

IN MEMORY OF JOHANNES (JACK)
WIEWEL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Jack Wiewel, of Rocky River, OH. Jack devoted his life to improving the image and expanding the influence of Germans in America, and throughout the world. Considering his numerous accomplishments and awards, he was exceptionally successful.

Jack Wiewel served as a lieutenant in a German army armored unit during World War II. After the war, he worked as an electrical engineer before emigrating to Canada in 1954. Answering the great demand for skilled workers, he moved to Cleveland to work at the Ford Motor Co.'s Cleveland Casting Plant a year later. He remained at Ford until his retirement in 1991.

Mr. Wiewel was surprised that so many Americans still distrusted Germans, and he quickly set a goal to change this negative impression. Less than 10 years after moving to Cleveland, he became president of the Federation of German-American Societies of Greater Cleveland, an umbrella organization for 25 other groups. He served as an officer in countless other German-American groups and societies, and was the current president of the German-American National Congress.

Mr. Wiewel's efforts in the German-American community did not go unnoticed. In 1974, he was awarded the Federal Service Cross 1st Class by the country of West Germany, the highest award given to civilians. In 1996, the Federation of German Societies of Greater Cleveland honored him by naming him German-American of the Year. His work was also recognized by Gov. George Voinovich, who appointed him to the Council on Ohio Nursing Homes. Former Gov. Richard Celeste appointed him to the German-American Tricentennial Commission, and former President Nixon appointed him to the Draft Board Commission.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in recognizing a great American who worked hard to dispel stereotypes and improve German-American relations not only in the Cleveland area, but throughout the world. He will be greatly missed.

CONGRATULATIONS LINWOOD-
KAWKAWLIN VFW POST 6950

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, just as the number of veterans who have valiantly served our Nation continues to grow over time, so do the number of fine organizations that represent their views, provide a forum for common experiences, and an outlet for continued community service. One of these additional entities is the Linwood-Kawkawlin Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6950, which is celebrating its 10th anniversary this weekend.

Just as service personnel in the field often make do with what resources are available to

them, the proud members of VFW Post 6950 started in a similar fashion. They started by meeting at the Linwood Corner Restaurant, and the State Bank of Standish, under the direction of Commander Thomas Karnath, Quartermaster Dale Hacker, and Adjutant Lloyd Pajot. When the Bay City School District Board of Education decided to sell to the post the former Benjamin Franklin School, the hard work and initiative of the members of the Post turned an old unused building into a tribute of resolve and a landmark of the community.

An Auxiliary was added to the Post on October 25, 1987, growing from the original 42 members with Faye Hacker as president, to the 123 members the Auxiliary enjoys today.

The community activities of Post 6950 are very impressive. Its support for youth activities like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, is most valuable. The Spelling Bee, Voice of Democracy Contest, and Youth Essay Contest, all under the direction of Jim Carbury, provide meaningful opportunities for many young people to learn about their history and to hone their skills.

Other activities, like the annual Buddy Poppy drive to raise money for veterans' relief, and the willingness to provide appropriate recognition to departed veterans at funeral services instill a profound reminder to the entire community of the value of our veterans, and of the sacrifices many of them have made to preserve democracy and freedom. It is no wonder that the Post has had seven All-State Commanders and the Auxiliary has had seven All-State Presidents. Leadership deserves to be rewarded and honored.

Mr. Speaker, we appreciate all that our veterans have done for us, and support their efforts to continue their proud accomplishments through the activities of VFW Posts. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating the leadership and members of Linwood-Kawkawlin VFW Post 6950 on their 10th anniversary, and wish them the very best for many more proud anniversaries to come.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 1997

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, the scene is becoming all too familiar. Outdoor cafes in crowded marketplaces, baby strollers and shoppers. Three bombs explode, limbs are strewn everywhere, many people are dead, and more are badly hurt. This scene, this complete disregard for human life, and this sharpened sense of despair in Israel are—tragically—today's reality.

Prospects for peace in the Middle East are bleak. No Israeli response to the recent bombings in Jerusalem would be too harsh. No other nation on Earth would exercise the extraordinary restraint that Israel has exhibited under these horrific circumstances. Time, however, is running out. In the midst of this terror and despair, what can be done?

As a member of the International Relations Committee in Congress, there is no doubt in my mind that peace in the Middle East now depends in great part on America's demanding—with all of her might and persuasion—that the Palestinian Authority and Israel strictly

comply with and implement the Oslo accords. Chairman Arafat must stop his deceit and, for the first time, take bold steps to stamp out terror.

The evidence is irrefutable that Hamas and the Islamic Jihad operate freely in territory that Arafat now controls. There can be no more trite justifications for Palestinian violence. Arafat's primary obligation is to employ every method to convince Palestinians that peace with Israel is desirable and that violence against Israel is unacceptable and counterproductive. Most urgently, Arafat must garner the political courage and strength to impose the Oslo accords on the dissident extremists—first by persuasion and ultimately by force. If Arafat is unable or unwilling to control the violence, the sad reality is that Arafat is useless and irrelevant, and so are the Oslo accords.

Some argue that Israel too has failed to honor its side of the Oslo bargain, citing free passage for Palestinians, the airport in Gaza, and construction at Har Homah. It is undeniable, however, that with respect to its primary obligation—to turn over strategic portions of the West Bank and Gaza to the Palestinian Authority—Israel has made a substantial and good faith effort. Netanyahu now refuses to make further concessions until Arafat stops the killings. Netanyahu is correct, and the entire free world is morally obligated to support him.

As Secretary of State Madeleine Albright visits the Middle East, she must wave several weighty carrots and sticks:

First, \$100 million in American aid to the Palestinian Authority should be suspended until President Clinton certifies that Palestinian leaders have made meaningful efforts to stop terrorism.

Second, the PLO must outlaw Hamas and Islamic Jihad, just as Israel and other nations have declared specific terrorist groups illegal. Such action, simplistic as it may seem, would give the PLO greater legal authority to arrest terrorists and close their facilities. Arrests must be followed by legitimate prosecutions of terrorists and appropriate jail sentences. If need be, the terrorists should be extradited for imprisonment to the United States.

Third, the PLO must seize all illegal weapons in territories under its control; and

Fourth, the PLO must stop its vicious anti-Israel propaganda as mandated by the Oslo accords.

If Arafat shows the will to fight terrorism, then the Secretary of State should commit full American support for an expedited negotiating track to resolve all outstanding issues in the peace process within one year. These issues include the final status of Jerusalem, the prospect of a Palestinian entity, and the fate of Palestinian refugees.

To his credit, Netanyahu appears committed to an expedited, full peace negotiation. If Arafat is genuine in his desire for peace, he too should engage in such negotiations with strict timelines. An expedited peace process would showcase for the world which leaders are willing to take risks for peace and which are not. Those who choose a path destined for more violence must be shunned by the international community and incur the economic and military wrath of the Western world.

For Arafat, the choice is clear—embrace peace or embrace Hamas. He cannot do both.