

But his retirement is certainly well-earned and I hope he enjoys the next chapter in his life.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI MICHAEL
ROBINSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Rabbi Michael Robinson who died July 20, 2006, surrounded by friends and family at his home in Sebastopol, California.

Mr. Speaker, this is the second time I have risen to honor this unique man who has dedicated his life to the cause of social justice at home and around the world. On the last occasion, several years ago Rabbi Robinson received a civil liberties award from the ACLU of Sonoma County recognizing a lifetime of achievements and his passionate advocacy for civil rights. From the American civil rights movement to the Nicaraguan Contra war to the Israel-Palestinian conflict Michael Robinson has been on the front lines promoting peace and the improvement of humanity.

Born in North Carolina, Michael received his B.A. from the University of Cincinnati and attended North Carolina State College before enlisting in the Navy during World War II. He served in the Pacific and became a pacifist immediately after this experience.

In 1952, after completing a course of study at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Michael became the first North Carolina native to be ordained as a rabbi. He later earned his doctoral degree from the New York Theological Seminary and served in temples in Seattle and Pomona as well as 29 years as an activist leader at Temple Israel in Westchester, New York. During the civil rights movement, the synagogue raised money to help rebuild the black churches that had been burned in the South and finance the van used by the Freedom Riders to tour the South. Michael marched with Martin Luther King Jr. in Selma, and expressed his convictions with these words: "When I was ten years old I began sitting on the back seat of the bus with 'colored people.' I never returned to the front seat."

After moving to Sonoma County with his wife Ruth, Michael served Shomrei Torah, and is credited with growing the congregation from 30 families to now the largest Jewish congregation (175) in Santa Rosa, CA. Retired since 1996, Rabbi Robinson holds the title of Rabbi Emeritus at both Temple Israel and Shomrei Torah.

In addition to promoting affirmative action, same sex marriage, affordable housing, and other equality issues, Michael has worked against nuclear war, apartheid, and all forms of injustice. He is known locally for his involvement in the Sonoma County Task Force on Homelessness, Children's Village, the Living Wage Coalition, Habitat for Humanity, the Sonoma County Peace and Justice Center, and the Sonoma Land Trust.

A founding Member of Angry White Guys for Affirmative Action in 1996, Michael's words still resonate: "I hope that my anger will not dissipate until justice is done and every man, woman and child has equal access to all the

privileges of a democratic society and receives equal respect."

Michael is survived by his wife Ruth, his sister Leah Karpen, his daughters Jude and Sharon, and 3 grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I share Rabbi Michael Robinson's hope that we as a nation can become better people and create a just society. And I join with his family and friends in the belief that we can best honor his life by making the work of peace and social justice a priority in our own lives.

RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT COLONEL
RICHARD E. NICHOLS, JR.

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize LTC Richard E. Nichols, Jr. The Lieutenant Colonel is retiring from the United States Army after 24 years of distinguished service.

Lieutenant Colonel Nichols spent his early years growing up in the heartland of Kansas and Missouri. While attending Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, Missouri, he made the decision to serve his country in the United States Army and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Field Artillery in 1982. Upon graduating from Missouri Western State College in 1983 with a bachelor of science degree in business administration, Lieutenant Colonel Nichols served in the Kansas Army National Guard as the Reconnaissance and Survey Platoon Leader for the 2nd/130th Field Artillery Battalion in Hiawatha, Kansas.

Lieutenant Colonel Nichols went on to serve in various posts over the next 24 years. During his service he was assigned to C Battery, 1/76th Field Artillery, 3rd Infantry Division, in Bamberg, Germany, and as the commander of B Battery, 6th Field Artillery, which deployed in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm from 1989 to 1991. In these roles and under various posts in Kansas, Alabama, and Virginia, Lieutenant Colonel Nichols has earned numerous awards and decorations. Among these awards are the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Superior Unit Award, the National Defense Service Medal with service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Saudi Arabia Liberation of Kuwait Service Medal, the Emirate of Kuwait Liberation of Kuwait Service Medal, and the Overseas Service Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in recognizing LTC Richard E. Nichols, Jr., an outstanding leader in the United States Army. His years of service and dedication in protecting the freedom of the United States has been an inspiration to many. I commend him for his many years of service and I am honored to represent him and his family in the United States Congress.

COMMENDING THE INDUSTRIAL
EMERGENCY COUNCIL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 25, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the invaluable services offered by the Industrial Emergency Council (IEC) in my district. I had the great honor recently to meet with this group and I was very impressed with their zeal and loyalty to the citizens of California. The IEC is a non-profit organization founded by several hardworking and dedicated constituents in the 1970s. They provide training and assessment programs that help prepare local businesses for emergency responses to industrial accidents and natural disasters. In a part of the country where earthquakes, flash floods and other disasters often have devastating effects, the IEC takes public safety seriously by educating at-risk federal, industrial, corporate and academic installations about the dangers they confront.

The Council is comprised of commendable and experienced membership. Its founder, James O'Donnell, served as Battalion Chief and Fire Marshall of the San Carlos Fire Department and is a leader hazardous materials planning. Other members include: John Paine, a consultant to the gas industry for over thirty years; Mark Green, the founder of an environmental consulting group; Paul Stanley, the facility manager for a large bay-area pharmaceutical company; Richard Foster, the former city manager for Foster City and Jack Leslie, former Battalion Chief of the Palo Alto Fire Department. These career professionals have pooled their respective knowledge and experience managing industrial hazards and now generously share their expertise on a volunteer basis.

In response to a variety of client needs, the IEC provides a wide array of services. They offer several specially tailored training services for employees, ranging from Emergency Medical training to Hazardous Materials and Waste operations. They help work with industrial facilities to assess the natural and technological risks to their operations. In addition, IEC assists clients in the execution of comprehensive action plans designed to address identified hazards.

IEC's vision was best realized in the formation of the San Mateo County Hazardous Materials Response Plan. In 1984, the Council organized a response unit to classify the actual and potential threats in the county. This unparalleled endeavor won national recognition as a commendably comprehensive plan, serving 18 separate jurisdictions in the state. Even though the industrial emphasis in my district has shifted towards biotech and hi-tech industries, the response unit remains important in dealing with hazardous materials,

To adjust to the emerging threats against our homeland security, the IEC organized a weapons of mass destruction exercise in early 2005, designed for first responders. Over 1000 members of law enforcement, fire and public works received vital joint training, which stressed information sharing among different personnel. The entire endeavor was hugely successful thanks to the unwavering enthusiasm of our dedicated public servants at the IEC.