raised two sons, Paul and Joseph. Martha has worked as a tax preparer, a real estate salesperson and most notably, a senior bank teller.

In 1997, she moved to Cherry Hill, NJ where she lives today. Martha has, on more than one occasion, spoken to groups about her experiences in Nazi-occupied Europe. In addition to an active social life, Martha re-

mains very involved in politics. Martha Yusem's story is one of great courage and determination. Our country is proud to have such a remarkable woman. I hope that my colleagues will join me in wishing Mrs. Martha Yusem a very Happy 89th Birthday.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN GRAY, ONE OF
SOUTH ALABAMA'S WORLD WAR
II HEROES

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, it is with tremendous sadness that I rise to note the passing of a noteworthy World War II veteran and a truly great American, Mr. John Franklin Gray, who recently passed away at the age of 87.

Named the 2007 Mobile Bay Area Veteran of the Year, Mr. Gray was a remarkable man in every way imaginable.

He was a trailblazer as one of the first African Americans to be accepted into the United States Marines Corps. Trained at the Marine Corp's African American boot camp at Montford Point, Camp Lejeune, N.C., he served more than a year and a half in a segregated unit while fighting in the Pacific.

John Gray's service was highlighted in the Ken Burns PBS television documentary, "The War."

Mr. Gray, like so many of America's "Greatest Generation," helped our country win the war, and then returned home to Mobile, Alabama where he devoted much of the remainder of his working lifetime to educating our young people in the Mobile County public schools. After more than 50 years in the school system, he retired as assistant principal at Mobile's Shaw High School.

Those who knew him best said John Gray was proudest of his service to the students and his service to America. He was a Marine to the end and loved the Corps.

On a personal note, I considered it one of my great honors to have gotten to know Mr. Gray in the twilight of his life. Whenever he and I were together—whether it was at a Veteran's Day parade or at a welcome home ceremony for one of our units returning from Iraq or Afghanistan, Mr. Gray was always the epitome of a Marine's Marine, standing tall and proud for freedom and for liberty.

On behalf of the people of South Alabama, and on the part of a grateful nation, I wish to thank Mr. John Gray for his distinguished service and his exemplary life. And I extend my condolences to his wife, the Rev. Edwina Gray, his six children, John Gray, Gordon Gray, Danielle Gray, Rhonda Gray, Alice Gray, and Gable Gray, as well as countless other friends and family.

They are all in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY CHILDHOOD SCHOOL IN MASCOUTAH, ILLINOIS

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Holy Childhood School, in Mascoutah, Illinois, on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary.

Holy Childhood School was founded in 1859, with students first taught in a house owned by a local doctor. The local landscape was much different then. Mascoutah had just been incorporated about 20 years earlier, initially as the Town of Mechanicsburgh. Scott Field, which would evolve into Scott Air Force Base and provide many students for Holy Childhood School, would not be built until 60 years later.

The first school structure was a two room school house built in 1864, at a cost of \$2,361.00. The Ursuline Sisters arrived from Louisville, Kentucky, in 1872 and were the first religious order to teach at the school. They would be succeeded in 1888 by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Also in 1888, a second story was added to the school house.

As the area, parish and school continued to grow, further additions were required. The 1960s saw considerable expansion as four additional classrooms, a library, a cafeteria with seating for over 400, and a gymnasium with a stage and seating for 800 were added.

Holy Childhood School has seen many changes throughout its 150 year history but it has always remained true to its core values of providing the highest quality of education while rooted in the teachings of the Catholic faith. Several generations of Holy Childhood graduates have stayed in town, raised families of their own and continued the growth of the community, parish and school. While other graduates may have moved to locations near or far, all have cherished their memories at Holy Childhood and been thankful for the sound educational foundation they received.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Holy Childhood Parish and the administration, faculty, staff and students of Holy Childhood School as they celebrate their 150th Anniversary.

TAX DAY

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, it's Tax Day in America, and once again millions have gone through the struggle of trying to figure out our complicated tax laws. Our tax code is far too complicated and unwieldy.

The IRS' Taxpayer Advocate stated, "The [Tax] Code has grown so long that it has become challenging even to figure out how long it is." A 2001 study put the number of words at 1.3 million. A 2005 report put the number of words at 2.1 million. The Taxpayer Advocate's search of the tax code turned up 3.7 million

words. The tax code has more than tripled since 1975.

It is estimated that individual taxpayers spent 3.8 billion hours complying with federal income tax laws. The IRS reported that individuals spent \$29 billion in 2009 for tax software, tax preparers, and other expenses to filing their returns.

We need real tax reform in our country. We need a simplified tax code that ensures that everyone pays their fair share and a tax code that is easily understood without excessive complexities.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF KENDALL L. MANOCK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Kendall L. Manock. Ken was a pillar in the legal community and a valued civic leader that will be sorely missed.

After attending Fresno High and Fresno State College, he studied law at the University of California at Berkeley's Boalt Hall, graduating in 1954. Upon returning to Fresno, Ken made his mark at an established Fresno law firm that traces its roots to the turn of the previous century. Ken Manock and Jack Baker built the firm into one of the premier law firms in the Central Valley: Baker, Manock & Jensen. Ken became a nationally recognized expert on agricultural marketing orders and the taxation of agricultural cooperatives. Mr. Manock was the firm's managing partner for decades. He was aware of every aspect of the firm's business and proved to be an effective leader through the years.

Mr. Manock mentored several generations of attorneys at Baker, Manock & Jensen. He taught hard work and keen analysis by example, as he was always willing and able to talk out a difficult legal problem in any subject. He was a brilliant legal tactician and constantly strove for excellence in the practice of the legal profession.

Ken was a longtime board member of Community Medical Centers. He was instrumental in founding the Fresno Heart Hospital, a Community joint venture with physicians that opened in 2003, and the expansion of the Henry Madden Library at California State University, Fresno.

As a loving husband, Ken enjoyed traveling with his wife of more than 50 years, Doris. He will be missed by his children, grandchildren and great-grandchild. Ken was proud to see his son Charlie Manock join the law firm, where his extended legal family will certainly miss his fatherly guidance.

Kendall Manock was part of a generation that endured incredible hardships and sacrifices to make America a better place. Mr. Manock will be remembered for his commitment to his family, our community, the practice of law and the lives he so graciously touched. I am honored and humbled to join his family and the citizens of the San Joaquin Valley in celebrating the life of an amazing man.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER ESCAMBIA COUNTY, ALABAMA COMMISSIONER WILLIAM AMERICA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a groundbreaking public servant, businessman and beloved church member in Escambia County, Alabama, who passed away on April 3 at the age of 77.

Over the course of his long life in south Alabama, William America, Sr. epitomized hard work and community service. At an early age, he followed his heart to serve the Lord. He later carried that same devotion into his careers as a local businessman and public servant.

A native of Camden, Alabama, William America settled in Atmore in 1945 with his parents. An active member of his church choir, he formed his own quartet at the age of 15. After starting a family with his wife, he spent decades reaching out to the people of Atmore and Escambia County through his many activities.

William America was the manager and owner of America's Superfood store and also served on the United Bank Board of Directors. But being a businessman was only the beginning for Mr. America.

He was president and founder of the United Civic Club, president of the Escambia County Branch of the Alabama Democratic Conference (ADC), president of the Progressive Civic and Recreational Club (PCRC), and a member of the NAACP, the Hospital Board and the Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. America didn't stop there, however. He also took to the airwaves as a broadcaster on a local religious radio station where he had a considerable audience.

Above all, William America is best known for another of his public activities—serving as Escambia County's first African American County Commissioner. Commissioner America spent eight years in office, four of which as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Commissioner America left a large imprint on the lives of his community through his uncommon devotion to serve his fellow man.

I wish to extend my condolences to his wife, Pauline Powers America, and their five children, Shirley Jean Williams, Cynthia Paulette (Alton) Williams, William America, Jr., James (Lesa) America, and Ellen (Manuel) Valenzuela, and their entire family.

IN HONOR OF GLENN A. ADAMS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 15, 2010

Mr. SESSIONS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Glenn A. Adams, the current President of the National Eagle Scout Association (NESA).

Since taking over as NESA President in 2008, Glenn's dedication and leadership has strengthened the organization through innovative outreach efforts and a variety of events, expanding the community of Eagle Scouts. On