

TRIBUTE TO TEMPLE ADAT
ELOHIM

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the dedication of Temple Adat Elohim's new sanctuary and social hall. The people of this congregation have endured many sacrifices to make the construction of these new buildings possible. It is because of this congregation's overwhelming dedication to serving the Reformed Jewish community in the Conego that I am here today to extend my congratulations and express my gratitude for a job well done.

The history of the founding of Temple Adat Elohim begins in the spring of 1967. Several families tired of the long and laborious drive to Ventura to worship with Reformed congregation and attend Hebrew School. On August 22, 1967, 16 families formed the congregation at Temple Adat Elohim. Since that time, many more Conego families have joined the struggle to make the dream of a new sanctuary and social hall a reality.

By the early 1980's, the congregation had grown in size and the construction of a new sanctuary was no longer a desire, but a necessity. Instead, the congregation made a difficult decision and sacrificed their comfort for the safety of the children. They built the children a new school building. The new sanctuary would unfortunately have to wait.

Today, we come together to celebrate and honor those families who have endured both spiritually and financially for the benefit of Jewish people in the Conejo Valley. The new sanctuary and social hall accommodates more than 800 people and allows the congregation at Temple Adat Elohim to truly worship together.

This new sanctuary and social hall would not have been possible without the support and dedication of Temple Adat Elohim's Rabbi Alan Greenbaum and president Sandy Bistrow. I call upon this congregation and fellow members of our community to thank them for their efforts.

Theodor Herzl once said "If you will it, it is no dream." The construction of this new sanctuary would not have been possible without the strong will of their congregation. Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in celebrating the dedication of Temple Adat Elohim's new sanctuary and honoring them for their hard work and sacrifice.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
ABANDONED AND DERELICT
VESSEL REMOVAL ACT OF 1997

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Removal Act of 1997. This act will provide the necessary tools to clean up a long-term public nuisance resulting from abandoned boats and barges found in the navigable waters of many communities.

Dozens of abandoned boats and other debris have accumulated along the Guadalupe Channel, which surrounds the community of Alviso, CA. This concern was first brought to my attention by members of the San Jose City Council, the Alviso Master Plan Task Force, and members of the Alviso community. These abandoned vessels are a public health and safety hazard to the community and to users in the adjacent public waterways. Unfortunately, Alviso is not the only community that suffers from this problem.

Abandoned vessels do not just sit harmlessly by—these vessels are often used as an illegal dumping ground for hazardous materials. Between January 1988 and September 1991, the Federal Government spent \$5.2 million to remove 282 abandoned vessels that blocked waterways. In that same time, Government spent nearly \$5.7 million to clean up pollutants from just 96 abandoned vessels.

This legislation will establish clear authority to remove vessels left unattended in a public waterway for more than 45 days unless the waterway has been designated as a harbor or marina. Vessels left unattended in an approved harbor or marina for more than 60 days would also be subject to removal.

This legislation empowers local authorities to keep public waterways clear while allowing boat or barge owners the opportunity to repair and remove vessels that are not actually abandoned. In addition, the removal of these derelict vessels will alleviate some concerns regarding water quality and its impact on the public health of the local community.

This legislation will promote cooperation between interested local citizens, community groups, and government agencies in their joint efforts to preserve and protect the navigable waters of the United States. It will hold boat owners accountable for their vessels. Under this bill, a community can instigate action by petitioning a local elected official to notify the Secretary of the Army. Proceedings to notify the boat owner, and ultimately to remove the boat, would then be taken by the Secretary.

Many States and local governments are proposing solutions to the problem of abandoned and derelict vessels. This legislation will not supersede local initiatives with equal or greater cleanup impact.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING THE BRAGG FAMILY

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, years ago, in a little place called Possum Trot, AL, an amazing mother named Margaret Marie Bundrum Bragg protected her three sons. She guarded them selflessly against an alcoholic father's drunken rage; she shielded them from the hunger and poverty that often accompanies rural life; and she gave each of them the values of compassion, sensitivity, and self-esteem. She taught them that where they were did not determine where they could go.

Her middle child, Rick Bragg, has proven her right. After only a semester of college, this native of Alabama's Third District went to work at the New York Times. In 1996, he won the

highest honor that can be bestowed on a journalist—the Pulitzer Prize for feature writing. Recently, Mr. Bragg wrote an autobiographical novel titled, "It's All Over But the Shoutin'", about his life growing up in rural Alabama. This book is already being praised by critics across the Nation and will likely become another jewel in Rick Bragg's literary crown.

And while I do not wish, and would never want, to take anything away from this great Alabama writer, it is his mother, Margaret Bragg, who I seek to exalt today. It has been said that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world. I think anyone who knows of the Bragg family would agree. For it is these mothers and fathers, these unsung heroes behind our greatest leaders, poets, authors, and athletes, that should be commended. It is they who sacrifice for their children, teach their children, and love their children. And, in so doing, mold this country's future. If not for them and their influence, America would not be the proud and gifted nation she is today. And I think Rick Bragg would agree.

TWO SHINING EXAMPLES

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Tatiana Naboa and Alexander Prince, two young citizens of the District of Columbia, who voluntarily offered their services to my office, through my colleague Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON's internship program.

They chose to turn a negative situation into a positive fulfilling experience for themselves as well as my Washington staff. They carried out all tasks assigned to them and were always ready to assist in any way they could.

Tatiana and Alex are products of the much-maligned D.C. school system. Obviously, there are some things wrong, but there are a lot of good things happening to our children when they attend the public schools in the District. From my experience with Tatiana and Alex, I know my colleagues who participated in the internship program, can support me when I say that the students were respectful, knowledgeable, and inquisitive. This can only come through the school's reinforcement of values instilled by their families.

As we go about the daily business of instituting laws for our fellow Americans, we must continue to provide opportunities for our younger Americans. We must give them a reason to accept the challenges they will face, make it meaningful, and guide them to become productive members of our society. Tatiana and Alex are shining examples of what is possible.

My staff join me in wishing these two outstanding D.C. students continued success in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in support of legislation to attack

one of the most critical problems facing the residents of San Diego County and California—illegal immigration.

My Eliminating the Magnet for Illegal Immigration Act gets at the root of the problem. It will stop people from trying to cross the border in the first place by removing the attraction—jobs offered by unscrupulous employers that entice people to come to the United States.

My bill finally clamps down on employers that encourage illegal immigration by violating our laws and knowingly hiring undocumented workers.

In San Diego, I represent the district that runs along the border and has the most border crossings—both legal and illegal—in the world. I am acutely aware of the strain illegal immigration puts on communities in my district, and I have always been a firm believer in gaining control of our borders.

In the last 2 years, we have made significant progress. We have increased the number of Border Patrol agents and have begun to give them the tools and technology to get the job done.

But these changes have had limited success in stopping illegal immigration. The critical next step in the fight to stop illegal immigration is to eliminate the magnet and enforce our laws against the hiring of illegal immigrants.

In 1986, Congress underscored the need to eliminate the job magnet and made it illegal to hire undocumented workers—but these laws have been largely ignored. The INS simply has not had the resources to do its job.

Some employers hire undocumented workers because their status makes them easy targets for exploitation and abuse. These employers know they can force them to work in substandard conditions. These employers know they can get away with paying them substandard wages. Is it any wonder that we have this problem.

My legislation gives the INS the resources it needs to aggressively enforce employer sanctions and gives the Department of Labor the resources to aggressively enforce wage and hour laws.

And most importantly, it directs the two agencies to combine forces and target those industries notorious for hiring undocumented workers and forcing them to work in unacceptable conditions.

My bill gets tough on employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers by imposing stronger sanctions and doubling those penalties against employers also caught violating labor laws. It also helps employers by reducing the number of documents workers can use to verify their eligibility.

I want to fully acknowledge that there is an inherent danger that this kind of approach could lead to discrimination against workers—and evidence shows that this has indeed been the case in some instances. Thus my bill will also stiffen the penalties against employers that discriminate and give the Department of Justice the resources it needs to thoroughly investigate incidents of discrimination. We will also provide programs to educate employers about their responsibilities in this area.

My bill takes a balanced, comprehensive approach to the problems created by illegal immigration. As a border Congressman, I am well aware of both the positive and the negative effects of immigration.

And I promised myself, and the people that I represent, that we would deal with the nega-

tive impacts without retreating from the values that have made this the greatest country in the world. I challenge Congress to get past the scapegoating that has become so politically profitable.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this critically important initiative and show your commitment to truly stem the illegal immigration that affects so many of our communities. I ask you to join me and co-sponsor the Eliminate the Magnet for Illegal Immigration Act of 1997.

TRIBUTE TO PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge the students, faculty and administration at Pepperdine University. This university was recently commended by the John Templeton Foundation in the 1997–1998 Honor Roll for Character Building Colleges.

A panel of six distinguished individuals from various backgrounds evaluated colleges and universities across the country. They used five criteria to determine if the colleges were providing students not only with an environment which allowed them to develop a strong sense of morality and grow spiritually, but also provided students with an opportunity to give back to their community. To be considered for a place on the honor roll, colleges must inspire students to develop and strengthen their moral and reasoning skills, encourage spiritual growth and moral values, provide community building experiences, advocate a drug-free lifestyle and conduct a critical assessment of character-building projects and activities.

The faculty at Pepperdine University have worked to establish an environment which allows students to reflect on ethical questions and develop their own sense of morality. Christian tradition plays a central role in the students' lives and they are provided with opportunities to attend services, bible studies and lectures given by theologians from the evangelical world. Additionally, students lead and manage community outreach programs, such as tutoring at a youth correctional facility as well as other special events.

Leon Blum once wrote, "Life does not give itself to one who tries to keep all its advantages at once. I have often thought morality may perhaps consist solely in the courage of making a choice." Students at Pepperdine University have made a choice that they are willing to make a difference in our community. In making this choice the students have made the welfare of others their top priority.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me honoring the students and faculty at this exceptional institution for their integrity of character and commitment to improving the circumstances of those less fortunate in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. JUDY
FLUM'S LITERACY EFFORTS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Ms. Judy Flum, an individual who has provided 10 years of superior service to the San Lorenzo Library. Ms. Flum has consistently provided support for the youth in our community by encouraging them to use the library's resources. She also conducts programs throughout the year such as the summer reading game, pre-school storytime, young adult advisory group, and many programs for senior citizens.

Judy has been instrumental in bringing several grants to the San Lorenzo Library. The youth risk grant helped the library become better acquainted with the needs of young people and created a safe environment in which they can learn, study, and grow. The Spanish grant increased the size of the Library's Spanish collection and created a community outreach program for Spanish-speaking families. The learn-a-lot program was developed in conjunction with the San Lorenzo Unified School District to help children between the grades of kindergarten through fourth grade increase their reading potential. Without a doubt, Judy has been a remarkable asset to the growth of the San Lorenzo Library.

As a member of the American Library Association, Judy has served on many of its committees dealing with young adults. Her interest in technology has ensured our youth will be better prepared for the challenges of the 21st century. As the library manager, she has worked tirelessly to establish a training program to teach people how to use the Internet. She was also responsible for establishing an Alameda County Library homepage.

On September 25, 1997, the friends of the San Lorenzo Library will honor Judy for her many years of service. I join with my neighbors as they thank Judy Flum for her valuable contributions to our community.

THE DEPENDENT CARE TAX CREDIT REFUNDABILITY ACT

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, quality child care is critically important to working families in every economic situation. Yet many working parents today simply cannot afford to pay the increasing costs of child care. Furthermore, affordable child care is critical to the success of moving women from welfare to work.

In the last Congress, I introduced legislation, H.R. 4154, to make the Dependent Care Tax Credit [DCTC] refundable. This bill was included in the Women's Caucus Economic Equity Act.

Today, along with Congressman TOM ALLEN, I am introducing an updated version of the same legislation. This legislation would help working families obtain high quality care. A major source of Federal support for families who rely on child care and dependent care is