

With a batmitzvah or coming-of-age ceremony for a teenage congregant Saturday morning, a final service to prepare and packing to do, the rabbi's final days were busy enough. Duty called again at 4 a.m. Friday when he got the phone call bearing bad news.

His role, especially in the first days as the shock wears off, is to listen and comfort, he said.

"I have learned one thing: If in a time like this I cannot bring my total bearing to bear, when will I need it for?" he said. "I don't allow something like this to take me off balance, I cannot be a soldier fighting and worrying about something else."

H. RES. 226—CONDEMNING ARSON OF THREE
SYNAGOGUES IN CALIFORNIA

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 219 and I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for bringing this important resolution to the floor so quickly. The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and I have worked together for many years as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus fighting injustices, human rights abuses, and religious persecution around the world. I have spent many hours fighting for the rights of Jews in the former Soviet Union and other countries around the world. Nothing saddens me more than to stand here today and have to speak out about acts of religious discrimination which occurred in our own country.

On June 18th, three synagogues in the Sacramento area were set ablaze within minutes of each other. Pamphlets expressing anti-Semitic rhetoric were found at two of the three sites. The sole purpose of this act of hatred was to destroy Jewish places of worship, Jewish history and to create an atmosphere of fear within the Jewish community.

I commend the city of Sacramento, the state of California and the hundreds of individuals who have come forward in the past days, condemning these acts and lending their support to the congregations affected and the Jewish community as a whole. It is heartening to see that in the face of tragedy, the many who will come together and rise above the evil perpetrated by the few.

We must stand up and condemn all of the hate crimes which take place in this country and around the world. We can not expect to be the leaders of democracy and freedom around the world, if we allow actions such as the burning of synagogues to go unnoticed on our own soil.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, three charred synagogues, the air thick with the smell of burned torahs, historical and religious books, videotapes, and pews, this was the scene on Friday, June 18, 1999, in the pre-dawn hours, at three Sacramento County, California synagogues, Temple B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom and Knesset Israel Torah Center. These houses of worship were set ablaze within the span of a half-hour. Law enforcement officials believe that the arson was coordinated by several people. It was reported that anti-Jewish fliers were found at two of the crime scenes.

Arson of a place of worship is reprehensible to us as a society. We in Congress are unanimous in our condemnation of those who would express their hatred by destroying or damaging religious property. When a synagogue is damaged, the blow is felt not only by the congregation members, but by all those whose lives are touched by it: the youth who show up

for community activities, the homeless and hungry who line up for food. It is not just a despicable act of hatred and cowardice, it is not only an attack upon the Jewish community, it is an attack upon all of us. It eats at the fabric of our heritage and the history of our nation, as a country founded in the pursuit of freedom of religion. I invite my colleagues to join in supporting H. Res. 226 which condemns these heinous acts of arson at three California synagogues.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of a resolution condemning the acts of arson at three Sacramento, California area synagogues on June 18, 1999. The destruction done to Congregation B'nai Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Keneset Israel Torah Center was malicious and willful. I urge all of my colleagues to support the Resolution introduced by the gentleman from California, and denounce these acts of hate.

As a Jewish Member of Congress I am particularly sensitive to acts of anti-Semitism. The elected leaders of this great country must never permit these types of actions to occur. The Jewish community has endured a great deal of persecution throughout history, and as Members of Congress it is our responsibility to provide a strong voice of opposition to threatening acts of hate.

The people of the 9th Congressional District, whom I have the privilege to represent, pride themselves on the rich diversity that our district boasts. Diversity in the 9th Congressional District is seen as a unique attribute, not a threat. The recent acts of hate perpetrated in Sacramento are an insult to me and to all Americans who celebrate the diversity and ethnic traditions from which this country has benefited. An attack on any place of religious worship is a threat to the freedom of expression and religion that we all enjoy.

I applaud my colleagues who have taken a strong leadership role on this issue, and I would like to associate myself with the comments of those who have spoken on the House floor in support of this resolution. It is important for this body, and Americans across the country, to speak out against all crimes of hate. I am proud to support this resolution.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 226.

The question was taken.

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

MAURINE B. NEUBERGER UNITED
STATES POST OFFICE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1327) to designate the United States Postal Service building located at 34480 Highway 101 South in Cloverdale, Oregon, as the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office."

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1327

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States Postal Service building located at 34480 Highway 101 South in Cloverdale, Oregon, shall be known and designated as the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States Postal Service building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH).

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the bill under consideration today, H.R. 1327, was introduced on March 25, 1999, by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) and the Committee on Government Reform passed the measure by voice vote on June 24.

H.R. 1327 designates the United States Postal Service building located at 34480 Highway 101 South in Cloverdale, Oregon, as the "Maurine B. Neuberger United States Post Office."

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, the bill is cosponsored by all members of the House delegation from the State of Oregon, pursuant to the long-standing policy of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight. Also, as a point of information, post office naming bills do not affect direct spending or receipts; and, therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a few words about the honoree of this proposal. Maurine B. Neuberger is an Oregonian to the core, having been born in Cloverdale, Oregon, in 1907, attending public school and completing her education at Oregon College of Education and the University of Oregon. She also attended the University of California at Los Angeles.

She met her future husband, Richard Neuberger, when she was teaching English and Physical Education in Oregon. He had just been elected to serve in the Oregon House of Representatives when he resigned to enlist in the Army during World War II. After his return, Maurine and Richard were married. He then won a seat in the State Senate

and Maurine also decided to run for public office. She won a seat in the Oregon House, making the Neuberger the first husband and wife team to serve simultaneously in the Oregon Legislature.

Maurine Neuberger did not seek reelection to the Oregon House when her husband was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1955. After her husband, the Senator, died unexpectedly from cancer in 1959, Maurine chose to run for her husband's seat in 1960 and won, making her the second woman in our Nation's history and the first and, to date, the only woman from Oregon to serve in the U.S. Senate.

She made her mark in the Senate, Mr. Speaker, by fighting for consumer rights, civil rights, the rights of the poor, conservation, campaign finance reform, and public health. As I am sure we will hear from later comments, she led the crusade to put warnings on cigarette packages and is credited with coining the phrase, "The Surgeon General has determined that smoking may be hazardous to your health." She worked diligently to establish a Department of Consumer Affairs and to improve packaging and labeling regulations by the Food and Drug Administration.

Even while pursuing other issues, Senator Neuberger continued to remember her home State and was instrumental in preserving the beautiful coastline of Oregon while at the same time working to attract tourism and programs to coastal towns and to reducing poverty in rural areas in her State.

She was known as a consensus builder, but she never backed down from fighting for principles in which she believed. Senator Neuberger was the first woman to filibuster the Senate, speaking for 4½ hours.

She did not seek reelection in 1966. Instead, she served on the President's Consumer Advisory Committee, the U.S. Advisory Committee for Arms Control and Disarmament, and the President's Commission on the Status of Women. She was also a consultant on consumer relations for the FDA, and served on the national boards of directors for the American Cancer Society and the American Association for the United Nations. She taught American Government at Boston University, the Radcliffe Institute and Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Senator Neuberger now lives in Portland.

Mr. Speaker, as this brief but nevertheless very impressive résumé strongly illustrates, Senator Neuberger continues the very proud tradition of honoring very worthy individuals through these postal naming bills. I want to compliment the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) for her work and diligence in bringing this very deserving honoree to our attention, for putting together the bill and bringing together the consensus of Members necessary to bring this measure to the floor today. Certainly Senator

Neuberger is a most deserving individual, the kind of American to whom we can all look for guidance and for inspiration. I would certainly encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of this very worthy legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am also honored to have the opportunity to participate in this very important naming bill introduced by my colleague from the State of Oregon. I want to first thank the majority chairman, for he has continued to be gracious and bipartisan in his leadership of the Postal Subcommittee. It has been a pleasure to work with him.

On this occasion, we come to move a very important piece of legislation, because it recognizes something that all too often goes unmentioned, which is that many, many States have had difficulty with the election of women to the United States Congress, House and Senate. I come from a State in which we have among our congressional delegation at this point not one female member. The State of Oregon has been ahead of the game for a long time, and it is symbolized by the honor that is bestowed through this bill.

But rather than talk about the details, I would recognize my colleague and yield to her, since she is the sponsor of this measure, the opportunity to explain its purpose and why it is that the full committee under the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the Postal Subcommittee found it, I think, important to move this legislation swiftly.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY).

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues for passing this bill out of their subcommittee and full committee and for their leadership to bring this on the floor today. I would particularly like to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the office of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) for their assistance as well.

It is a huge honor for me to stand here today to ask that this post office be named after Senator Neuberger. She has been an inspiration not only to me but to most of us in this State.

The other thing I want to recognize today is my colleagues from Oregon who have joined me in honoring this great Oregonian, Senator Maurine B. Neuberger.

H.R. 1327 renames the Cloverdale Post Office in Oregon after one of our State's former United States Senators, Maurine B. Neuberger. This is to recognize her lifetime of public service. She absolutely exemplifies what public service is all about. She has meant so much to the State and this country; and, as they said, she is a true Oregonian in every sense of the word.

She was born in Cloverdale, Oregon, in 1907 and still lives in Oregon today. She has worked hard throughout her life and held careers in Oregon ranging from a schoolteacher to a State representative and then U.S. Senator.

Maurine embodies all the traits that we Oregonians hold near and dear. She has worked hard; patriotism; she loves this country and loves our State and has a deep-seated love for those around her and for public service.

After her husband, United States Senator Richard Neuberger's sudden death in 1959, Maurine Neuberger ran for and won her late husband's seat to the U.S. Senate. As we have heard before, Maurine was only the second woman to serve in the U.S. Senate, and she is still the only woman from Oregon who has served in the other Chamber.

During her tenure in the United States Senate, Maurine became famous for her fighting spirit and tireless crusades on behalf of consumers, public health, campaign finance reform, which we are still dealing with today, civil rights, and environmental conservation. She also played a crucial role in President Johnson's War on Poverty. She became known as a principled consensus builder with the political will to tackle the country's most pressing problems.

After cancer took her husband's life, Senator Neuberger led the fight in the Senate to put warning labels on all cigarette packages; and again, as we have heard, it was Maurine who wrote the actual words, "The Surgeon General has determined that smoking may be hazardous to your health," a warning label on cigarettes which we are all familiar with.

We have to remember when she stepped forward on that fight, this was in the 1960s. We are still in that fight on cigarettes. Her efforts were considered very bold and courageous steps at that time in educating the public of the dangers of smoking. I think that is why Oregon maybe has the laws that it has today on smoking and why it is a very low smoking State. I think it was led because of Maurine Neuberger.

She was also known for her work to establish a Department of Consumer Affairs and pressured the Food and Drug Administration to improve their packaging and labeling regulations. She was also one of the very earliest advocates for the Medicare program.

After serving her full 6 years in the Senate, she chose not to run for reelection in 1966 because, frankly, she said she did not want to raise money from all those people she was going to have to raise money from, and she said it would just cost too much for reelection. Instead, she went on to serve on the President's Consumer Advisory Committee, the U.S. Advisory Committee for Arms Control and Disarmament, and the President's Commission on the Status of Women.

Now, if that was not enough, we have to remember this person has been in

public service her entire life, she also found time to work as a consultant on consumer relations for the FDA, serve on the national board of directors for the American Cancer Society and the American Association of the United Nations, two different boards, and then to teach government at several universities, including Reed College in Portland.

Maurine Neuberger is a treasure to the State of Oregon and to this country. I cannot tell my colleagues how happy I am today that we will be able to show just a small token of our appreciation by renaming the Cloverdale Post Office in her honor. She is an inspiration to me and should be an inspiration to all of us.

Thank you, Maurine, for your long years of public service.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the ranking Democrat on the full committee.

Mr. WAXMAN. I thank the gentleman for allowing me to express not only my support for this proposal but my appreciation to the chairman the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) for moving this so expeditiously. I want to congratulate the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) on his leadership in all of these issues that have come before the Committee on Government Reform. I urge all Members to support the resolution.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Very briefly in closing, let me respond to the very gracious comments of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), the ranking member of our subcommittee, in saying how much I have appreciated his leadership and his hard work on a whole range of issues, but certainly on this bill as well. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), too, as the ranking member on the full committee, for his initiative and his support in assisting us in bringing forward this measure which, as we have heard from the very, I think, heartfelt comments of the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY), as to how former Senator Neuberger is most deserving of this honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the unanimous support of our colleagues on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1327.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHUGH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1327.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL NEED FOR RECONCILIATION AND HEALING AND RECOMMENDING A CALL FOR DAYS OF PRAYER

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 94) recognizing the public need for reconciliation and healing, urging the United States to unite in seeking God, and recommending that the Nation's leaders call for days of prayer.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 94

Whereas it is the necessary duty of the people of this Nation not only to humbly offer up our prayers and needs to Almighty God, but also in a solemn and public manner to confess our shortcomings;

Whereas it is incumbent on all public bodies, as well as private persons, to revere and rely on God Almighty for our day-to-day existence, as well as to follow the charge to love and serve one another;

Whereas we have witnessed the rejection of God's love through gratuitous violence and mayhem, hate, abuse, exploitation, abandonment, and other harms, much of which has been directed at the most vulnerable of our society, our children;

Whereas oppression, violence, cultural and ethnic division, strife, and murder have stained our communities and the world;

Whereas we are compelled to remind the people of the United States of the events that currently burden the hearts of the people, including—

(1) the senseless murder of our young people in Jonesboro, Arkansas, West Paduca, Kentucky, Springfield, Oregon, Pearl, Mississippi, and Littleton, Colorado;

(2) the brutal deaths of individuals by dragging, beating, burning, and exposure in Texas, Alabama, and Wyoming; and

(3) the civil unrest, systematic genocide, and religious and political persecution in Yugoslavia, Tibet, Turkey, China, Rwanda, and Sudan;

Whereas despite all, we as a Nation have been blessed with great prosperity and an unprecedented period of economic stability, for which we owe a debt of gratitude; and

Whereas in previous times of public need and moral crisis, the Congress and the President have recommended the observance of a day of solemn prayer, fasting, and humiliation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) recognizes the unique opportunity that the dawn of a millennium presents to a people in a Nation under God to humble and reconcile themselves with God and with one another;

(2) urges all Americans to unite in seeking the face of God through humble prayer and fasting, persistently asking God to send spiritual strength and a renewed sense of humility to the Nation so that hate and indifference may be replaced with love and compassion, and so that the suffering in the Nation

and the world may be healed by the hand of God; and

(3) recommends that the leaders in national, State, and local governments, in business, and in the clergy appoint, and call the people they serve to observe, a day of solemn prayer, fasting, and humiliation before God.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Idaho (Mrs. CHENOWETH).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Concurrent Resolution 94.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Idaho?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to have this opportunity to be able to bring House Concurrent Resolution 94 to the House in recognition of our national need for reconciliation and healing and calling for days of prayer, fasting and repentance.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 94 is patterned after what was once common practice by national and State elected leaders, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, ending with President Abraham Lincoln's great proclamation of March, 1863, calling for a national day of humiliation, fasting and prayer.

□ 1700

In fact during this period, from the Revolutionary War to the Civil War, over 200 such resolutions were made. These proclamations literally called for a day or days where the people of this Nation refrained from working and humbly sought grace and forgiveness from God almighty through prayer and fasting in the tradition of the Old Testament's call for solemn assemblies.

Mr. Speaker, what drove these great leaders to call the Nation to pray, and I ask why should we do that again today? Well, consider the powerful words of Abraham Lincoln in this 1863 proclamation during perhaps the most difficult and tumultuous time in our Nation's history, and I quote from that proclamation:

We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. And we have grown in numbers and wealth and power as no other Nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which has preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended power to confess