

TRIBUTE TO 16TH LOGISTICS GROUP, HURLBURT FIELD, FLORIDA

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize the United States Air Force's 16th Logistics Group for receiving the Year 2000 Department of Defense Maintenance Award.

Each year, the Secretary of Defense recognizes outstanding achievements in military equipment and weapon system maintenance by intermediate and organizational level maintenance organizations of the Military Services.

The purpose of this awards program is to improve material readiness, improve efficiency and reduce waste by encouraging innovative management and use of resources, provide recognition of below depot-level maintenance programs, aid development of competitive programs, and enhance maintenance awareness throughout the Department of Defense.

In recognition of the contribution maintenance makes to keeping our forces ready and to sustaining them in conflict, the Secretary of Defense has chosen to honor the 16th Logistics Group for their exceptional unit maintenance accomplishment.

The 16th Logistics Group is the Air Force's largest logistics group and performs maintenance on several different airframes. The group's men and women outperformed their competition by achieving an impressive 80 percent mission-capable rate, among other accomplishments. The 16th generated the two most important combat missions of the Balkan conflict and continued to focus on reducing total ownership costs through innovative and practical programs. Mobilizing over 120 times in 12 months for an unprecedented 75 contingencies and exercises worldwide, the group led first-in, last-out operations in the Balkans, capping more than 6 years of continuous presence in that theater.

This award recognizes the professionalism and commitment to service by the men and women of the 16th Logistics Group. My congratulations go to the Air Force's 16th Logistics Group for these significant contributions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, the Council of Khalistan held its international convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The Council of Khalistan leads the peaceful struggle to liberate the Sikh homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. I would like to congratulate the Council on a very successful convention.

Delegates came from all around the United States, Canada, and even as far away as Great Britain. They engaged in extensive discussion of plans to liberate Khalistan, and they passed resolutions for independence, human rights, and self-determination. The convention opened on October 7, which is the anniversary

of Khalistan's declaration of independence from India.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, who is the President of the Council of Khalistan, has been a tireless advocate for his people and has made himself a well-known presence in the halls of Congress by his persistence over the last thirteen years or so. He also fights for human rights of Christians, Muslims, and anyone else who is being oppressed by India. His tireless efforts have helped to keep this issue alive, and I salute him for this work. His struggle merits our support.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the Council of Khalistan's press release on its convention for the RECORD.

[Council of Khalistan, Press Release, Oct. 10, 2000]

COUNCIL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION VERY SUCCESSFUL—DELEGATES VERY ENTHUSIASTIC AND UPBEAT

FREE KHALISTAN ESSENTIAL FOR SURVIVAL OF SIKH NATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 10, 2000—The annual convention of the Council of Khalistan, held this weekend in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was very successful. Delegates came from all over the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. The delegates were very enthusiastic and their spirit was very upbeat (*charhdi kala*). They expressed appreciation for the work of the Council of Khalistan, the government *pro tempore* of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland that was declared independent on October 7, 1987.

Very candid discussion was held concerning the Sikh Nation and its struggle for independence. The delegates agreed that the liberation of Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh Nation. The delegates agreed to contribute one (1) percent of their annual incomes to the Washington office and to ask others to do the same.

Delegates passed resolutions calling for the liberation of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan, through a *Shantmai Morcha* (peaceful agitation), for self-determination, demanding the release of political prisoners in Punjab, calling for the formation of a Khalsa Raj Party in Punjab, condemning the Sikh Youth of America for inviting Simranjit Singh Mann to their convention, and many others. The delegates decided that next year's convention will be held on Columbus Day weekend, 2001, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, expressed satisfaction at the success of the convention. "I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this convention so successful," he said, "especially the Fort Lauderdale Gurdwara and Sardar Manmohan Singh Randhawa, who took all the reservations and helped to organize the convention. The success of this convention and the fact that people came from great distances to be there send a strong message to the Indian government that Sikhs demand an independent, sovereign Khalistan," he said.

Other resolutions that were passed at the conventions included resolutions demanding that human-rights groups be allowed to operate in Punjab, where they have not been allowed since 1978, nominating Dr. Aulakh for the Nobel Peace Prize, naming Dr. Aulakh Khalistan Man of the Year 2000, calling on all Gurdwaras to support the freedom struggle, demanding leaders with vision, appreciating the Council of Khalistan, to raise money for the Council's office, and urging Sikhs and youth to get involved in the political process. A committee was formed to find new leadership if anything should happen to Dr. Aulakh and also support and advise the

Council of Khalistan in its effort to expedite the liberation of Khalistan.

"It is appropriate that the convention opened on the anniversary of Khalistan's declaration of independence," Dr. Aulakh said. He noted that Sikhs ruled Punjab until 1849 when the British forcibly annexed it into British India. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Thousands of Sikhs languish in prisons without charge or trial, according to Amnesty International. Between 1993 and 1994, 50,000 Sikhs were made to disappear by Indian forces. More than 250,000 Sikhs have been killed since 1984. Over 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947 and over 70,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. In March, during President Clinton's visit to India, the Indian government murdered 35 Sikhs in the village of Chithi Singhpora, Kashmir. Two independent investigations and an Amnesty International report have confirmed the government's responsibility. The Indian Supreme Court described the situation in Punjab as "worse than a genocide."

"India is on the verge of disintegration," said Dr. Aulakh. "Kashmir is going to be free. Khalistan will also be free during this decade, by the grace of Guru. Guru gave sovereignty to the Sikh Nation," he said. "This convention was a step forward in that effort."

TRIBUTE TO DAVID FOSTER ON HIS RECEIVING THE ALBERT SCHWEITZER LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to David Foster on the occasion of his receipt of the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award. This prestigious award is given annually by the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Foundation (HOBY) to individuals who have distinguished themselves through public service and who have contributed significantly to the education and motivation of youth. The award is named after the famous doctor, himself a great humanitarian, who made a lasting impression on Hugh O'Brian during a visit to Schweitzer's African clinic. It was there that Dr. Schweitzer expounded to Mr. O'Brian his philosophy of the importance of motivating our youth. Simply stated, Dr. Schweitzer believed that, "the most important thing in education is to teach young people to think for themselves."

Almost immediately after returning from his visit with Dr. Schweitzer, Hugh O'Brian initiated the HOBY program to put that philosophy into practice. In the beginning HOBY ran leadership seminars for high school sophomores in Los Angeles, and eventually expanded to three-day seminars across the country. Each year over 20,000 students participate in HOBY programs that are designed to implement Dr. Schweitzer's philosophy, teaching young people to think for themselves. Over the years many great humanitarians have received the Albert Schweitzer Leadership award, and now another distinguished name can be added to that list, the musical genius and extraordinary humanitarian David Foster.

Mr. Speaker, David Foster rose to prominence in the music scene in 1973, when his

band Skylark scored a top ten hit with their song "Wildflower," and he has been actively involved in the music industry since that time. Mr. Foster quickly became a highly sought after session musician, performing with the likes of John Lennon, George Harrison, Diana Ross, Rod Stewart, and Barbra Streisand, among others. He turned his attention to songwriting and production, where he achieved extraordinary success. David Foster has been nominated for 42 Grammy Awards, winning an astounding 14 times. Over the years his work has encompassed just about every style of music including Rock, Rhythm and Blues, Pop, Soul, Country, Jazz and Classical.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, David Foster is not being honored with the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award for his musical talents, but because he has used these immense talents to help others. He was instrumental in assembling popular Canadian recording artists Bryan Adams, Joni Mitchell, Neil Young, and Gordon Lightfoot to record "Tears Are Not Enough," a song he co-wrote to bring attention to the plight of famine victims in Africa in the 1980's and to raise funds for their relief. He also was involved in the writing and the production of the entertainment industry's salute to the United States troops serving in the Persian Gulf, "Voices that Care." To date, Voices that Care has donated over one million dollars to the Red Cross and the U.S.O.

In addition to his involvement in these worthy endeavors, he established the David Foster Foundation, which assists families of children in need of organ transplants. According to the most recent figures, the David Foster Foundation has raised several million dollars and assisted hundreds of children and their families as they go through the horrific ordeal of an organ transplant. David also has directly involved himself with other charitable organizations such as the Race to Erase MS, the Andrew Agassi Foundation, Malibu High School Scholarship Program, and Cedars-Sinai Research for Women's Cancer, among others.

Mr. Speaker, David Foster is the personification of charitable generosity. His tireless efforts on behalf of humanitarian causes is a trait all of us can admire. I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring him on the occasion of his receiving the Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award.

THE RETIREMENT OF ROY LIND

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, in this era of visual images and electronic cacophony, a great many people yearn for a voice of wisdom. A voice of calm and common sense. For a great many years, residents of Quincy, MA, have been blessed with such a voice—that of Roy Lind of radio station WJDA. When Roy retires soon, after decades of leadership in our

community, he will leave a legacy of civic commitment that spans several generations. As I think back, it seems as though Roy was always at the kitchen table, sharing a cup of coffee as we pondered the great, and not so great, questions of the day. His voice provoked, illuminated and motivated us. Day in and day out, for 39 wonderfully full years, his has been a voice of passion and compassion, of humility and humor.

While Roy is rooted firmly in the challenges facing the South Shore, his work has been anything but parochial. A Quincy native, he started at WJDA in 1959 after a tour of duty in Korea. Along the way, he's covered space launches, interviewed Presidents, and announced the America's Cup. He does his homework, then weaves the local with the national in ways that helps others better understand the world around us. That's why Roy has been recognized by his professional peers for excellence in radio documentary. Roy asks a good question, and gets a direct answer. For those of us accustomed to how his voice has educated his audience, it's heartening to sense the growing national thirst for straight talk these days in other public arenas. Roy has taught us that it is possible to dissect a public issue without dissembling his guest; to get to the heart of a problem without going for someone's jugular; and to cut through double-talk without coarsening the tone of public debate. And in the Quincy tradition, he has also taken the time to give back to his community in countless other ways, as honors from the Quincy Jewish War Veterans and the Scituate Rotary can attest.

As his distinguished career soon comes to a pause, many of Roy's loyal listeners will continue to hear his voice: a comforting baritone, a voice of reason and mutual respect and love of life—in short, the voice of the South Shore.

S. 1453, THE SUDAN PEACH ACT

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, as a sponsor of the House companion bill, H.R. 2906, I submit the following statement in writing in strong support of S. 1453, The Sudan Peace Act.

I regret that I was unable to be here to speak on the floor in support of this essential legislation. As some know, my father's health is precarious at this time, and I needed to be at his side yesterday, supporting him and the other members of my family. I appreciate the consideration of the House to accept this statement into the Record.

This bill addresses a devastating situation in the largest country on the continent of Africa. The Sudan has been at war for decades, and two million lives have been lost in the last ten years alone due to war-related causes and famine, while millions more have been dis-

placed from their homes to become refugees within their own country and surrounding nations.

The National Islamic Front government of Sudan is steadfast in its efforts to oppress and even eliminate the predominantly Christian and animist southern Sudanese people. Slavery of children and adults is rampant, and forced conversion of the Islamic faith is reported to be commonplace, as is the arrest of individuals for their religious beliefs.

While the United Nations established Operation Lifeline Sudan in 1989 to address the humanitarian crisis in the South, the Islamic government has consistently interfered with delivery of food and medicine into southern Sudan, including the Nuba Mountains and the Upper and Blue Nile regions. In fact, one of the fundamental problems with the current Operation Lifeline Sudan relief effort is that the U.N. has given the government of Sudan veto power over relief efforts. In addition, government troops have bombed international relief sites, schools, and other civilian areas in the south in an attempt to disrupt distribution of desperately needed humanitarian supplies. There is a severe drought in the Horn of Africa, and the World Food Program has estimated that nearly 2 million Sudanese will require food aid this year, but international relief efforts are being prohibited, disrupted and even bombed by the Sudanese government in an attempt to bring the non-Muslim populace of Sudan to heel.

S. 1453, as amended by the House, addresses the most egregious aspects of this conflict. The Sudan Peace Act condemns violations of human rights on both sides of the conflict and the ongoing slave trade in the Sudan. In addition, this legislation calls for reforming relief efforts, like Operation Lifeline Sudan that are being manipulated by the Sudanese government as a "weapon of war" against its people, in order to ensure delivery of humanitarian aid to the civilian population. In addition, it is already evident that the government of Sudan is using investment in their oil industry to fund their continued attacks, or jihad, on the non-Muslim civilian population. The Sudan Peace Act would also prohibit Sudan, or entities doing business in Sudan, from raising funds in U.S. capital markets. I want to commend the President for taking a moral stand in this conflict back in 1997, and urge my colleagues to build on the Administration's efforts by passing S. 1453 today to codify the economic sanctions put in place by Presidential Directive in November of 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to stand against state-sanctioned enslavement and religious persecution by passing the House amendments to S. 1453. We must ensure that every effort is made to get humanitarian aid to a starving populace. The IGAD peace process must be encouraged, and the fundamental human rights of the men, women and children of Sudan must be protected. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the Hill to support the House-amended S. 1453, The Sudan Peace Act, and send this bill to the President for signature before recessing this session.