

household has to put up with. Not that I'm complaining, but nineteen years of the Muppets and Sesame Street can be a little extreme. I think Nicole has been a blessing to our entire family. I don't know what we would have done without her.

There are so many stories to tell, but most of them are the ones that only a mother, or sister, could tolerate. Whenever you have a family with two girls close in age, there is competition. You would think that with us there wouldn't be any. Big mistake. Nicole has a boyfriend named Jason (cute couple!). I have a boyfriend named Jeff (cuter couple!) Nicole figures she should have both guys so she hits on mine. The sad part is, my boyfriend falls for her mischievous ways. Thinking from her point of view, I guess we really don't compete. She has everyone wrapped around her finger, and I think she knows it, too.

I might have missed out on some things related to sisterhood, like the part where Nicole was supposed to break Mom in to parenting a teenager. You know, all the bad habits: boyfriends, curfews, driving, and all the other things that every parent looks forward to. Things I haven't missed include time together styling her hair, polishing her nails, and going shopping. We recently had our first adventure together where she and I picked out some really cool clothes for her. Her eyes and smile told me that she thought it was the coolest thing!

We've grown up not only physically, but emotionally. We've developed an admiration for one another, and I'm very lucky to have a sister like her.

THE C-130 PROGRAM

HON. BOB WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, there has been a great deal of debate over the past couple of months regarding the C-130 aircraft included in the FY99 National Security Appropriations bill. These planes have been referred to as wasteful, unnecessary pork. I must respectfully disagree. Continuation of the C-130 program is of critical importance to our national security because it allows for a more complete integration of the Air National Guard with their active duty counterparts.

Although these aircraft have provided consistent and reliable service to our country, some of the ANG's fleet of C-130s are approaching 40 years of service. After the numerous years of activity, time has taken its toll on the planes. Some of the aircraft are heavily corroded and nearing the end of their service life. Mr. Speaker, replacing outdated aircraft is not "pork;" it's an operational necessity. Replacing outdated aircraft is not "pork" it's a safety issue.

For example, the 143rd Airlift Group of the Rhode Island Air National Guard is one of six units in the country still using the C-130Es. The requirements of the ANG and the active forces have outgrown the capability of the C-130Es. The cost of maintaining and updating these 30-year-old planes to operationally safe standards exceeds the cost of the modern, more capable C-130J or H aircraft. In addition, the Rhode Island ANG planes lack defensive systems that are a necessity in today's global climate. In particular, Rhode Island's C-130s have documented corrosion due to their years of service in the Pacific.

While serving our nation in Operation Desert Storm/Shield, Operation Provide Hope and in Bosnia, the 143rd was forced to use aircraft from other states due to their own inadequate fleet. Despite this hardship, the 143rd performed admirably.

Modernization of the fleet is a priority of the ANG and replacing the C-130 aircraft is a significant component of their plan. The ANG has outlined a modernization roadmap to reach their goals. This roadmap, based on sound operational necessity, calls for allocating aircraft based on military need, a plan endorsed by Maj. Gen. Paul A. Weaver Jr., Director of the ANG. As I am sure you are aware, the 143rd is scheduled to receive the next eight C-130s, which moves the Air Guard one step closer to completing its modernization.

In my view, modernization of our forces is an absolute necessity if we are to maintain an effective national security strategy. By first replacing the oldest and most inefficient aircraft, we can ensure our armed forces will be well equipped should the time come to act. I believe allocating the eight C-130s will be a significant step toward modernizing the ANG's fleet.

HONORING THE PHILADELPHIA PROTESTANT HOME

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Philadelphia Protestant Home on the occasion of the grand opening of their new healthcare center, Pathways at PPH. This outstanding organization has a 108 year tradition of caring for the senior citizens of all faiths of Philadelphia.

Located in Northeast Philadelphia, PPH provides care for seniors from that area and the surrounding counties. Over the years, the non-profit home has grown from one small rowhome on York Street to a bustling 12 acre campus housing over 500 residents. PPH offers independent living, assisted living, and skilled health care. PPH strives to provide quality, affordable care and to create an environment in which seniors can enjoy their retirement years to the fullest. That environment includes a full activities program with concerts, swimming, bowling, exercise classes, crafts, religious services, trips, and other events. Each year, PPH provides almost one million dollars in benevolent care for seniors who have exhausted their resources.

PPH strives to be a good neighbor and assist other community groups. They provide assistance to seniors who remain in their homes through their non-profit home healthcare agency, CareMasters of PPH. They contribute to the quality of life in their neighborhood by opening their facility to these groups so that they have a place to meet and conduct their work. They sponsor free community events and always try to assist seniors from the community and their families and caregivers.

Pathways at PPH was made possible, in part, through the generous donations of time and money from many PPH residents, employees, family members, community members, supporting congregations, PPH Ladies Auxiliary, local businesses, and numerous oth-

ers. I am grateful to them for their support of the senior citizens of Philadelphia and commend them for their dedication and hard work.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM L. JENKINS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote on House Resolution 525. Rollcall vote 425 took place on Friday, September 11. I was present and was participating on the floor during the vote, but failed to have my vote officially recorded by the electronic voting device. I wish to affirm that I fully support this resolution and would have been recorded as a "yes" if recorded electronically.

IN HONOR OF HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, a month long celebration beginning on September 15, and lasting until October 15.

America strives on the diversity of its people. As a nation, we pride ourselves on the fact that our national character is magnified by citizens who assert and respect cultural customs brought from other lands. Hispanics, nearly five-hundred years ago, came to this country in search of democracy, freedom and a better way of life.

Throughout history, Hispanic Americans have immensely contributed to the well-being and advancement of our nation. Through science, business, government, agriculture, academics and the Armed Forces, Hispanic Americans have made their presence known in American history. They have undauntedly fought to preserve democracy in America, having served in the United States Armed Forces in dimensions much larger than their percentage of the population.

Hispanic Heritage month is a time to acknowledge the contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our country, and are continuing to make. Communities all over the nation are celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, each in their own distinct manner. In Cleveland, the Cuyahoga Community College Hispanic Steering Council is coordinating the Festival Hispano, featuring performances, workshops and lectures celebrating Hispanic culture and tradition.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in sending a special thanks to the following organizations for their outstanding contributions to making the Cleveland Festival Hispano, such a success: Beck Center for Cultural Arts, Case Western Reserve University, Centro Cultural Hispano de Cleveland, City of Cleveland, The Cleveland Cinematheque, Cleveland State University, John Carroll University, Julia de Burgos Cultural Art Center, Cleveland Public Library, M.Q. Productions, Cleveland Museum of Art, Ohio Hispanic Social Service Workers

Association, The Cleveland Orchestra, Phantasmagoria Gallery, Spanish American Committees, Cuyahoga Community College, and the Westside Vet Center.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4569) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, Today I want this Congress to focus on a government that has spent years practicing torture on its own people. However, when you go home and turn on the evening news, good luck trying to find any story that reveals this particular human rights issue. And better luck getting this administration to pay any attention to the plight of thousands of innocent civilians.

We speak of tragedies all over the world this time of the year. We speak of the struggles in Africa, Cambodia, and Burma. We reprimand China for its draconian abortion policies and illegal human organ sales. We threaten to stop international military and educational training (IMET) from Indonesia for abuses in East Timor. We even criticize longstanding allies like Turkey for its treatment of its Kurdish citizens without addressing the brutal murders carried out by the PKK, a Kurdish Marxist terrorist organization.

Unfortunately, there is one human rights issue that continues to escape the attention of this administration, some Members of Congress and the media. That issue involves the plight of the Sikhs in Punjab or Khalistan; the plight of the Kashmiris; the plight of Christians in Nagaland; and the plight of the "untouchables", the lowest caste in India's caste system.

Mr. Speaker, the Indian Government is one of the world's worst human rights abusers. You may ask, well if that's true, why doesn't the world know?

Since the 1970's, Amnesty International and other human rights groups have been barred from India. Mr. Speaker, even the Government of Cuba allows Amnesty into their country.

In fact, there are half-million Indian soldiers occupying Punjab, and another half-million troops occupying Kashmir. Since 1947, India has killed over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland; 250,000 Sikhs in Punjab from 1984-1992; and 53,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988.

For the last sixteen years, I have been coming to this well to call attention to Punjab, where the Indian military receives cash bounties for the slaughter of innocent children. And to justify their actions, they are labeled "terrorists".

According to our own State Department, India paid over 41,000 cash bounties to police for killing innocent people from 1991-1993!

Also in Punjab, Sikhs are picked up in the middle of the night only to be found floating dead in canals with their hands and feet bound together. Some Kikhs are only so fortunate, many are never found after their abduction.

Recently, the India Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) told the supreme court that it had confirmed nearly 1,000 cases of unidentified bodies that were cremated by the military!

And it does not get any better in Kashmir. Women, because of their Muslim beliefs, are taken out of their homes in the middle of the night and are gang-raped while their husbands are forced to watch and wait inside at gunpoint.

It was hoped that the new governments in Delhi and Punjab would stop the repression which the Indian Supreme Court describes as "worse than a genocide!"

Mr. Speaker, opponents will say the recent election in Punjab of a Sikh dominated coalition and the fact that an "untouchable" is now the President of India is evidence of their democratic progress.

But, I can tell you that this new government in Punjab is closely aligned with the authoritarian BJP Prime Minister Gudjaral of India and India's "untouchable" president is merely a figurehead. Mr. Speaker, would democracies continue the rampant campaign of genocide?

On July 22, 1998, Baljit Singh, a Sikh youth of Burj Dhillwan Village, died of complications from torture-style brutality inflicted by the Punjab police.

Also in July of 1998, police picked up Kashmira Singh of the village of Khudial Kalan on the pretext that they were investigating a theft. They then tortured him for 15 days. They rolled logs over his legs until he couldn't walk; they submerged him in a tub of water; and they slashed his thighs with razor blades and stuffed hot peppers into the wounds.

On April 1, 1998, Brother Luke, a Roman Catholic priest was murdered in the eastern state of Bihar. His body was found with a bullet hole through the head. He was a member of Mother Teresa's world-renowned charity organization. This is the fourth priest in 2 years that has been murdered in India.

On October 30, 1997, Reverend A.T. Thomas was found beheaded also in Bihar, apparently killed for aiding the no-caste "untouchables." Amnesty International has linked the Bihar state government to the murder of Rev. Thomas! The Catholic Bishops conference of India has criticized the government for doing nothing to protect Catholic priests and for failing to prosecute those responsible.

On July 12, 1997, in Bombay, 33 Balits (black untouchables) were killed by Indian police during demonstrations.

On July 8, 1997, 36 people were killed in a train bombing in Punjab. Two ministers of the Punjab Government have blamed the Punjab police. The bombing occurred a day after 9 policemen were convicted of murder!

On March 5, 1997, a death squad picked up Kashmir Singh, an opposition party member. He was thrown in a van, tortured, and murdered. Finally, his bullet-ridden body was dumped out on the roadside.

These military forces operate beyond the law with complete impunity!

Mr. Speaker, the United States should not support a government that condones widespread abuses with our hard-earned tax dol-

lars! It is time India is held accountable for its continued violation of basic human rights!

The Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, "untouchables," and women of India are desperately looking to this Congress for help. The time has come for action, it is time for America to take a stand!

Considering all this, the President still requested \$56.5 million in development assistance for India in fiscal year (FY) 1999. That is an increase of almost \$1 million over last year.

As everyone is aware, as a result of India's recent nuclear test, the President has imposed a broad range of sanctions on India for violation of section 102(b) of the Arms Export Control Act. Also known as the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994, or more popularly, the Glenn Amendment—it prohibits a variety of assistance and commercial transactions between the U.S. and any country if the President determines that that country—if it is a non-nuclear-weapon state—has detonated a nuclear explosive device.

India has disregarded regional and international stability by placing missiles and exploding thermonuclear weapons, fission weapons, and hydrogen bombs near the Pakistan border. Indeed, their behavior has been clearly unacceptable, and they are being properly punished. I applaud the President for his fortitude.

And, if the President continues to follow through with the current law, this should send a strong signal to the Indian Government that it is not going to be business as usual with the United States.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are tired of helping bullies who punish their own people and threaten neighbors. India is still the 5th largest recipient of U.S. foreign aid in the world; India is the world's largest borrower from the World Bank with more than \$44 billion in loans; India votes against the U.S. at the United Nations more often than any other country, except Cuba.

It does not justify sending more hard-earned tax dollars to a country that claims to be the largest democracy in the world, but obviously shares none of our most cherished values.

Democracies don't commit genocide!

Let's put the brakes on the foreign aid gravy train to India!

Ask the President not to waver on his stance with India!

80 YEARS OF HISTORY OF McGEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH, BERKELEY, CA 1918-98

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, from an idea conceived by the late Reverend Silks Lincoln Tillman, a tiny Mission was organized in 1918 at 1934 Bonita Avenue in Berkeley, California. The purpose of the Mission was to meet the spiritual needs of the citizens in the rapidly growing city of Berkeley. The name, Mt. Pleasant, was given to the Mission because of the great love Reverend Tillman had for Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in his native home of Mississippi. Rev. Tillman served both as Pastor and Sunday School Superintendent of Mt. Pleasant Mission.