

a decade; the Palestinian prisoners only became known when the Syrian government released them in 1995. On the basis of this experience with Syria, it is quite possible that these Israeli MIAs are still alive and under Syrian control.

Mr. Speaker, I have chosen to introduce this legislation today because this day holds great significance for the Jewish people. Today is the first day of the month of Nissan on the Jewish calendar. Nissan is a very important month because Jews from around the world celebrate Passover and join with their families in the observance of the holiday of freedom in this month.

It is in the spirit of this month that I ask my colleagues in the Congress to join me in helping Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, and Yehuda Katz return to their homes. Sitting in the gallery today is Mrs. Miriam Baumel, Zachary Baumel's mother, whose tireless efforts on behalf of H.R. 1175 are a testament of her deep love for her son and her strong support for this legislation. Miriam and husband, Yona, have visited communities across the country and have met with numerous Members of Congress and congressional staff in their tireless effort to rally support for their son and to end this family tragedy.

I have confidence in this house's ability to do what is right. Mr. Speaker. The Baumel, Feldman, and Katz families should not have to spend one more night worrying about the fate of Zachary, Tzvi, and Yehuda.

H.R. 1175 directs the Department of State to raise the fate of these Israeli soldiers with the Palestinian Authority and leaders of the governments of Syria, Lebanon, and other countries in the Middle East in an effort to locate and secure the return of these soldiers. This legislation also specifies that U.S. aid to these governments "should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers." The State Department is directed to report to the Congress concerning these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation is introduced in the hope that we can find answers to the questions that have haunted the Baumel, Katz, and Feldman families for almost 17 years. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and help to put an end to this tragedy.

H.R. 1175

To locate and secure the return of Zachary Baumel, an American Citizen, and other Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that

A. Zachary Baumel, an American citizen serving in the Israeli military forces, has been missing in action since June 1982 when he was captured by forces affiliated with the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) following a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

B. Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman, Israeli citizens serving in the Israeli military forces, have been missing in action since June 1982 when they were also captured by these same forces in a tank battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Ya'akub in Lebanon;

C. These three soldiers were last known to be in the hands of a Palestinian faction splintered from the PLO and operating in Syrian-controlled territory, thus making

this a matter within the responsibility of the government of Syria;

D. Diplomatic efforts to secure their release have been unsuccessful, although PLO Chairman Yasir Arafat delivered one half of Zachary Baumel's dog tag to Israeli government authorities; and

E. In the Gaza-Jericho agreement between the Palestinian Authority and the government of Israel of May 4, 1994, Palestinian officials agreed to cooperate with Israel in locating and working for the return of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

SEC. 2. ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. The Department of State shall raise the matter of Zachary Baumel, Yehuda Katz and Zvi Feldman on an urgent basis with appropriate government officials of Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and with other governments in the region and other governments elsewhere which in the Department's view may be helpful in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

B. Decisions with regard to United States economic and other forms of assistance to Syria, Lebanon, the Palestinian Authority, and other governments in the region and United States policy towards these governments and authorities should take into consideration the willingness of these governments and authorities to assist in locating and securing the return of these soldiers.

SEC. 3. REPORT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

A. Ninety days after the enactment of this legislation, the Department of State shall deliver a report in writing to the Congress detailing its consultations with governments pursuant to section 2(A) of this act and United States policies affected pursuant to section 2(B) of this act. This report shall be a public document. The report may include a classified annex.

B. After the initial report to the Congress, the Department of State shall report in writing within 15 days whenever any additional information from any source relating to these individuals arises. Such report shall be a public document. The report may include a classified annex.

C. The reports to the Congress identified in paragraph (A) and (B) above shall be made to the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

A SALUTE TO WILLIAM JOHNSON

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share with my colleagues my esteem and regard for William Johnson, Business Manager of Laborers Union Local 113 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. On March 20, his family, friends, union brothers and sisters, and admirers will gather to celebrate Bill Johnson's over 40 years of service to Milwaukee workers and to wish him well as his life begins a new chapter.

Bill returned to his native Alabama in 1955, an honorably discharged veteran of the United States Army. He stayed only a couple of weeks before he agreed to join his brother in Milwaukee.

When he arrived in Milwaukee, Bill Johnson found work, but he did not immediately find union representation. During the early days of America's struggle for civil rights, many of the

union locals in town were not admitting African Americans. When he joined the Laborers' paving local that would eventually become Local 113, he had found a home.

Bill Johnson rose through the ranks to the position of Business Manager, ultimately responsible for contract negotiation and administration, personnel, and all of the union's other business. He has also served as Union Trustee for 30 years and is a trustee of the Laborers' Employers Cooperation Education Trust.

As a leader, Bill Johnson earned the respect of Local membership. He led by example, with dedication to the welfare and professional advancement of the membership. He always remembered that a successful union draws strength from its members just as they draw strength from the union.

After over 40 years, Bill Johnson is retiring as Business Manager of Laborers Local 113. His retirement from organized labor does not mean an end to his public service. Bill has been a longtime leader at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church, and he presides over the church's economic and community development corporations. Under his direction, I know that these organizations will continue to work vigorously to bring housing and economic opportunity to Milwaukee's central city. Bill has also been active in leadership positions in the Milwaukee Jobs Initiative, the United Way of Greater Milwaukee, and Campaign for a Sustainable Milwaukee.

I am proud to join his colleagues, his friends, and his many admirers in expressing my gratitude to Bill Johnson for a lifetime of devoted service to Milwaukee's working families. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Bill and wishing him well as he embarks on a new course.

TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN IRISH-AMERICAN PARADE COMMITTEE

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of its 24th Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

The Brooklyn Irish-American Parade highlights the cultural, education and historical accomplishments and contributions of Brooklyn's Irish-American community. The Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade serves as a celebration of Brooklyn's cultural diversity and richness and takes place in historic Park Slope on the hallowed ground of the Battle of Brooklyn and commemorates the Marylanders, Irish Freedom Fighters and Americans of other ethnic backgrounds who gave their lives to secure independence for all Americans. The Spirit of '76 was, and still is, the ideal of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

The Parade Committee, its officers and members, continue the memorialization of "The Great Famine" (An Gorta Mor) which caused the deaths of over 1,500,000 people in Ireland and tens of thousands as they traveled to America. During "The Great Famine", over 1,000,000 of Erin's sons and daughters emigrated to the United States through the port of New York.

The theme of this year's Parade is Wolfe Tone and The Good Friday Peace Accords. Wolfe Tone was an Irish Patriot and founder of the Society of the United Irishman, whose vision of Ireland was neither North nor South, neither Protestant nor Catholic, but one Ireland United and Free. The Good Friday Peace Accords, which were overwhelmingly supported by the people of the North and South, gave new hope for an end to sectarian violence and a peaceful resolution of political and social differences. The members of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee salutes with gratitude all the peacemakers who secured these accords for the people of Ireland, especially the untiring negotiations of former United States Senator George Mitchell.

This year's parade is dedicated to the memories of Johanna Cronin McAvey of County Cork, a founder of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee; Past Grand Marshals Paul O'Dwyer and Patrick McGowan, Past Aides to Grand Marshals Maureen Glynn Connolly, Tom Doherty, Eugene Reilly and Irene Stevens.

The Grand Marshal for the 24th Annual Parade is Sister Mary Rose McGeady, D.C., President and Chief Executive Officer of Covenant House who has dedicated her life to homeless children and their families. Sister McGeady has long been known as an innovator and beacon of good will to all those whose lives she has touched.

The Grand Marshall, her Aides Robert Hanley (Irish Culture) Pipe Major NYC Correction Department Pipe Band; Jane Murphy Parchinsky, Ladies AOH Kings County Board and Division 17; James Boyle (Irish Business) Snook Inn & Green Isle Inn; Bettyanne McDonough (Education) Emerald Society Board of Education; Patrick W. Johnson (Kings County AOH & Division 22); Geraldine McCluskey Lavery (Gaelic Sports/Young Irelands Camogie Team); Thomas Daniel Duffy (Grand Council, United Emerald Societies/Housing Authority); Parade Chairperson Kathleen McDonagh; Dance Chairperson Charlie O'Donnell; Journal Chairperson James McDonagh; Raffle Chairperson Eileen Fallon; Parade Officers, Members and all the citizens of Brooklyn, have joined together to participate in this important and memorable event.

In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations and thanks to the Grand Marshall, her Aides, the Parade Officers and members of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee on the occasion of the Brooklyn Irish-American Parade Committee's 24th Annual Brooklyn Irish-American Parade.

Helena, I am extremely proud of my friend's outstanding accomplishments.

Born in West Virginia in 1926, Justus Cunningham (J.C.) Pickett received his B.A. degree from West Virginia University in 1956 and his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia in 1958. He served as a surgical intern from 1958 to 1959, a surgical resident from 1959 and 1960, and an orthopaedic resident from 1960 to 1963, all at the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals.

Dr. Pickett was certified by the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1955 and became a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons in 1967 and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons in 1968. A retired colonel of the U.S. Air Force Reserve, he served in a number of important positions: as a clinical instructor at Ohio State University, as Chief of Staff and Chief of Surgery at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, as a board member of the Napa County Chapter of the American Cancer Society, as orthopaedic consultant to Napa Valley College, and as team physician for Napa High School and Vintage High School. Dr. Pickett is also a member of the California Orthopaedic Association and the Western Orthopaedic Association.

Dr. Pickett served as President of the Napa County Medical Society from 1980 to 1981, as a member of the CMA House of Delegates from 1977 to 1990, and has been a member of CMA's Board of Trustees since 1990. In that capacity, he was Vice-Chair from 1994 to 1995, Chair from 1996 to 1997, and President-Elect from 1998 to 1999.

Despite his busy medical practice and dedication to his profession and patients, Dr. Pickett always finds time to spend with his wife Sandra, his three children, Justus Cunningham Pickett II, Carrie Laing Pickett, and John Eastman Brown Pickett, his two grandchildren Samantha and Joycelyn, and his beloved dog Murphy. Dr. Pickett is also well known to his friends, family, colleagues and patients as a highly skilled physician, gentleman farmer, infrequent golfer, and world class over lover of crossword puzzles.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is fitting and appropriate to honor the lifetime of service Dr. Pickett has given to his community, his state and his nation. Undoubtedly, there are many families in Napa County who are thankful each day for Dr. Pickett's service. Napa County is a health community and its resident can point to Dr. Pickett's service as one reason for this.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to personally commend Dr. Pickett on his dedication and meritorious service, and I wish him well this coming year as the new president of the CMA.

care provide better care and extend life expectancy, we must also be cognizant of the care we provide in the last stages of an individual's life.

It is my hope that by addressing the needs of patients and families dealing with pain and medical difficulties at the end of life, we can focus attention on the constructive steps that can be taken to provide help and assistance to seniors and other Americans during this critical period. We should not allow end of life care to be eclipsed by the debate over physician assisted suicide. In my discussions with families and physicians, people are concerned with the quality of care and the type of information available during this difficult period of one's life.

The Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act builds on the Patient Self-Determination Act enacted in 1990, which I sponsored, by strengthening many of its provisions. The Patient Self-Determination Act requires health care facilities to distribute information to patients regarding existing State laws on living wills, medical powers-of-attorney, and other advance directives so that individuals can document the type of care they would like to receive at the end of their lives. Since passage of that legislation, there has been an increase in the number of individuals who have advance directives. However, a Robert Wood Johnson study found that less than half of hospitalized patients who had advanced directives had even talked with any of their doctors about having a directive and only about one-third of the patients with advanced directives had their wishes documented in their medical records.

This legislation seeks to address these problems and improve the quality of information provided to individuals in hospitals, nursing homes and other health care facilities. It will encourage seniors and families to have more open and informed communication with health care providers concerning their preferences for end-of-life care.

Specifically, the bill requires that a trained professional be available, when requested, to discuss end-of-life care. It also requires that if a patient has an advance directive, it must be placed in a prominent part of the medical record where all doctors and nurses can clearly see it. In addition, the bill establishes a 24-hour hotline and information clearinghouse to provide consumers, patients and their families with information about advance directives and end-of-life decision making.

Included in this legislation is a provision designed to ensure that an advance directive which is valid in one State will be honored in another State, as long as the contents of the advance directive do not conflict with the laws of the other State. In addition, the bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to gather information and consult with experts on the possibility of a uniform advance directive for all Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of where they live. A uniform advance directive would enable people to document the kind of care they wish to get at the end of their lives in a way that is easily recognizable and understood by everyone.

The Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act also addresses quality end-of-life care by responding to the national need for end-of-life standards. It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in conjunction with the Health Care Financing Administration,

IN HONOR OF J.C. PICKETT, M.D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to honor the new California Medical Association (CMA) President, Dr. J.C. Pickett, of St. Helena, California.

Dr. Pickett has been a longtime leader in the Napa community, as well as throughout the State of California, and as native St.

ADVANCE PLANNING AND COM-
PASSIONATE CARE ACT OF 1999

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 18, 1999

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on March 17, 1999 I reintroduced the Advance Planning and Compassionate Care Act of 1999, along with my colleagues Representatives JAMES GREENWOOD and DARLENE HOOLEY. This legislation intends to respond to the critical needs of the elderly and their families during often difficult times in their lives. As advancements in health