

Over the past 90 years, the Girl Scouts have: sold war bonds during World War One; led community relief efforts during the Great Depression; helped tackle illiteracy with then First Lady, Barbara Bush; and most recently, Girl Scouts donated a personal gift of one dollar each to help support the children of Afghanistan—no small amount with a membership of nearly 4 million girls.

Within the Senior Girl Scouts division, young women are challenged to serve their community through Gold Award projects. Scouts strive for two years to earn a series of required badges, pins and patches. A scout must then plan and execute a year-long Gold Award project under the guidance of a certified volunteer. The Gold Award is the Girl Scouts highest award, with less than 4,000 scouts receiving the award each year.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support their local Girl Scout chapter and participate in at least one Gold Award ceremony in the next year in order to fully appreciate the hard work and enormous effort each Girl Scout must exert to achieve her goal.

CENTRAL AMERICAN SECURITY
ACT (CASA)

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Central American Security Act (CASA). This legislation has strong bi-partisan support, and would give Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans the same opportunity to adjust their immigration status that Congress extended to Nicaraguans and Cubans in 1997.

In 1997, Congress passed the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) which offered drastically different immigration relief for Nicaraguans and Cubans than it did for Salvadorans and Guatemalans, despite similar political situations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Immigrants arriving here from these countries were all fleeing similar circumstances. As a result of this disparity in treatment, there are many undocumented Central Americans in the United States today who are hard-working, taxpaying, long-term residents with no way to regularize their immigration status. Our bill would resolve the contradiction.

While there are strong equity and fairness arguments to provide "parity" to Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans, we are equally interested in the key U.S. foreign policy and national security interests in Central America that are served by the proposal.

After suffering through a string of brutal civil wars, these countries now have moderate, democratically-elected governments. They have made great progress in respecting human rights and the rule of law. These are pro-American, multi-party democracies where political violence has been largely eliminated. Yet, these emerging democracies remain fragile, ravaged by natural disasters and beset by economic hardship. We must do what we can to help and nurture them.

Hard-working Salvadorans, Guatemalans and Hondurans in the United States send billions of dollars home to their families every

year. These funds strengthen democratic institutions and provide for basic human needs. They amount to significantly more than we could ever hope to provide in foreign aid. Cutting off these remittances would renew economic and political instability in the region, undermine efforts to combat terrorism and drug trafficking, and generate massive new migration to the United States.

According to the INS, as many as 8 million undocumented immigrants live in the U.S. today. This is a situation profoundly affecting our national security, and we should make every effort to change it for the better. While we do not have the resources to find and identify all of the undocumented aliens in our country, we must give them some incentive to come forward and identify themselves. CASA would provide that incentive to bring some of these aliens out of the shadows and encourage them to register with the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, it is in our best interest to enhance domestic security efforts and to ensure the economic and political stability of Central America. Therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to support this fair and equitable legislation.

SOCIAL SECURITY PRIVATIZATION

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, there has been a considerable amount of debate on how to reform our Social Security System and make it solvent. There is no question that we need to reform Social Security. The Social Security Trustees estimate cash flow deficits in the system starting in 2016 with a bankruptcy date of 2038. It is also estimated that the system will only be able to pay 73 percent of promised benefits. There are many reasons contributing to this depletion, such as increase life expectancies and lagging birth rates. However, the crux of the issue is how we reform Social Security without raising payroll taxes, cutting benefits or allowing the government to invest in stock markets.

In May 2001, President Bush established a 16-Member Commission on Social Security to make recommendations on how to reform Social Security. As you know, the Commission issued a final report last December that proposed three alternative models for Social Security reform that focuses on personal accounts as a central component.

In two of the proposed alternative models, the Commission claims that low income workers and Minorities will fare better if they invest part of their Social Security taxes in stocks and bonds. The rationale is that Minority groups such as African-Americans are heavily dependent on Social Security benefits during retirement and often have little or no pension savings or other sources of income. Specifically the two alternative models call for the following:

Alternative Model 2: Workers can voluntarily redirect 4 percent of their payroll taxes up to \$1000 annually to a personal account (the maximum contribution is indexed annually to wage growth). No additional contribution from the worker would be required.

Alternative Model 3: Personal Accounts are created by a match of part of the payroll tax—2.5 percent up to \$1000 annually (indexed annually for wage growth)—for any worker who contributes an additional 1 percent of wages subject to Social Security payroll taxes.

It is unfortunate that the Commission failed to realize that you cannot help low income workers and Minorities based on a plan that cuts benefits up to 46 percent. These proposals would subject everyone to this benefit cut, not just workers who choose to have an individual account. Finally, Social Security privatization would expose individual workers and their families to much greater financial risk. Under privatization, Social Security benefits would no longer be determined primarily by a worker's earnings and the payroll tax contributions he or she made over their career. Rather, benefit levels would be determined by the volatile stock market.

While it is true that Social Security faces a long-term challenge, diverting revenue from Social Security into private accounts will seriously undermine our commitment to the retirement security of American seniors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL
CHRISTOPHER CHANDLER

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome home an outstanding Marine and true American hero. Marine Cpl. Christopher Chandler recently returned home from protecting and fighting for our country in Afghanistan. As a young marine, Christopher traveled far from American soil to ensure that the attacks of September 11th on this country would not go unanswered. He has recently returned home to Colorado and I would like tell his story before this body of Congress and this nation.

Corporal Christopher Chandler is a member of the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division of the 15th Marine Expeditionary unit. He was stationed at the Kandahar International Airport in Afghanistan to ensure peace reigned in the region. While on patrol on December 16th, he was injured in an enemy blast, resulting in the loss of his left foot and injury to his hand. Following initial treatment, he was moved to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he recently finished the initial healing process and began rehabilitation. For wounds sustained in combat, Christopher Chandler was awarded the Purple Heart medal.

As his rehabilitation continues, Christopher thrives on the tenacity he demonstrated in his endeavor to become a United States Marine. He has refused to let his injury harm his spirit and has recovered remarkably strong. Believe it or not, Christopher now desires to return to active service. He is a remarkable young man, and if he continues to prod ahead through his life with the diligence and commitment to success he has achieved thus far, there is no limit to his future potential.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored today to recognize Corporal Christopher Chandler before this body of Congress and this nation. His selfless sacrifice to his country serves as a

model for all Americans who desire to serve their country in the most difficult and trying of circumstances. Many young men and women are now serving their nation without regard to personal safety to ensure we enjoy the freedoms our forefathers paid for so many years ago. We are proud of and honor you Christopher, good luck with your recovery, and good luck in your future endeavors.

SIKH ACTIVIST DETAINED IN CANADA AND BRITAIN AT BEHEST OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Bhagwan Singh Sandhu, a leader of the Sikh Students Federation, was detained at the airports in Vancouver and in London last month, apparently at the behest of the Indian government. According to information I have received, Dr. Sandhu was detained overnight and interrogated by Canadian intelligence agents who were in constant contact with Indian officials in Delhi. According to Dr. Sandhu, he was told that he was a terrorist, yet no evidence to support this claim was produced by authorities in Canada. The same thing apparently happened to him on his arrival in London. All records of his interrogation were retained by the Indian regime.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian Government appears to be trying to capitalize on the world's heightened concerns about terrorism to harass innocent Sikhs beyond its own borders. In the case of Dr. Sandhu, it appears that India manipulated our friends in Canada and Great Britain so that they would detain Dr. Sandhu. The Council of Khalistan has issued an excellent press release on the detention of Dr. Sandhu. It is very informative. I would like to place it in the RECORD at this time.

[From the Council of Khalistan, Mar. 11, 2002]

**SIKH ACTIVIST ARRESTED IN CANADA AND ENGLAND AT BEHEST OF INDIAN GOVERNMENT
INDIA TERRORIZING SIKHS INTERNATIONALLY**

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11, 2002.—Dr. Bhagwan Singh Sandhu, a leader of the Sikh Student Federation, was arrested at the Vancouver airport on February 12 on the instructions of the Indian government. Canadian intelligence agents interrogated Dr. Sandhu while they were in constant touch with Indian intelligence in Delhi. They offered no evidence of any involvement by Dr. Sandhu in any terrorist activity in India or any other country. Yet he was labeled a terrorist by the Canadian intelligence operatives. They locked him in a cold, small cell with only a cement bench to lie down on. The following evening, February 13, he was put on a plane to London.

When Dr. Sandhu arrived in London, the British, acting at the behest of the Indian government arrested him. He was interrogated and searched, then held in jail overnight. He was then sent back to India. The Indian government kept all the papers related to his arrest and detention. When he arrived in India, he was arrested again. He had to get medical attention due to his injuries from his arrests. His letters of protests to the Canadian, British, and Indian authorities have gone unanswered.

"This arrest shows the true face of Indian secularism," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh,

President of the Council of Khalistan, the organization that leads the Sikh Nation's struggle for independence. "These illegal arrests show that the Hindu nationalists will reach anywhere to destroy Sikhs and other minorities," he said. "They attacked the Golden Temple in 1984. They have attacked Christian churches, schools, and prayer halls. It has been an ongoing pattern of repression," he said.

"It is shameful that the Canadian and British governments have gone along with India's repression by illegally arresting and harassing Dr. Sandhu," said Dr. Aulakh. "Dr. Sandhu is a victim of India's tyrannical, fanatical drive to eliminate all minority populations in the service of rampaging Hindu cultural imperialism," he said. "It is clear that the agents at the airports in Vancouver and London were working at the behest of the brutal Indian government, perhaps at its direction since they were apparently in constant contact with Delhi."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. Over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been killed since 1988. More than 200,000 Christians have been killed since 1947, along with tens of thousands of Dalits, Tamils, Assamese, Bodos, Manipuris, and other minorities. A report issued last year shows that 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are held in Indian jails, as well as tens of thousands of others. On February 28, 42 Members of the U.S. Congress wrote to President Bush, asking him to work to get these political prisoners freed. Since Christmas 1998, Christians have felt the brunt of the attacks. Priests have been murdered, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been destroyed, and no one has been punished for these acts. Militant Hindu fundamentalists allied with the RSS, the pro-Fascist parent organization of the ruling BJP, burned missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons to death.

Last year, a cabinet member said that everyone living in India must be a Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. In July 1997, Narinder Singh, a spokesman for the Golden Temple, told National Public Radio, "The Indian government, all the time they boast that they're democratic, they're secular, but they have nothing to do with a democracy, they have nothing to do with a secularism. They try to crush Sikhs just to please the majority."

"The only way to escape this government-supported violence and tyranny is for the Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and other minorities to claim their freedom from India," Dr. Aulakh said. "That is the only way to prevent the Hindu theocracy from wiping us out," he said. "We must launch a Shantmai Morcha (peaceful agitation) to liberate Khalistan," he said.

"Sikhs are a separate nation and ruled Punjab until 1849. No Sikh leader has signed the Indian constitution. The people of South Asia must have self-determination now," Dr. Aulakh said. "India is on the verge of disintegration, as Steve Forbes predicted in the current issue of Forbes magazine," he said. "Khalistan will be free by 2008."

FALUN GONG

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the religious persecution of Falun Gong practitioners in mainland

China. Falun Gong representatives believe that over 100,000 Falun Gong practitioners have been arrested. Tens of thousands have been thrown into labor camps without trial, and at least 1,000 healthy practitioners have been put into mental hospitals and have suffered illegal psychiatric abuse. It has also been reported that between 365 and 1,600 people have been killed in police custody.

It is thought that there are as many as 100 million Falun Gong practitioners worldwide. Falun Gong believers hold that this spiritual practice instills the three principles of truthfulness, compassion and tolerance. They would merely like the opportunity to peacefully practice their beliefs without fear of torture or imprisonment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting Falun Gong and its practitioners' quest for peace and tolerance.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. SOSSINA HAILE, 27TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR—2002

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's most notable women during the month of March and it is my honor to not only recognize women of the past but to also recognize women who are making a difference in my community. While a month of remembrance is certainly not sufficient, I am honored today to pay homage to such women as Eleanor Roosevelt, Sandra Day O'Connor, Harriet Tubman, Sally Ride and all the women of my Congressional District, whose contributions have made a profound difference in the face and fabric of our nation.

It is a special privilege to recognize an outstanding woman of California's 27th Congressional District. Dr. Sossina M. Haile is a well-respected and valuable member of the educational community in my district and her work as a professor and advisor are important in helping to shape the face and scope of research in this country.

Dr. Haile received her Bachelor of Science degree in Math, Science and Engineering from MIT and went on to receive her M.S. degree in the same discipline from the University of California, Berkeley. She returned to her alma mater, MIT, where she earned a Ph.D.

She began her professional career in education at the Max-Planck-Institut für Festkörperforschung in Stuttgart, Germany as a Fulbright then Humboldt Fellow between October 1991 and August 1993. She served as the Department of Materials Sciences and Engineering's Battelle Assistant Professor at the University of Washington from September 1993 to September 1996. In the fall of 1996 she became an Assistant Professor in the Materials Science Department at the California Institute of Technology and I am happy to announce that she was recently granted an Associate Professorship at Caltech in the fall of last year.

Over her academic years, Dr. Haile has compiled an impressive and outstanding list of