

the Northern District of Indiana. It is truly an honor for me to recognize Judge Rodibaugh, who has consistently demonstrated generosity and selfless dedication to the citizens and legal community of northern Indiana.

On Friday, June 13, 1997, a new bankruptcy courthouse on the corner of Western and South Michigan Street in South Bend, IN, will be dedicated in honor of Judge Rodibaugh and his numerous contributions to the legal community. He is recognized by the community and his peers as an honorable man worthy of such a tribute. Judge Rodibaugh has served the citizens and legal community of the Northern District of Indiana wisely, efficiently, and honorably since his initial appointment as a referee in bankruptcy in November 1960 and throughout his legal career as a bankruptcy judge.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his tenure, Judge Rodibaugh has presided over the growth of the bankruptcy court from one small courtroom with a part-time referee and a clerk's office of two employees in South Bend, IN, to four different courtrooms in the cities of South Bend, Fort Wayne, Gary, and Lafayette, IN, with four full-time judges and a clerk's office of over 40 employees. Judge Rodibaugh has fulfilled his duties as a referee in bankruptcy and bankruptcy judge with patience, fairness, dedication, and legal scholarship which is most worthy of recognition. His high standards have benefited the many law clerks and judicial personnel who have served under his tutelage, the lawyers who have practiced before the bankruptcy court, as well as the citizens residing in the Northern District of Indiana.

At the beginning of the current Congress, I reintroduced legislation, H.R. 81, in the U.S. House of Representatives to designate this courthouse as the Robert K. Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse for the South Bend Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana. As you may recall, I introduced identical legislation which was passed by the House of Representatives during the last session. Unfortunately, the measure was not considered by the Senate before the 104th Congress adjourned last September. I am honored to be the sponsor of H.R. 81 and pleased that the majority of the Indiana Congressional Delegation has cosponsored my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for me to indicate that the firm of Panzica Development Co. with Western Avenue Properties, LLC, has graciously agreed to name the new privately owned courthouse building in Judge Rodibaugh's honor, owing to his unblemished character and numerous professional achievements in the bankruptcy field.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Robert Kurtz Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse is an appropriate title for the new bankruptcy court facility. Judge Rodibaugh is a shining example of the importance of public service, whose tireless contributions provide an invaluable service to our community. I am confident that Judge Rodibaugh will continue to play a constructive and important role in our community, and will continue to serve as a powerful inspiration to all of those who come into contact with him.

## RABBINIC CABINET VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA

**HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recommend the following article to my colleagues authored by Rabbi Israel Zoberman entitled "Rabbinic Cabinet visits Jewish community in Tunisia" which appeared in the March 14, 1997, edition of the Southeastern Virginia Jewish News. I commend Rabbi Zoberman for his efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

[From the Southeastern Virginia Jewish News, Mar. 14, 1997]

### RABBINIC CABINET VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA

(By Rabbi Israel Zoberman)

Toward the end of January 1997, I traveled to Tunisia as a member of the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal in a historic mission, the first of its kind to represent all the religious movements of American Jewry. The 14 rabbis and three spouses visited the Tunisian Jewish community that is at least 2,000 years old. The Middle East peace process made it possible to visit this remarkable, moderate Arab state that never fought with Israel. Tunisian President Ben Ali has been an active and proud participant in the on-going grand venture to transform a region that has known the burden of costly wars and much suffering, yet is the cradle of human civilization and the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions.

The Muslim country of Tunisia, which was freed from French rule in 1956, is located in North Africa in the southern Mediterranean with Libya and Algeria as neighbors. In a population close to nine million people, there are about 1,900 Jews, almost equally divided between the capital Tunis in the north and the island of Jerba in the south. The once flourishing Jewish community, which is still quite traditional, numbered over 100,000 members before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

We witnessed first-hand the dedicated labor of faithful love of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (known as JDC and the "Joint"), led by Evelyn Peters, in maintaining human dignity for the old and young, ever ready to act on the highest principles and values of the Jewish legacy. As a young child who was born in Kazakhstan in 1945, my own family of Polish holocaust survivors benefited from the JDC's humanitarian services when we were in the Displaced Persons Camp of Wetzlar at Frankfurt, Germany, in the American zone of occupation, from 1947 to 1949, prior to moving to Israel.

We were warmly received by Chief Rabbi Haim Mador, the lay leaders and members of the Jewish community as well as by the officials of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry who were our kind hosts at a kosher dinner with which they broke the Ramadan fast! We also had an unforgettable reception in Tunis at the official residence of the American Ambassador, Mary Ann Casey. She and her staff were most gracious welcoming us and responding to our questions and insights. They truly made us feel at home away from home. Our nation ought to be proud of the high quality diplomatic team we have in that sensitive and volatile part of the world!

Joined by the affable Gideon Behar in the absence of Shalom Cohen, head of Israel's

Economic Interest Section, we learned of Israel's budding diplomatic presence which, to its discomfort and concern, is still housed at a hotel, and of its earnest desire to have a greater impact on building friendly and mutually productive relations with Tunisia.

Our Rabbinic delegation continued to Israel via Rome in the improved climate of renewed hope for the peace process following the signing of the Hebron agreement between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat. However, the tragic accident of the collision between two helicopters resulting in the death of 73 IDF soldiers on the way to their positions in Lebanon's security zone, united the entire small people in mourning, bringing out its unique sense of family. At the same time, it triggered an essential debate, though a heated one, on relations with Lebanon and Syria, particularly the pivotal role of the latter, being the real power broker in keeping alive (and deadly) the Hezbollah attacks on Israeli forces who are ultimately guarding the Israeli northern border and beyond.

The impressive presence of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt in Haifa Bay was a moving statement of the powerful bond between the United States, the world's last superpower, and its brave and reliable ally, the Jewish State. I was reminded of my privilege a few years back to speak in commemoration of the Holocaust aboard that Norfolk-based great symbol of American resolve and capability.

We met with Tunisian Jews in Israel and witnessed their accomplishments and sacrifices. In the southern town of Ofakim, we were in a synagogue modeled after the one left in Jerba. In the nearby Moshav Gilat our host was Aharon Uzon, a former Minister of Agriculture, whose soldier son Shelomo was killed in action and the settlement's synagogue bears his name. Our enchanting guide, Dr. Esther Schely-Newman of the Hebrew university, grew up there and received her doctorate from the University of Chicago.

We were delightfully exposed to the JDC's collaborative creative work in Israel reaching out to children of disadvantaged and problematic families as well as rejoicing with teenagers from the former Soviet Union who displayed through Hebrew song an admirable peace and spirit of absorption into the ancestral homeland which by their own heroic efforts they now proudly claim as their own.

## JERUSALEM EMBASSY RELOCATION ACT

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of moving America's Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and to require U.S. Government publications refer to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the Palestinian Authority to increase its efforts to minimize the horrors of terrorism and encourage commerce between Israelis and Palestinians.

My support for moving the embassy is not to say that I do not support the peace process, it is merely to state that I feel Jerusalem should be Israel's capital and our embassy should be located there.

In every country in the world, in which the United States has diplomatic relations, we

have our embassy located in its capital, except Israel. How can America claim support for Israel, and support for its sovereignty over Jerusalem, and not have our embassy located there?

As the peace process continues, it will be important for the Palestinian Authority and Israel to know where America stands. Mr. Speaker, Jerusalem is not negotiable. As Israel's closest ally, the United States has the responsibility to defend the permanent status of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

Most Members of Congress support Israel's right to exist, and most recognize that Jerusalem is its capital. Therefore, it is time not only to express our support for Israel, but to prove it by moving our Embassy to Jerusalem.

Mr. Speaker, this week Congress celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Six Days War. Israel was attacked by its neighbors on all sides. Yet, Israel's will to survive and establish itself as a young nation ruled the day. Now, 30 years later the time has come for America to recognize Israeli accomplishments and celebrate these accomplishments by declaring Jerusalem the true capital of Israel.

On this historic occasion, I feel America has the opportunity to send a clear message to Israel, and her new found friends in the Middle East, as well as her enemies, that we will always support Jerusalem as the proper capital of Israel, and will prove our support by moving our embassy there by 1999.

DANKE SCHOEN, HERR KRAFFT

### HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, in our lifetimes we have the privilege to meet some wonderfully unique and outstanding people. My wife, Vicki, and I have had that special pleasure in getting to know a fine gentleman who is an entrepreneur, a community leader, and an exemplary family man. Mr. Richard Krafft, Jr., of Frankenmuth, MI, is being honored next Tuesday for his 50 years of effort at Star of the West Milling Co., one of the finest operations in our great State. Forty-four of the years have been as the general manager or president.

During this time, Dick Krafft has seen great developments in the agricultural industry of our State. He has been a member and past president of the Michigan Bean Shippers Association, the Michigan Miller's Association, and the Michigan Feed and Grain Dealers Association. He has also been a member and past chairman of the Millers National Federation.

His business experiences have been tremendously varied as he has served on the boards of Michigan Millers Mutual Insurance Co., Monitor Sugar Co., St. Luke's Hospital Foundation, Saginaw Valley State University, and First of America Bank. If anyone has ever done business in Frankenmuth, they have without doubt dealt with Dick Krafft.

And his concern for his community led him to service on the city council for 28 years, plus 8 years as mayor pro-tem and 6 years as the mayor of Frankenmuth, a wonderful community known for its proud German heritage and its spirit of "Gemütlichkeit"—welcome and happiness. He has also been a member and

past president of the Frankenmuth Lions Club, the Frankenmuth Civic Events Council, and the Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce.

While bringing Star of the West from a small mill to the 20th largest in the Nation today, he has held on to a strong sense of family. He and his wife Mary Ann have been married for a little over 46 years, and are the proud parents of three sons, Mike, Chuck, and John, and the grandparents of five grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, if we want to see someone who represents an ideal American, an individual who has a devotion to family, community, and commerce, we need look no further than Richard Krafft, Jr. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing him the happiest of retirements, and many fruitful challenges in the years to come.

### STATEMENTS BY NEAL GAY AND ROBERT BURKE, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL, REGARDING SCHOOL CHOICE

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 12, 1997

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of my colleagues I would like to have printed in the RECORD this statement by high school students from Champlain Valley High School in Vermont, who were speaking at my recent town meeting on issues facing young people.

Mr. GAY. We are here today to discuss the benefit of school choice. We believe it is essential in a competitive world to have thoughtful, intelligent people. Granted, there are always winners and losers when competition is at hand, but that isn't to say that everyone cannot come out on top.

The world is competitive; that we have established, and that is why school choice is absolutely necessary in an ever-changing democracy. Would not a true democracy embrace the true individual's right to determining their own future?

If a student excels and finds joy in the vastness of literature, then the student shouldn't be restrained. If the student wishes and dreams in the analytical field of mathematics, the student shouldn't be shackled with other burdens.

This is not to say that all liberal arts obligations should be ignored. Students should still be held to the absolute highest standards. A well-rounded education should remain required as it contributes to the student's overall learning. What it boils down to is the intrinsic need to better ourselves.

If that student who loves literature sees that her school has no advanced placement English class, why cannot she take it somewhere else?

See, we do not propose that students should be allowed to puddle jump between schools. We ask that the student find the school that best suits their needs and take all of the classes within that school's walls. We propose that a federal grant be issued to the State of Vermont allowing schools to bask in the freedom of school choice. Schools need to produce the absolute highest quality caliber of students for the betterment of our society as a whole.

See, here is where it gets kind of tricky because we think that a lottery could be instilled making it fair to all students who feel that their school can suit their needs and to get to this lottery a lot of kids could say I do not like my school, I want to go somewhere

else, but that is where an application process would be brought forth because the student would have to have a need. Like I go to CVU and to graduate from CVU you have to do a graduation challenge. So the sole reason for a student to want BHS instead of CVU shouldn't be because I just do not want to take the challenge.

Mr. BURKE. The grant would be used to support a study and to make changes based on the study's outcome. We cannot stress the point enough that we live in a competitive place. Competition doesn't mean that there are winners and losers; it gives a chance for everyone to do better.

Mr. GAY. We aren't proposing that the parents get a check for \$6,000; that is what the other group proposed, something along the lines of that. We are proposing the student picks the school that best suits their need that is a public school because as they said, there is a separation between church and state. The federal grant comes into play because the federal grant would be given to the schools that have the highest caliber of classes and the highest amount of students leaving the loser schools is the easy way to phrase that and the loser schools would get the grant to become winner schools. That is why no one comes out on top. Poor schools would take the money to become the best schools.

I take pretty much anywhere from mild to hard classes, I excel more in literature and not all that much in math, and I think I would be better educated at a different school that would offer more perhaps history courses. We have essentially four history courses at my school and we never discuss, we never seem to discuss other parts of the world; essentially, it is all western philosophy courses, and I think I could do better somewhere else.

But I think overall in a public system there has to be the best and the worse have to come together so where we are it is pretty good, but I have heard concerns from other students here today and it sounds like maybe we are pampered where I go to school. CVU is a pretty rich school; we have resources and a lot of them.

I think it could be better. I think when it comes to education you always have to strive to do better because the future of this entire country and the future of preserving democracy depends on a group of intelligent people and you have to maintain that.

Mr. BURKE. I am the opposite of Neal, I excel in math and not so well in literature. I feel I could do better because we do not really have any type of like accelerated program at CVU. Most of the mathematics department, if you do really well in one class you still have to be there for the full time you take the course even if you might be accelerated enough that you could take it in less time or maybe a school that offers more courses in math, not just the basic languages.

Mr. GAY. We are not a part of the educational process at CVU. To do that you have to be either—I think it is you have to be an elected official and at CVU the elected officials are essentially the same people that are on HS and all those higher track programs. I vent my frustrations toward my own school, I write for the ed section of the Burlington Free Press. I use that as my own stomping grounds to perhaps lock my opinions because I am not that well heard as a member of the student government. Seeing that it is our education and I think a lot of the time parents do not always know best, so I think the students should play a more active role in the hiring of teachers and perhaps the firing of teachers.

Mr. BURKE. I feel the same way as far as if the students had a say. I believe right now