

Creative Growth Art Center was the first program of its kind in the country for people with disabilities. It provided national leadership in innovative programming in the fields of art and disabilities. Open to any adult who is physical, mentally or emotionally disabled and interested in art, it is internationally renowned for the quality of the art work by its studio artists, and is a model for many other programs throughout the country. The mission of the organization is to provide an environment where the visual arts can flourish, where people with disabilities have opportunities for creative expression and can achieve at the highest level. The organization also serves as an advocate for the arts and artists with disabilities.

Initiated with a National Endowment for the Arts grant, more than 4,000 people a year visit the art gallery, the first gallery in the country dedicated to the art produced by people with disabilities. The organization has been a trendsetter, featuring exhibitions which paired the work of well-known Bay Area artists beside that of severely disabled artists. Creative Growth presented the first exhibition in the United States of Russian Outsider artists from the Humanitarian Center Museum in Moscow. In 1994, in conjunction with the Oakland Museum, it held the first Outsider Art symposium on the West Coast. The Center's enriched environment, as well as the creative process itself, provides beneficial results to program participants. Many studio artists have developed into award-winning artists whose works are exhibited and sought after by collectors the world over. Dwight Mackintosh, Gerone Spurill, William Scott, to name a few, are classic examples of Outsider artists who crossed over from the alternative gallery scene into mainstream art. A younger group of studio artists is carving out its own success with Camille Holvoet, featured in *Truth from Darkness*, a traveling exhibition of the work of people with mental illness. Creative Growth artists Juan Aguilera and Carmen Quinones were paired with Mexican artist Maria Luisa de Mateo in *Arte Sin Fronteras*, to demonstrate the artists' unique cultural influences. Studio artists just completed a 109 square foot tile wall mural at the Palo Alto city entrance. Adding Light is a limited edition print portfolio by able and disabled artists, a project cosponsored by the California arts Council. In San Francisco, the Grill of the Tenderloin, of the California Culinary Academy, is decorated with imaginative art by artists from Creative Growth Art Center.

Among its artists whose works have been immortalized in books are Dwight Machintosh and Judith Scott. Scott, who is deaf and has Downs Syndrome, has been in the studio for 11 years and creates wrapped sculptures of yarn and fabric, using armatures of discarded materials.

I build on the words of my predecessor, Congressman Ron Dellums, ". . . that creativity is a human quality that not only transcends boundaries presented by mental and physical disabilities but national boundaries as well." Creative Growth Art Center provides the opportunity for us to understand that people with disabilities enrich and revitalize the community's cultural life.

MAKE THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON MINORITY VETERANS PER-  
MANENT

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that is vital to the interests of minority veterans in our nation. Current law mandates the termination of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans (ACMV) as of December 31, 1999. My bill would simply repeal the provision of law that discontinues this important committee's mandate so that its critical work on behalf of minority veterans can continue into the next century. Saving the Advisory Committee will require no additional taxpayer funding.

The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans operates in conjunction with the VA Center for Minority Veterans. This committee consists of members appointed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and includes minority veterans, representatives of minority veterans and individuals who are recognized authorities in fields pertinent to the needs of minority veterans. The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans helps the VA Center for Minority Veterans primarily by advising the Secretary on the adoption and implementation of policies and programs affecting minority veterans, and by making recommendations to the VA for the establishment or improvement of programs in the Department for which minority veterans are eligible.

The unique concerns of minority veterans will become increasingly important for our nation during the next decade. The majority of African-American, Hispanic-American, Asian-American and Native American veterans served in the armed forces during Vietnam and post-Vietnam eras. The percentage of U.S. veterans who are minorities is expected to continue to increase as we enter the 21st century.

The Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans has helped to ensure that our veterans programs address the unique concerns of these men and women. Outreach to diverse veterans communities, from Native American reservations to inner-city neighborhoods, has helped inform thousands of minority veterans about opportunities for assistance at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I believe that these tasks are essential to the success of the VA in serving all veterans in our nation.

Nevertheless, many specific issues of concern to minority veterans need to be addressed further. Minority veterans confront the debilitating effects of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and substance abuse in greater numbers. Minority veterans suffer from a higher incidence of homelessness. Access to health care for Native Americans is a common problem. In addition, access to adequate job training is a difficulty for many minority veterans, a high percentage of whom qualify as low-income, category A veterans. Unfortunately, discrimination and cultural insensitivity remain problematic for minority veterans at many VA facilities.

This is the only advisory committee in the VA that is not permanent. The Department of

Veterans Affairs has a VA Center for Women Veterans and an advisory committee on women veterans. We should act now to assure that the VA Center for Minority Veterans maintains its own advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, the specific issues of importance to minority veterans will not disappear on December 31, 1999. I ask my colleague to support this vital legislation.

H.R.—

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

**SECTION 1. REPEAL OF SUNSET PROVISION FOR  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MINORITY  
VETERANS.**

Subsection (e) of section 554 of title 38, United States Code, is repealed.

**MISSING PERSONS IN SOUTHEAST  
ASIA**

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designed to declassify the records of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia. In doing so, I am joined by my colleagues: Mr. TAYLOR from Mississippi, Mr. TALENT from Missouri, and Mr. ROHRBACHER from California.

I served as a member of the Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia during the committee's period of existence in the 1970's. At the time, the Select Committee was tasked with the responsibility of determining whether American servicemen had been left behind in Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War.

At the time the committee was dissolved, its records were subject to House classification rules, which mandated the material be kept classified for 50 years. Similar regulations covered the records of the Senate's counterpart committee.

Several years ago, the Senate agreed to reduce the period of secrecy to 20 years, and as a result, declassified all of their committee files. This legislation would simply make a change in House rules to open all of the Select Committee's files and boxes of material to the public.

Mr. Speaker, the end of the cold war has resulted in the discovery of literally hundreds of documents which had previously been out of reach behind the Iron Curtain. I see no need for the House to maintain a veil of secrecy over its Select Committee files. Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join in supporting this worthwhile legislation which would bring the House rules on this subject in line with those of our counterpart committee in the Senate.

H. RES.—

*Resolved,* That the Archivist of the United States is authorized and directed to make available for public use the records of the House of Representatives Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia (94th Congress).

REMARKS OF BENJAMIN MEED ON  
THE HOLOCAUST

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the remarks of Mr. Benjamin Meed who recently gave an exceptionally moving speech about Yom Hashoah, The Days of Remembrance, at the United States Capitol. Mr. Meed is Chairman of both The Days of Remembrance Committee, United States Holocaust Memorial Council and the Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization (WAGRO). He is also the President of The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. Mr. Meed is a champion of humanitarian causes around the world.

REMARKS BY BENJAMIN MEED, CHAIRMAN,  
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE COMMITTEE, UNITED  
STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL COUNCIL

REFUGEE DENIED: THE VOYAGE OF THE SS ST.  
LOUIS

Members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, members of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, distinguished guests, fellow survivors and dear friends.

Welcome to our 20th national Days of Remembrance commemoration.

For at least a decade, the magnificent flags that surround us now have been part of our annual observance here in the nation's Capitol. Every time the American flag, and the flags of the United States Army Divisions that liberated the concentration camps, are brought into this Hall for this commemoration, a special pride as an American citizen sweeps over me, as I am sure it must for all Holocaust survivors. These pieces of red, white and blue cloth were the symbols of freedom and hope for those of us caught in the machinery of death. Discovery of the German Nazi concentration camps by the Allied armies began the process that restored our lives. Although we have many dates this month to remember, we recall with special gratitude the date of April 11, 1945, when American troops, in their march to end the war in Europe, came across the Buchenwald concentration camp. We will always remain grateful to the American soldiers for their bravery, kindness and generosity. We will always remember those young soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring us liberty.

Many revelations over the last half a century have unveiled the Holocaust as a story of massive destruction and loss. It has been shown to be the story of an apathetic world—world full of callous dispassion and moral insensitivity, with few individual exceptions. But more, it has been shown to be a tale of victory—victory of the human spirit, of extraordinary courage and of remarkable endurance. It is the story of life that flourished before the Shoah, that struggled throughout its darkest hours, and that ultimately prevailed.

And after the Holocaust, as we rebuilt our lives, we also built a nation—the State of Israel. This was our answer to death and destruction—new life, both family and national life—and Remembrance. Minister Ben-David, please convey to the people of Israel our solidarity with them as they, too, Remember today on this Yom Hashoah.

Today, our thoughts turn back sixty years. On May 13, 1939, the SS St. Louis sailed from Hamburg bound for Havana with more than nine hundred passengers, most of them Jews

fleeing Nazism. For these passengers, it was a desperate bid for freedom that was doomed before it began. Politics, profit and public opinion were permitted to overshadow morality, compassion and common sense. It is so painful now to realize that not only Cuba but our own beloved country closed her doors and her heart to these People of the Book who could see the lights of Miami from the decks of the ship but were not allowed to disembark. This group of nine hundred could have been saved, but instead the voyage became a round-trip passage to hell for many of them. Less than three months after the St. Louis docked at Antwerp, the world was at war. And in less than three years, the "Final Solution of the Jewish Problem" in Europe was fully operational.

Could this happen today? Hopefully, not. But we—all of us—must be vigilant—ever mindful that once such a course of destruction of a people has been chartered, it can be followed again, and again, and again.

And what lessons did we derive from these horrible experiences? The most important lesson is obvious—it can happen again, the impossible is possible again. Ethnic cleansing, genocide, is happening as I speak. It can happen to any one or any group of people. The slaughter in Kosovo and in other places must be brought to an end.

Should there be another Holocaust, it may be on a cosmic scale. How can we prevent it? All of us must remain vigilant—always aware, always on guard against those who are determined to destroy innocent human life for no other reason than birthright.

There are some passengers of that unfortunate voyage of the SS St. Louis who are with us here today. Like most of us Holocaust survivors, they are in the winter of their lives. Even so, all of us look toward the future, because we believe that, in sharing our experiences—by bearing witness—there is hope of protecting other generations who might be abandoned and forgotten, robbed and murdered. The telling and retelling of the stories of the Holocaust with their profound lessons for humanity must become a mission for all humankind. In this way, future generations, particularly future generations of Americans, can Remember and can use the power of this knowledge to protect people everywhere.

In these great halls of Congress, we see symbols of the ideals that this country represents. It was the collective rejection of these ideals by many nations that made the Holocaust possible. Today, let us all promise to keep an ever-watchful eye for those who would deny the principles of liberty, equality and justice, and for those who would defy the rules of honorable and peaceful conduct between peoples, and nations. Together, let us remember. Thank you.

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE  
RODRIGUEZ

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, and recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, Catherine Rodriguez. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for many years, has exhibited dedication and experience to the court system of San Luis Valley.

As a District court reporter for the last 15 years, Ms. Rodriguez has been an active par-

ticipant and leader for the Colorado's court reporters. Before becoming its president in 1996–97, Catherine Rodriguez served on the Colorado Court Reporter's Association board for 7 years. She has proven to be valuable in creating a page-rate increase, as well as voicing Colorado's need for computer-integrated courtrooms.

Catherine Rodriguez has more than proven herself as a valuable asset to the court system of San Luis Valley, therefore, earning Colorado's highest honor for court reporters. This is a great achievement considering that she is only the second recipient in recent years.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to Catherine Rodriguez on a truly exceptional career as a Colorado court reporter. Due to Ms. Rodriguez's dedicated service, it is clear that Colorado is a better place.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEMPLE  
BETH TORAH

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the Temple Beth Torah. This synagogue serves the Jewish community in Northeast Philadelphia as well as the surrounding suburban neighborhoods of Montgomery and Bucks Counties.

Boulevard Temple was the original name of the synagogue when it was formed in 1949. In 1965, it was necessary to change the location of the temple in order to better serve the Jewish community. Since this expansion, the synagogue has been known as the Temple Beth Torah.

Temple Beth Torah enriches the community in many ways. Beyond meaningful and significant services, the synagogue has formed and manages a highly regarded School of Religion and an excellent Nursery School. In addition, the members of Temple Beth Torah improve their community through a wide array of events and activities. The Sisterhood, Men's Club and PTA strive to develop programs that will engage and educate congregants of all ages.

I wish to sincerely honor the Temple Beth Torah for its many accomplishments and offer my congratulations on the 50th anniversary. I hope the Temple continues to help the Jewish community prosper, flourish and benefit for many more years into the future.

CONGRATULING THE FAIR LAWN  
POLICE DEPARTMENT AND  
MCDONALD'S ON "A SAFE PLACE  
FOR SMALL FRIES"

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 1999*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Fair Lawn Police Department and