

Indian occupation. The Gujarat massacre was pre-planned, according to a police officer who spoke to Indian newspapers. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, churches have been burned, Christian prayer halls and schools have been attacked, and police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

India is also destroying Sikhs economically. The Indian government fixes the price for fertilizer very high and the price for produce very low so Sikh farmers can't even get the cost of production for their crops. This year it fixed the wheat price at Rs 750 per quintal. Even Badal demanded Rs 1000 per quintal. If Punjab farmers could sell their produce across the border in Pakistan and the Middle East, they could easily get close to Rs 1,500 per quintal and would be able to make a living. India seeks to destroy the Sikh Nation religiously, economically, and politically.

"Freedom is the God-given right of every nation and every human being," said Dr. Aulakh. Sikhs must be allowed to have a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Khalistan. In a democracy, you cannot continue to rule against the wishes of the people. As former Senator George Mitchell said about the Palestinians, "the essence of democracy is the right to self-determination." "We must reclaim the sovereignty of the Sikh Nation," Dr. Aulakh said. Dr. Aulakh appealed to the Akali Dal and other Sikh parties in the Punjab Legislative Assembly to pass a resolution documenting all the mistreatment and economic exploitation of the Sikhs by the Indian government since independence. India diverts Punjab's river water, its natural resource, to neighboring Haryana and Rajasthan without any compensation despite Chief Minister Amarinder Singh cancelling Punjab's water agreements with India. We salute Captain Amarinder Singh for this legislation. In the legislation, the Legislative Assembly explicitly affirmed the sovereignty of Punjab as described in the Indian constitution. This same sovereignty can be used by the Assembly to declare independence. India will be helpless and the Sikh diaspora will help to free Khalistan.

India is on the verge of disintegration. Kashmir is about to separate from India. As L.K. Advani said, "if Kashmir goes, India goes." History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Montenegro, which has less than a million people, has become a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations," he said. "Now it is the time for the Sikh Nation of Punjab, Khalistan to become independent. The sooner the better."

"The only way that the Sikh nation can flourish and progress is in a sovereign, independent Khalistan," said Dr. Aulakh. "As Professor Darshan Singh, former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh.'" Dr. Aulakh said. "We must free Khalistan now."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN A. NEJEDLY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to pay tribute to the life of former California State Senator John A. Nejedly who died on September 19, 2006. For more than 35 years, Senator Nejedly dedicated his life to serving the people of California and his Contra Costa County community. As a California State Senator, Mr. Nejedly was a brilliant leader in environmental policy and following his career in the senate, he was a relentless advocate for disadvantaged youths in Contra Costa County and throughout California.

John A. Nejedly was born on October 22, 1914, in Oakland, California, and had been a resident of Walnut Creek since 1938. He graduated from the University of California with a Bachelor of Science degree and in 1941 earned his law degree from Boalt School of Law. His ties to the University were especially strong and the gold sweater he wore as a symbol of his devotion to Cal soon became his trademark.

In 1942, with World War II at hand, John Nejedly became an intelligence officer in the Army Air Force and served as a Japanese language officer until his honorable discharge in 1946. Shortly after the war, John opened his law firm and was soon after appointed to the position of City Attorney for the city of Walnut Creek and Deputy District Attorney for Contra Costa County. He worked diligently in this capacity for 12 years before being elected Contra Costa County District Attorney.

In 1969, District Attorney Nejedly was elected to the California State Senate. John served the people of the 7th Senate District with distinction for 11 years. As a State senator, he wrote some of California's most important environmental laws and in the process became one of our State's principal water policy experts. He also helped create one of California's greatest urban park institutions for Contra Costa County. Renowned for his art of persuasion, John was instrumental in securing our precious resources for generations to come and, as a result, in 1966 he was named one of ten "Outstanding Americans in the Field of Conservation".

Senator Nejedly retired from public office in 1980 and followed his passion of helping disadvantaged youth full time. He donated 80 acres of landing California's Sierra Mountains to provide a camp for the Boy Scouts and created the Contra Costa Youth Council to assist disabled, and underprivileged youth take pleasure in the outdoors. In addition, he funded a generous scholarship to help minority adults today who will never forget the generosity and compassion John Nejedly showed them in their youth.

Throughout his life, John was magnificent leader. Whether it was water, open space or parks he was a pioneer. He was a true public servant.

To John's children, Mary Piepho, his sons, Jim and John, his stepson, Greg, and his grandchildren I extend my heartfelt condolences. Their loss is shared not only by those who knew John personally but also by all those who have been touched by the work he has done. We will be forever grateful for the integrity, compassion and generosity with which he sought to make our community, the State of California, and our country, a better place for all of us. We are extremely grateful to John's family for sharing him with us for so many years.

CONGRATULATING ERIELE
JOHNSON

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Erielle Johnson for earning a spot on the Texas Girls Coaches Association's All-State Volleyball Team. This honor is awarded to top female athletes for their superior performance on the court.

The Texas Girls Coaches Association is the largest group of girls' athletic coaches in the nation, and serves the coaches and administrators at every level of education. The elite All-State Volleyball Team is selected by a committee panel of coaches and administrators, and is comprised of the most competitive female athletes in the state.

As a senior at Pilot Point High School in the 26th District of Texas, Erielle manages to give her absolute best efforts when the team requires it most. As a 4-year starter, she has led the LadyCats to regional quarter and semifinal games. Ms. Johnson was named the District 9-3A Most Valuable Hitter.

I extend my most sincere congratulations to Erielle Johnson, and I wish her the best of luck in her academic and athletic career.

IN HONOR OF THE FIRST ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE SAIGON
PLAZA COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the first anniversary of the Saigon Plaza Community Center, sponsored by the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Saigon Plaza has excelled in its first year, having established valuable links and bridges of friendship between the people of America and the people of Asia, especially Indochina.

The Saigon Plaza has been a beacon within the community promoting peace, progress, justice, and friendship. The Saigon Plaza

has opened its facilities up to various groups and agencies throughout Northeast Ohio area for gatherings, events, celebrations, and other community activities. Under the sponsorship of the Friendship Foundation, the Community Center has presented many worthwhile events and services including art exhibits, festivals, veterans' memorial events, job and employment events, and other community activities. The Saigon Plaza and Friendship Foundation have also assisted members of the Vietnamese-American, Kampuchean-American, and Laotian-American communities by providing various services for them, including tax educational activities, financial counseling, and utility assistance.

The Saigon Plaza also has spread its marvelous works outside Ohio and the United States. They have established programs of economic development, women's enterprises, and handicapped people in Vietnam as well as countries of Southeast Asia, establishing an outlet for their goods and handicrafts. The Plaza is a vital source of Vietnamese and Asian culture locally, and bridges international communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition and appreciation of the Saigon Plaza and the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese. Their work and dedication has reached across borders to aid communities locally and internationally.

H.R. 1176, THE "NONPROFIT ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION PROTECTION ACT OF 2006"

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1176, the "Non-profit Athletic Organization Protection Act of 2006." This legislation would provide broad immunity to nonprofit athletic associations which enact rules governing athletic competitions. In some cases, these rules have resulted in injuries to children and participants including serious head and spinal injuries because of swimming pools that were too shallow for diving. I also have strong concerns that passage of this legislation would preclude victims of sexual assault from bringing civil lawsuits against nonprofit athletic associations which have acted negligently.

Unfortunately, the Majority, in its rush to adjourn, has brought a bill to the floor that leaves children vulnerable to abuse. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

IN RECOGNITION OF SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF MODESTO

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure and gratitude that I rise

today to recognize Soroptimist International of Modesto as it celebrates its 70th Anniversary.

Soroptimist International of Modesto is one of the first service organizations for women in Modesto and has been an important part of our community as a leading service club for seven decades. This organization is dedicated to making a difference in the future of our community by working together with local community and government leaders in addressing issues that women value and by developing and promoting projects in education, environment, health, human rights/status of women, international good will/understanding, and social and economic development. Their membership is composed of women of all ages, cultures and ethnic groups who are committed to making a difference through service.

Soroptimist International of Modesto is also a leading philanthropist in our community who donates generously to the Modesto area through their service projects such as the Community Christmas Tree at Vintage Fair Mall, scholarships and other local community organizations and projects such as the MOMobile.

Soroptimist International of Modesto truly makes a difference in the lives of citizens because of the energy and passion of its members. I am honored to recognize this outstanding organization and all of the members whose time, energy, vision and commitment has made the organization the involved, informed and active part of our community that it is today. Their efforts have undoubtedly made a difference in lives of the residents of our community and I commend each and every one of them for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent Soroptimist International of Modesto in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues join me in offering our congratulations on its 70th Anniversary and in extending our best wishes for continued success and prosperity for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN ARTHUR THOMAS—80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize a highly valued citizen of my home city of Newark, New Jersey. John Arthur Thomas celebrates his 80th Birthday on December 6, 2006. He has been married for fifty four years to Elizabeth Lee Nowlin. In addition, he is the father of two wonderful daughters and grandfather of two grandsons and triplet granddaughters. He has dedicated his life, for almost five decades, to educational and political development throughout the state of New Jersey.

Mr. Thomas, who is devoted to service, has established himself as an innovative member of his community. From marching with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the March on Washington to serving as Chairman of the Urban League of Hudson County, he has proven his dedication to service and leadership.

One of his leadership positions, that had a profound impact in my development during my high school years, was as the assistant football coach in Newark, New Jersey. Continuing with his commitment to sports, he currently serves as co-chair in the Newark Athlete Hall of Fame Annual Dinner held in Newark.

In the 60's Mr. Thomas was the founder of the "Crispus Attucks Day Parade" celebrating Black History.

The parade is currently titled, "The African American Black Heritage Day Parade" and is the largest African American heritage parade in the state.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring John Arthur Thomas, who becomes 80 years young on December 6, 2006, for his tireless work for the Newark community. He is a paragon of true virtue through his selfless dedication to the betterment of others. I am proud to have him in my Congressional district and wish him never-ending success in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF TROY SMITH FOR EXCELLENCE IN COLLEGE FOOTBALL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a constituent of the 11th Congressional of Ohio, the starting quarterback for the Ohio State University football team, Mr. Troy Smith. Mr. Smith is currently a senior majoring in communications. Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Smith attended Glenville High School, which he led to the state playoffs. After a strong senior year at Glenville, Smith was invited as one of eleven of the top high school quarterbacks at the elite 11 competition where he earned great praise. Following his performance, Ohio State recruited Smith late in the recruiting process.

As a freshman, Smith played sparingly as a running back and kick returner. As a sophomore, Smith was a backup quarterback but took over as starter when starter Justin Zwick was injured halfway through the season. Smith won four of five games as a starter, including a victory over archrival Michigan. Soon after, Coach Jim Tressel decided to make Smith the sole starting quarterback.

Smith was named the Offensive MVP of the 2006 Fiesta Bowl after leading the Buckeyes in a victory over the University of Notre Dame. Smith was recently honored as one of five finalists for the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award, which is given to the top senior college quarterback. In three games against Michigan, Smith has a total of 1,151 yards of total offense, two rushing touchdowns, and seven passing touchdowns. Smith is the first Ohio State starting quarterback to win three straight games against Michigan. Additionally, Troy