

"being home," that First Lutheran gave to them.

The feeling of "being home" extended to, as the First Lutheran Mission Statement reads, "all people." While many churches around the nation fought against integration, First Lutheran embraced the call to treat all people as equals and it was in the 1940s and 1950s that the congregation began to integrate. Today, First Lutheran looks like America. It has acted and will continue to act as a refuge for all who come to worship together regardless of differences.

I am proud to be able to recognize First Lutheran for its 110 years of offering a place of solemn and joyous worship to the people of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for the years of remarkable achievement.

HONORING CONGREGATION B'NAI ZION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cornerstone of the religious community in South Florida, Key West's Congregation B'nai Zion. Founded in 1887, the B'nai Zion Synagogue has remained an integral part of the Key West community for over 115 years and is the oldest Jewish congregation in Key West, as well as one of the oldest in the state of Florida. I am saddened, however, to report that a fire nearly destroyed the synagogue of Congregation B'nai Zion in the early morning hours of April 16.

I come to the floor today to offer my deepest sympathies to the people of the Congregation. The synagogue, which serves as a sanctuary for 250 worshipers, also included a residence for Rabbi Joseph Hirsch. The fire destroyed the majority of its rooms, leaving Rabbi Hirsch without a home and a Congregation without a place of worship. Authorities determined that this tragedy was the work of arsonists.

The fire of April 16 may have damaged Congregation B'nai Zion's building, but I am pleased to report that it did not damage their spirits. People of all faiths in the Key West community have compassionately reached out to the Congregation and supported them in their time of need. Congregation B'nai Zion continues to have weekly worship services and Rabbi Hirsch has a roof over his head. The Congregation now has renovation plans in place, and Rabbi Hirsch and Congregation President Fred Covan are working hard to ensure B'nai Zion remains a fixture in the Key West community.

While the people of Key West have rallied behind their oldest synagogue, I am deeply troubled by the possibility that this incidence—which occurred on the eve of Israel's Independence Day—reflects the trend of anti-semitism we are witnessing on a global scale. Hate and prejudice rages against the Jewish people in the Middle East and Europe, and the United States must stand before the world as a people united, regardless of faith.

Mr. Speaker, Congregation B'nai Zion's synagogue has been destroyed, but the spirits of the people have endured. Today I wish to rec-

ognize the remarkable perseverance of Congregation B'nai Zion, and thank the national and local authorities and the people of Key West for their assistance in rectifying this terrible situation and ask for their continued support.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI AVIS MILLER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rabbi Avis Dimond Miller in honor of her 18th anniversary as a Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC.

I have known Rabbi Miller for many years. She is an accomplished Rabbi, a talented teacher, and a good friend. I have appreciated first-hand the power of her sermons, the impact of her activism, and the great admiration and respect she has earned from congregants, colleagues, and community members.

As the first woman to serve a major Conservative pulpit, and the first woman ever appointed to chair a national committee for the Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, Rabbi Miller is an impressive role model and a pioneer in the Conservative Jewish movement. In her tenure at Adas Israel, she has been instrumental in developing programs for young adults and young families, and she has authored training manuals to help other synagogues encourage unaffiliated Jewish families to participate in their communities. In her role as chairwoman of the Rabbinical Assembly of the committee on outreach, she has played a tremendous role in helping countless Jewish Americans embrace their Jewish identity.

Rabbi Miller has also inspired the congregation to have an ambitious social action agenda, on issues ranging from the plight of Ethiopian Jewry to the blight of homelessness. She is credited with organizing the congregation's Bikkur Holim Committee, a program for visiting the sick, and publishing the first Jewish guide on the subject. She has lectured extensively on medical ethics issues regarding, genetic discrimination, and she will soon put forth an anthology of sermons she delivered during Adas Israel High Holiday services over the past 18 years.

In Hebrew, the number 18 is the numeric equivalent of the word *chai*—life, and Rabbi Miller has truly been a lifeline for the synagogue. Through her involvement in life cycle events, births, bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies, marriages, and deaths, she has been a pillar of strength and compassion.

We owe Rabbi Miller a debt of gratitude for her service to Adas Israel Synagogue and the greater Washington Jewish community. On June 2, 2002, when Adas Israel celebrates Rabbi Miller's special 18 year milestone, it will be my pleasure to join Rabbi Wohlberg, her family and friends, and the entire Adas Israel community in paying tribute to her achievements and wishing her continued success in all of her endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the honor of sharing with you a touching tribute to the victims of the September 11th attacks, to our Nation, and to our legacy of freedom.

I was visited recently by a gentleman from my hometown, Leo Smith. Leo is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and works as a safety manager at a plant in Hope, Arkansas. In his profession, he is concerned with protecting the lives of his coworkers, but after September 11th, he was concerned with the lives of many more.

We have all chosen our own method to deal with the tragedy of the attacks on our Nation. Leo chose to express his anger, helplessness, and also his pride through a poem entitled "Let Freedom Ring." Leo thoughtfully presented me a copy of this poem, and I was very moved upon reading it.

In his poem, Leo recognizes that "the land of the free will never be the same again, not for you or for me." The poem identifies the transformation of our country, the loss, but also the gain of something new. Leo knew that the attacks signified the start of a war to defend freedom, but the sudden display of patriotism, the tribute to those who have died throughout our nation's history to defend that nation, in his own words, "Let me know the battle has already been won."

It is with pride and gratitude that I share with you and submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Leo Smith's poetic eulogy to the victims of the attacks. His words lament the loss we all felt that day, but express the hope that soon followed. As he puts it, What will happen next? The answer to this only God knows. But on that Tuesday, September 11th, Was born a new breed of heroes.

LET FREEDOM RING

(By Leo Smith)

America the Beautiful, the land of the free, will never be the same again, Not for you or for me.

Tragedy struck quickly, It rocked the entire world, Changing many of today's families, To widows and little orphan boys and girls.

Pictures of blood shed and destruction, On television night after night, People filled with compassion, Hearts filled with fright.

What will happen next? The answer to this only, God knows, But on that Tuesday, September 11th, Was born a new breed of heroes.

Everyone who helped was a hero, Giving blood or looking through the rubble, Or just saying a prayer for the victims, Or just telling your someone that you lov'em.

Our nation, one people, all helping for the cause, Made tears come to my eyes, And me to take a long pause.

Red, white and blue forever, U.S. flags flying everywhere as far as the eye can see, Respecting the battles of our fore fathers, Who fought and died for us to be free.

All our people pulling together, Let me know the battle has already been won, All races uniting and bonding, We are all one nation, just one.

No matter how many buildings are destroyed, And all the destruction that others can bring, The United States will always rise to the top, All Americans unite, and Let Freedom Ring.

CONCURRENT RECEIPT PART II— VETERANS

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, most of this body is aware of the so-called concurrent receipt penalty affecting our military retirees with service-connected disabilities. While Congress has undertaken gradual steps to remedy this situation, numerous veterans in my home state of Oregon have contacted me about a situation which I feel is equally unfair.

With the conclusion of the Cold War, the Department of Defense employed numerous separation programs to comply with Congressional mandates and decrease the number of active military personnel. The DoD implemented the Special Separation Benefit (SSB), and the Variable Separation Benefit (VSI) which were both designed to award servicemen and women with immediate compensation in return for early retirement from the Armed Services.

What many of these servicemen and women did not know is that by agreeing to leave active duty and accept the SSB or VSI payment, they were effectively signing away the right to receive future service-connected disability payments from the Veterans Administration. As it currently stands, any service member who accepted the SSB payment and is diagnosed with a service-connected disability must repay their payment in full before he or she can receive disability pay. Likewise, members who receive the VSI payment cannot receive the full disability payment to which they would otherwise be entitled.

I find this practice reprehensible. Many service-related disabilities might not become apparent for several months or years after separation. Consequently, everyone who made use of these programs could not have possibly known the way in which they would be affected by the offset provisions. What's more, many service members made the decision to accept the separation pay only because the alternative would be an eventual, forced retirement.

To remedy this problem, I am introducing bipartisan legislation with my colleagues JIM GIBBONS from Nevada and Richard Baker from Louisiana. Please, join me in helping bring an end to this reprehensible practice.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I was attending to a family emergency and missed the following recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted, Yes on rollcall vote 171, Yes on rollcall vote 172, Yes on rollcall note

173, Yes on rollcall vote 174, Yes on rollcall vote 175, Yes on rollcall vote 176, Yes on rollcall vote 177, Yes on rollcall vote 178, Yes on rollcall vote 179, Yes on rollcall vote 180, Yes on rollcall vote 181, Yes on rollcall vote 182, Yes on rollcall vote 183, Yes on rollcall vote 184, Yes on rollcall vote 185, Yes on rollcall vote 186, Yes on rollcall vote 187, Yes on rollcall vote 188, Yes on rollcall vote 189, Yes on rollcall vote 190, Yes on rollcall vote 191, No on rollcall vote 192, Yes on rollcall 193, Yes on rollcall 194, No on rollcall 195, No on rollcall 196.

BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER A. DEFAZIO

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 9, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4546) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2003 for military activities of the Department of Defense, and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes;

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to continue with my statement against H.R. 4546, the fiscal year 2003 Department of Defense authorization act. In my prior comments, I detailed how some quality-of-life improvements for active duty and retired military personnel that I strongly supported were overshadowed by unnecessary spending on weapons systems like the Crusader artillery system and the Comanche helicopter.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned in two previous statements about H.R. 4546, the House Rules Committee blocked any amendments to reform or eliminate unnecessary weapons systems from being considered. Today, I want to talk about another weapons system of dubious value, the F-22 Raptor fighter jet, that was fully funded in H.R. 4546. There is no threat that justifies the pursuit of this fighter jet program. Particularly when the Pentagon is simultaneously pursuing two other new fighter jet programs, the Joint Strike Fighter and the F-18E/F.

I offered two amendments on the F-22 that came directly out of the recommendations in a March 2002 GAO report. My first amendment would have reduced the number of low rate initial production aircraft from 23 to 13. My second amendment placed two conditions on the program: requiring a reassessment of the costs, and requiring the Air Force to monitor key manufacturing processes of the private contractors. Neither of these amendments was allowed to be debated by this House. In addition to the GAO, a variety of independent analysts have raised concerns about the F-22. Even the House of Representatives has gone on record expressing concerns. In the House report for the fiscal year 2000 Department of Defense appropriations bill, the Armed Services Committee highlighted a number of concerns about the program including various technical problems, the inability to control rising costs, and the questionable need for the aircraft. The House report even mentioned suitable alternatives to the F-22.

The problems highlighted in the House report have only gotten worse. Unfortunately, Congress seems content to bury its collective head in the sand and move forward with procuring F-22s that are too expensive, don't work, and are unnecessary. A March 2002 GAO report identified a number of ongoing problems with the F-22. In summary, GAO found "The F-22 did not meet key schedule goals for 2001, the cost to complete planned development is likely to exceed the \$21 billion reported to Congress, and the program is not far enough along in flight testing to confirm Air Force estimates of the aircraft's performance."

The problems identified by GAO include: Rising cost concerns: In the FY02 DOD authorization bill, Congress removed the development cost cap. Current estimates are the development costs will be \$21 billion. However, that cost is likely to rise because flight testing delays may lead to an extension of the development program, and Lockheed Martin's costs, which are borne by taxpayers, have increased. Over the last two fiscal years, Lockheed's costs have exceeded budgets by \$218 million. In addition, restructuring the test schedule increased costs by \$557 million.

Delays in testing: The Air Force realigned the testing schedule in June 2001 because development test aircraft are taking longer to assemble than anticipated, available test aircraft are not achieving the number of test objectives per flight hour that are specified in the plan, and completion of the test schedule is highly dependent on a single test aircraft rather than the three as originally planned. The Air Force has a goal of ten test points per hour, but the program is only accomplishing seven per hour, 30 percent less than planned. GAO notes, "avionics testing with development test aircraft has been limited." Only around 22 percent of planned avionics test points have been completed. GAO computations show that development flight testing necessary for the planned start of operational testing might not be completed until March 2004, 11 months later than planned.

However, the Air Force now plans to overlap development flight testing with operational flight testing. But, GAO warns "there is an increased risk involved in the concurrency, and there is still a high risk of not completing an adequate amount of development flight testing before operational testing is scheduled to begin."

The Air Force has also decided to dumb down the testing. GAO notes, "the Air Force eliminated and consolidated some test points (specific test objectives conducted during flight testing) and deferred other test points . . . as a result, the combined total flight test points remaining have been reduced by approximately 4,708 points, or 31 percent."

A recent review by the Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center concluded there was insufficient testing completed to assess nine of the ten key performance parameters. GAO projects that airframe flight testing will have to continue until February 2008 to accomplish all the remaining 8,199 test points with one aircraft, which is almost four years beyond the current schedule. GAO concludes that the Air Force's cheerleading about the success of the test program is largely overblown. GAO wrote, "the Air Force's estimates are based on limited flight test data, computer models, ground tests, and analyses. Flight test progress has been slower than expected, thus