

On June 1, 1945, Lt. Calvert and his crew of ten from the 504th Bomb Group took off from Tinian Island, in the Marianas to strike Osaka, Japan. Immediately after delivering his ordnance, his B-29 aircraft was hit and severely damaged by anti-aircraft artillery fire. Lt. Calvert's headset was blown off inflicting wounds in his scalp and left arm. His co-pilot was also wounded and unable to assist in flying the damaged B-29. With the right inboard engine on fire, Lt. Calvert placed his aircraft in a steep dive to extinguish the flames. With the fire out he tried in vain to feather the engine but the runaway propeller spun off and flew into the right outboard engine, creating a very grave situation with both engines on the right side inoperable. Lt. Calvert's crew decided to remain with the crippled B-29. Wounded and bleeding, Lt. Calvert flew solo toward the airfield at Iwo Jima. To reduce the aircraft's weight and extend its range, he proceeded to jettison all removable items, to include life rafts, reducing their chances of survival if they had to ditch the aircraft into the Pacific Ocean. Once over Iwo Jima, Lt. Calvert circled his bomber to permit other bomber aircraft to recover or bail out over the tiny island. In a feat of unprecedented airmanship and heroism, Lt. Calvert then flew a flawless approach and landing, bringing his crew to safety in an aircraft that would never fly again.

Like so many of his time, Lt. Calvert returned to Oklahoma and began a fifty-one year marriage and raised five children. He worked for 34 years as a federal employee at Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City and served on his local school board and in his church. Today, at age 82, he resides with his youngest daughter, her husband and their two children, and he remains an inspiration to our generation as we look back and admire the heroes of our past. I thank him for his unwavering service and sacrifice to the United States of America. May God bless Floyd Calvert Jr. and his family.

RECOGNITION OF THE VALOR, DEDICATION, AND PATRIOTISM OF CHALDEAN AMERICAN VETERANS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, later this month, on June 14th, people in my home state of Michigan will be gathering at a special ceremony to honor men and women of the U.S. armed forces who have served to preserve our nation's freedom. This ceremony held by the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity will pay tribute to Chaldean American men and women who have served or are currently serving in our Nation's military.

It is particularly poignant that people are gathering to honor Chaldean American veterans on the day set aside to honor our foremost symbol of freedom: the American flag. At a time when we are reminded of the priceless

value of our many freedoms, it is important that we do not forget the heroes who fought so fearlessly and valiantly in past conflicts to protect our nation and our freedoms. Such brave men and women have preserved our liberty and democratic values and safeguarded our freedom to pursue the American dream.

The Chaldeans are people who possess a long and fascinating history. They have traditionally spoken a form of Aramaic, the language in which the New Testament was written, and possess an interesting theological history that includes a reunion with the Roman Catholic Church in 1551 A.D. This reunion led to the establishment of the Chaldean rite of the Catholic Church.

Many Chaldeans immigrated to the United States from Iraq, and have played an important part in our nation's growth and success. Detroit is privileged to be home to the largest Chaldean community in the United States. In Detroit and throughout the nation, Chaldean Americans have dedicated themselves to the making a better life in America. Detroit, the State of Michigan and our nation have benefitted from their patriotism, hard work and dedication to community, faith and family. These many contributions have greatly benefitted our nation and have included the service of nearly two hundred Chaldean Americans in the United States Armed Forces.

The entire Chaldean American community can take pride in their long and honorable tradition of service to our nation, particularly their service in our nation's armed forces. I am sure that my Senate colleagues join me and the Chaldean American Ladies of Charity in paying tribute to Chaldean American veterans.

REMEMBERING THE MIA'S OF SULTAN YAQUB ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR CAPTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the Israeli soldiers captured by the Syrians during the 1982 Israeli war with Lebanon. It is with great sadness that we mark today 20 long years of anguish for their families, who continue to desperately seek information about their sons.

On June 11, 1982, an Israeli unit battled with a Syrian armored unit in the Bekaa Valley in northeastern Lebanon. Sergeant Zachary Baumel, First Sergeant Zvi Feldman, and Corporal Yehudah Katz were captured by the Syrians that day. They were identified as an Israeli tank crew, and reported missing in Damascus. The Israeli tank, flying the Syrian and Palestinian flag, was greeted with cheers from bystanders.

Since that terrible day in 1982, the governments of Israel and the United States have been doing their utmost by working with the office of the International Committee of the Red Cross,

the United Nations, and other international bodies to obtain any possible information about the fate of the missing soldiers. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria is responsible for the fates of the Israeli soldiers because the area in Lebanon where the soldiers disappeared was continually controlled by Syria. To this day, despite promises made by the government of Syria and by the Palestinians, very little information has been released about the condition of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz.

Today marks the anniversary of the day that these soldiers were reported missing in action. Twenty pain-filled years have passed since their families have seen their sons, and still Syria has not revealed their whereabouts nor provided any information as to their condition.

One of these missing soldiers, Zachary Baumel, is an American citizen from my home of Brooklyn, New York. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary began his studies at the Hebrew School in Boro Park. In 1979, he moved to Israel with other family members and continued his education at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies are integrated with army service. When the war with Lebanon began, Zachary was completing his military service and was looking forward to attending Hebrew University, where he had been accepted to study psychology. But fate decreed otherwise and on June 11, 1982, he disappeared with Zvi Feldman and Yehudah Katz.

During the 106th Congress, I co-sponsored and helped to pass Public Law 106-89, which specifies that the State Department must raise the plight of these missing soldiers in all relevant discussions and report findings to Congress regarding developments in the Middle East. We need to know that every avenue has been pursued in order to help bring about the speedy return of these young men. Therefore, I strongly feel that we must be sure to continue the full implementation of Public Law 106-89, so that information about these men can be brought to light.

Zachary's parents Yonah and Miriam Baumel have been relentless in their pursuit of information about Zachary and his compatriots. I have worked closely with the Baumels, as well as the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the American Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers, and the MIA Task Force of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. These groups have been at the forefront of this pursuit of justice. I want to recognize their good work and ask my colleagues to join me in supporting their efforts. For two decades these families have been without their children. Answers are long overdue.

I am not only saddened by the plight of Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman, and Yehudah Katz, but I am disheartened and angered by the fact that even as we

have continued to search for answers about their welfare, we have been forced to add more names to the list of those for whom we have no knowledge of their location, health, or safety.

IDF Soldier Guy Chever disappeared without a trace from his army base in the Golan on August 17th, 1997. Almost three years later, Colonel Elchanan Tanenbaum was kidnapped by Hezbollah while on a business trip in Europe on October 15th, 2000. Left behind are two more families who simply do not know what has become of their loved ones.

And at this time, I feel it is also appropriate to speak not only of those who remain missing, but for those who were unfairly taken from their families never to return. I am speaking of course of Sergeant Adi Avitan of Tiberias, Staff Sergeant Binyamin Avraham of Bnei Brak, and Staff Sergeant Omar Souad of Salma.

In a clear-cut violation of international law, these three Israeli soldiers were abducted by Hezbollah on October 7, 2000 while on operational duty along the border fence in the Dov Mountain range along Israel's border with Lebanon. It is believed that they were wounded during the incident.

According to an investigation by the IDF Northern Command, Hezbollah terrorists set two roadside bombs, then crossed through a gate near the fence, pulled the three soldiers out of their jeep and fired anti-armor missiles at the empty vehicle. The soldiers were then taken by the terrorists to the Lebanese side of the border. Although the United States called on Syria to assist in the timely release of these three soldiers, no information was given as to their conditions or whereabouts. The International Red Cross had also been requested to intervene by attempting to arrange for a visit with the three kidnapped IDF soldiers in order to ascertain their status.

After much soul searching and heartache, it was determined that the return of these men to their homes and loved ones could no longer be hoped for. Their families have grieved, and my heart goes out to them. The hope I hold now is that we will not allow the families of those who remain missing to suffer in the same way.

The agony of the families of these kidnapped Israeli soldiers is extreme. They have not heard a word regarding the fate of their sons who are being held captive for political ransom. We must pledge to do our utmost to bring these soldiers home, for the same of peace, decency and humanity.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I regret I was not able to vote on S. Res. 272. My airline flight back to Washington, DC was delayed for many hours because of adverse weather conditions. I express my support for this measure and applaud its passage. A national referendum to support a more democratic

process based upon 10,000 signatures to the Cuban National Assembly is laudable. I ask that the record show that I would have voted in favor of S. Res. 272 and I support its passage. My vote did not affect the outcome because the resolution passed overwhelmingly.

SUPPORT OF AMERICAN SILVER EAGLE BULLION PROGRAM ACT

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, last week I introduced with my colleague from Nevada, Senator REID, the Support of American Silver Eagle Bullion Program Act. This legislation will preserve our most successful silver coin program, the American Silver Eagle Bullion Program.

From the inception of the program, the Silver Eagle coin has been the domestic and global market share leader in commemorative coin programs. It is also the largest of the United States Mint's silver coin programs. From Fiscal Year 1995–2001, the program has generated revenues of more than \$264 million. Profits from this program ultimately go into the Treasury General Fund, which reduces the government's debt.

Since 1986, the Mint, through interagency agreements with the Defense Logistics Agency, has been using the Strategic and Critical Materials Stockpile as a source of silver from the American Eagle Silver Bullion Program. The use of the Stockpile silver is a result of legislative mandates. This stockpile of silver, which had a beginning balance of 137.5 million ounces, is rapidly being depleted. At the current rate of depletion, the silver will be depleted in approximately two months.

With the depletion of silver reserves in the Defense Logistics Agency Stockpile, it has become necessary for the Department of the Treasury to acquire silver from other sources in order to continue the Silver Eagle Program. This bill adds a stockpile depletion contingency provision to the United States Code that allows the Secretary of the Treasury to obtain silver from other available sources, while not paying more than the average world price.

I rise today to introduce this legislation because it is vital to the economy in my home State of Idaho. The mines of the Silver Valley in North Idaho produce more than \$70 million of silver per year, along with employing over 3,000 Idahoans and contributing more than \$900 million to the overall Idaho economy.

Moreover, I am proud to recognize that the blanks used by the United States mint in their American Eagle Silver Bullion Program are produced by Sunshine Minting, Inc., in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Approximately 60 people at Sunshine Minting work directly on the U.S. Mint Silver Eagle Program.

Idaho's mining sector is a critical component of our national economy, and this bill makes certain that we preserve the Silver Eagle program and keep valuable mining jobs in Idaho and

other silver mining states. It is my hope that the Senate will move expeditiously to consider and pass this legislation before the stockpile is deleted.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FOUR SOUTH CAROLINA STUDENTS TO PRESENT HISTORY PROJECTS

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate four Cheraw, SC, students who will be in Washington, DC tomorrow exhibiting their history projects as part of National History Day.

These young historians were selected out of more than half a million from across America, and they are bringing with them months of research. They earned the trip by showing they are the best of the best, and our State and Nation are better off for their hard work. When young people, on their own, want to understand the fundamental principles and values of our democracy, they are more likely to vote. They are more likely to participate in public service. They are more likely to take seriously the civic commitment this nation needs in the new century.

I wish the very best to Bryan Blair, whose exhibit is "The Orangeburg Massacre: Revolution, Reaction, and Reform in South Carolina"; and to Meagan Linton, Mary Hudson, and Jordan Thomas, whose exhibit is: "Tears of Sorrow or Tears of Joy: Reaction to the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln."•

IN HONOR OF W. RALPH GAMBER, FOUNDER OF DUTCH GOLD HONEY

• Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, Friday, June 14, is our National Flag Day. This year, Flag Day has special meaning for many in Lancaster, PA, it will be a day of remembrance for the life and work of W. Ralph Gamber. It is particularly appropriate that Ralph's legacy will be honored on Flag Day; in many ways, he lived the American dream through the kind of patriotism that is grounded in community involvement and love of family. The company Ralph founded in 1946, Dutch Gold Honey, Inc., will also be honored as part of his legacy and those who will gather at the site of his family business in Lancaster will dedicate a flagpole in his memory.

Ralph Gamber began his honey processing business with a \$27 investment in three beehives in the mid-1940s. What was initially a hobby of canning honey in the family garage grew to be a vehicle for innovation and a model for the success of hard work and family cooperation. Today, Dutch Gold Honey is one of the largest independent honey packers in the nation and, as an industry symbol of quality and partnership, remains family-owned and operated. The plastic honey bears seen on the shelves of every grocery store in America are Ralph's invention and their success led to the creation of the Gamber