

COMMENDING THE LUBOML
EXHIBITION PROJECT

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and call attention to a project of passion and nobility, a project dedicated to the preservation of a world lost to us. It was a world of happiness and light. A world of families and children, of community and spirituality. It was the world of the Polish town of Luboml. In 1942, it was from this Earth untimely ripped—destroyed by an evil that marched across Europe leaving death in its path. More than 4,000 members of Luboml's Jewish population were killed by the Nazi barbarians. Only 51 survived.

Now, thanks to the efforts of a New York businessman, Aaron Ziegelman, we are able to get a glimpse of this lost world. Mr. Ziegelman, who was born in Luboml, came to this country in 1938 at the age of 10. When he, his mother, and his sister left for America, more than 50 residents of the town came out to bid them farewell; only one of those residents survived the Holocaust. Mr. Ziegelman has made it his mission to keep alive the memory of those who perished: the memory not only of their deaths, but of their lives.

In 1994, Mr. Ziegelman initiated the Luboml Exhibition Project. So far, the project has collected nearly 2,000 photographs and artifacts from more than 100 families and from archives from around the world. These include a hand-embroidered matzo cover; a photograph of three young girls smiling for the camera; a picture of Luboml's bustling market day; a group portrait of the "Luboml bicycling club"; a school identification card; a photo of an ice skating party. As Mr. Ziegelman said, "Before they were victims, they were people," and therein lies the deepest sense of tragedy.

Seeing life breathed into this perished world, one cannot help thinking of the hundreds, or even thousands, of towns just like Luboml. Towns where families were torn apart, where children were not allowed to grow into adults, where vibrant lives were cut short. Considering Luboml, this quintessential 20th-Century tragedy once again takes on a more concrete, more personal resonance. Thanks to the work of Mr. Ziegelman, we are once again reminded of the fundamental belief we are voicing when we say, "Never Again."

ON THE 96TH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE A.J. MCCLUNG YMCA CHAPTER
COLUMBUS, GA

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 21, 1997, the citizens of Columbus, GA will celebrate 96 years of service provided by the A.J. McClung Chapter of the Young Men's Christian Association. They will gather to honor an institution that was founded in 1901 and is recognized as the oldest serving minority YMCA in the Nation. Also, they will honor the man for which it was later named—

Arthur J. McClung, mayor pro tem, city Columbus and the longest serving director of the branch.

This is an institution rich in history. Originally known as the Ninth Street Branch YMCA, it was founded through the efforts of a small prayer group led by Mr. W.E. Clark, Mr. S.W. Yarbrough, Prof. S.R. Marshall, and Dr. R.H. Cobb. Professor Marshall and Dr. Cobb both served terms as chairman of the board of management during its early years. The variety of activities and the number of boys and young men served rapidly outgrew the original small frame building on Ninth Street.

In 1907, two prominent Columbus brothers, George Foster Peabody and Royal Canfield Peabody, provided the funds to build a then-modern facility that included a dormitory, indoor swimming pool, gymnasium, game room, cafeteria, and office space. In 1925 the Army and Navy YMCA of Fort Benning and local citizens contributed funds to make additional improvements to the facility. Mr. Booker T. Washington was the guest speaker at the dedication which also featured renowned soloist Gertrude "Ma" Rainey.

After many years of service to the community, the Ninth Street YMCA Branch was destroyed when the roof collapsed from a rare Columbus snow storm. While a new facility was being built, Dr. S.P. Charleston generously provided a building he owned on Shepherd Drive to continue the mission of service provided by the YMCA.

On Sunday, November 21, 1965, the new facility was dedicated as the Brookhaven Boulevard Branch YMCA. In 1978 the facility was renamed in honor of Arthur J. McClung who provided years of leadership and service to the YMCA and the community as a whole. In 1986, the board of managers elected to become an independent association known as the A.J. McClung Young Men's Christian Association, Inc.

There have been many changes throughout the years—facilities, locations, programs, board members and executive directors—but the primary mission and purpose of the A.J. McClung YMCA has remained constant. And that is to improve the quality of life of all people. In addition to its exercise and recreational facilities, the A.J. McClung YMCA provides programs seeking to prevent heart disease, juvenile delinquency, substance abuse, AIDS, school dropouts, and youth unemployment. The institution also promotes positive attitudes and values among young people.

The citizens of Columbus and Fort Benning, GA and Phenix City, AL have given generously of their time and energies to the A.J. McClung YMCA over its 96 year history. I would like to recognize the fine men who have served as chairman of the board of management. They include: Dr. E.H. Mayer, 1901–02; Prof. S.R. Marshall, 1903–04; Dr. R.H. Cobb, 1905–09; Dr. E.J. Turner 1909–12; Prof. M.H. Spencer 1912–14; Dr. R.H. Cobb, 1914–22; Dr. M.L. Taylor, 1922–25; Dr. E.J. Turner, 1925–26; Dr. R.H. Cobb, 1926–30; Dr. F. Coffee, 1930–32; Prof. F.R. Lampkin, 1939–45; Mr. M.R. Ashworth, 1945–52; Mr. Steve Knight, 1952–53; Mr. Sandy D. Allen, 1953–60; Atty. Albert W. Thompson, 1961–69; Mr. Samuel Byrd, 1970–71; Mr. Lorenzo Manns, 1972–80; Dr. Henry L. Cook, 1981–83; Mr. Robert L. Anderson, 1984–87; Mr. Scott Wise, 1987–89; Mr. Spurgeon A. Glenn, Jr., 1989–90; Mr. Robert L. Anderson, 1990–92; Mr. James Walker, 1992–present.

I also want to recognize those fine individuals who have served as director of the institution. They include A.Z. Kelsey, A.G. Randall, Joseph Allen, T.B. Neely, R.D. Kelsey, G.F. Rivers, J.L. Johnson, Henry Byrd, H.R. Williams, Joseph Rholta, L.J. Johnson, K.D. Reddick, H.R. Williams, O.R. Bryant, E.E. Farley, D.D. Moody, Theodore Rutherford, G.F. Rivers, W.S. Douglass, W.R. Bennett, Jr., Arthur J. McClung, W.T.L. Vann, Wane A. Hailes, and Ira Flowers, the present director.

Mr. Speaker, I join in congratulating the A.J. McClung Young Men's Christian Association Chapter on its 96 years of service to the communities of Columbus, Fort Benning, and Phenix City. Also, I salute the dedication and contributions of Mayor Pro Tem Arthur J. McClung to the citizens of Columbus and the YMCA named in his honor. I wish them all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE NASH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the United States was founded under the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all. Throughout our history, everyday citizens have become our heroes while they worked to protect our inalienable rights. Mike Nash, an advocate for Vietnam veterans, was one of those heroes. On May 25, 1997, Mike Nash died, but his legacy will live throughout the ages.

Mike Nash was a decorated U.S. Army veteran who fought for his country in Vietnam from 1969 through 1970. His experience in Vietnam forever changed his life. In 1987, Mike joined Chapter 154 of the Vietnam Veterans of America and served the organization at the national level and local level. His calm demeanor and tenacious spirit made him a driving force in the fight for veterans causes.

As a prominent member of the Michigan and national chapters of Vietnam Veterans of America, Mike spent his free time counseling veterans and working to find veterans who were missing in action in Vietnam. Last year Mike traveled to Vietnam to search for information on MIA's. As Mike once said, "As long as proof remains that even one MIA is still alive, we will try to find him." His passion to find missing veterans was fueled by the completeness of his family. He was so thankful to be with his wife, June and their two daughters, Jacquelyn, and Jessica. He hoped that someday, missing veterans would one day be reunited with their loved ones.

Mike Nash was a tireless advocate for Vietnam Veterans: to all who knew him, a friend; to June, Jacquelyn, and Jessica, he was a husband and father. Mike lived his life caring and serving other people. I am honored to have had the opportunity to call Mike my friend. We will all miss Mike's advocacy for Vietnam Veterans, but most of all we will miss his friendship.

HONORING SELECT MEMBERS OF
THE WILCOX COUNTY COMMISSION

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I come before you today to honor some select members of the Wilcox County Commission for their support of the historic Gee's-Bend Ferry project in Wilcox County, Alabama.

Commission Chairman Darryl Perryman, Vice-Chairman John Clyde Riggs, and County Commissioners David Wright, and Lena Powell have shown an extraordinary amount of foresight, sound judgment, and compassion in fully supporting the plight of the residents of Gee's-Bend Alabama by re-establishing the ferry boat service which has unfairly divided their community since the days of segregation and Jim Crow rule. These public servants understood that you can not explain-away why the citizens of Gee's-Bend must wait up to 2 hours for an ambulance to take them to the hospital, or for their children to ride to-and-from school, or just to go to the grocery store or the bank.

Mr. Speaker, I feel this Congress owes these aforementioned County Commission Members a hearty "thank you" and a resounding "job well done." I myself, am gratified by their unselfish service.

HONORING TRESSLER ADOPTION
SERVICES

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tressler Adoption Services of York, PA, which celebrates 25 years of doing the most rewarding work—creating families. I cannot say enough about the people who open their homes and hearts to those children who are given up for adoption, and I have the utmost respect for those professionals who spend their time and energy finding the right match for both parents and children.

The good people at Tressler have been placing children with loving families in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Delaware for the last quarter of a century, believing that every child deserves a caring, stable environment in which to grow and develop as a human being. It is this belief that has made Tressler somewhat unique in the field of adoption services, focusing on placing older children and children with special needs, rather than the much sought after newborn adoptees.

Tressler's success has been nothing short of magnificent. In their 25 years of service, Tressler has placed nearly 2,500 children of American descent, giving them what you and I take for granted—a home with parents, who couldn't love them any more than if they were their natural parents.

Their mission—to help create a stable, caring environment by providing the adoption services that place children in loving homes, preparing families for the adoption experience, and offering ongoing support for all families involved in their program—deserves both our recognition and respect.

I also want to specifically thank Mrs. Barbara Holtan, director of adoption services, and her staff at Tressler for their compassion and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of all of the years of Tressler's service to the families and adopted children of central Pennsylvania, I want to reaffirm our commitment as a nation that we will do all that we can to provide children with a loving, stable, and emotionally secure family life. Tressler has set a high standard to meet during their next quarter century, and I am confident that they will continue to push their benchmark ever higher.

DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON'S COM-
MENTS ON THE 100TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF THE OPENING OF THE
THOMAS JEFFERSON BUILDING
OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 5, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the centenary of the opening of the Thomas Jefferson building of the Library of Congress. This magnificent edifice has now served the American people and the U.S. Congress for 100 years.

This is an anniversary that should be noted, remembered, and appreciated by all of us here in the Congress, who benefit from the excellent facilities and the outstanding staff of the Library, and it is an anniversary that all Americans should join with us in celebrating. All Americans are blessed with the outstanding collection of materials housed in the Library, but we are also fortunate to be able to enjoy the beauty of the Thomas Jefferson building, which is one of the finest public buildings in our Nation. This building reflects the best of American architecture, art, engineering, and construction.

Mr. Speaker, on this important anniversary of the opening of the Thomas Jefferson building, I ask that a short article of Dr. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read it. The article by Dr. Billington appeared in the October/November issue of *Civilization*, a magazine published by the Library of Congress which provides information and background about the incredible resources our national library possesses. Mr. Speaker, *Civilization* is only one of the many creative innovations that Dr. Billington has contributed since he became Librarian of Congress 10 years ago this September.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in celebrating a century of service to the American people of the Thomas Jefferson building and to join me in commending Dr. Billington on his decade of outstanding service to our Nation as Librarian of Congress.

A GLORIOUS MOMENT FOR MR. MAX WEST

(By Dr. James H. Billington)

On a rainy Monday, November 1, 1897, the "largest, costliest, and safest" library building in the world opened its doors to the public without ceremony. In a front-page story that day, the Washington Evening Star noted that "the rain did not come amiss to the bookworms" who rushed to the Library's new building but "rather served to heighten

their enjoyment [of] the literary feast provided for them."

The first volume requested after the doors were opened, reported the Star, was "'Roger Williams' Year Book' of so recent a date that it had not been received. . . . The first book applied for and given out was 'Martha Lamb's History of New York City' and the gentleman [reader] . . . bore the name of Max West."

The new Italian Renaissance building housed 1 million books, 55,000 maps and other items that had been carted across the street from the Capitol, which had been the Library's overcrowded home for 97 years. The new structure was not only the most modern library building in existence, it was also a unique architectural feat. The Library's glittering dome, plated with 23-carat gold leaf, capped an elaborately decorated facade and a spectacular marble interior adorned by murals, frescoes and statuary created by more than 40 leading American artists.

For months prior to the official opening, newspapers and popular magazines carried effusive articles about the new Library. Few visitors were disappointed. Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont, one of the Library's chief supporters in Congress, felt that its "grandeur and felicitous finish" would be likely to remain long unrivaled "in this or any other country." Speaker of the House Joseph G. Cannon called it the best public building in Washington. Architecture critic Montgomery Schuyler praised the structure as a "national possession, an example of a great public building monumentally conceived, faithfully built, and worthily adorned." On November 25, 1897, more than 4,700 people visited the Library during special Thanksgiving Day tours.

The new building—today one of the Library's three major buildings on Capitol Hill and named the Thomas Jefferson Building after the Library's chief founder—was completed at a time of considerable optimism and national pride. The election of William McKinley in 1896 had seemed to inaugurate a period of domestic tranquility. Prosperity was returning after the great Wall Street panic of 1893. There was unfinished business: The Civil War and Reconstruction had brought black Americans emancipation but nothing close to equality, and reformers decried child labor, slums and extremes of wealth and poverty. Nevertheless, all 45 states (Oklahoma, Arizona and New Mexico were still territories) were now linked by telegraph and transcontinental railroads; the population, swollen by European immigration, had reached 76 million; the country boasted steel mills and farms second to none; the telephone was beginning to take hold in the cities; the first automobiles had appeared. New land-grant colleges, notably in the Midwest, were producing future managers, engineers and teachers, and Andrew Carnegie's philanthropy had begun to build hundreds of local public libraries. Progress was in the air.

This November, we plan to mark the 100th birthday of this glorious building without great fanfare but with deep gratitude to our forebears. There will be a gathering of members of Congress and other friends and benefactors of the Library, and a new brass plaque honoring Senator Morrill will be unveiled. Curators will make fresh additions to "American Treasures," our permanent rotating exhibition of great artifacts and published works from the Library's collections.

And, as we look back to the 1890s, we also will note certain differences in the 1990s. Visitors to the exhibition halls have to come and go through security gates—a necessity, sadly, on Capitol Hill these days. On the bright side, more than 60 images of the