

does, I would like to take this opportunity to honor him.

Jerry has contributed to the Durango community his entire life. His friends and family would most likely describe Jerry as a bit of a character. When Jerry was only seventeen he managed to make it on to the Paul Harvey show with his comedic tale of an experience he had as a volunteer firefighter. Jerry gained this honor by starting a fire on his way to fight a fire. On his way to the grass fire in Hermosa, Colorado, Jerry forgot to release the emergency brake, causing the brake pads to catch fire and fall off. This in turn ignited a fire at the Aspen Rose Campground, which exceeded the size of the Hermosa fire, requiring more men to extinguish it.

Jerry will be fondly remembered by the numerous guests who have been privileged to enjoy his show. Jerry's baritone voice is well loved at the chuckwagon and will be greatly missed. The Bar D originally hired Jerry to work in their kitchen, but he quickly became a well-loved voice on the stage. Jerry speaks highly of the community that has shown him such great support over the years. When Jerry's father passed on, and he was brought to tears during his rendition of "How Great Thou Art," the community reached out to this man that they love. While grateful for his friendship, the Durango community will be sorry to see Jerry leave.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Colorado is fortunate to have citizens like Jerry Baxter within one of its communities—someone who is willing to go that extra mile for others. Colleagues, on behalf of the Western Slope of Colorado, we wish Jerry, his wife LaVerna and his children Justin, Shasta, Kyle and Kolt all the best. The Durango community is fortunate to call Jerry a friend.

HONORING AMERICA'S MOST
DECORATED COMBAT VETERAN,
LT. COL. MATT URBAN

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, as our entire nation pauses to honor its fallen heroes, our Memorial Day Observance has long held a special significance in my Congressional district. That's because, in 1865, the village of Waterloo, New York, became the first community in America to set aside a day of remembrance for those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country, and has since been officially recognized as the birthplace of our modern Memorial Day holiday.

Even with this proud history, this year's Memorial Day will have an even greater significance in our area of the country. That's because on Thursday, May 31, 2001, we will pay special tribute to the most decorated combat veteran in American history, Lt. Col. Matt Urban.

When President Jimmy Carter presented Lt. Col. Urban with the Congressional Medal of Honor, 35 years after his heroic feats in World War II, the President described him as "The Greatest Soldier in American history." Born in August of 1919 in Buffalo, New York, Matt Urban received 29 awards and decorations, including seven purple hearts, and the Silver

and Bronze Stars. Matt Urban's bravery and valor earned him virtually every combat medal, as well as the nickname "the Gray Ghost," from the German army.

While there are many stories of Matt Urban's feats, his heroism upon the D-Day Invasion is typical of the battlefield leadership he exhibited during his time with the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. Then-Lieutenant Urban, despite a broken leg suffered during his landing on Omaha Beach, led an attack on German positions from the top of a tank, which not only saved his men trapped on the beach, but also drove the enemy off their positions and off the beach.

Lt. Col. Matt Urban, an American hero, passed away on March 20, 1995, as a result of complications from a collapsed lung brought on by one of his seven war wounds. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, a hero's honor, well-deserved.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 31, 2001, the man once dubbed "The Hero We Nearly Forgot" will be remembered by his hometown of Buffalo, New York, when the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Monument Fund presents a day of activities to honor and remember his bravery, valor and service; and I ask that this Congress, while pausing in memory of all those who have fallen in defense of freedom and liberty, join me in a special salute to our nation's most decorated combat veteran, Lt. Col. Matt Urban.

CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

HON. SUSAN DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we all reflect on the grave situation in the Middle East, I commend to all my colleagues the following OpEd piece published in the May 18, 2001 San Diego Union Tribune.

NEGOTIATIONS CAN STOP BLOODSHED

(By Yuval Rotem)

Since the days of Sir Isaac Newton schoolchildren have been taught that for every action there is a reaction, and that there is an axiomatic distinction between cause and effect. This truth applies both to the world of physics and to today's conflict in the Middle East.

For over eight months, the citizens of Israel have been confronted with a virulent campaign of violence and terror. Israel, like any other nation, has a right and obligation to react in order to protect the lives of its citizens. The legitimacy of self-defense is a foundation of international law and of the United Nations Charter.

That both Israelis and Palestinians have suffered due to the current uprising, there can be no doubt. Yet while it may be easy to assign equal blame to the two sides, there is in truth no equivalence between the actions of Palestinian terrorists and the reaction of the Israelis whom they target.

If Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders were to call for a cessation of shootings and bombings, an end to the violence would be well within reach. No such calls have been issued, and the Palestinians continue to shoot, and Israel is compelled to react. That anyone is killed is unjustifiable, but sometimes it is forgotten who exactly started the shooting, and who continues to deem indiscriminate killing as a legitimate bargaining chip.

Israel cannot sit idly on the sidelines while its people pay the ultimate price for the Palestinian leadership's opting for confrontation over reconciliation. Palestinian leaders and militias consider violence to be an effective tool in promoting a unilateral solution to a conflict which Israel believes can only be addressed via bilateral negotiation.

Palestinian gunmen purposely select targets with the intention of maximizing carnage and shock value. Suicide bombers and explosive devices containing nails and shrapnel are employed in densely populated civilian areas. Israeli children and adults are maimed and murdered while shopping at the mall or riding on the bus.

Israel, forced to defend itself, undertakes operations designed to hamper further terror, striking only against those actively involved in violence. For the most part, Israeli reprisals against those initiating terror strikes are extremely accurate. However, sometimes unintended consequences have regrettably occurred.

There have even been instances when children have been injured. In the vast majority of cases, this takes place when Palestinian children are intentionally used as human shields serving as buffers for gunmen firing upon Israeli targets. Remember that the Israeli army is no longer deployed in Palestinian populated areas. In order for stone-throwing children to be within close proximity to Israeli forces, they have to be consciously transported to such locations by their elders.

Despite this brutal tactic, Israeli forces do their utmost to prevent casualties. Tragically, a totally innocent child, five-month-old Iman Haju, fell victim last week. She was unintentionally killed in Israeli return fire, which was directed at positions used by a Palestinian mortar crew to bombard an Israeli community just minutes earlier.

The fact is that terrorists have been consistently launching mortars from civilian sites such as school yards and apartment buildings. By contrast, Palestinian militants have routinely and specifically targeted Israeli children. Shalhevet Pass, a 10-month-old Israeli girl, was spotted, fixed and then shot in the head by a Palestinian sniper in March. In the past week, two 13-year-old Israeli boys were brutally stoned to death, and their bodies mutilated by terrorists while hiking in a riverbed close to their homes.

These are not cases of unintentional civilian casualties. These and other Israeli children were slain because their Palestinian executioners found them to be useful targets. Such heinous actions do not arise in a vacuum.

Since the Palestinian rejection of the proposals offered by former Prime Minister Barak and President Clinton, the Palestinian Authority has carefully orchestrated a campaign of hatred and incitement through its official newspapers, television and radio stations, its schools and religious institutions.

Palestinian Authority spokesmen have praised violence and suicide bombings. The Palestinian Authority has freed known terrorists from prison, and official Palestinian police and security forces have joined in attacks upon Israeli civilians with impunity. Palestinians have employed illegal mortars and anti-tank weapons against Israeli communities, and heavy arms such as Katyusha artillery rockets and shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles are now being smuggled into Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian leadership is doing nothing to prevent further escalation of violence, and the people of Israel are wondering just exactly what the Palestinians are trying to achieve.

An end to the occupation? Some 98 percent of Palestinians already live under Palestinian control. Statehood and independence?

It was offered and rejected. An end to check points? More territory? It was offered and rejected. Not only were all attempts to genuinely settle the conflict rejected out of hand, but the Palestinians responded to them—in- stead of with counter-proposals for peace— with intifada, jihad and terror.

The current confrontation is one which Israel neither sought nor initiated, and still, there is no desire for punishment and re- venge. There is no wish to suppress or re- press anyone. What point does it serve?

Negotiation and education for peace are the only means forward, and hopefully a meaningful resumption of dialogue can begin again soon. In the meantime, the Palestinian leadership must be made to understand that terrorism and bloodshed cannot exist side by side with diplomacy.

The path of violence was supposed to have been forever abandoned on Sept. 13, 1993, when Chairman Arafat shook the hand of Israel's late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and pledged in word and in writing to for- swear achieving his goals by the sword. Though that day over seven years ago seems so remote, it must continue to guide all sides even now.

Terror will not bring the Palestinian peo- ple what they desire. They will not be able to gain through violence what they could not gain through negotiation. Only a return to talks and moderation can bring a mutually acceptable settlement for both sides.

Rotem is consul general of Israel to the southwestern United States.

HONORING REVEREND DR. J.
ALFRED SMITH, JR.

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr. for his many years of service to Allen Temple Baptist Church and the City of Oakland.

As the Co-Pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Reverend Smith Jr. helped lead the Allen Temple Family to new heights with its spiritual, social and economic justice agenda. He has exemplified, in a magnificent way, steady, enlightened and inspirational leader- ship.

Reverend Smith Jr. has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Services and African Amer- ican Studies from Antioch University. He has also earned his Master in Divinity from the Graduate Theological University and a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

While pursuing his graduate degrees, he was an instructor at San Francisco State Uni- versity, U.C. Berkeley, the Pacific School of Religion, and the Allen Temple Leadership In- stitute. Reverend Smith, Jr. has educated stu- dents about Black Religion, Black Philosophy, African American Children and Their Families, the Mission of the Church and Church Admin- istration of Social Justice.

Aside from his role as an educator, he has played a pivotal role in contributing to the bet- terment of the City of Oakland. He has served as an Urban Employment Analyst in the Office of Economic Development and Employment; he has worked with the Oakland Crime Pre- vention Unit; he has served on the advisory board for fair housing; and he has been an advocate for the homeless.

Reverend Smith Jr.'s activism is not bound- ed by the City of Oakland. He has led a study tour and has participated in peace discussions in Israel and Palestine. He has traveled to London to be a keynote speaker for the Pro- gressive Baptist Churches of the United King- dom. He has traveled to Western Africa and China on a cultural exchange mission.

Reverend Smith Jr. has received numerous awards and has received worldwide recogni- tion for his advocacy for social, political and economic justice. He has often been quoted by the media for his wisdom on particular issues.

On a personal level, I have relied on Rev- erend Smith, Jr.'s insights on the major issues confronting the human family for several dec- ades. His clarity, his wisdom and his vision have meant so much to me and my prede- cessor, Congressman Ronald V. Dellums. It is with a deep sense of gratitude and a profound sense of love and affection for Reverend Smith, Jr., his wife, Mrs. Elaine Smith, and his entire family that I wish him well, good luck and God's blessings as he embarks upon the next chapter of his life.

I proudly join Reverend Smith's family, friends and colleagues in thanking and salut- ing him for his years of service and commit- ment to improving the human condition.

Thank you Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr.!

HONORING ROGER P. PETERS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay respects to a long time pro- fessor at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo- rado. Roger Peters passed away on May 13, 2001 from a battle with cancer. Family, friends, students and faculty will truly miss one of Ft. Lewis College's best professors.

Roger was born on October 29, 1943, in Washington, DC. He graduated from the Uni- versity of Chicago in 1965 with a bachelors degree in political science. After graduation, he volunteered for the Peace Corps and served as a science teacher in Liberia. "He loved his life. He was a really happy person," said Arden Peters, his daughter. "He taught everyone he knew so much. He was a re- markable friend and the best father."

For more than a quarter of a century Roger was a psychology professor at Ft. Lewis Col- lege. Roger was an enthusiastic teacher who would light his students up with excitement "Students would be infected with his enthu- siasm," said Alane Brown, and associate pro- fessor of psychology. According to Byron Dare, a friend and fellow professor, Roger was the epitome of a professional and was a multi- dimensional person with numerous interests.

Roger Peters will be missed by everyone that knew him. He made an impact on his family, friends, and his students. Mr. Speaker, I would like Congress to join me honoring Roger for all he has done for students at Fort Lewis College and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACT TO
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 24, 2001

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit to my col- leagues in the House the Act to Leave No Child Behind. Today I am joined by the gentle- woman from Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, and the Gentleman from California, Mr. STARK, in announcing its introduction.

An Act to Leave No Child Behind has ambi- tious but achievable goals: to eliminate child poverty, end child hunger, prepare children to enter school ready to learn, and provide chil- dren with health insurance and other vital services necessary for the successful develop- ment of America's children. Our bill is a road map for the safe and healthy development of America's children.

America must make a choice when it comes to the future of our neediest children. We must choose whether we will invest in the healthy development of our children or in the richest one percent of taxpayers in this country. We cannot do both. This bill represents a vision and a commitment toward a future where all children have a chance to succeed.

An Act to Leave No Child Behind, combines several pieces of legislation that could be acted upon separately at the appropriate time. Taken together, however, this bill moves us forward on the path where all children have quality health care, educational opportunity, quality child care and safe communities. This legislation provides every child and their par- ents with health insurance, lifts every child from poverty through tax credits, work sup- ports, and a new minimum wage, and ends child hunger through the expansion of food programs. This bill makes sure every child is ready for school by fully funding quality early learning programs, and offers significant re- forms for our system of public education that increases accountability, reduces classroom size, and guarantees that all children will be taught by qualified teachers in modern and safe classrooms. This legislation also address- es the issue of affordable housing and safe communities through sensible environmental protections, gun safety laws, and programs to reduce children's exposure to neglect, abuse, and violence.

I am so proud to have working with me on this legislation, my friend Senator CHRIS- TOPHER DODD (D-CT) and the Children's De- fense Fund. Despite President Bush's use of the term, it was in fact the Children's Defense Fund that trademarked the phrase "Leave No Child Behind" in 1994. And it has been justi- fied in using it ever since as it has waged a relentless battle to knock America's political establishment to its senses on behalf of our neediest children. This bill is the real deal—it is the real Act to Leave No Child Behind. It addresses the most important issue facing our country—the children who have been and con- tinue to be left behind. We understand that our bill is asking for a significant commitment in federal resources to help children. But we think that is the right direction for us to take. We also strongly believe that we have the re- sources for this effort. And, perhaps most im- portant, we understand that the continued ne- glect of the real needs of children has come