

Singh Aulakh, president of the Council of Khalistan. Another is Dr. Ghulam Nabi Fai of the Kashmiri American Council. These two gentlemen do not advocate violence. They advocate peaceful, Democratic, nonviolent struggle for the freedom of their homelands, Khalistan and Kashmir. Yet, according to the Indian regime, they are terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, the people of America and the world, and the fair-minded, thinking Members of this Congress know better. The truth was revealed 3 years ago when the Indian newspaper *Hitvada* reported that the Indian regime paid the late Governor of Punjab, Surendra Nath, the equivalent of \$1.5 billion to create and then support covert state-sponsored terrorism, not only in Punjab, Khalistan, but in neighboring Kashmir as well. Yes, the country that is one of the five largest recipients of United States aid, the country that calls itself "the world's largest democracy," paid a public official \$1.5 billion to foment terrorism so that it could pit the freedom-loving people of Punjab, Khalistan, and Kashmir against each other. In view of this violent, divide-and-conquer tactic, I would ask the obvious question: Who are the real terrorists here? Clearly the real terrorist organization is the Government of India.

Mr. Speaker, there is no reason why the hard-working taxpayers of this country should be forced to support this brutal terrorist regime. We should cut off all aid to India, declare it a terrorist nation, and embrace the freedom movements in Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, Manipur, Assam, and throughout the occupied, oppressed nations of South Asia.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPHINE TRIPLETT

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, the African-American Network of Kern County hosted its seventh annual Community Awards Night on November 8, 1997 and selected several outstanding Kern County citizens in recognition of their lifelong efforts to improve the way of life that thousands of people, young and old, black and white enjoy.

The recipient of this year's Frederick Douglas Leadership Award is Mrs. Josephine Triplett, a friend and associate from our days together at Bakerfield College. Josephine Triplett is the recipient of an award named after an American hero who believed in freedom for all people in America, who helped Harriet Beecher Stowe establish an industrial school for young people, who after meeting with President Lincoln during the Civil War built two regiments of black soldiers including his two sons, and who supported voting rights for women.

Josephine Triplett's worthiness of the Frederick Douglass Leadership Award can be found in his writings when he said: "The whole history of progress of human liberty shows that if there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground; want rain without thunder and lightning; want the ocean without the awful roar of its many

waters." Josephine Triplett is an agitator, a quiet one perhaps, but she manifests a clear commitment to children, to women, to those in need. As a professor of child development at Bakerfield College, she has been an advocate for infant nutrition and early childhood instruction. She works tirelessly at training college students to pursue these same goals as they go beyond the academic degree. The care and concern she has for others are obvious from the moment her warm personality and ready smile are in your presence.

Josephine Triplett has a distinguished record with the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center as well as serving as the curator of the Allenworth State Historic Park. She has assisted with the Southern California Association for the Education of Young Children and has many, many more worthy organizations that she lends her time and commitment and seemingly limitless energy.

Josephine Triplett is one of those Americans who is a leader at home, but often through quiet bearing, is not recognized. We salute her.

RECOGNIZING THE MEXICAN AMERICAN GROCERS ASSOCIATION FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Mexican American Grocers Association Foundation [MAGAF], a scholarship foundation which has awarded over \$1,000,000 to students attending junior colleges and public and private colleges and universities throughout the country.

MAGAF is the brainchild of the Mexican American Grocers Association [MAGA]. MAGA is a nationally recognized advocacy and trade organization, representing the interests of retailers, vendors and others involved in the grocery industry. It was this intimate involvement in and knowledge of the grocery industry which led MAGA's board of directors to found MAGAF. For the past 20 years, MAGAF has provided the financial resources for disadvantaged, deserving students of Mexican/Latino heritage to pursue college degrees in business administration or business-related fields. It is MAGAF's hope that these young scholars, upon graduation, will seek careers within the grocery industry.

MAGAF was established on the premise that private industry has a responsibility to return to the community some of what it has earned. In its tireless dedication to provide needed financial resources to college students, MAGAF also has gained the strong support of others in the grocery industry. Each summer and fall, the giants of the grocery industry attend annual fundraisers to support MAGAF's efforts. It is this cooperative relationship and commitment which has enhanced the diversity of the executives and business owners currently working in the grocery industry.

I am proud to be a longtime supporter of MAGAF. It is a commendable endeavor which provides needed resources to promising college students and its help ensures, upon their graduation, that the grocery industry has a

prospective workforce that is diverse and well educated. Because of MAGAF's efforts, today, highly qualified and educated Mexican/Latinos fill positions in the sales, merchandising and marketing segments of the grocery industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mexican American Grocers Association Foundation on its 20th anniversary of providing financial assistance to our community's college bound students and to wish it well in its future endeavors.

FREE LEYLA ZANA

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as I speak here tonight, members of the Kurdish community are conducting a vigil for peace and a hunger strike to spotlight the continuing oppression of the Kurdish people. I rise tonight for one simple reason: to express my solidarity with the hunger strikers and my support for the Kurdish people's struggle for freedom, justice—and self-determination. The symbol of that struggle is a fellow democratically elected representative, the imprisoned Kurdish leader, Leyla Zana.

In Turkey today, Mr. Speaker, innocent Kurdish civilians are being massacred, entire Kurdish villages are being destroyed, and millions of Kurds are forced from their homes, forced to the cities where unemployment and inflation are extremely high. The entire region of southeastern Turkey has been ravaged—it has become an economic and humanitarian disaster area. This is simply unacceptable. This is a cause for alarm for a country that uses American arms to commit such crimes. United States-made weapons should never again be used against the Kurds or against anybody else, as they were at the ancient Kurdish city of Halabia, where over 5,000 Kurdish civilians, mostly women and children, were gassed to death. Never again.

Leyla Zana has committed her life's work to pursuing a peaceful and just resolution to the enduring Kurdish question. I hope my colleagues will learn her story—an incredible story of self-education, political growth, heroism and courage.

The Turkish Government feared Leyla Zana was progressing too far in her endeavors for peace and now she shares a prison cell with a convicted murderer. But they cannot imprison her picture, her words, her courage, and her inspiring story.

An initiative has been undertaken in the U.S. House of Representatives in pursuit of Leyla Zana's freedom. I, and 143 of my colleagues in Congress have signed a letter to President Clinton urging him to seek Leyla Zana's immediate and unconditional release from prison. More Members of Congress are standing with Leyla Zana and the Kurdish people now than ever before. Without a doubt, the U.S. Congress is becoming more aware of, and more sympathetic to, the plight of the Kurdish people.

Kurds in Iran, Iraq, Syria, as well as Turkey live as second class citizens, denied the basic human rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Because of the inspiring work of Leyla Zana and thousands of others, the oppression of the Kurdish minority will someday

come to an end. To achieve this result, it is far better to use peaceful measures and end the longstanding violence. Thus, we must embrace Leyla Zana for risking her life for the Kurdish people, not through violence, but through peaceful and democratic activism.

So, Mr. Speaker, I salute those who are fasting today in support of the freedom of Leyla Zana. And I say to the Government of Turkey: in the name of humanity, free Leyla Zana.

THE COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1997

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague, NITA LOWEY and I are introducing the Community Employment Partnership Act [CEPA] which is designed to encourage the not-for-profit community to increase their participation in the national initiative to move more than 2 million Americans from welfare dependency into productive work. Through CEPA, not-for-profit employers, for the first time, will be allowed to participate in the work opportunity tax credit hiring incentives that are currently available to for-profit companies which hire entry-level workers.

During the last Congress, when we enacted welfare reform, we embarked on a bold new initiative to move millions of able-bodied welfare recipients into the work force. At the time we understood this new initiative, many of us realized that if the private sector were to provide jobs for those leaving the welfare rolls, they would need an incentive to offset the added costs of hiring, training, and retaining a category of people who face significant obstacles to succeeding in the workplace. These obstacles include problems with minimal job skills, low self-esteem, and little, if any, work history. In order to encourage for-profit employers to hire welfare recipients, I strongly supported the enactment of the work opportunity tax credit which is designed to offset the added costs involved.

Unfortunately, at that time, we did not develop a mechanism for extending these hiring tax incentives to the nonprofit community. In many cases, the largest employers in inner-city and rural communities, where most welfare recipients reside, are nonprofits such as hospitals, universities, museums, and community-based organizations. That they are not eligible is ironic since many nonprofit employers view as part of their primary mission service to those on welfare. As a result, nonprofits are often more acclimated to working with hard-to-employ individuals than their for-profit brethren. Another advantage of making not-for-profit employers eligible for WOTC is that they often provide full-time jobs with a career path, and generally offer their employees benefits.

In addition, numerous stories have come to light regarding the time and financial burden faced by welfare recipients who must travel long distances from their homes in the inner city or in rural America to the suburbs where most new jobs are becoming available. For the welfare recipient, who generally does not have a car, this means long and costly trips on public or privately organized transportation.

The long hours that newly employed welfare recipient must be away from home requires them to string together unreliable and often expensive day care arrangements, including relying on family members, friends, and day care centers. Allowing not-for-profit organizations eligibility for tax credits would, for those recipients able to find employment in their communities, significantly reduce the travel burden and in turn, help to reduce the critical day care problems faced by those hoping to move from welfare to work.

Despite the ideal match between the mission, location, and type of jobs offered by not-for-profits, they have not participated in the welfare to work initiative to the extent we would like because insufficient resources have been made available to them to help offset the added costs involved in hiring those on welfare. CEPA would help to overcome this obstacle by reducing the largest tax burden faced by not-for-profits—the payroll tax—by allowing them to offset their total Federal payroll tax burden by any work opportunity tax credits earned for hiring an eligible worker. The Community Employment Partnership Act would: Track the existing eligibility standards for the work opportunity tax credit; and provide not-for-profits with a graduated tax credit against their total Federal payroll taxes of 20 percent versus 25 percent under WOTC from the date of hire for the first \$6,000 in wages paid an eligible worker by a not-for-profit for those who work at least 120 hours and to up 399 hours; and 30 percent versus 40 percent under WOTC from the date of hire for the first \$6,000 in wages paid an eligible worker by a not-for-profit for those who work at least 400 hours.

The reduction in the credit amounts equalize the value of the credit between nonprofit employers and for-profit employers. This is because under WOTC, the amount of the employer's wage deduction is reduced by the amount of the credit which has the effect of reducing the value of the tax incentive to the for-profit employer.

The credits would be taken against a not-for-profit employer's quarterly payroll tax liability.

A payment to the Social Security trust fund would continue to be treated as having been made on the date it is ordinarily made.

Both Congresswoman LOWEY and I strongly believe that the enactment of the Community Employment Partnership Act is important if we are to enlist the not-for-profit community into providing good jobs to the millions of Americans who will be coming off the welfare rolls in the coming years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
BROWNFIELDS RECLAMATION
ACT OF 1997

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997. This bill is good for the American people and good for the country.

The Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997 creates jobs, improves the health and safety of the American people, promotes economic development, and cleans up the environment.

One of the most critical environmental and economic problems facing our Nation's cities and rural communities today is the tremendous difficulty in redeveloping abandoned industrial and/or commercial sites and properties, due to many years of environmental contamination.

Not only have we found cleanup costs to be high, the potential liabilities for past contamination discourage prospective purchasers and developers from investing in the renewal of abandoned urban and rural properties. This compounding situation contributes dramatically to joblessness and poverty across the Nation.

As such, contaminated properties also end up contributing to suburban sprawl, compromised health and safety, and exacerbation of the problems associated with job loss, frustration, despair, and poverty in rural and urban America. This national concern has come to be known as the "Brownfields problem."

Mr. Speaker, my legislation, the Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997 will enhance efforts of State and local jurisdictions to improve their physical environments. It will reduce the public health risks from exposure to contaminated sites. And, it will promote economic development and growth by increasing business and employment opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, while we still have a long way to go with regard to restoring neighborhoods and communities, the Brownfields Reclamation Act of 1997 represents a giant step forward in the revitalization of our cities and rural areas that have been adversely impacted by contaminated sites and related properties.

This bill reaffirms our Nation's commitment to revitalized communities across this country. I look forward to working with my colleagues, the administration, community organizations, and others to ensure that this critical legislation, the Brownfields Reclamation Act, is enacted into law.

IN HONOR OF KENNETH
BLOOMHORST FOR HIS ENDURING
SYMBOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, November 9, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to pay tribute to Kenneth Bloomhorst for his contribution to environmental protection in this country. Mr. Bloomhorst has the distinction of having created the symbol that represents the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Created over 25 years ago, his work remains the symbol for the Agency that is recognized around the country and in many parts of the world for the protection of the environment and our Nation's health. Mr. Bloomhorst, who was vice president and art director for an Indianapolis advertising agency, MWB, Inc., illustrated the seal and his firm contributed it to the EPA.

On October 18, 1971, then President Richard Nixon signed Executive Order No. 11628 to establish a seal for the EPA and provided the following description of Mr. Bloomhorst's creation.

"A flower with a bloom which is symbolic of all the elements of the environment. The