

time between the bright lights of Manhattan and the quiet countryside of Water Mill, Long Island. A child film star in his native Germany, his oeuvre included 125 cover photographs for Harper's Bazaar and countless other covers for Gentlemen's Quarterly, Glamour, and Vogue.

In these tragic moments that TWA Flight 800 fell out of the sky, the communities of East Moriches and Montoursville, PA were inextricably linked. Aboard the flight were 16 high school students and five adult chaperons from the French club at Montoursville High School. Just minutes earlier, the students had embarked on the trip of their young lives as they headed off to Paris to test their hard-earned mastery of the French language and taste the rich French culture. Sadly, for the parents, family, and friends who said goodbye to them just a few minutes earlier, they never returned.

Though we can never forget those we lost aboard TWA flight 800, we can be proud of the many shining examples of humanity amidst this calamitous occurrence. The many local efforts on behalf of the search and rescue mission demonstrated to the entire world how Long Islanders respond in difficult times. It's sad that it takes these tragic events for us to see how selfless and enduring the human spirit can be.

From the moment the first calls came in from South Shore residents who witnessed the fiery explosion, hundreds of emergency service workers, Suffolk County police officers, firefighters, ambulance workers, Coast Guard personnel and units from the 106th New York Air National Guard unit in Westhampton Beach rushed to the scene in East Moriches, in a desperate search for survivors. Sadly, there were none.

Once the place crash had been confirmed, Suffolk County officials immediately went to a level two alert, notifying hospitals and public safety agencies. In the course of responding to the crash, Suffolk County and the towns of Brookhaven and Southampton incurred nearly \$6 million in equipment and overtime expenses. Though these huge costs drained the small budgets of these local governments, County Executive Robert Gaffney and Town Supervisors Felix Grucci and Vincent Cannuscio never hesitated to commit their official resources to the rescue and recovery effort.

We can be most proud of the hundreds of volunteers of all stripes who left their homes in the dark of night to lend a hand to the effort. They included ambulance companies from 15 communities, volunteer firefighters from a dozen fire departments and even local residents in their own pleasure boats who pitched in to assist the fruitless search for survivors and recovery of plane parts.

I would also like to give notice to the men and women of the Coast Guard Group Moriches, at East Moriches. Led by Comdr. Elmo Peters, these Coast Guard personnel performed with the utmost professionalism and courage in handling the extensive search and rescue operations, and they deserve our thanks and prayers as well. Incredibly, just a few months earlier there was a proposal to eliminate the Coast Guard Rescue Unit at East Moriches, a plan that thankfully was never approved.

As we have come to expect when calamity strikes any corner of the world, Red Cross vol-

unteers can be found, comforting the stricken while giving aid to the rescuers. From the early moments of this tragedy, Red Cross volunteers from across the New York metropolitan region were on the scene, delivering food and drink, medical care, cots, blankets, and tents. In the first week after the crash, the Red Cross served more than 19,000 meals to emergency workers, the media and others at the scene. Throughout this ordeal, these Red Cross volunteers showed once again why they are truly angels of mercy.

Red Cross grief counselors comforted the victim's family dealing with the sudden, tragic loss of a loved one. They arranged to have needed prescriptions delivered to where the families stayed, brought coloring books and games for the children and even provided notebooks for family members who wanted to express their feelings by keeping a journal. Volunteers also traveled with the families as they attended memorial services at Suffolk County's Smith Point Park and at JFK Airport.

There are so many others who deserve recognition for their tireless efforts in response to this tragic event. They include the New York City and State Police departments, Red Cross volunteers from throughout the New York metro region, the Suffolk County medical examiners office, the Brookhaven Ambulance Corps, and many local churches and organizations, too numerous to mention.

The tremendous outpouring of love and support these great Americans showed in this desperate time of need provide us with one of the few measures of solace that we can take from this tragedy. All of us on Long Island should take special pride in the efforts shown by our local disaster officials and emergency personnel and the hundreds who volunteered their time to help find survivors and collect debris. Though our hearts break with the sorrow we feel for the victims and their grieving loved ones, we can be proud of these wonderful displays of humanity.

All of those emergency workers and caring volunteers responded to this tragedy in different ways, each with something special to offer. Some came to aid the recovery of victims or gather pieces of the wreckage, while others came to support those rescue workers with food and equipment. At the Coast Guard station, mental health professionals provided around the clock trauma counseling to help the crash-site personnel cope with the difficult task of recovering victims from the wreckage.

So many wanted to come to the scene in East Moriches and offer their help. But the only thing for them to do was to pray for the victims and their grieving loved ones. Ultimately, prayer was the most important thing they could offer. Gathering at several memorial services, our friends and neighbors on Long Island came to pray for those 230 victims and for their loved ones, who desperately needed time and God's healing power to overcome their deep sorrow and devastating loss.

The first memorial service was held in Montoursville just after the crash, as the citizens of this small Pennsylvania town said goodbye to their sons and daughters, their classmates, friends, and neighbors.

The Sunday following the crash, there were simultaneous memorial services held in East Moriches and at John F. Kennedy Airport in Queens, along with the thousands of people across the country who gathered in their own houses of worship to remember those who died in the sudden, furious explosion.

At Soldiers and Sailors Park in East Moriches, more than 400 people gathered to pay their final respects to those 230 passengers and crew members, including their neighbors Eric and Virginia Holst. The feelings of grief and loss were palpable among the mourners, but as Rev. James McDonald, who married Eric and Virginia 6 years ago, explained, despair will not vanquish their faith and love. As Reverend McDonald said: "Nothing can separate us from the life of Christ, not even a broken heart. Are we hurting? Yes. Broken? Yes. Destroyed? Never."

At JFK, more than 2,000 mourners, many of them family and friends awaiting news of loved ones, gathered in a sad, gray airplane hangar to say their goodbyes. One by one, the names of the 230 dead were read aloud as family and friends reached out to console each other in French, Hebrew, Italian, and English. As Rabbi Joseph Potasnik of the New York Board of Rabbis so eloquently put it: "We may be of different bodies, but in this community today, we are of one soul."

Mr. Speaker, as we stand here today a full year later, let us keep in our prayers the 230 lives that were lost on July 17, 1996. Just as importantly, let us remember the family, friends, and spouses that were left behind to cope with this senseless tragedy. May God bless every one of them.

JUVENILE CRIME CONTROL AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 15, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for H.R. 1818, the Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act. This important bipartisan effort would reauthorize the Juvenile Justice Delinquency and Prevention Act of 1974 [Public Law 93-415]. H.R. 1818 represents a balanced approach to reducing juvenile crime.

The prevalence of violent crime among our Nation's youth is entirely too high. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, young people are committing violent crimes at a rate similar to 10 years ago—however, the violence has intensified and is causing more deaths. In fact, between 1991 and 1995, the number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes increased by 12 percent, yet violent crime arrests for all ages increased by 2.5 percent. And, between 1985 and 1994, the number of juveniles arrested for weapon violations, specifically related to increases in firearm usage in violent crimes, rose by 113 percent. Equally disturbing is the fact while African-Americans represent 12 percent of the United States' population, African-American youth are nearly 28 percent of all juvenile arrests.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1818 focuses in reducing the number of children and youth who commit criminal acts of violence. As such, it ensures that juvenile crime prevention efforts are targeted at communities experiencing a disproportionate representation of minorities in the juvenile justice system. It is well documented that programs that provide: Treatment to victims of child abuse or neglect, mentoring,

peer counseling and teaching, job training and employment, and other such services are an essential investment in the effort to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Juvenile Crime Control and Delinquency Prevention Act. Vote "yes" for H.R. 1818.

IN HONOR OF THE SPONSORS OF
PROJECT CHILDREN '97: LOCAL
MESSENGERS OF PEACE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a unique group of people, the sponsors of Project Children '97 who have distinguished themselves with unwavering dedication to the promotion of peace in Northern Ireland. Through their generous spirit of compassion, the Project Children '97 sponsors exemplify the best that we as Americans have to offer: reverence for the rights and freedom of the individual citizens. For 22 years caring American families have welcomed children from Northern Ireland into their homes and hearts for 6 weeks during what is traditionally the most violent time of year in the children's homeland.

One year ago, the children who came to visit us from Northern Ireland faced an uncertain future. The cherished cease-fire, in effect for 18 months, had been shattered by a new round of violence. Though the past year has seen a continuation of the troubles, British Prime Minister Tony Blair's inclusion of Sinn Fein in peace talks, along with the cancellation of four of Northern Ireland's Orange Order parades are hopeful signs that we will soon see a return to a lasting ceasefire. This makes the time shared by the 56 families and 61 children participating in Project Children '97 even more valuable.

This year, the 56 families from my home State of New Jersey who have been so generous as to open their homes and their lives to these young people include: Kourosh and Rosemary Akhavan, Len and Kathy Ancuta, Sean and Beatris Ashe, Garry and Janet Baker, Gary and Linda Bardzell, Charles and June Bray, Michael and Elizabeth Cancian, Kevin and Patricia Comer, Robert and Barbara Comito, James and Patti Cunningham, Philip and Kathleen DiCicco, Donald and Irene Diverio, Robert And Brianna Donohue, Al and Ellen Dorso, Peter and Robin DuHaine, Brent and Lauren Elliot, Rick and Arlene Faustini, Raymond and Rosemary Ferraro, Robert and Elizabeth Gamble, Margaret Gilsenan, Michael and Pat Goodwin, William and Margaret Giaimo/Terry, Edward and Patricia Grzybowski, George and Margaret Hughes, Edwin and Patricia Jankowski, Nicholas and Patricia Kaminsky, Keith and Karen Kirby, Robert And Donna Lee, Michael and Kathleen McBride, John and Louise McGlinchey, Brian and Lori McGorty, Robert and Dyan Moore, Robert and Carole Nyman, Sean and Anne O'Neill, Kevin and Susan O'Shea, David and Cathleen Quinn, Stephen and Jean Revis, John and Lori Rose, James and Mary Ellen Ruitenberg, Paul and Candace Ruitenberg III, Donald and Patricia Ryerson, Guy and Patti

Schweizer, Stephen and Catherine Simpson, Michael and Laura Sims, Cheryl Stone, Douglas and Susanna Stroud, James and Louise Sweeney, Robert and Denise Thompson, Jr., Michael and Anne Tizio, Edward and Judith Wagner, Joseph and Barbara Wells, Craig and Barbara Yeske, Anthony and Anita Zak, Rodney and Linda Bialko, and Gianna and Donald Wynne.

The 61 young people from Northern Ireland who we have been fortunate enough to visit New Jersey are: David Sterrett, John McIlveen, Alannah Massey, Gerald O'Reilly, Lesley Black, Steven Orr, Paul Mahony, Ryan Corbett, Kevin Nellins, Elaine Coyle, Charlene McWilliams, Lindsey Todd, Eilish Bradley, Joseph McGovern, Claire McKinley, Joseph Doak, Eva Taggart Laura Cairns, Linzi Graham, Joseph Gillen, Seamus Nellins, Michael Duffy, Catriona McCann, Ita Monaghan, Daniel Lynch, Christine Brown, Aislinn Devlin, Stephanie Rae, Aine Hargey, Natalia McKeown, Aisling Burns, Seadhma Billings, Dermot Hartigan, Nicola Catney, Leigh Martin, Mary Louise Heatley, Clara Mulvenna, Danielle Gorman, Brenda Austin, Barry Dobbin, David Goodall, Laura Baird, Paul Willis, Catherine Crawford, Sara Doherty, Kerry-Marie McCaughrty, Jennifer Dixon, Nicola McCabe, Kenneth Murphy, Marie Martin, Darren Diamond, David Diamond, Stephen Coyle, Robert O'Neill, James Moran, Elaine Murray, Margaret White, Mary Deery, Natasha McConnell, Michelle Donnelly, and Collette McTernan.

It is an honor to recognize the exceptional compassion of Project Children '97's sponsors. I hope that word of their steps toward peace will spread throughout Northern Ireland and the world. These exemplary individuals are truly local messengers of lasting peace.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 112 IN SUPPORT OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ON JULY 9, 1997

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 1997

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the plight of Holocaust survivors around the world. More than 50 years ago, we witnessed one of the most tragic episodes in the history of man's inhumanity to man—the slaughter of 6 million Jews and millions of others in Eastern and Central Europe during World War II. Some were able to hide or escape death, many with lingering memories and medical conditions that will be with them for life.

There are currently more than 125,000 Holocaust survivors living in the United States and approximately 500,000 living around the world. It is these survivors who in many cases are still struggling to live out their remaining years with dignity. Many of them live in my district and have contacted me for help after being denied assistance from the current reparations' system set up to help Holocaust survivors.

Let me tell you about one of my constituents, a Holocaust survivor currently living in New York City. Dr. Hadassah Bimko Rosensaft survived concentration camps at both Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. While in-

terned, she contracted malaria and hepatitis. Unfortunately, because these diseases were not treated at the time, Dr. Rosensaft now suffers from severe cirrhosis of the liver. Although several medical experts support her claim that the condition stems from her imprisonment in Nazi Germany, the German Government says she cannot sufficiently prove that her condition is a direct consequence.

Dr. Rosensaft is fortunate to be able to afford her needed medical care with the help of her family. But her story is somewhat unique. Many other victims of Nazi horrors have been deemed wholly ineligible for reparations, and cannot rely on their families to help support them. These include, people who were in forced-labor camps; people who were confined to areas not recognized by Germany as ghettos; people who hid under false names; and people who were in a concentration camp for fewer than 6 months. In fact, even if someone was interned in two separate camps for 3 and 4 months each, that person may not qualify. In many cases, it is impossible for Holocaust survivors to prove the circumstances under which they acted during the Holocaust. I believe it is unjust to ask elderly people—with permanent injuries, who suffered enormous emotional trauma—to document their life half a century ago.

Many Holocaust survivors who were fortunate enough to avoid death camps during World War II were forced into hiding. A second reparations' provision states that if you were forced into hiding, you are eligible for reparations only if you hid for 18 months, and only if you can document and support your claim.

Learning about these onerous restrictions and the ongoing denial of Holocaust survivors' claims led me to introduce legislation in the 104th Congress calling on the German Government to expand and simplify its reparations' system. I am encouraged by recent reports by the World Jewish Congress that the German Government has announced its willingness to reopen negotiations. This is a very encouraging step in the fight for justice for Holocaust survivors. But it is only a beginning.

I am also concerned about the so-called double victims, who are now living in the former Communist States of Eastern and Central Europe. For years as the reparations' system was developed, these double victims did not have access to the system, and have been victimized twice by being denied access to reparations' today. Many of these people were in hiding. Many used false names to escape from the Nazis. Today, in order to qualify for reparations under the current system, survivors must provide proof of what they did and how they escaped. Many are still living in this part of the world and many are suffering from severe medical ailments. Although some have received a token amount of reparations, tens of thousands of Holocaust survivors in Eastern and Central Europe have never received any reparations.

I am pleased to introduce House Concurrent Resolution 112, a resolution calling on the German Government to expand and simplify its reparations system, provide reparations to Holocaust survivors in Eastern and Central Europe, and set up a fund to help cover the medical expenses of Holocaust survivors. I am pleased to introduce this resolution with the support of International Relations Committee Chairman BENJAMIN GILMAN and committee