

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY RECOGNIZES THELMA AND HARRY ZALEWITZ

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Thelma and Harry Zalewitz, who will be honored this weekend by the State of Israel Bonds with the Independent Issue Award for their contributions to the Jewish community in America over the last 50 years. Together they have served on a wide variety of committees, held countless leadership positions, and tirelessly advocated the importance of public service and "giving back" to the community.

Both Thelma and Harry Zalewitz were born in the United States to parents who had emigrated from Eastern Europe. Their families had settled in America with the hope of escaping persecution and reaching toward freedom and the ability to create a better life. They met in Paterson, NJ, and were married in 1946 after Harry returned from World War II. Ten years later, the couple moved with their three children to Verona, NJ, where they joined and immediately became involved in the Jewish Community Center of Verona.

Within a short time, both Harry and Thelma were serving on the Synagogue's Board and holding elected positions. Harry was chosen as Synagogue President and Thelma as Executive Secretary to the Board of Directors. Harry also held the position of co-chairman of the Verona-Cedar Grove campaign of the Jewish Federation. Over the years, the couple has actively participated in the development and growth of the Jewish Community Center of Concordia. Harry served as Vice President for the center, and lent his expertise as a member of the Board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Middlesex County. Their gratitude for the quality of life they have been privileged to experience has directed them to give both time and resources to insure that same quality of life for all Jewish people.

Today, Harry and Thelma continue to lead their local Jewish community. Thelma currently serves the important role of writing the Yartzeits for the Jewish Congregation of Concordia, transposing the Hebrew dates to the Gregorian calendar dates. They also support the State of Israel through investment in the Israel Bonds campaign.

Thelma and Harry have willingly given themselves to the community. I urge my fellow representatives to join me in recognizing this exceptional couple.

RURAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to join my distinguished colleague Congressman BARRETT of Nebraska, along with Representatives PETRI, BALDACCI, and THUNE, in introducing the Rural Education Initiative. This legislation will provide smaller rural school districts across the country with

the flexibility and funding they need to provide a quality education for our children.

A strong investment in the public education system is critical to our nation's future. In recent years, Congress has recognized that reality by increasing federal support for education. These funds are currently disproportionately channeled to larger school districts. Many small and rural school districts have simply fallen through the cracks. Small school districts, including many in North Dakota, have had to forgo federal dollars because they lack the personnel and the resources to apply for competitive grants. Also, due to low enrollment and a lack of special categories of students in these schools, single formula grants fail to provide sufficient revenue to fund any one significant project. As currently structured, these federal grant programs fail to meet the needs of rural school districts.

To address the unique circumstances of smaller rural schools, the Rural Education Initiative would allow school districts with fewer than 600 students to combine funds from four distinct federal programs and provide additional funds based on enrollment. In North Dakota, Belfield Public School District, for example, which has an enrollment of 310 students, would receive a minimum grant of \$50,000 under this legislation. By combining and increasing federal funds to rural districts like Belfield, this legislation would give school administrators the resources and flexibility they need to support local educational priorities.

Mr. Chairman, as Congress moves forward with the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), we can not overlook our small and rural school districts. Thirty-five percent of all school districts in the United States and 86 percent of school districts in North Dakota have fewer than 600 students, and are currently struggling to make ends meet. The Rural Education Initiative would take a strong step forward by leveling the playing field for rural school districts, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

CLEVELAND CLINIC CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL FOR REHABILITATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I announce the renaming of Health Hill Hospital for Children to the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation.

Since 1998, Health Hill Hospital for Children has been part of the Cleveland Clinic Health System. Devoted entirely to pediatric development, Health Hill has one of the largest teams of pediatric therapists in the nation, in addition to being one of the world's preeminent medical research and educational facilities, the Cleveland Clinic Health System is northeast Ohio's foremost provider of comprehensive medical and rehabilitative services to children requiring long-term treatment. Not only does the hospital's pediatric staff provide excellent care to critically ill and disabled children, but they do so in a comforting and caring environment that eases the children's fears and worries.

The primary goal for Health Hill is to create a more independent lifestyle for these children

and their families. For example, by providing unique programs, like the Day Hospital Program, children can receive daily intensive therapy without having to be hospitalized. Day Hospital patients receive therapy, nursing and medical care, yet are able to return home to their families each evening and weekend. Providing patients with the opportunity to maintain their routines and home lives is so important in making a sick child feel as "normal" as possible. The hospital serves children with a variety of illnesses, ranging from spinal cord and head injuries, respiratory problems, feeding disorders, and burns to chronic or congenital medical conditions.

Mr. Speaker, Health Hill Hospital has proven to be more than just a "hospital." Their commitment to providing the highest standards of medical services for special needs children is why they continue to be a shining example of one of the best children's specialty hospitals. Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation is affiliated with the renowned Cleveland Clinic Foundation, ranked among the ten best hospitals in the nation by U.S. News and World Report's annual guide to "America's Best Hospitals." It is exciting to see the resources of this prestigious hospital devoted to the care of children.

Again, I am honored to announce the Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for Rehabilitation's new designation, and commend the Foundation's outstanding achievements throughout the past 78 years.

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE SERVICE OF JAMES FARMER

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Honor, an honored American, and a true leader. When we think of the civil rights movement, certain names often come to mind. The names Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks are easy to remember, but I think of a man who was born in the town I call home: Marshall, Texas.

This man was a behind-the-scenes organizer. He was the last living member of the "Big Four" who shaped the civil rights movement in the mid 1950s and 1960s. He founded the Congress of Racial Equality in the 1940s. He organized countless demonstrations and sit-ins. He directed the Freedom Rides to desegregate interstate bus stations in the South in 1961. He served with the NAACP, the US Department of Health, Education and Welfare and taught at several colleges. He was awarded over 22 honorary doctorates, and in 1998, he earned the Presidential Medal of Freedom. This man was James Farmer.

Mr. Farmer was the son of a Methodist minister and professor of Theology at Wiley College. At 14, on a full scholarship, he went to Wiley College to study medicine only to find that he could not stand the sight of blood. Perhaps more in line with his calling, Mr. Farmer left medicine behind to study religion at Howard University, where he became acquainted with the civil disobedience methods employed by Ghandi. However, upon graduation, he found that he had no desire to minister in a

church that actively practiced segregation. It was this realization that pushed him into civil rights activism.

In 1942, he founded the Congress of Racial Equality in Chicago, and in 1947, he held the first Freedom Ride. He was beaten, arrested, and served time in prison. He was encouraged to let things settle down in the South, to let them cool off. Mr. Farmer, however, refused to back down. In 1963 he was attacked at a demonstration he had organized in Louisiana. State troopers came after him with guns, cattle prods, and tear gas, but he escaped with the help of a funeral director who drove him through the police cordon in a hearse. Although he had planned to attend the March On Washington, he was arrested in Louisiana for disturbing the peace and had to settle for watching Martin Luther King make him famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the television.

After the leadership of the Congress of Racial Equality changed hands, he surprised some civil rights leaders by joining the Nixon administration as an assistant secretary in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He knew that if African Americans were ever to have any say in national policy on race, then they had to be active in the government. Mr. Farmer recognized the potential in the position and used it to persuade the administration to approve funds for the Head Start program in Southern States. His response to those who thought he was abandoning the movement was that he saw himself as a bridge. "I lived in two worlds. One was the volatile and explosive one of the new black Jacobins and the other was the sophisticated and genteel world of the white and black liberal establishment. As a bridge, I was called on by each side for help in contacting the other."

Indeed, Mr. Farmer's concept of two worlds was what fueled his passion for equality. He often reminisced of his childhood before and after he became aware of discrimination. Growing up around colleges, he was sheltered from much of the racism that surrounded him. It wasn't until he discovered that he couldn't go wherever he wanted that he even realized he was any different from others.

At three years old, what he wanted was a soda, not social change. Given his young age and his sheltered upbringing, he couldn't understand why he couldn't use the money his father had given him to go and buy one at the drug store on the way home. He cried and pleaded to no avail. Finally his mother told him he couldn't buy a soda because it was a "whites-only" drug store, and he wasn't allowed to enter. Then she cried. And that was the day that young Mr. Farmer became determined to do something about it. He vowed to destroy segregation.

It was this same determination that got him through sitting in the "buzzard's roost," the segregated balcony in the cinema near Wiley College. And it was this same determination that put him on board the Freedom Ride to Jackson, Mississippi. He later called his organization of the Freedom Ride his proudest achievement.

Mr. Farmer had many achievements of which to be proud. I consider it an honor to have been a part of the driving force behind his most recent accomplishment which occurred just last year. On January 15, 1998, President Clinton awarded James Farmer the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest ci-

vilian honor the United States of America gives. For Mr. Farmer, it was the crowning moment on a rich past of activism and determination. "It's a vindication, an acknowledgement at long last. I'm grateful it came before I died." At 79, Mr. Farmer finally received his soda.

As we celebrate the life of James Farmer, let us remember one of his last lessons to us all. He said that we have beaten segregation, we have beaten Jim Crow. Now we have to beat racism, and it's going to take all of us to do it.

JOHN MICHAEL HURLEY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a long time friend, John Michael Hurley of my district. John passed from this life on June 10, 1999.

John made his career in public service, first in the Armed Forces where he served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps Reserves, and Air Force. Upon his retirement from the Air Force he began a career with the City of Toledo's Streets, Bridges & Harbors Division until his 1992 retirement. While employed with the city, he rose to the top leadership post of AFSCME Local 7. He worked for the union as steward, divisional steward, chief steward, and president. He also served AFSCME Ohio Council 8 as regional vice president, and was a board member of Ohio's Public Employees Retirement System. Throughout that service, the quality guarded the hard fought rights of working people throughout our community and state.

In addition to his civil service, John was also an active member of local veterans organizations, belonging to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Northwood Post #2984 and American Legion Conn Weisenberger Post #587. Rounding out his service to community and country, John coached Toledo's North End LaGrange Lions Baseball Team.

A family man, John was the proud father of Angela, Laura, Lillian, Nicole, Patrick, Andrew, David, and Kelly, and doting grandfather to 21 grandchildren. Our condolences to them, his wife Joanne, and his sisters and brothers. May they gain some small comfort in knowing the spirit and fire of John Hurley is carried through in each of them. The people of our community have been touched with his strength and kindness and our nation expresses its gratitude for his service to our country.

WEKIVA WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ACT OF 1999

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Act of 1999, designating the Wekiva River and its tributaries of Rock Springs Run and Seminole Creek for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

In the 104th Congress, legislation was signed into law to authorize a study of the Wekiva River by the Department of Interior to determine whether it is eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The National Parks Service recently completed this study and concluded that the Wekiva River system is an excellent candidate for receiving this designation.

This legislation would allow the Wekiva River and its tributaries to join the Loxahatchee as Florida's second river to receive this designation. The Wekiva Wild and Scenic River Act of 1999 provides Congressional designation of 41.6 miles of eligible and suitable portions of the Wekiva River, Rock Springs Run, Seminole Creek, and Black Water Creek with State management and the establishment of a coordinated Federal, State, and local management committee (Alternative C of the study). As the report states, the Wekiva River area provides "outstanding remarkable resources" which makes it eligible for this national designation.

For more than 30 years, the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act has been safeguarding some of our most precious rivers across the country. In October of 1968, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pronounced that certain selected rivers of the nation which possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Designated rivers receive protection to preserve their free-flowing condition, to protect the water quality and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes.

Furthermore, this legislation recognizes the efforts that have been initiated at the local and state level through the local coordinated management committee. This committee will be responsible for determining and implementing the comprehensive management plan for the Wekiva River under this designation and will be composed of a representative from each of the following agencies: Department of Interior, through the National Park Service; The East Central Florida Regional Planning Council; The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Wekiva River GEOPark; The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Wekiva River Aquatic Preserve; The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Ecosystem Planning and Coordination; The Florida Department of Agriculture and Community Affairs, Seminole State Forest; The Florida Audubon Society; The Friends of the Wekiva; The Lake County Water Authority; The Lake County Planning Department; The Orange County Parks and Recreational Department; The Seminole County Planning Department; The St. Johns River Management District; and The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

Floridians are blessed with some of the most rich and engaging natural resources in the world. Every year thousands of people come to Florida to enjoy our rivers and oceans. Located in Central Florida, the Wekiva River Basin is a complex ecological system of rivers, springs, lakes, and streams with many indigenous varieties of vegetation and wildlife which are dependent on this water system. Included in this area are several distinct recreational, natural, historic and cultural