

cause so successfully in 1948. He fought for basic, fundamental civil, human, and individual rights. He has been a successful warrior for his cause—democracy, decency, justice, and fairness. The seeds he planted all those years ago have grown into ideas whose roots are firmly planted in south Texas. Those seeds have produced today's leaders, and laid the foundation for tomorrow's leaders.

I join veterans, the national Hispanic community, and all Americans who cherish justice in thanking Dr. Garcia for his very special service—both during conflict with the enemy, and within the bureaucracy. The American GI Forum, founded by Dr. Garcia, was originally intended to guide WWI and WWII veterans through the maze of bureaucracy to obtain their educational and medical benefits. Gradually, it grew into the highly acclaimed Hispanic civil rights organization it is today.

The seeds of Dr. Garcia's inspiration and leadership have sprouted, and they will continue to grow and succeed—just as he planned four decades ago. Dr. Garcia is a tremendously gracious man, and his legacy to us has been to treat each other decently as human beings. He embodies the Golden Rule—"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the continual source of inspiration to many of us in south Texas—Dr. Hector Garcia, physician and American patriot.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform the House how I would have voted on three votes held on June 20, 1996. On that day I was in meetings and the beeper provided by the House malfunctioned and did not properly alert me to the fact votes were being taken by the full House. Had I been present on rollcall vote No. 259, on the amendment offered by Mr. PARKER I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall vote No. 260, on the amendment offered by Mr. SANDERS I would have voted "yes"; and on rollcall No. 261, on the amendment offered by Mr. SHADEGG I would have voted "no".

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation which would improve the quality of the Social Security card and make it a crime to counterfeit work authorization documents. This is absolutely critical to our fight against illegal immigration. Several of my colleagues, including Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. HORN, join me in this effort.

Illegal immigrants come to the United States for one overwhelming reason: jobs. In re-

sponse to this obvious magnet for illegal immigration, the 1986 immigration bill created employer sanctions, making it illegal to knowingly hire an illegal alien. That law requires everyone seeking employment in the United States to produce evidence of eligibility to work. One of the documents that may be produced together with a driver's license to prove this eligibility is the Social Security card. The primary reason employer sanctions are not working today is the rampant fraud in the documents used to prove eligibility to work, specifically the Social Security card. H.R. 2202 would reduce the number of documents that may be produced from 29 to 6. This helps, but one of the six is still the Social Security card. As long as it can be easily counterfeited, employer sanctions will not work.

Why is it so important to make employer sanctions work? There are 4 million illegal aliens in the United States today. This number increases by 300,000 to 500,000 annually. Most illegals are non-English speaking, poorly educated, and lacking in marketable skills. Their numbers are so large in the communities and States where they are settling that they cannot be properly assimilated, and they are having a very negative social, cultural, and economic impact.

Even if the southwest border were sealed, which it can't be, it would not solve the illegal immigration problem. Nearly 50 percent of illegals are here because they entered on legal temporary visas and did not leave. The only way to stop illegals from coming, through the border or otherwise, is to eliminate the magnet of jobs. The only way to do that is to make employer sanctions work.

Mr. Speaker, the bill I am introducing today will make major strides in our efforts to make employer sanctions work. Until sanctions work, our fight against illegal immigration will be in vain.

PUTTING THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE IN PERSPECTIVE

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recommend the following article to my colleagues, authored by Rabbi Israel Zoberman from Virginia Beach on "Putting the Middle East Peace in Perspective" which appeared in the April 5, 1996 edition of the *Virginian Pilot*.

[From the *Virginian-Pilot*, 4, 5, 1996]

PUTTING MIDDLE EAST PEACE IN PERSPECTIVE (By Israel Zoberman)

The Middle East peace process finds itself at fateful crossroads following the recent terrorist suicide-bombings in Israel's urban centers.

The 100-years-long deadly entanglement between Arab and Jew began to be unlocked by the courageously crafted 1979 rapprochement between President Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel.

The first breach in the wall separating avowed antagonists was led on the Arab side by no other than Egypt. Though Sadat became a sacrifice on the altar of correcting history's course, his act of faith, along with Begin's willing yet costly compromise, was necessary for the next break-through to fol-

low. That was not to happen without the painful 1982 Lebanon war, which highlighted the Palestinian factor and the urgency of responding creatively to its complex dimensions.

The bloody and embarrassing Intifada erupting in 1987 confirmed Israel's need to come to grips with that portion of the Camp David Peace Accords remaining open, laying to rest those spoils of the 1967 Six-Day War, which paradoxically have both allowed and forced it to negotiate peace. The PLO and Chairman Yasser Arafat received the final wake-up call in the wake of the 1991 Persian Gulf war. He bet on the wrong horse, while facing the prospect of being replaced by the even-more-militant Muslim fundamentalism of the uncompromising Hamas ilk.

The 1993 shaky handshake between Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Chairman Arafat on the South Lawn of the White House, with President Clinton acting as proud officiant, changed forever the dynamics of Middle Eastern politics, facilitating Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Rabin, ironically the victorious architect of the glorious 1967 war of survival, fell victim to its bitter fruit and an Israeli-Jewish extremist vengefully trying to halt proceeding toward a land-for-peace solution, causing an immense trauma. The exsoldier's heroic peacemaking has already dramatically enlarged Israel's circle of diplomatic and economic connections, substantially rewarding the cooperative Arabs, including the hard-pressed Palestinians.

In January, I was among 55 rabbis on a peace mission to visit the leadership of Israel, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. We were in Gaza on the eve of the first Palestinian elections, protected by armed guards as we entered at the Erez checkpoint, where a relative of mine, a young Israeli officer, was killed about a year ago.

We were warmly greeted by General Usuf, head of security; he impressed us with his realistic appraisal, stating that it is easier to fight than to engage in peace and that it is absolutely necessary to educate the young generation for a new reality, acknowledging that both societies are interdependent. Wise words, indeed.

We owe a great deal to President Clinton for his steadfast backing throughout this excruciating series of highs and lows, its uplifting moments and, particularly, during the devastating ordeal of assassination and terrorist explosions. He has won the heart of Israel with his reassuring presence and wide initiative, spearheading the anti-terrorism summit conference and taking concrete steps to provide aid in efforts to counter terrorism. Such steps should include cutting off financial support from sources in the United States and Europe to the sponsors of wholesale slaughter, Iran receiving no uncertain notice for its criminal involvement.

I remain confident about the potential to avoid the pitfalls of the past, though I am concerned about the May 28 Israeli elections and the possible loss of nerve after being so gravely tested. Having grown up in the Israel of the '50s and '60s and having served in its army, I appreciate the miracle of a transformed environment that we could not even dream of then. The essential agreement with Syria and Lebanon, without which there is no peace, is in the offing, mindful of the thorny Golan issue.

Even hard-nosed President Hafez el-Assad cannot long deny it; his role is vital in checking the plague of violence which he does not hesitate to unleash for his own purposes. Arafat knows that his future and that of his long-deprived people depends on standing up to foes from within who are undermining their own brethren.

Amending the Palestinian National Covenant in regard to Israel's destruction is long overdue. We surely cannot permit the purveyors of chaos and hate to have the last say. They will not alter the progressive agenda and valiant vision to yet turn swords into plowshares, hallowing the gift of life through the gift of peace.

YOUNG AMERICAN STUDENTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to note for my colleagues the charitable work carried out by some of our young high school students from Rockland County in my congressional district. The Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund, founded after the 1986 Ukrainian nuclear reactor explosion at Chernobyl, by Ramapo high school teacher Don Cairns, has engaged young people from that school in gathering medical supplies for children of Belarus affected by the radiation released by that explosion.

Once again this year, students working through the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund participated in a humanitarian relief program for those children in Belarus. On April 18, 1996, a delegation of 19 students left for a 10 day trip to the Republic of Belarus to act as ambassadors of international goodwill and understanding. Upon their arrival in Minsk, the American students, led by Don Cairns, were welcomed by the Premier of the Republic, Micheslav Gryb, who praised their efforts.

Through their travel to Belarus, these American students provided not only moral support for the children suffering from the effects of the 1986 Chernobyl explosion, but presented 5 million dollars' worth of medical supplies and toys to hospitals and orphanages. To date the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund has provided \$20 million in such aid to Belarus. Part of the assistance delivered on this most recent trip was given to the Children's Hospital of the Radiation Medicine Research Institute in Aksakovtchina, while the rest of the donations were distributed to other hospitals in the provinces of Mogilev and Gomel where children affected by Chernobyl are undergoing treatment.

In addition to bringing charitable aid to Belarus, the Ramapo High School students also put on musical performances for the children, performing a total of 21 times throughout Belarus as they visited nine schools, nine hospitals and appeared on national television. They also put on a performance for the Belorussian foreign minister, the Belorussian Friendship Society, the American Embassy and for the Belorussian President, Alexander Lukashenko.

Mr. Speaker, the Ramapo High School students' charitable efforts in Belarus are helping the United States to strengthen its relations with the republic of Belarus. And I should note that this most recent trip took place at a time when radiation was again being released from the contaminated Chernobyl area, this time by fires in the area around the nuclear facility. Our young American students decided to continue their visit in Belarus, despite that potentially threatening situation. Fortunately the del-

egation safely returned to the United States on May 1, 1996, with their charitable mission accomplished. Their service abroad serves as a model for all young people in our country, and demonstrates how young students' efforts can indeed make a difference.

Mr. Speaker, at this point I would like to insert letters representing the good work done by the young students, written by Don Cairns, president of the Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund; by the President of the Republic of Belarus, Aleksander Lukashenko; and, by Arseny Vanitsky, president of the Belorussian Friendship Society.

RAMAPO CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL FUND,
Spring Valley, NY, May 15, 1996

BENJAMIN GILMAN,

Congress of the United States, Middletown, NY.

DEAR BEN: Enclosed please find some information and pictures from our most recent humanitarian trip to Belarus.

We are very proud of our 19 member Student Delegation who visited the village of Shklov, the city of Mogliev, the village of Polotsk, the village of Sharkovchina, the World War II Memorial, Khatyn, and the city of Minsk. They worked very hard as they performed a fifties' song and dance routine and hand carried and delivered medicines, supplies, and toys to children in 9 hospitals and 9 schools. They were transported by a Belarus Military bus to visit numerous cathedrals, museums, and other historical points of interest. The students performed 21 times in ten days in the hospitals, in the schools, for the Belorussian Foreign Minister, Vladimir Saenko, for Metropolitan Filoret, for the Belorussian Friendship Society, for the United States Embassy, and for Belarus President, Alexander Lukashenko. They were televised three times detailing their achievements.

This trip was a unique experience for students and adults alike. We stayed in families and made many new friendships. Our group was the first group of Americans to visit the remote village of Shklov and we planted two chestnut trees together with school children in the village of Sharkovchina. Emotions flooded from all who participated and our students vowed to return to see the trees grown.

The Ramapo Children of Chernobyl Fund has delivered \$20,000,000 in supplies since we began our program in 1990. Our students are our best ambassadors. They have truly begun bridges of friendship that will indeed MAKE A DIFFERENCE in their future.

Thank you for helping us and for your continued support of this very important program of children helping children.

Sincerely,

DON CAIRNS & PAT DEFRANCESCO.

APRIL 26, 1996

Mr. CAIRNS,

President of the "Ramapo—Children of Chernobyl Fund"

The Belarus Society of Friendship and Cultural Affairs with Foreign Countries expresses its deepest gratitude for the tremendous work of "Ramapo—Children of Chernobyl Fund". This Fund is helping the victims of Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe.

Significant help that was presented to the people of Belarus, first of all the children, is priceless with its compassion, nobility and participation.

The emergency medical supplies played an enormous role in the fight for life of the people of Belarus.

People of Belarus know and deeply appreciate the role of the Fund, the staff and students of Ramapo, for building relations and mutual understanding between the youth of both countries.

We hope that in the near future we will continue to work together towards peace and prosperity for mankind.

Respectfully

A. VANITSKY.

PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF BELARUS,

April 29, 1996.

To the teachers and students of Ramapo Senior High School and to the persons associated with the Fund entitled "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl."

DEAR FRIENDS: Heartfelt greetings to the teachers and students of Ramapo Senior High School, and also to the leaders and members of "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl" Fund.

Your Fund and your great work are well known to the people of Belarus. You became a symbol of amicable relations between our countries.

The help with medicine and medical supplies from overseas is still extremely important for our republic, although 10 years have passed since the catastrophe in Chernobyl. As a consequence of the tragedy many things are being affected. The area where the accident took place is not habitable and people still experience great economic difficulties.

Even more important to us are the spiritual gifts, you generosity, understanding and solidarity, as well as the program which is based on the wonderful relationship of two growing generations of our countries, USA and Belarus. The mutual understanding of our young people will make the world stronger in the next millennium of its history.

Dear Mr. Donald Cairns, Patricia De Francesco, members of "Ramapo—for Children of Chernobyl", we sincerely appreciate your caring for our children, all victims who have experienced this terrible tragedy. We also thank you for building bridges of friendship between our nations. It is our honor to join with you on this significant occasion, the 10th anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy.

Accept our words of appreciation which come from the bottom of our hearts for the support and friendship you have extended to us, showing the best qualities of the American people. Belarus will always keep a close relationship with America.

ALEKSANDER LUKASHENKO.

TRIBUTE TO HERBERT AND
MILDRED TANZMAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 26, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 9th, a reception will be held at the Zimmerli Art Museum in New Brunswick, NJ, in honor of two of Middlesex County's most esteemed citizens, Herbert and Mildred Tanzman of Highland Park, NJ.

Beginning with the time he served his country in World War II, Herbert Tanzman has maintained a distinguished legacy of community service. For his service in WWII's Naval Aviation unit, Mr. Tanzman was awarded the Navy Air Medal by the President. A veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, he has served as commander of the Veterans Alliance, commander of Jewish War Veterans Post No. 133, New Brunswick, member of the National Executive Committee of the JWW, national representative and national foreign affairs chair of JWW of the