

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL WAYNE MARRIOTT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Michael Wayne Marriott, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Michael has been very active with his troop, participating in Scout activities like Camp Geiger. Over the 9 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as Librarian, Den Chief, Patrol Leader and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster. Michael also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with the award of the Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Michael constructed picnic tables for the Missouri Department of Conservation for use by the public at the Poosey Conservation Area near Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Michael Wayne Marriott for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INDIA EXPELS MISSIONARY AFTER HE IS SEVERELY BEATEN BY HINDU RADICALS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was outraged to learn that a Christian missionary, Joseph Cooper, an American, was recently expelled from India. You see, Mr. Cooper came to the Indian government's attention after its radical, violent Hindu nationalist allies beat him so badly that he spent a week in an Indian hospital. He was expelled from the country on leaving the hospital.

Mr. Cooper was expelled simply for preaching, in another demonstration of the religious intolerance that characterizes India's "secular democracy." India has also demonstrated its secularism and tolerance when states ruled by the ruling BJP, such as Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, enacted laws prohibiting anyone from changing his or her religion, unless the person is changing to Hinduism. A Cabinet minister said that everyone who lives in India must either be Hindu or be subservient to Hindus.

The expulsion of Mr. Cooper brings to mind the disturbing case of Graham Staines, an Australian missionary who was burned to death along with his two young sons while they slept in their jeep. After this murder, Mr.

Staines's widow was also expelled from India. A mob set fire to the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. Since Christmas 1998, nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, schools and prayer halls have been attacked, and other acts of violence against Christians have been committed. Over 200,000 Christians in predominantly Christian Nagaland have been murdered by the Indian government.

It would be bad enough if Christians were the only victims of this violent radicalism, Mr. Speaker, but they are not. Sikhs, Muslims, and other minorities are also being victimized and terrorized. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been murdered by the Indian government since 1984. Two reports have confirmed that Indian forces killed 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithisinghpura in March 2000. Indian forces were caught red-handed trying to burn down a Gurdwara (a Sikh place of worship) and some Sikh homes in a village in Kashmir. 52,268 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners, according to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR.) Some of them have been in this illegal detention since 1984! I am proud to have been a signer and sponsor of a letter to President Bush last year asking him to help free these political prisoners. In addition to over 52,000 Sikhs, tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International.

Between 2,000 and 5,000 Muslims were murdered in Gujarat last spring. According to Indian newspapers, the police were ordered to stand aside and do nothing to stop the massacre, in an eerie parallel to the 1984 Delhi massacre of Sikhs. The Indian press also reported that the Indian government planned the Gujarat massacre in advance. Over 85,000 Muslims have been murdered in Kashmir. In addition, tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities have been killed by the Indian government.

Mr. Speaker, all of these acts have either been carried out by government forces or by radical Hindu nationalists who are part of the umbrella organization known as the RSS, which was formed in support of the Fascists. The ruling BJP is the political arm of the RSS. This is unacceptable. America must take a stand. We must work to stop these killings and attacks and to get all political prisoners freed. It is time to cut off our aid and trade with India and we should pass a resolution in support of self-determination for the Sikh homeland of Punjab, Khalistan, for Kashmir, Nagaland, and everyone else seeking freedom from radical Hindu repression. The essence of democracy is the right to self-determination. As the leader of the democratic world, we must hold India to these standards of true democracy. Only then will everyone in South Asia live in freedom, dignity, prosperity, and peace.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place an article from *The Hindu* on Mr. Cooper into the RECORD at this time.

U.S. MISSIONARY ATTACKED

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, Jan. 14.—A 60-year-old American national and Protestant missionary, Joseph Cooper, was grievously injured when he was attacked by a 10-member armed gang of suspected RSS activists near a gospel convention venue at the Koppam Harijan colony in the Kilimanoor police station limits near here late on Monday night.

Police said that seven other persons, including a preacher and his family accompanying Mr. Cooper, were also injured in the attack. Mr. Cooper, hailing from New Castle in the U.S., sustained a deep cut on his right palm. He is under treatment at a private hospital here.

Mr. Cooper had come to Kilimanoor to speak at the Koppam Protestant Convention organised by the Puliyaam Friends Bible Church. He and his fellow church members were waylaid by the armed gang while they were being escorted back to their vehicles from the convention venue at around 9:45 p.m., police said.

The assailants first exploded a cracker to create panic. They detained the missionary and other preachers for a few minutes before attacking them with short sticks, swords and crowbars.

Among those injured are the preacher Benson (37), his wife, Sali Benson, children Joy and Judith, Jayakumar and Mercy Christudas. Police said the attackers fled when other church members rushed to the rescue of Mr. Cooper. The injured were rushed to the Medical College Hospital.

In a statement to police, Mr. Benson alleged that the attack was carried out by local RSS workers led by an autorickshaw driver. Police have arrested Raju (34), a former Kilimanoor RSS functionary.

The Circle-Inspector (Kilimanoor), D. Rajagopal, said there was no history of communal discord at the Koppam Harijan colony where about 60 families lived. Some of the families practised both the Christian and Hindu faith.

When contacted, the SP (Rural), T.K. Vinod Kumar, said that police raids were on to arrest the rest of the accused. RSS and BJP workers, meanwhile, took out a march to the Kilimanoor police station demanding the release of those arrested. When contacted, the RSS Jilla saha karyavah, R. Santhosh, said that his organisation had nothing to do with the attack. He alleged that the speeches made by the U.S. missionary and other preachers at the convention were "communally inflammatory" and "insulting to practitioners of the Hindu faith".

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, our Nation and the entire world mourn the passing of the crew of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*. They were brave

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

individuals committed to challenging the limits of our knowledge and to the advancement of humanity. These brave souls have left us, but their spirit will remain forever.

Our Nation will always remember these heroes—Commander Rick D. Husband, Pilot William C. McCool, Payload Commander Michael P. Anderson, Mission Specialist David M. Brown, Mission Specialist Kalpana Chawla, Mission Specialist Laurel Blair Salton Clark, and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon. I ask the Almighty to guard the souls of these greatest examples of humanity, and that they be loved and remembered with the deepest of gratitude and admiration for their dedication to advancing our understanding of the universe and discovering ways that science can improve our lives.

Thanks to missions like that of the Space Shuttle *Columbia*, we live, you might say, in a completely different universe than we did a generation ago, and our children will live in a totally different universe in their adulthood than we do now. We forge this path of progress from the sacrifices of brave souls like the crew of the *Columbia*. It is at times of grief that we find the higher purpose in our lives—our faith in God, love of family, and a dedication to the advancement of humanity.

We find ourselves conflicted by the pain of losing some of the greatest examples of humanity and overcoming our fear of breaking from the shell of our known universe and receiving with open arms the wealth of knowledge that awaits us. In the end, we must surrender to our scientific impulse and our restless, altogether human curiosity about the physical universe. We are incapable of nothing, and, like the universe and the love in our hearts, our future is without limits.

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS JORDAN HAGER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Nicholas Jordan Hager, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Nicholas has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch, the Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada and the National Scouting Museum. Over the 9 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide, assistant senior patrol leader and junior assistant scoutmaster. Nicholas also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miler Award and the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Nicholas constructed an ornamental garden wall at the west side of the south entrance of Danner Park in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Nicholas Jordan Hager for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, these brave men and women, representing the best of America and the world, gave the greatest sacrifice for the betterment of humanity. They knew the risks of their heroic enterprise. Their courage is the finest example of human aspirations, of reaching up to create an undreamed-of future. They are true heroes. They pushed the limits of technological and human potential and in doing so inspired our Nation and the world. Their memories will long endure.

Imagine a world with less air pollution, less dependence on oil, new fire suppression technologies, better earthquake resistant buildings, better weather prediction models, and better medical techniques to fight cancer, diabetes, and antibiotic resistance. This is the world the astronauts aboard *Columbia* were striving for. By carrying out more than 80 scientific experiments to expand our knowledge in these and other fields, the seven astronauts were tackling today's big issues with big science. They were pushing scientific boundaries to provide clues to issues we have been unable to resolve here on Earth.

In my district resides the NASA Glenn Research Center, whose scientists were well acquainted with the seven shuttle astronauts who we lost in this tragedy. The crewmembers had traveled to Glenn several times a year for training on the scientific experiments. They were family to our NASA researchers in Cleveland.

In their memory, we will push forward. We will continue to apply big science to resolve our big challenges. The scientists in Cleveland's NASA Glenn Research Center and across the Nation will strive for better solutions out of respect for the crew of *Columbia*. May they rest in peace.

SIKH LAWYER'S REFUSAL TO RE- MOVE TURBAN HELPS TO EX- PAND CIVIL RIGHTS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on January 28, the New York Times ran an article about New Jersey lawyer Ravinder Singh Bhalla. Mr. Bhalla won a significant victory for civil rights when he got the rules changed regarding searches at our prisons.

Mr. Bhalla went to visit a client at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn, where I am from. The guards would not let him in because he refused to remove his turban. Mr. Bhalla informed the guards that the turban is

not a hat, but is a religious symbol required of all observant Sikhs. Mr. Bhalla is of the Sikhs faith. He cited his first amendment right to practice his religion and his fourth amendment protection against unreasonable searches, nothing that he had already passed through the metal detector. He also cited his client's sixth amendment right to see his lawyer, a right that could not be exercised unless Mr. Bhalla was allowed into the prison.

Mr. Bhalla took his case to the Federal District Court in Newark. Then on January 17, the Federal Bureau of Prisons changed the policy, saying that turbans, prayer shawls, yarmulkes, and other religious items do not have to be searched. I commend the Bureau of Prisons for this enlightened decision, and I commend Mr. Bhalla for taking a stand on principle. By doing so, he has raised awareness of the rights of the Sikhs in this country and made all Americans more conscious of civil rights for all members of our diverse society.

Sikhs have been subjected to attacks and violence in the wake of the horrible September 11 attacks. A Sikh gas station operator was murdered in his gas station in Arizona simply because he wore a turban. All in all, there have been over 300 attacks on Sikhs. These attacks stem mostly from ignorance coupled with Americans' legitimate anger at the events of September 11. Because Osama bin Laden wears a turban, some ignorant people assume that anyone who wears a turban is a terrorist and an enemy of this country. Nothing could be further from the truth, as Mr. Bhalla showed us. There are over 500,000 Sikhs in this country and they are proud Americans who contribute in all walks of life from law and medicine to farming. One Sikh American, Dalip Singh Saund, served two terms in the House in the late fifties and early sixties.

African-Americans have been through the civil rights struggle; in some ways we are still fighting it. As Mr. Bhalla says, Sikhs are going through many of the same things. By taking a stand for his rights, Mr. Bhalla has expanded Americans' awareness of Sikhs and expanded our tolerance as a society, something that benefits us all.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the New York Times article on Mr. Bhalla into the RECORD.

[From the New York Times, Jan. 28, 2003]

HOW ONE MAN TOOK A STAND AND CHANGED
FEDERAL POLICY TOWARD THE SIKH COMMUNITY

(By Ronald Smothers)

NEWARK, Jan. 27.—When guards at Brooklyn's Metropolitan Detention Center demanded last September that a Newark lawyer let them search his turban before being admitted to visit a client, they may have not have known much about the traditions of his Sikh faith.

"To a Sikh, removing his turban in public is the same as a strip-search and as intrusive as asking a woman to remove her blouse," said the lawyer, Ravinder Singh Bhalla.

But Mr. Bhalla, 29, knew quite a bit about the traditions of American law. Born in New Jersey of immigrant parents and educated at the University of California, the London School of Economics and Tulane University Law School, he knew his rights and was not afraid to list them, one by one.

There was his First Amendment right to practice his religion, including the ritual public wearing of the head covering, he told the guards. Then he expounded on his Fourth

Amendment right against unreasonable searches, since he had already passed through the metal detector without setting off alarms. Finally there was his client's Sixth Amendment right to the lawyer of his choice—a right that could be exercised only if Mr. Bhalla forfeited his own rights.

Mr. Bhalla refused to remove his turban, and the guards refused to let him in. But on Jan. 17, the federal Bureau of Prisons issued a clarification of its search policy, after Mr. Bhalla asserted all of these rights in Federal District Court here, before the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Justice in Washington and, armed with letters of support from a host of Sikh groups, directly to the Bureau of Prisons hierarchy.

Dan Dunn, a spokesman for the bureau, said that religious garments like turbans, prayer shawls or yarmulkes need not be considered part of the routine searches of personal effects that prison guards must make of visitors. They could be searched, he said, if there is a "reasonable suspicion that the person is about to engage in or is engaging in criminal activity."

What Mr. Dunn described as a simple clarification of policy is being hailed as a milestone by Mr. Bhalla and others. They say that by treating searches of religious garments as distinct from other personal-effects searches and subjecting them to stricter requirements, the agency is recognizing their intrusiveness.

"This marks a significant improvement in agency policy," said Harpreet Singh, the director of the Sikh Coalition, an amalgam of groups representing the nation's estimated 500,000 Sikhs. The group was founded just after Sept. 11, 2001, when many Sikhs found themselves the objects of suspicion at airports and elsewhere.

Since the terror attacks, he said, his group has won concessions from the federal Department of Transportation on airport security searches of Sikhs, given the faith's prohibitions against removing turbans, as well as the requirement among the more devout that they carry a "kirpan," or dagger.

Under the department's revised procedures, turbans will not be searched unless there is a positive reading on a metal detector. For their part, Sikh groups have agreed that it is legitimate to require those carrying daggers to secure the items in their checked luggage.

"But the broader significance of all of this is that we are educating a broader range of people about Sikhs and our rights," Mr. Singh said.

Sikhism, a monotheistic religion, dates back to the 15th century in the Punjab region of what is now India. Its doctrine has evolved through a succession of prophets or gurus, and in an atmosphere of persecution by the larger numbers of Hindus and Muslims in South Asia. One of Sikhism's main requirements is that adherents not cut their hair, which is considered a visible testament to their connection with their creator, especially in times of persecution.

Mr. Bhalla said many people mistakenly believe that the Sikh turban is a hatlike garment molded in one piece. It is actually a long swath of cotton, 3 feet by more than 15 feet, which takes Mr. Bhalla 15 minutes each morning to fold and carefully wind onto his head.

In taking on Mr. Bhalla at the gates of the Metropolitan Detention Center, guards may have picked the wrong person, said Gerald Krovatin, a New Jersey criminal lawyer in whose firm Mr. Bhalla works. Mr. Krovatin said that last November his colleague was one of the founding members of the national Sikh Bar Association and the only one among the estimated 50 Sikh lawyers in the country who is a criminal litigator.

Perhaps the seminal moment for Mr. Bhalla came in a federal courtroom in New-

ark when he was just 13. He and his father were attending a hearing for two Sikh community leaders whom the United States attorney's office was trying to extradite to India as suspected terrorists.

Mr. Bhalla recalled that SWAT teams and snipers were stationed outside the court, and plainclothes agents shadowed his and his father's every step because the judge and the prosecutor had reported receiving death threats. It turned out that the prosecutor in the case was the one sending the death threats, apparently in an effort to heighten the sense of danger.

Mr. Bhalla said the incident taught him how "ridiculous" stereotyping and prejudice could be.

"Right now Sikhs are going through some of the same things that African-Americans went through, and like them we are learning the importance of having some political power and knowing how the system works," he said. "But we are just starting."

TRIBUTE TO AARON MARK DUNN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Aaron Mark Dunn, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Aaron has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch and the Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada. Over the 6 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide and junior assistant scoutmaster. Aaron also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miler Award and the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Aaron renovated, repaired and painted the Wheeling Municipal Ball Park in Wheeling, Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Aaron Mark Dunn for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INTRODUCING GUEST CHAPLAIN,
PASTOR BARRY COOK, AMBASSADOR FAMILY CHURCH, OCEANSIDE, CA

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to introduce our guest chaplain, Senior Pastor Barry Cook, of the Ambassador Family Church in Oceanside, California.

Pastor Barry Cook was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. He attended Logos Christian College and has a doctorate in Ministry, Christian Leadership, and Church Growth. Dr. Cook has been a full-time minister for almost 20 years.

Pastor Cook is joined today by his wife Terri, whom he has been married to for 13 years. He is also joined by his daughter, Joy, who is a fourth grader at Vista Christian School.

After opening its doors seven years ago, Ambassador Family Church has quickly grown to approximately 800 attending members. Pastor Cook has been very active in outreach efforts to the community through local food and clothing distribution, financial recovery seminars, leadership classes and marriage and family counseling.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chaplain Coughlin for his invitation to Pastor Cook to offer the invocation. I would also like to thank the Cooks for traveling to our Nation's capital to be with us today.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues and all America in extending heartfelt sympathy and sincere appreciation to the families of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* crew and the entire NASA family. We are honored by the sacrifices these families have made supporting their loved ones in the space program.

When the *Columbia* did not return as scheduled on February 1, 2003, the former employees of a now closed aerospace plant, as well as the local residents, felt a particularly painful loss. Key portions of the mighty Space Shuttle *Columbia* were built in my Congressional District at the former Rockwell International plant in the City of Downey.

Years before most Americans would become familiar with NASA's space shuttle program, construction of *Columbia* was in full swing at the Rockwell plant in Downey. The crew modules, the rear fuselage and the forward reaction control system were all constructed locally with dozens of subcontractors contributing to the effort. At its peak, the project employed 14,000 local residents.

The men and women who helped build the *Columbia* took great pride in their labor and in each of the shuttle's successful flights. It was their work that built the shuttle, that put it and its crew in space and that safely brought them all home again. For them, the *Columbia* truly was a labor of both love and pride.

Losing the *Columbia* was a particularly emotional blow for workers of the former shuttle-manufacturing plant since they had also worked on the Space Shuttle *Challenger*. For the people of Downey and the former employees of Rockwell, the crews of the *Columbia* and the *Challenger* will forever have a special place in their hearts and in the history of the city.

I commend Downey's civic and business leaders for their current efforts to utilize the now-empty birthplace of the early shuttles as the linchpin of their economic revitalization efforts. Their plans to include a space museum

and learning center on this site to honor the crew of the *Columbia* and to remember the important role this great city played in the history of our Nation's aerospace program is now all the more appropriate and poignant. The *Columbia* and the *Challenger* will live on for local residents and visitors alike when the space museum is built.

Mr. Speaker, today we are all humbled by the ultimate sacrifice the courageous men and women of the *Columbia* made on behalf of their Nation. I salute the crew of *Columbia* and the men and women of my district who helped build the shuttle and deliver it into space and into history.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTOPHER
PHILLIP THISTLETHWAITE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Christopher Phillip Thistlethwaite, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Christopher has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere, the National Scouting Museum, Atikokan Canoe Base in Canada and the Philmont Scout Ranch. Over the 11 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as librarian, quartermaster, assistant patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader and the junior assistant scoutmaster. Christopher also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with the awards of the Tom-Tom Beater in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award and the 50 Miller Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Christopher constructed an ornamental garden and wall at the east side of the south entrance of Danner Park in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Christopher Phillip Thistlethwaite for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

BURN AWARENESS WEEK

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Burn Awareness Week. Burn Awareness Week is February 2-8, and provides an opportunity to educate children and families about the risks that lead to unfortunate and tragic accidents, particularly for the youngest and most vulnerable—our babies and children.

Unfortunately, infants and young children face greater risks from burn injuries than adults or older children. They rely more on the

adults around them to ensure their environment is safe and free from potential burn-causing hazards. That is why in addition to treating over 20 percent of all pediatric burns in the Nation at their four national burn centers in Boston, Galveston, Cincinnati and Sacramento, Shriners Hospitals focus on education and prevention of burn injuries.

The Shriners Hospitals for Children is a unique charitable organization that has never sought nor received federal, state, local or third party funding of any kind. Additionally, Shriners Hospitals are distinctive in that they offer full physical, psychological, and emotional care to all the children they treat.

The annual budget for the 22 orthopaedic and burn hospitals totals over half a billion dollars, and has an active patient roster of over 156,000 children. It is obvious how important the Shriners Hospitals are to the health of our children. The Shriners Hospitals are 100 percent free, despite the fact that they will spend \$1.5 million dollars on children every 24 hours in 2003.

In recognition of Burn Awareness Week, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to commend such charitable organizations as the Shriners Hospitals that contribute greatly to the care, education, and research necessary to treat and work to prevent children's burn accidents. I also intend to support the Shriners Hospitals' efforts by sponsoring a bill that will help to prevent burn accidents by strengthening the flammability standards for children's sleepwear. I hope my colleagues will help to support me in this effort.

HONORING WILLARD HUNTER
HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Willard Hunter, M.D., Clinical Director of Open Door Community Health Centers, Humboldt County, California, honoring 25 years dedicated to family practice medicine in Northern California.

Dr. Hunter received his BA with honors in Economics from Harvard University in 1970. In 1974 he graduated from the medical school of the University of California, Los Angeles and went on to complete his residency in Family Practice medicine at the University of California, Davis. He is Board Certified in Family Practice and Geriatric Medicine.

In an outstanding career dedicated to patient care, Bill Hunter has served as Medical Director, Redwoods Rural Health Center; Chief of Staff, Southern Humboldt Community Hospital and Clinical Director, Open Door Community Health Centers. In addition, he conducted teaching preceptorships for students of the University of California at Davis, Santa Rosa Community Hospital and Stanford University Medical Center.

Through his leadership and medical direction, Dr. Hunter plays a role in the care of one out of every four residents of the North Coast. During his career, he has personally provided more than 100,000 medical visits to 10,000 individuals. In addition to his medical skills, he is a fine athlete, a great fiddle player and a devoted father.

Dr. Hunter is widely admired and respected by his colleagues, patients and co-workers for his professional knowledge and skill and his open and friendly manner.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Dr. Willard Hunter for his devotion to the practice of medicine and for his exceptional contributions and service to the people of California.

TRIBUTE TO LUCAS JAMES
CALVIN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lucas James Cavin, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lucas has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout Activities as Camp Geiger, Cosmosphere and the Philmont Scout Ranch. Over the 9 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as assistant patrol leader, patrol leader troop guide, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide and junior assistant scoutmaster. Lucas also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with such awards as the 50 Miller Award and the Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Lucas chose to complete an outside accessible enclosed break area for the staff and visitors of Hedrick Medical Center in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lucas James Cavin for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF
THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES
OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE
SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, as the Nation mourns the loss of seven brave men and women, I rise in support of H. Res. 51, a resolution expressing condolences to the families of the crew of the *Columbia* space shuttle, who perished this past weekend.

On February 1, 2003, the country watched in horror as the space shuttle *Columbia* broke up over Texas. Astronauts have a special dedication to their jobs, community and fellow man. They go up into space to meet scientific challenges for all of us here on Earth, in spite of the risks. To do this, they train hard physically, mentally and emotionally—they are the consummate professionals. They are fearless men and women.

Space shuttle mission STS-107 was the 28th flight of the shuttle *Columbia*, and the

113th shuttle mission to date. Its mission was to provide 70 international scientists access to both the environment of space, and set of seven human researchers for 16 days. The astronauts on board worked 24 hours a day in alternating shifts, to carry out important experiments in the areas of astronaut health and safety, advanced technology development and Earth and space sciences. The work the astronauts were doing included experiments to help further progress in combating prostate cancer, to develop techniques to improve efficiency of anti-cancer drugs, to strengthen construction techniques for structures in areas where earthquakes are common, testing technology to recycle water, and to improve crop yield.

On February 1, 2003, we began the day awaiting the return of the *Columbia* shuttle. We could not wait to congratulate the crew of seven on their performances and achievements. These men and women made an excellent effort on this extremely important mission. They made America proud. We all held our breaths when we lost contact with the shuttle, and then watched in disbelief and horror when we saw the remnants of the shuttle over the skies of Texas.

I support this Resolution, which reminds us all of what a difficult job astronauts have, and the sacrifices their families make. I am proud to honor the lives lost, as well as those who continue to work tirelessly and courageously, as well as their families. The prayers of the Nation are with our lost seven and their families.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE TO THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, the tragic loss of the Shuttle *Columbia* is a sobering reminder of the risks of space exploration. We mourn the loss of the dedicated crew, but are grateful for their courage and commitment to exploring new frontiers.

As we search for answers, we must keep in mind that the U.S. space program has had many successes. In little more than a generation, we have pursued some of humankind's grandest dreams.

Space exploration has always been a source of excitement and awe. It has allowed us to marshal our Nation's determination, resources and tremendous talents—nowhere more so than in Southern California's South Bay, which I proudly represent.

Thousands of scientists, engineers, technicians and others in my district have dedicated their lives—first to President Kennedy's goal of sending a person to the moon and back—and then to the myriad of inhabited-flight, satellite and space exploration programs.

Having dedicated such talent and ingenuity, my constituents are all the more heartbroken when the space program suffers such a shocking and sudden loss. Poignant is the fact that one of the astronauts aboard the ill-fated *Challenger* in 1986 was a resident of Hermosa Beach, in my district. Such events make the sky a lot darker.

Shakespeare wrote in "Romeo and Juliet:"

When he shall die take him and cut him out
into stars
and he shall make the face of heaven so fine
that all
the world will be in love with night and pay
no worship
to the garish sun.

The Shuttle *Columbia* astronauts undoubtedly would have urged us to carry on—neither disheartened nor undaunted. To their family, friends and space community colleagues, my staff and I extend our heartfelt condolences. In the same spirit in which they carried out their mission, we rededicate ourselves to the goal of the peaceful exploration of space—to the technological and intellectual challenge it presents—and to the benefits such adventure brings all human kind.

TRIBUTE TO CLINTON PAUL MACOUBRIE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Clinton Paul Macoubrie, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 120, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Clinton has been very active with his troop, participating in such Scout activities as Camp Geiger and CosmoSphere. Over the 8 years he has been involved in Scouting, he has held numerous leadership positions, serving as patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader and junior assistant scoutmaster. Clinton also has been honored for his numerous Scouting achievements with the award of the Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say Award.

For his Eagle Scout project, Clinton constructed an ornamental garden and flower bed at the main entrance of Simpson Park in Chillicothe, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Clinton Paul Macoubrie for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT HARASSES WEBSITE THAT EXPOSED CORRUPTION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the website www.tehelka.com exposed the fundamental corruption of the Indian government. They did a video expose showing high-ranking government officials, including the Defense Minister, as well as the President of the ruling BJP, taking bribes. At that time, it was recording 30 million hits a week. It was quite embarrassing for the Indian government.

On January 6, The Guardian reported that the Indian government has struck back at tehelka.com. It has harassed their contribu-

tors. It sent its agents to investigate [tehelka](http://tehelka.com), searching its offices and harassing its workers. The website has had to reduce the staff from 120 people to four. All the office furniture has been sold and the site is scraping for money. Clearly the government has set out to destroy tehelka.com, and it appears to be succeeding. Meanwhile, the corrupt officials they exposed are still in their posts.

This shows that India is intolerant of free speech and free journalism. It reminds me of the old joke; "You have every right to your own opinion as long as it agrees with mine." That's the state of free speech and the free press in India. Freedom of speech and freedom of the press are cornerstones of a democracy, along with the right to self-determination. The government campaign to shut down tehelka.com is another piece of evidence that India, despite its claims, is not a democracy but an authoritarian police state.

Mr. Speaker, why are U.S. taxpayers—your constituents and mine—being asked to pay taxes to support this kind of radical, fundamentalist tyranny? We should stop our aid to India until real freedom exists there, including the right of a free press, the right to freely practice any religion a person chooses without the threat of being killed by the government and without anti-conversion laws, and the right of all the peoples of the subcontinent to decide their futures in a free and fair vote. We should work for self-determination, which is a basic right, by promoting a plebiscite on the question of independence in Christian Nagaland, Muslim Kashmir, the Sikh homeland of Punjab, Khalistan, and wherever else it is sought. And we should demand the release of all political prisoners in India and an end to its sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. America is a free country. We seek freedom not just for ourselves, but for all people of the world. These measures will help secure the blessings of liberty to all the people of the world's most troubled region and allow them to enjoy the glow of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I am inserting the Guardian article on the [tehelka](http://tehelka.com) situation into the RECORD at this time.

[From the Guardian, Jan. 6, 2003]

WEBSITE PAYS PRICE FOR INDIAN BRIBERY EXPOSE

(By Luke Harding)

Tarun Tejpal is sitting amid the ruins of his office. There is not much left—a few dusty chairs, three computers and a forlorn air-conditioning unit. "We have sold virtually everything. I've even flogged the air conditioner," he says dolefully.

Twenty months ago Tejpal, editor in chief of tehelka.com, an investigative website, was the most feted journalist in India. He had just broken one of the biggest stories in the country's history—an exposé of corruption at the highest levels of government.

His reporters, posing as arms salesmen, had bribed their way into the home of the defence minister, George Fernandes, and handed over £3,000 to one of the minister's colleagues. The journalists found many other people prepared to take money—senior army officers, bureaucrats, even the president of the ruling Bharatiya Janata party, who was filmed shovelling the cash into his desk.

The scandal was deeply embarrassing for the BJP prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Mr. Vajpayee sacked Mr. Fernandes and ordered a commission of inquiry.

The scandal promoted a mood of national catharsis, and congratulations poured in

from ordinary Indians tired of official corruption. Tehelka, which had only been launched in June 2000, was receiving 30 million hits a week. But the glory did not last.

"I had expected a battle. But we had not anticipated its scale," Tejpal said yesterday. "The propaganda was started the next day."

Nearly two years later, he has been forced to lay off all but four of his 120 staff. He has got deeply into debt, sold the office furniture and scrounged money from friends. "They drop by for dinner and leave a cheque behind."

The website, which once boasted sites on news, literature, sport and erotica, is "virtually defunct". George Fernandes, meanwhile, is again the defence minister.

The saga is a depressing example of how the Kafkaesque weight of government can be used to crush those who challenge its methods.

In the aftermath of the scandal, the Hindu nationalist-led government "unleashed" the inland revenue, the enforcement directorate and the intelligence bureau, India's answer to M15, on Tehelka's office in suburban south Delhi.

They did not find anything. Frustrated, the officials started tearing apart the website's investors. Tehelka's financial backer, Shanker Sharma, was thrown in jail without charge. Detectives also held Aniruddha Bahal, the reporter who carried out the exposé, and a colleague, Kumar Badal. Badal is still in prison.

"It got to the stage that I used to count the number of booze bottles in my house to make sure there wasn't one more than the legal quota," Tejpal recalls.

The government commission set up to investigate Operation West-End, Tehelka's sting, meanwhile, started behaving very strangely. "The commission didn't cross-examine a single person found guilty of corruption. It was astonishing," said Tejpal. Instead, it spent its days rubbing Tehelka's journalistic methods.

The official campaign of vilification against the website has attracted protests from a few of India's prominent liberal commentators, such as the veteran diplomat Kuldip Nayar and the respected columnist Tavleen Singh. Tehelka's literary supporters, who include Salman Rushdie, Amitav Ghosh and VS Naipaul, Tejpal: Kafkaesque situation have also expressed their outrage. But in general, India's civil society has reacted with awkwardness and embarrassment to the website's plight.

"I read all of Franz Kafka when I was 19 and 20, but I only understand him now," Tejpal wrote in a recent essay in the magazine Seminar. "He accurately intuited that all power is essentially implacable and malign."

The treatment of the web-site's investors has scared away anybody else from pumping money into Tehelka. The company owes £620,000.

Mr. Vajpayee's rightwing government has bounced back from the scandal and is ex-

pected to win the next general election in 2004. Last month, it won a landslide victory in elections in the riot-hit western state of Gujarat after campaigning on a virtually fascist anti-Muslim platform.

The murky world of arms dealing goes on. Tony Blair and his ministers are still trying to persuade the Indian government to buy 77 British-made Hawk jet trainers, but the billion-pound deal remains mysteriously stuck over the price.

Tehelka's exposé was not about "individuals", but about "systemic corruption", Tejpal insists. He admits that his sting operation would have gone down badly with any government, but says that the BJP's response was venomous.

"The degree of pettiness has been extraordinary. They have a crude understanding of power and a lot of that stems from the fact they are in power for the first time. Our struggle is emblematic of a wider issue: can media organizations be killed off when they criticize governments."

The gloomy answer appears to be yes.

Last night Balbir Punj, a leading BJP member of parliament, claimed the government had nothing to do with the website's collapse. "Just because you do a story exposing the government doesn't mean the gods make you immortal," he said. "Many other [internet] portals have closed down. The boom is over."