

children and grandchildren and it is a poor way to prepare for the next century.

We cannot count on the favorable trends continuing; the wise thing to do is to wait and see what happens. We should also wait until Congress takes steps to shore up Social Security. We should not be spending the surpluses until the government's revenue and spending excluding Social Security are in balance and Social Security's long-term fiscal imbalance has been addressed. It is certainly premature to talk about spending a surplus when we have huge entitlement costs looming before us in the near future. We shouldn't spend money we may not have. Moreover, I don't see the American people crying out for government action, either on the spending side or the revenue side. And, with the economy performing quite well, I see little reason for changing the government's fiscal approach at the present time. So I think we should resist the proposals calling for new tax cuts or increased government spending. I believe we will get a higher economic return from future surpluses by using them to whittle down the \$3.8 trillion in federal debt held by the public.

I understand that it is possible to use the surplus to carefully craft tax cuts or new spending programs that deepen the nation's long-term capital base and encourage economic growth. But I am not at all sure that those sound proposals would emerge from the legislative process. On balance debt reduction probably makes more sense.

CONCLUSION

So my preference is to leave the budget surplus alone, and if sizeable surpluses do in fact arrive they should be committed to our future, not to the present. It seems clear to me that those who want to reduce the surpluses, whether by tax cuts or spending increases, will be impairing the incomes of our children and grandchildren. They are making a clear choice, preferring our generation to future generations.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ISRAELI MIA'S

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the capture of several Israeli soldiers who were taken prisoner by the Syrians in the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. The Syrians succeeded in capturing Sgt. Zachary Baumel, 1st Sgt. Zvi Feldman and Cpt. Yehudah Katz. Upon arrival in Damascus, the identified tank and crew were paraded through the streets draped in Syrian and Palestinian flags.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the Israeli and the United States Governments have been working to obtain any possible information about the fate of these missing soldiers, joining forces with the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations and other international bodies. According to the Geneva convention, the area in Lebanon where the soldiers first disappeared was continually controlled by Syria, therefore deeming her responsible for the treatment of the captured soldiers. To this day, despite the promises made by the Syrian Government and by the PLO, very little information has been forthcoming about the condition of

Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

June 11 marks the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Sixteen pain-filled years have already passed since the families of the MIA's have last seen their sons, and yet President Assad has still not revealed their whereabouts.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my district in Brooklyn, NY. A dedicated basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members, and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate had unfortunately decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982 he vanished.

Zachary's parents, Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the conference of Presidents of major American Jewish organizations. The Stella K. Abraham High School for Girls forged a project that has increased awareness and support for the MIAs plight for freedom. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their devoted efforts and ask my colleagues to join me in commending their efforts. These families have been without their children for sixteen years. Answers must be found.

THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARYLAND REHABILITATION CENTER

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Maryland Rehabilitation Center, which is celebrating its 25th Anniversary on June 19, 1998. Since opening its doors in 1973, the Center has gained international recognition as a provider of quality comprehensive rehabilitation services. At the Center, more than 50,000 individuals with disabilities have received the services they need to help them reach employment goals and achieve greater independence.

Located on 14 acres in northeast Baltimore, Maryland, the Maryland Rehabilitation Center is operated by the Maryland State Department of Education, Division of Rehabilitation Services. It is one of only nine comprehensive vocational rehabilitation centers in the United States, and has earned an international reputation for its innovative approach to helping individuals circumvent or compensate for their disabilities.

In carrying out its mission, the Center offers a wide variety of services, including evaluations, therapies, and training programs. In helping those with disabilities become as inde-

pendent as possible, the Center helps identify suitable vocational goals and therapy needs.

Occupational training is offered in 12 areas, including office technology, computer programming, automotive repair and cosmetology. The Center often works with employers to hire qualified individuals who have the skills to do the job. In addition, the Center also offers remedial education, counseling, driver's education and specialized services for individuals who are deaf and/or blind.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in saluting the Maryland Rehabilitation Center for its dedication and commitment to helping those with disabilities achieve their goals for employment and independence. The Center's pioneering work has given thousands of individuals an opportunity to achieve success.

TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL SPINA

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to a remarkable man, Samuel Spina, the Mayor of the Township of West Orange, New Jersey. Sam and I have worked together for many years. His colleagues and I agree that he has always been considered to be one of the most dedicated and conscientious public servants in our great state.

Born and raised in West Orange, Sam attended local schools and received his degree from Seton Hall University. Following graduation, Sam served our country in the United States Marine Corps. After completing his service commitment, he returned to marry his high school sweetheart, the former Joan Coen. Settling in West Orange, they raised seven children, and have more recently been blessed with six grandchildren.

Mayor Spina began his distinguished career in public service in 1970 when he was elected to the West Orange Township Council, receiving more votes than any other candidate in that open election. In May 1978, Sam was elected Mayor for the first time. In 1982, Sam became the first candidate for Mayor to run unopposed in the history of West Orange. Clearly his talents and keen insight into public policy were not lost on the electorate. After being elected to an unprecedented fifth term in 1994, he continues to serve in that position to this day.

The citizens' appreciation of Sam's service and the recognition from his peers have been unparalleled. He was elected to serve as the President of the New Jersey Conference of Mayors in April 1988. Mayor Spina took the office to which he was elected seriously, making a concerted effort to educate the people of the Garden State on the fundamentals of local government. In 1991, he was elected Chairman of the Essex County Conference of Mayors.

In addition to his respected political career, Sam has been extremely active in the West Orange community. Known throughout Essex County as a man who gives freely of his time, he frequently can be seen at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. He is also dedicated to recognizing and promoting the interests of our seniors and disabled citizens, often organizing