Justice to prepare and publish a comprehensive report detailing the government's unjust policies and practices during this time period. A part of this report would include an examination of ways in which civil liberties can be safeguarded during future national emergencies.

This legislation would also encourage relevant federal agencies to support projects such as exhibitions and documentaries that would heighten public awareness of this unfortunate episode. Further, it recommends the formation of an advisory committee to assist in the compilation of relevant information regarding this matter and related public policy matters.

Finally, the Wartime Violation of Italian American Civil Liberties Act calls upon the President to acknowledge formally our government's systematic denial of civil liberties to what was then the largest foreign-born ethnic group in the United States.

I am pleased to say that I am joined today in introducing this important piece of legislation by 62 of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, including fellow-New York Representative ELIOT ENGEL, who has led the way on this issue. The diversity of this list of original cosponsors, is indicative of both the national scope of the injustices that took place and the widespread interest—interest across ethnic and geographic lines—that justice is finally done. We owe it to the Italian American community and the American public to find out and publicize exactly what happened. A complete understanding of the ethnic persecution that took place in this sad chapter of American history is the best guarantee that it will never happen again.

''A NOTE OF THANKS TO THE 'GREATEST'''

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, looking forward toward July 4th, Independence Day, I believe it is absolutely appropriate that this country reflect on the sacrifices made to keep this country independent. Towards that goal, I would like to submit for the RECORD an essay by Philip Burgess which most eloquently makes the point.

A NOTE OF THANKS TO THE ''GREATEST''

A few days ago I received an e-mail from a friend, an attorney who reads a lot and is thoughtful about what he reads. He had a good idea for Memorial Day.

''Like many other Americans,'' he began, ''I have been reading Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest Generation*. As you know, it is a book of short stories about how ordinary Americans (farmers, factory workers and store clerks) came of age during the Great Depression and the Second World War and, in Brokaw's words, 'went on to build modern America—men and women whose everyday lives of duty, honor, achievement and courage gave us the world we have today.' They sought no praise or glory; they simply did a job they had to do.''

He continued, ''Today, I had an interesting experience. I attended a family gathering of a new Naval Academy graduate. His grandfather was there. As a young man, the grandfather had fought in the Pacific during WW II. Here I was, face-to-face with a member of the 'greatest generation.' As I visited with him, I was moved by my increasing awareness of how much he and his peers had contributed to democracy and other values I hold dear. I was also moved by the realization, that on an individual basis, I had never thanked a WW II veteran for what he or she had done for me and my family and the freedom and opportunities we now enjoy and too often take for granted.

''So, during a lull in the conversation, I approached the grandfather. I looked him in the eye and I told him that I'd been reading about and reflecting on what he and others like him had done for me and for the country during WW II. And then I said: 'Thank you for what you did.'

''As he looked at me, the grandfather's eyes began to water and he said: 'No one has ever thanked me for that before.' He then reached up and put his arm around my shoulders and said: 'Thank you. That means a lot to me.' We embraced, and then, with a tear in my own eye, I turned around and walked away.''

My friend's idea: ''As this Memorial Day approaches, I encourage you to think of WW II veterans (or any other war veteran) you know and communicate to them your personal thanks for what they did during that great war. WW II veterans are in the twilight of their lives. They will not be around forever to receive your thanks.''

I was moved by this note. I decided to start with a letter to my relatives who were part of ''the greatest generation.'' Uncle Bud served in the Pacific and would have been part of a Japan invasion force, but was delivered from that fate by President Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb rather than more American blood to end the war in the Pacific. Uncle Walt was a B–24 bomber pilot and a flight instructor. Aunt Betty was an Army nurse who accompanied the first infantry units in the liberation of the concentration camp at Dachau and returned with pictures and other mementos that document that many horrors that occurred there.

I have talked with them many times about their wartime experiences. But I have never thanked them for answering their call to duty nor for their many subsequent achievements, the fruits of which I enjoy today. I intend to fix that before the week is over. I've already started the letters, and with the first words last night, I began to realize that it's my spirit that will be enriched by writing these letters—at least as much as theirs will be lifted by receiving them.

A heart-felt ''thank-you'' always seems to work that way, but it's their spirit and their achievements that we need to remember this Memorial Day.

SIKH JOURNALIST'S MAIL IS BEING INTERCEPTED

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that journalist Sukhbir Singh Osan, proprietor of *Burning Punjab* and a writer for several Indian newspapers, is once again being harassed by the Indian government. After he came to North America to cover the big Sikh marches in Washington, New York, and Toronto and made a speech in the United Kingdom on the human rights situation in India, he was grilled for 45 minutes by Indian intelligence officers. Now, Indian postal authorities are intercepting his mail.

In a letter to the Chief Postmaster of Chandigarh, which was brought to my attention by Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, Mr. Osan noted that postal officials were handling his mail over to police constables. Several important documents were found lying on the desk of a Deputy Inspector General of Police. Mr. Osan, who is a law graduate as well as a journalist, pointed out that this action violates the Indian constitution and violates a ruling by the Indian Supreme Court in 1995.

This is not the first time Mr. Osan has run afoul of the Indian state. His mail has been diverted before and he has received telephone threats for his reporting on corruption and human rights violations.

Here is Indian democracy in action. If you criticize the government, your mail is seized, the government grills you, and you are threatened. In spite of all this, Mr. Osan goes on providing information about the situation in Punjab, Khalistan on his website and in his articles. His courage deserves our respect.

This abuse of Mr. Osan's rights is just the latest Indian violation of the basic liberties of Sikhs in Punjab, Khalistan. In light of this pattern of tyranny, America should help bring liberty to the people living under Indian rule.

Let us use our influence constructively to bring freedom, peace, and stability to this troubled region before it turns into another Kosovo. If that happens, it could pose a serious danger to the entire world, given India and Pakistan's possession of nuclear weapons and India's alleged use of chemical weapons in the Kargil conflict. We must act now to keep this from happening.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRIS CAHOON

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 1, 1999

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to laud the courageous efforts of Chris Cahoon, a resident of Warwick, Rhode Island, who recently came to the rescue of a choking child. Chris, a sixteen year-old volunteer at the Washington Fire Department in Coventry, Rhode Island, was spending Father's Day with his family at a local restaurant when he notices some commotion at another table. A father was slapping his son on the back, trying to assist his choking ten year-old. Using the quick thinking and first aid training he had learned as a Fire Scout, Chris leapt from his seat and deftly administered the Heimlich maneuver to the child, who, after being examined by the local rescue team, was able to resume his meal. For his decisive action, Chris earned the respect and gratitude of the child, his family, and the assembled emergency medical technicians.

Such mature behavior may seem uncharacteristic of a sixteen year-old, though Chris's family and acquaintances have known of his dedication to helping others since his earliest days. Like many young children, Chris once told everyone within earshot that he wanted to grow up to be a firefighter. However, unlike other youths, Chris followed his dream and joined the Washington Fire Department's Fire Scout Program at the early age of