

May 28, 1995 and carried with him his admiration for space exploration. Ms. Kelly contacted my office requesting assistance in immortalizing her father's memory. She asked that I contact NASA Operations and forward her request to have her father's lapel pin flown on the space shuttle. After a month of corresponding between NASA and my office, the dream of Ms. Kelly and her father was about to be realized.

On April 17, 1998 the Space Shuttle Columbia launched from NASA's Kennedy Space Center and on board was Mr. Kelly's lapel pin. Space Shuttle Commander Richard Searfoss agreed to carry the pin in his personal effects bag. Upon return of the shuttle, Mr. Kelly's pin will be returned to the family with a lasting memorial to Mr. Wilfred Kelly.

The opportunity to facilitate such a rare privilege is one that I will cherish as a Member of this distinguished body.

IN HONOR OF THE FAIRVIEW
PARK WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Fairview Park Women's Club of Fairview Park, Ohio for fifty years of dedicated service, friendship, and education.

Chartered in December 1948, the Fairview Park Women's Club is committed to the improvement of the community. This club was founded by over three-hundred women and continues its strong membership today. The club sponsors many events such as refreshments for council meetings and fundraising for its scholarship fund. The Women's Club also is committed to the Hunger Center and makes an effort to donate food to the center at every meeting. The friendship these women have developed over the years through service is truly a lasting hallmark of this organization.

My fellow colleagues, join me in saluting the Fairview Park Women's Club and their accomplishments in the community.

RWANDA GENOCIDE

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, each of us has a moral obligation to remember the past, to tell our children, to leave a written record, and to work towards a brighter future. A few days ago, the Prime Minister of the interim government that directed the 1994 slaughter of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tutsis in Rwanda pleaded guilty to genocide and agreed to testify against others accused of planning the massacres. We have been told that the Rwanda genocide of 1994 was the worst massacre of human life since the World War II holocaust. Nearly 1 million people were killed in less than 100 days. The world knew the genocide was going to occur. Despite advanced warnings, the world community did not mobilize to stop the horror.

Today, we must ask: What are we doing to help build Rwanda? As legislators, we need to

share our expertise with new governments and young democracies in a sincere effort to build peaceful, civil societies. Today, the task at hand for Rwanda is to help Rwandans live together again. The country and its people are trying to endure after being cruelly torn apart. We must help Rwanda survive and build a democratic, free nation.

SIKHS FORM CITIZENS COMMISSION
TO INVESTIGATE GENOCIDE
IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, when the Akali government in Punjab was elected, they promised to appoint a commission to investigate the genocide against the Sikhs since 1984. They have not kept that promise. As a result, Justice Kuldeep Singh, the President of the World Sikh Council, announced that he will be appointing a citizens' commission to conduct this investigation, according to an article that ran on April 10 in the "Times of India."

Justice Kuldeep Singh said that the commission will be chaired by a retired Supreme Court justice, that it will begin work next month, and that it will submit its report by the end of the year. It will investigate atrocities by militants as well as those by the state and central governments. Since the Akali government took power in Punjab in March 1997, more than 100 atrocities by the state government have been documented.

We should take this opportunity to congratulate Justice Kuldeep Singh and all the human-rights activists who provided the impetus for this commission. It is well past time for the truth about Indian genocide in Punjab, Khalistan to come out. This commission is the beginning of that process. Just as the world has begun to learn the truth about the genocide in Armenia over eighty years ago and the Holocaust more than 50 years ago, it is critically important that the world learn the truth about India's genocide against the Sikhs and the other minorities of South Asia, such as the Christians of Nagaland, the Muslims of Kashmir, the Dalit Untouchables, and others.

Why has the Akali-BJP government in Punjab resisted this probe? The only people who resisted exposure of these other genocide campaigns were those who would be hurt by the revelation. One has to wonder why the Akali government would make itself part of the coverup. In that light, the Citizens Commission is a great step forward. We await their report so that the truth about the genocide in Punjab, Khalistan will come out. I urge the other minorities under Indian rule to create similar commissions to bring out the truth about India's treatment of them as well.

I would like to submit the "Times of India" article as well as the excellent press release on the Commission from the Council of Khalistan. I urge my colleagues to read them.

[From the Times of India, Apr. 10, 1998]

SIKH COUNCIL PANEL TO PROBE PUNJAB
VIOLENCE

CHANDIGARH. The World Sikh Council (WSC), headed by former Supreme Court judge Kuldeep Singh, has decided to set up a "people's commission" to probe violence in Punjab during the militancy period.

Mr. Singh told reporters that the commission, to be headed by a retired chief justice of the Supreme Court, would start functioning from next month. It is expected to submit its findings by the year end. He said the commission would probe "human rights violation by militants and also the state".

Mr. Singh said the people had the right to know the truth and those who were oblivious to it were likely to repeat history. A constitutional body could not probe this problem, hence the need for setting up such a commission.

Interestingly, the Akali Dal-BJP combine had promised to set up a similar commission on the eve of the assembly elections last year. After coming to power in the state, it abandoned the plan saying such a commission would only open old wounds.

CITIZENS COMMISSION FORMED TO
INVESTIGATE GENOCIDE IN PUNJAB

STATE TERRORISM, POLICE BRUTALITY WILL
FINALLY BE EXPOSED

Washington, D.C.—The World Sikh Council will appoint a Citizens' Commission to investigate the genocide in Punjab, according to today's edition of The Times of India. Retired Supreme Court Justice Kuldeep Singh, President of the World Sikh Council, announced the formation of the commission, which will begin its work next month and is expected to report on its findings by the end of the year, according to the article.

The Punjab state government under Akali Dal Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal had promised to set up a commission to investigate the genocide, but it broke that promise and now boasts that it has not prosecuted even a single police officer. The Akali Dal is a political ally of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and currently has two positions in India's central government.

"The Sikh Nation welcomes the formation of this commission," said Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, the government *pro tempore* of Khalistan. Khalistan is the sovereign, independent Sikh homeland, which declared its independence on October 7, 1987. The Council of Khalistan leads the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent struggle to liberate Khalistan from Indian rule.

"I would like to congratulate Justice Kuldeep Singh, as well as General Narinder Singh, Inderjit Singh Jaijee, Dr. Kharak Singh Mann, Dr. Gurdarshan Singh Dhillon, Dr. Sukhjot Kaur Gill, Bibi Baljit Kaur Gill, the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), the Punjab Human Rights Organization (PHRO), and the entire human-rights community in Punjab, Khalistan for maintaining the pressure that led to the formation of this commission," Dr. Aulakh said. "I request the blessing of the Jathedar of the Akal Takht, Bhai Ranjit Singh Ji, and his support for the work of this commission," he said. "The time has come for the full truth about Indian genocide against the Sikh Nation to come out. It is time for the Sikh Nation to unite in support of this effort," Dr. Aulakh said.

Since the Akali Dal government took over in March 1997, over 100 atrocities by Punjab police have been documented, including rape, torture, abductions, and murders. "Disappearances" continue to occur. The state government's own human-rights commission reported that it has received over 200 complaints. Since 1984, the Indian regime has murdered more than 250,000 Sikhs.

"The Armenian community is working hard to get the U.S. Congress to recognize the genocide against the Armenians 80 years ago," Dr. Aulakh pointed out. "The Jewish community has made sure the world never forgets the Holocaust over 50 years ago. The

Cambodian genocide in the 1970s is still remembered," he noted. "The only people who resisted exposure of these brutal events were the people who were involved," he said. "The resistance of the Akali government to exposure of the genocide against the Sikh Nation on the flimsy excuse that it would reopen old wounds raises the question of whether they are hiding their own culpability."

RECOGNITION OF SAN
BERNARDINO COUNTY SCHOOLS
COMMUNITY COALITION PART-
NERS

HON. GEORGE E. BROWN, JR.

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. BROWN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of the teachers, staff and partners involved in the San Bernardino County Schools Community Coalition projects. It is all too infrequent that we take the opportunity to acknowledge and commend those who help improve the lives of our students.

Those who have spent the past several years in Community Coalition projects have contributed a great deal to our community and to the futures of our children. County students benefit from excellent programs in the areas of early literacy, technology, school safety, and career preparation.

It is an honor and privilege for me to recognize the following Community Coalition partners, and to thank them for their dedication and commitment to the children of San Bernardino County. They serve as an example for us all.

Early Literacy: Diane Harlan, Adelanto School District; Celeste Danjou, Apple Valley Unified; Dawn Fletcher, Apple Valley Unified; Sue Rhoades, Apple Valley Unified; Mary Gee, Barstow Unified; Terry Rogers, Barstow Unified; Audrey Howard, Bear Valley Unified; Tina Pelletier, Bear Valley Unified; Donna Libutti, Central School District; Luanne Rhodes, Central School District; Patty DiPaolo, Chino Unified; Audrey Folden, Chino Unified; Helen Rockett, Chino Unified; Hester Turpin, Colton Joint Unified; Ava Gonick, Cucamonga School District; Susan Birrell, Hesperia Unified; Vickie Holman, Hesperia Unified; Aleen Massey, Hesperia Unified; Liz Fragua, Lucerne Valley Unified; Cathy Richardson, Morongo Unified; Joan Carey, Ontario-Montclair School District; Sue Cornell, Ontario-Montclair School District; Lynne Merryfield, Ontario-Montclair School District; Arlene Mistretta, Ontario-Montclair School District; Janie Pierson, Ontario-Montclair School District; Darwin Ruhle, Ontario-Montclair School District; Denise Cates, Darnell-Redlands Unified; Caroleen Cosand, Redlands Unified; Jean Fenn, Rim of the World Unified; Carol Besser, San Bernardino City Unified; Londa Carter, San Bernardino City Unified; Denise Dugger, Snowline Joint Unified; Cynthia Freymueller, Snowline Joint Unified; Rachael Emergy, Upland Unified; Judy Lowrie, Upland Unified; Marge Ruffalo, Upland Unified; Laura Chapman, Victor Elementary School District; Luis labarra, Victor Elementary School District; Chris Richards, Victor Elementary School District; and Melody Davidsmeier, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified.

Technology: Jim Roller, Apple Valley Unified; Steve Bailey, Barstow Unified; Cindy Robinson, China Unified; Ruthetta Brandt, Fontana Unified; Leandra Pearson, Hesperia Unified; Kathy Gilbert, Ontario-Montclair School District; Jim Evans, Redlands Unified; Noelle Kreider, Rialto Unified; Alexis Carlson, San Bernardino City Unified; John Patten, San Bernardino City Unified; Bob Watson, San Bernardino City Unified; and Linda Jungwirth, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified.

Focus on the Future: Judith Pratt, Chaffey Joint Union High School District; Michele Beutler, Fontana Unified; Dr. Bill Clark, Fontana Unified; Carrie Childress, Hesperia Unified; Jeff Drozd, Morongo Unified; Patricia Merriam, Morongo Unified; Skip Brown, Redlands Unified; Laura Brundige, Redlands Unified; Jerry Bennett, San Bernardino City Unified; Geri Kubanek, York-San Bernardino City Unified; Jere Lloyd, San Bernardino City Unified; Leslie Rodden, San Bernardino City Unified; and Pam Stockard, San Bernardino City Unified.

School Safety: Norma Ashworth, Apple Valley Unified; Robert Martinez, Chaffey Joint Union High School District; David Mann, Colton Joint Unified; Beth Henry, Fontana Unified; Sally Foster, Hesperia Unified; Marc Divine, Redlands Unified; Cathy Magana, San Bernardino City Unified; Tim Kelleghan, San Bernardino City Unified; Tina Maeda, San Bernardino City Unified; and Jimmie Jimenez, Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified.

Community Coalition Verbal Judo Instructors: Richard Laabs, Redlands Unified; Michael Vance, San Bernardino County Schools; Debbie Fairfax, Upland Unified; and Joe Kaempher, Victor Valley Union High School District.

CELEBRATING LISA KAPLAN'S
BAT MITZVAH

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a special congratulations to Lisa Kaplan, who will celebrate her Bat Mitzvah on Friday, May 8. The ceremony marks a culmination of religious study and community work that is a point of pride for her parents, James and Allin, as well as the many friends of the Kaplan family.

Lisa is an outstanding young woman with a very bright future ahead. Lisa attends Daniel Wright Junior High School in Lake Forest, Illinois. She's involved in many varied activities including student council, performing trumpet in the band, and playing on the baseball team. Lisa has distinguished herself academically by making the honor roll and being named to the National Junior Honor Society. Outside of school, Lisa has committed herself to being a regular participant in her synagogue and is an active student of Jewish tradition. And in her home, Lisa has been a loving daughter to her parents and a loving sister to her siblings.

The Bat Mitzvah ceremony will be just the first step in Lisa's coming of age and the assumption of adult responsibilities. This is deservedly a proud moment for the Kaplan family, and I welcome Lisa's increased involvement in our schools, church, and community.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NA-
TIONAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT
ACT

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the reauthorization of the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA). On behalf of the thousands of American patients currently awaiting a lifesaving organ, the many dedicated physicians, surgeons and scientists actively engaged in the research and practice of transplantation, I ask my colleagues to support the reauthorization of NOTA.

As many of my colleagues know, two and a half years ago I underwent a successful liver transplant that saved my life and literally gave me a second chance. However, there are others that are not as fortunate as I was. Currently, there are over 58,000 people waiting for a lifesaving donor organ and an estimated eight people a day die waiting for an organ transplant. These alarming statistics translate into an increase of 255 percent over the last ten years. Although there have been many new scientific advances in the field of solid organ transplantation over the last eight years, the major obstacle continues to be that the demand for donor organs remains far less than the supply.

Given the rapid scientific advancements and increasing numbers of patients requiring organ transplants, I believe that it is imperative to re-examine and update the nation's system for organ donation and transplantation. Over the last 30 years, transplantation of solid organs has moved from experimental to accepted therapy, with over 20,000 transplants performed in 1997 alone. I am living proof that transplantation works, it saves lives and it improves the quality of people's lives. The success of this procedure has improved greatly over the last few years with almost all solid organ recipients enjoying an 83 to 97 percent survival rate at one year. However, despite improved survival rates there still remains a serious donor shortage in this country and we must do more to increase awareness as to the importance of organ donation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support the reauthorization of the National Organ Transplant Act. More importantly, I would urge my colleagues to talk to their families and loved ones about organ donation and make their intentions known so that someone can receive the "gift of life."

SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF H.R.
3605, "THE PATIENTS' BILL OF
RIGHTS ACT"

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 6, 1998

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Representatives JOHN DINGELL and GREG GANSKE, Leader DICK GEPHARDT, Leader TOM DASCHLE, Senator TED KENNEDY, Senator BARBARA BOXER, and the many patient and health groups, in support of H.R. 3605, the Patients' Bill of Rights Act. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Congressman DINGELL for his strong