

Washington. He was assigned as Commander, Fort Myer Military Police Company, Fort Myer, Virginia, when selected.

Captain Timothy H. Stevenson. Captain Stevenson represents the U.S. Army Medical Command. He was assigned as Commander, Company C, Academy Battalion, U.S. Army Medical Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, when selected.

Captain Eugene F. Swisher. Captain Swisher represents the U.S. Army Reserves. He was assigned as Information Management Systems Project Officer, Army Reserve Personnel Center, St. Louis, Missouri, when selected.

Captain James E. Taylor. Captain Taylor represents the U.S. Army National Guard. He was assigned as Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, Boone, Iowa, when selected.

Captain John K. Tien. Captain Tien represents the U.S. Army Forces Command. He was assigned as Commander, Company D, 3rd Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 2nd Armored Division, Fort Hood, Texas, when selected.

Captain Frank Zachar. Captain Zachar represents the U.S. Army Forces Command. He was assigned as Commander, Company B, 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kansas, when selected.

First Lieutenant Scott P. Belveal. Lieutenant Belveal represents the U.S. Army Europe. He was assigned as Battalion Maintenance Officer, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry, 3d Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany, when selected.

First Lieutenant Donna M. Bivona. Lieutenant Bivona represents the U.S. Army Reserve. She was assigned as Battalion S-2, 310th Military Police Battalion, Uniondale, New York, when selected.

#### 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ATTACK ON THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn observance of the 12th anniversary of the Indian Government's military assault on the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion, which took place from June 3-6, 1984. Thirty-eight other gurdwaras, Sikh temples were also attacked during the same operation. In all over 20,000 Sikhs were murdered during June 1984.

It is important to remember the particulars of this horrifying event because they help us to understand the complete disregard the Indian Government holds for the value of Sikh life. India planned the attack on the Golden Temple on the day of the martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev, the fifth Sikh Guru. India knew that the temple complex would be filled with pilgrims who were gathered there to observe this auspicious occasion. Before laying siege to the temple, the Indian Government took pains to remove all foreigners from the Punjab. A complete press block was implemented. Traffic in and out of Punjab was halted. Those caught in the Golden Temple had no means of getting information in or out.

Three wings of the Indian military were used: The army, the navy and the air force. These forces practiced well planned mock attacks at a model of the Golden Temple in

Chakrata for months before the attack. It is clear from the carnage inside the temple after the attack that soldiers were instructed to kill as many Sikhs as possible in the most ruthless manner. In one instance, it was reported by survivors that 100 children between the ages of 8 to 12 were lined up on the grounds of the Golden Temple and asked if they supported Sikh freedom from India. As each one answered in the affirmative, Indian security forces shot them dead at point blank range.

The Akal Takht, a separate building on the Golden Temple complex which represents the highest seat of spiritual and temporal authority for the Sikhs, was also attacked. Blasted with heavy mountain guns and tank artillery, the Akal Takht was set ablaze. Original, irreplaceable documents written in the hands of the Sikhs Gurus were destroyed. A library containing other priceless, original religious documents was also set ablaze.

The attack on the Golden Temple was no ordinary police action. It was an all-out military assault. How would Muslims feel if an army attacked Mecca? How would Christians feel if an army attacked the Vatican? Make no mistake about it, India's attack on the Golden Temple was an attempt to symbolically reinforce the Government total domination over the Sikhs. To put it another way, India simply wanted to show the Sikhs who was the boss.

But, India is now beginning to see the folly of its attack on the Golden Temple. Instead of submitting to the tyranny of the Indian Government, the Sikh nation is bravely waging a struggle for complete independence from India. Since the attack on the Golden Temple, Indian forces have killed over 150,000 Sikhs. Instructed by their religion to stand up against tyranny wherever it exists, Sikhs refuse to submit to the tyranny of the Indian Government. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh nation formally severed ties with India and declared themselves independent forming the separate country of Khalistan.

As we reflect on the horrible massacre of Sikhs, which took place in the Golden Temple complex 12 years ago, let us also look forward to the eventual freedom of the Sikh people. Throughout their history, Sikhs have faced grave injustice at the hands of tyrants. Sikhs possess an interminable spirit and cling tenaciously to the belief that out of the ashes of cataclysmic episodes like that of the Golden Temple attack they will emerge only stronger and more determined to fight the wrongs visited upon them. Sikhs earnestly want their freedom and they have sought our support. I support the independence of Khalistan and I urge my colleagues to support the independence of Khalistan as well.

#### EMPLOYEE COMMUTING FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 1996

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the minimum wage increase amendment to H.R. 1227, the Employee Commuting Flexibility Act. If America is to live up to its pledge of being a great nation that will provide every individual citizen an opportunity

to earn a decent living, we must raise the minimum wage. An increase in the minimum wage is the primary means of helping working Americans in today's society.

The current Federal minimum wage of \$4.25 per hour is at its lowest level in real terms in nearly 40 years. This devaluation of the minimum wage has kept millions of our Nation's workers at the poverty level. The loss of buying power is contributing to the growth of an underprivileged and underpaid class in America.

The 10 million Americans working at minimum wage would take home another \$1,800 a year if we approve this 90 cent increase for American workers. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates that if we raise the minimum wage, as many as 300,000 families could be lifted above the poverty line, including over 100,000 children.

Over 66 percent of minimum wage workers are adults and 40 percent of these adults are the sole providers for their families. Yet, despite these facts, detractors have charged that an increase would primarily benefit teens living at home.

IN 1989, the Congress faced a situation similar to the debate we now face. The minimum wage in 1989 was \$3.35 and its real value had fallen to its lowest level since 1955. Legislation was passed and signed by President Bush to increase the minimum wage by 90 cents. This legislation was supported on a bipartisan basis. It is time once again for Congress to step forward and protect the earning power of those at the bottom of the wage scale by raising the minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, it's been 5 years since America's minimum wage workers got a raise. The proposed minimum wage is a logical step in our efforts to enable families to be productive and self-supporting. The time has come for Members of Congress to take this one small step toward economic justice. I urge my colleagues to raise the minimum wage.

THANK YOU, DR. ERNIE DEAR

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 30, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, oftentimes on this floor, we are called upon to honor men and women who have graced our communities. And while it is right that we do that, occasionally we are confronted with the accomplishments of a particularly special person and find it hard to give the true measure of their work in just a few minutes.

That is how I feel today as I rise to pay tribute to Dr. R. Ernest Dear, a constituent and friend, who is retiring this year as president of St. Clair County Community College in Port Huron, MI. For four decades, as a teacher, principal, college president, and parent, Ernie Dear has worked tirelessly to improve educational opportunities for people in Michigan. In the process, he has inspired all of us who have had the privilege to work with him and served as a role model for educators and public servants everywhere.

Throughout his distinguished career, Ernie Dear has been recognized both in and out of the classroom as a leader, and somebody who has given of himself personally and professionally for the good of others. To know