

HONORING DR. MICHAEL B.  
HARRIS

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has distinguished himself not just for his contributions to the medical field, but for his charity and selfless devotion to others. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Michael B. Harris of Englewood, New Jersey, this year's winner of the Anti-Defamation League's Maimonides Award.

Maimonides was one of the great Jewish scholars. In addition to being the first person to write a systematic code of all Jewish law, the Mishneh Torah, he was also an expert on medicine, and one of his most notable sayings is, "The well-being to the soul can be obtained only after that of the body has been secured."

The list of Dr. Harris' accomplishments is long and distinguished. He currently serves as Director of the Tomorrow's Children's Institute, Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Hackensack University Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Medical School, as well as having authored or co-authored more than 50 articles and 50 abstracts in the field of pediatric hematology/oncology.

While that sounds like it would be enough work for two people, he still finds time to donate his expertise and give of himself to the community. He is the Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of the Israeli Children's Cancer Foundation and was recently asked to serve as Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee of Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey. And he has been a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood for many years.

People who give so much of themselves as Dr. Michael Harris do not do so for the recognition. However, he certainly deserves to receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Dr. Michael Harris, as well as his wife Frieda, and his children Miera, Aimee, Jonathan and Aaron on the occasion of this well deserved tribute from the Anti-Defamation League, and wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

#### OPERATION DESERT STORM AND THE 926TH FIGHTER WING

**HON. RICHARD H. BAKER**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, in early August 1990, Iraqi military forces illegally invaded Kuwait, a neighboring sovereign state. Immediately, American military forces began deploying to the area to deter the Iraqis from further aggression. During Operation Desert Shield, the build-up phase for the later operation, Desert Storm, troops and supplies were put into motion and decisions were made about who, when, where, and how for the possible coming conflict should diplomatic efforts prove unfruitful. During this buildup period, it was decided there would be participation in this cam-

paign by the reserve forces of the United States military; and the unit to represent the United States Air Force Reserve would be the 706th Fighter Squadron, along with supporting personnel, of the 926th Fighter Wing from New Orleans, Louisiana.

Approximately 500 members of the 926th Fighter Wing were recalled to active duty and placed on military orders on Dec. 29, 1990. (Personnel of the 926th Security Forces Squadron had already served a tour of duty in Saudi Arabia in the fall of 1990 during the build-up phase of Operation Desert Shield.) On the evening of Jan. 1, 1991, the University of Tennessee was participating in the Sugar Bowl at the Superdome in New Orleans as 18 combat-loaded A-10s took off from the Naval Air Station at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, and turned eastward toward Saudi Arabia. By Jan. 6, the 18 A-10s and the approximately 500 maintenance and support personnel would arrive at King Fahd International Airport to support the military operation. This was the first U.S. Air Force Reserve fighter unit to be activated by a presidential recall and then sent to serve in a combat military operation.

The members of the 926th Fighter Wing were in country less than two weeks when, early in the morning, on Jan. 17, the first combat sorties were launched to strike military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. The war had begun. The early intent was to take down the enemy's communication ability, followed closely by removing their artillery assets, and demoralizing the "elite" Republican Guard. The air campaign that ensued was a complete success, resulting in a swift four-day ground war and a victory by allied forces. On Feb. 28, 1991, the war was over.

Amid the joy of victory work continued, and preparations began for the demobilization of deployed American forces, including the return of the members of the 926th Fighter Wing who distinguished themselves in combat and served with honor alongside their active-duty counterparts. On May 17th, the last of the 18 A-10s and 500 people originally deployed to the region, returned safely to Naval Air Station, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mission Accomplished! All personnel and all aircraft deployed returned safely to home station.

Since that time, members and aircraft of the 926th Fighter Wing have continued to answer the call to duty whenever and wherever needed. In 1995, approximately 300 members deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of Operation Deny Flight. Members have also deployed in support of humanitarian missions in the Americas. Again, in 1998 members of the unit deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch to support and help enforce the no-fly zone over Iraq instituted after Operation Desert Storm. In September and October 1999, A-10s and personnel from the wing returned to Kuwait to participate in Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) 1.

This tradition of service and sacrifice continues into the 21st century as in mid-January, 2001, members of the 926th Fighter Wing began deploying to Southwest Asia for the wing's second rotation on the AEF. Their mission this time being combat search and rescue for Operation Northern Watch.

The successes of the 926th Fighter Wing during combat operations in Operation Desert Storm, and throughout all of the on-going missions since then, are due to the outstanding

leadership, devotion to duty, and sacrifice of the men and women of the unit; and, the valuable support of their families. As a nation, we give thanks to the members of the 926th Fighter Wing, New Orleans, Louisiana, and their families, as we salute and honor them, during this 10-year anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, for their service to our country in the cause of freedom.

#### HOLOCAUST DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE 2001

**HON. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this past week we observed the Holocaust Days of Remembrance and our nation's annual commemoration in the Capitol Rotunda of the victims of the Holocaust. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide of the European Jews.

This year's theme, "Remembering the Past for the Sake of the Future," is part of a vow that we have taken never to forget the Holocaust, lest history repeat itself. This message must resonate through the years. Our children and our children's children must learn of the Holocaust to ensure that it will never happen again.

We must also not forget that Holocaust survivors continue to wait for the reparations they deserve for the physical pain and mental suffering they endured so many years ago. Time is running out for Germany to provide a measure of justice to the survivors of the Holocaust, most of whom are now in their 70's or 80's.

I have stood with Holocaust survivors in the Capitol Rotunda filled with the saddest and most tragic of memories from their lives, lives like that of my constituent, Mr. Alec Mutz. Two years ago, I was privileged to light a memorial candle with Mr. Mutz, who survived three ghettos and five concentration camps. Mr. Mutz is just one of an estimated 50,000 Jewish survivors in North America who were Nazi-era slave laborers.

During the last Congress, I introduced H.R. 271, the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act, a bill to allow survivors like Mr. Mutz to pursue just reparations from Germany for the unspeakable suffering they endured during the Holocaust. H.R. 271, which garnered the support of 96 bipartisan co-sponsors, would have enabled Holocaust survivors who have been denied reparations by the German government to sue the German government in United States federal courts to claim restitution.

On March 30, 2000, I was informed by the Administration that the German government had agreed to double its compensation package to the victims of slave labor camps from 5 billion to 10 billion Deutsche marks (DM), or the equivalent of 5 billion U.S. dollars. I was also informed that H.R. 271 served as a catalyst in the talks between the U.S. and Germany to reach a compensation agreement.

On July 17, 2000, the United States and Germany signed an agreement to establish a German Foundation, "Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future," to be the exclusive forum for the resolution of all Holocaust-era personal injury, property loss, and damage claims against German banks, insurers, and

companies. In return, the U.S. government promised that the Department of Justice would urge the courts to reject all existing and future lawsuits against German companies by slave laborers and other victims of the Nazi-era. This process is called "legal peace."

However, nine months after the agreement, not one Deutsche mark has been paid to the victims and last month, a federal judge in New York refused to dismiss a batch of lawsuits, questioning whether the money would be there to pay the claims. That is why in the coming weeks I plan to introduce legislation to increase oversight of the Foundation, interpret the U.S.-German Agreement more clearly, and expand communication between the Administration and Congress about the status of the Foundation.

Mr. Speaker, as we act to remember the Holocaust with the commemoration of the Days of Remembrance, let us also act to give these courageous survivors a beacon of hope for the Just resolution of the wrongs that they have suffered. I urge my colleagues to take notice of the current failure of the U.S.-German Agreement and join me in calling for a resolution to the problems with the claims process before it is too late to grant justice to our aging Holocaust survivors.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE  
PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET  
Washington, DC, April 24, 2001.

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY  
H.R. 503—UNBORN VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE ACT OF  
2001

The Administration supports protection for unborn children and therefore supports House passage of H.R. 503. The legislation would make it a separate Federal offense to cause death or bodily injury to a child, who is in utero, in the course of committing any one of 68 Federal offenses. The bill also would make substantially identical amendments to the Uniform Code of Military Justice. The Administration would strongly oppose any amendment to H.R. 503, such as a so-called "One-Victim" Substitute, which would define the bill's crimes as having only one victim—the pregnant woman.

#### HONORING THE BOGOTA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL PROGRAM

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. ROTHMAN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the School Safety Patrol Program which has been in existence in the Borough of Bogota, New Jersey since 1936.

Through this program, which operates in conjunction with the Bogota Police Department, a group of students from each of Bogota's three elementary schools is chosen for the Safety Patrol based on academic achievement and leadership abilities. The members of the Safety Patrol are assigned a post each day for the purpose of assisting the other students in safely crossing the street near the school as well as being stationed around the school and the playground to assure the safety and welfare of their fellow students.

Serving as a member of the Safety Patrol is both an honor and a responsibility. And for the last 50 years, the Borough of Bogota has re-

warded the members of the Safety Patrol with a three-day trip to Washington, DC. This year, I am pleased to meet with the members of the Safety Patrol when they come to the Capitol, and I would like to read their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to honor their outstanding dedication:

Andres Acosta, Gabrielle Avitable, Weis Baher, Megan Bandelt, Joe Baranello, Anthony Butler, Raymond Carrasco, Lauren Casteneda, Kristin Costa, Christopher Desmond, Daniel Distasi, Zachary Gilbert, Mary Hanna, Ben Hunkin, Thomas Kristopher, Georgios Kotzias, Brian Lauer, Brooke Loneyan, Matthew Luciano, Wade Morris, Richard Nowatnick, Devin Pantillano, Monica Patel, Anthony Perpepaj, Sara Puleio, Brian Pumo, Raquel Rivera, Brian Roche, Caitlyn Rumbaugh, Christine Smith, Audrey Snell, Michelle Sontag, Jeanette Symmonds, Alexander Zetelski, and Sarah Zupani.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Bogota School Safety Patrol Program on a job well done, and I wish them luck in all their future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY LADY BEARS

**HON. ROY BLUNT**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. BLUNT Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay honor to the Women's Basketball program at Southwest Missouri State University. The Lady Bears played their way into the NCAA Final Four in St. Louis before losing to Purdue University.

For the second time in 9 years, the Lady Bears of Southwest Missouri found themselves in this select rankina of great women's teams in 2001 and though they did not play in the final game, they brought great pride and excitement to the residents of the Seventh District of Missouri and beyond.

Southwest Missouri State University women's basketball ranks nationally among the top teams in fan attendance. Their legions of dedicated followers were charged with excitement over the team's success. The late season run of the Lady Bears packed Hammons Student Center every game and sent fans searching for tickets as they won their way through the NCAA tournament in Piscataway, New Jersey and Spokane, Washington for the right to play in the Final Four in nearby St. Louis, Missouri—just three hours from Springfield. Wherever the team played, a bus or an airplane filled with its loyal fans followed.

The 2001 season for the nationally ranked Lady Bears was filled with milestones. Coach Cheryl Burnett won her three hundredth victory in 14 seasons. The 29-6 record is the second best in the Lady Bear's history behind the 1992 31-3 mark that also saw the Lady Bears in the Final Four.

Five seniors anchored the squad: All-American Jackie Stiles, Tara Mitchem, Carly Deer, Melody Campbell and Tiny McMorris. Stiles was the nation's leader scorer with more than 30 points a contest and finished the season as the NCAA's most prolific woman's scorer ever with 3,393 points in her four year career. She was also the first woman to score 1,000 points

or more in a single college season. While Stiles dazzled competitors with her scoring, it was team defense that played stunned competitors into submission.

The Lady Bears fans understand the character of the team. Every young woman on the squad has a tenacious work ethic and they are tireless, never-give-up competitors. They played as a team of talented women who shared the glory of their successes with their fans as they represented a regional school in the Midwest competing and winning against better know teams from larger schools.

The Southwest Missouri State University Lady Bears are special not just because of where they are from but because of how far they have come in winning their way into the elite of their sport. The members of the Lady Bears of Southwest Missouri State University are models for other young women to follow and inspire them in their drive for academic success off the court as well as sports success on it. Over and over these young women said how proud they were to have played and represented SMSU on the court. We will miss them, but remember their accomplishments that are written in the history books of the great women's basketball teams in America.

I know my Missouri colleagues will join me in applauding the great work of Coach Cheryl Burnett with the 2001 team, as well as expressing their belief that all of the senior members have bright futures ahead of them with the commitment to excellence they demonstrated during the 2001 season and that their underclass teammates will carry their legacy into the future.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF BETTY GALLER

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2001*

Mr. ACKERMAN Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Betty Galler as she is honored by the Free Sons of Israel at its Foundation Fund's 75th Anniversary Celebration, for her 72 years of dedicated service to the organization.

In the past 72 years Betty has unselfishly led the Foundation Fund in numerous humanitarian efforts. The long and impressive list includes donations to Camp Vacamas—a camp for underprivileged children—ambulances for American Red Mogen David in Israel, purchasing prothesis for those wounded in the Six Day War, and parties at the Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital and at Francis Delafield Hospital. That is only a few of the wonderful causes to which Betty has dedicated her time and energy.

It is obvious what a remarkable human being Betty is. The Free Sons of Israel, the nation's oldest Jewish fraternal order, and the Free Sons Foundation Fund is extremely fortunate to have a person like Betty Galler working for them. Now at the age of 93, she shows no signs of ending her long and unbelievable career.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me now in extending our thanks and appreciation to Betty Galler, the Guest of Honor at the Free Sons