

1960s. In addition, he has been an active member of the Monroeville Civitan Club, the Monroe County Cattleman's Association and the Monroe County Conservation Club, to name just a few of the other groups that have benefited from his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have met few public servants as committed and dedicated to the well-being of their community as Judge Otha Lee Biggs.

His tenacity and work ethic are matched only by his kindness and generosity. It goes without saying but I am proud and deeply honored to have developed a strong friendship with him, as did my predecessors, Congressman Jack Edwards and Sonny Callahan.

Monroe County and, indeed, all of south Alabama have benefited greatly from his experience and wisdom. He is a true friend to many people, and it is a pleasure for me to ask my colleagues to join me in praising Judge Otha Lee Biggs for his accomplishments and extending thanks for his many efforts over the years on behalf of the citizens of the First Congressional District and the state of Alabama.

WATAUGA HIGH SCHOOL
FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay tribute to the Watauga High School football team of 2006. The Pioneers of Watauga High School in Boone, North Carolina set out with modest expectations and ended up just one game away from the state championship for 4A football. Along the way, they won 12 games and lost 3, and they set an example of character and perseverance that made a lasting impression on their school and their community.

This team frequently came from behind in the second half to win their games. Three times in the playoffs for the state championship, they won by one point. By scores of 20-19, 24-23, and 15-14, they advanced further toward that championship than any team from Watauga County in 28 years.

Watauga County, home to the Pioneers of Watauga High School, is a place that is used to taking pride in the academic quality of its schools but that has not often enjoyed similar success in team sports. On the academic side, the Watauga County School system is one of just three school systems in the state where all schools made Adequate Yearly Progress under No Child Left Behind last year. At Watauga High School, students achieve proficiency levels that are better than over 92 percent of high schools in the state, and average SAT scores are consistently well above the state and national average.

The football team, however, had not enjoyed a winning season in several years. They won just 4 games the previous season and only 2 the year before that. Success on the football field had to be built from the ground level. And as the success of the team gained momentum in this special season, it brought a new spirit and energy to Watauga High School and indeed to the whole community.

At the school, art students and teachers created designs for giant "W's" on the football

field, and the w's appeared on every door at the school. The local Touchdown Club—which is not affiliated with the high school—fed the players and their families each Thursday night. Local businesses announced their support for the Pioneers on the marquees outside restaurants and hotels. In churches and stores, you could hear excited conversations about the team's success.

In the end, they did not capture the state championship, but they did achieve something of greater and more lasting importance: they demonstrated the values of determination, hard work, and courage in the face of adversity. They showed that a past of limited success does not stand in the way of a bright future. In proving that history does not have to be destiny, they provided a very real example of the best of the American dream and they lived at the heart of the American experience. Their school and their community are the better for it.

PROFESSOR EXPOSES FAKE SIKH
SCRIPTURES, HINDU PLAN TO
DESTROY SIKH RELIGION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, Professor Gurtej Singh JAS is a Professor of Sikhism and a very widely respected intellectual leader in the Sikh community. Recently, he wrote an article exposing the Dasam Granth, which is alleged by some Hindus to be a Sikh scripture. What apparently was done was to take a few of the writings of Guru Gobind Singh, the last of the Sikh gurus, and combine it with some sexually explicit material from a Hindu sect known as Shakat. The aim is to discredit Guru Gobind Singh and bring the Sikhs into the Hindu fold, according to Professor Gurtej Singh.

The authors of the Dasam Granth identify themselves within the text, yet many insist that the work was written by Guru Gobind Singh and should be equal to the Sikh holy scripture, the Guru Granth Sahib.

Professor Gurtej Singh commented that a leader of the militant Hindu fascist operation known as the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), which was formed in support of the Fascists, had commented that all the Sikh "high priests" including Akal Takht Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti are on the RSS payroll. Thus, they are cooperating in this effort by the Brahmins to destroy the Sikh religion. Nice trick in a supposedly secular country!

Also cooperating in this effort is former Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal, who led the most corrupt government in the history of Punjab. These are the kinds of people with whom the Brahmins choose to ally themselves.

This kind of control over the leadership of the Sikhs is one reason that they need their independence, to protect their identity and their safety before the Indians wipe them out, as they seek to do. Over a quarter of a million Sikhs killed since 1984 proves that. In addition, the Indian regime has killed over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, more than 90,000 Muslims in Kashmir and 2,000 to 5,000 in Gujarat, as well as Christians and Muslims elsewhere in the country and Tamils, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, Assamese, and other minorities.

Tens of thousands of people are held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. The Movement Against State Repression reported that India acknowledged holding 52,268 Sikhs as political prisoners. Many of these have been in illegal detention since 1984.

These political prisoners must be released at once and those who violate human rights must be brought to justice or we should stop all of our aid and trade with India. And we should put the U.S. Congress on record in support of freedom everywhere in South Asia in the form of a plebiscite on the subject of independence, under international supervision to ensure its fairness. Isn't that the democratic way to do things?

While Professor Gurtej Singh's article is too long to put in the RECORD, the Council of Khalistan did an excellent press release on it. Mr. Speaker, I would like to add that press release on the Dasam Granth fraud to the RECORD at this time for the information of my colleagues.

PROFESSOR GURTEJ SINGH EXPOSES DASAM
GRANTH FRAUD

WASHINGTON, DC, DECEMBER 7, 2006—Professor Gurtej Singh, a leading Sikh scholar, Professor of Sikhism, and an advisor to the International Journal of Sikh Affairs, has published an extensive article exposing how Hindu fundamentalists have promoted the Dasam Granth, which contains very little of the work of Guru Gobind Singh, as his writing and as genuine Sikh scripture, parallel to the Guru Granth Sahib. He exposes the fact that "the Hindu plan to drag the Sikhs back to the Hindu fold" requires promoting the Dasam Granth and that this plan has received the support of such allegedly Sikh leaders as former Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal and the high Sikh "high priests" led by Jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti. Badal led the most corrupt government in Punjab's history, selling jobs for money, and regularly visits Hindu and other anti-Sikh places of worship, according to Professor Gurtej Singh.

Professor Gurtej Singh writes that Jathedar Vedanti "was given the task of actually dragging the Sikh panth into the fold of Hinduism." He notes that Jathedar Vedanti, like Mr. Badal, succumbed to the temptations of money. In order to carry out this nefarious plan, Professor Gurtej Singh writes, Vedanti embraced the Dasam Granth as genuine Sikh scripture, claiming that it was written by Guru Gobind Singh and was to be treated as scripture and canon. The Dasam Granth includes vivid, lewd descriptions of sex acts and other pornographic and obscene references that were added to Guru Gobind Singh's writing to make him look bad.

Professor Gurtej Singh notes that the authors of the Dasam Granth identified themselves in the text. Yet the Hindus insist that Guru Gobind Singh is the author and that the book is Sikh scripture. According to Professor Gurtej Singh, it is a scripture of the Shakat sect, who are worshippers of the Hindu goddess Shiva, as it reflects their mode of worship and their practices. "It has been a long standing Hindu desire to bring the Sikhs under the umbrella of the Shakat sect," he writes. "This involves getting them to accept some of the rituals of that sect as modes of worship." He goes on to write, "To propagate the dasam granth as Sikh scripture at par with Guru Granth, has been the aim of a section of the Hindu zealots and a section of the Media mostly controlled by such Hindus."

According to Professor Gurtej Singh, Mr. Sudarshan of the fascist, Hindu militant

Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), parent organization of the Hindu fundamentalist BJP, stated that all of the Sikh "high priests" including Vedanti are on the payroll of his organization.

"We appreciate and commend Professor Gurtej Singh for doing this outstanding work for the Sikh Nation," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan. "He is doing his job as Professor of Sikhism. The Sikh Nation commends him," Dr. Aulakh said. "Only about 60 pages of the Dasam Granth is the writing of Guru Gobind Singh," he noted. "The rest is later writings that were added and changed. Guru Gobind Singh gave guruship to the Guru Granth Sahib and ordered Sikhs to consider the Guru Granth Sahib as the living Guru," Dr. Aulakh noted. "The Guru Granth Sahib is the living Guru which Sikhs accept with reverence and respect. Recitation of the Dasam Granth should not take place in any Gurdwara," he said. "Sikhs should practice Rehat Maryada which was published in the 1940s by the SGPC after a long review and discussion by the Khalsa Panth."

Dr. Aulakh said that it is very disturbing that most of the Sikh leadership is under the control of the Indian government. "This campaign to destroy Sikhism by means of the Dasam Granth could not be taking place if we had our own homeland. We could more effectively stand up to India's ongoing effort to destroy the Sikh religion," he said. "Without political power, nations perish and religions are destroyed," he said.

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. There is nothing in common in the culture of a Hindu living in Bengal and one in Tamil Nadu, let alone between them and the minority nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

"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. "Currently, there are 17 freedom movements within India's borders. It has 18 official languages. A country having 18 official languages cannot hold its people together for very long," he said. "We hope that India's breakup will be peaceful like Czechoslovakia's, not violent like Yugoslavia's," Dr. Aulakh said. "Earlier this year, Montenegro, which has less than a million people, became 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."

Dr. Aulakh stressed his commitment to the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan. "The only way that the repression will stop and Sikhs will live in freedom, dignity, and prosperity is to liberate 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."

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GREENPOINT YMCA

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the floor in honor of the Greenpoint YMCA as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. This first rate organization enriches the lives of Brooklyn residents every day, and it is with great pleasure that I recognize its efforts on this momentous occasion.

The Greenpoint Branch stands as the second oldest YMCA building in Brooklyn and boasts a strong history of upholding its admirable mission—to promote positive values through programs that build spirit, mind, and body, welcoming all people with a focus on youth. This unwavering commitment to the tenets of community service and outreach sustains an engaged, more active citizenry, facilitating a culture of civic participation that will surely define our neighborhoods for generations to come.

Thanks to the leadership of the YMCA—its Founders, Board Members, Executive Director, staff, and supporters—local residents have access to a variety of educational and recreational activities that enable them to lead more fulfilled lives. From after-school programs to various health and wellness initiatives, the YMCA plays an integral role in the development of a more vibrant place to live. I commend its countless contributions toward the betterment of Brooklyn.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express hearty congratulations to the Greenpoint YMCA in commemoration of its 100th anniversary and express best wishes for a successful future.

HONORING GERALD W. TOMANEK OF HAYS, KANSAS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gerald W. Tomanek of Hays, Kansas, and honor his accomplishments and character.

Jerry was many things to many people—an educator, a comrade, a scientific expert, a husband and a parent. To me, Jerry was foremost a trusted friend.

Jerry and I met when I was a college student at Fort Hays State University. From the beginning, I was struck by his humble spirit and the genuine care he showed in his interaction with me. Not too many years after we first met, Jerry became President of Fort Hays State University. Years earlier, Jerry had attended the same institution when it was Fort Hays Kansas State College. As President, in 1977, he successfully led the effort to change the school's status to that of university. Today, thanks in large part to his vision, Fort Hays State University is one of the leading academic institutions in the Midwest.

In addition to serving as university president, Jerry was extensively involved in research and instruction. Growing up on the

Great Plains, he was familiar, as all Kansans are, with the prairie. First as a student and then as a professor, Jerry learned more and more about this ecosystem and became one of the most renowned experts in the world on prairies. His expertise was sought by foreign governments and leading U.S. news organizations. The intimate knowledge and love he had of the prairie helped others appreciate and understand this unique landscape.

Since our first meeting, Jerry and I stayed in contact and developed a friendship. In our many conversations, I was always impressed with his knowledge, wisdom and kindness. I valued his advice. When my family and I decided I would run for the Kansas State Senate, I asked Jerry to be my campaign chairman. He kindly accepted and helped guide me to victory, despite a close race.

Jerry was not only a friend to me, but to most everyone who met him. He was one of those rare individuals whose warm personality and authentic care for others left all who met him better off. He had a way of affirming the worth of others that inspired them to achieve their best. Despite all of his academic and professional achievements, when friends share stories of Jerry, their message is the same: he was a good man who put others before himself.

It is this example of a life well lived that is his greatest contribution. I can think of nothing more honoring than to say that Jerry lived a life that called me and those who knew him to be better people.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. WILLIAM N. YEAGER, JR.

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 8, 2006

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, Mobile and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

William N. Yeager, Jr., known simply as "Bill" to his many friends and family, was a devoted family man and dedicated community leader throughout his entire life. At the time of his death, he was the president of Timbes and Yeager, Inc., one of the most respected names in advertising in the entire State of Alabama.

Bill's company, although small in size, was both experienced and highly successful in all areas of advertising, public relations and marketing. Using his 50-plus years in the industry, Bill Yeager was one of those rare masters of his trade who, as the old saying goes, could truly sell ice to an Eskimo. And in so doing, Bill quickly earned the reputation as the "go to" man both in the world of business and the world of politics, especially throughout southwest Alabama.

To know Bill Yeager was to like Bill and to like him was to respect him, even if, on occasion, you found yourself on the opposite side of his talent and genius.

But make no mistake, Bill was also a teacher in every sense of the word and those who worked with him learned much. Moreover, the more you were around Bill the more you found him to be a kind, generous person who, while strong in his personal views and convictions,