

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

Container Company. Ralph, his wife Luella, and his three children have made an incredible contribution to the Lancaster area through their business accomplishments. Ralph served a term as president of the National Honey Packers & Dealers and in 1992, was recognized as Pennsylvania Entrepreneur of the Year by Entrepreneur Magazine. Additionally, the Gamberes established the Gamber Foundation, a resource to support local charities and nonprofit organizations, honeybee research, and scholarships for the children of Dutch Gold Honey employees.

Ralph Gamber's legacy, however, is not limited to his honey-related work. His life's worth of community and family focus is what earns him particular attention on Flag Day. To Ralph, work was an extension of family togetherness and he firmly believed that when families pray together, they stay together. Evidently, a family that stays together is one that can also share in building a unique, successful business. Ralph would count his 66-year marriage, three children, eight grandchildren, and nine-great-grandchildren among his greatest accomplishments. He was involved with the Salvation Army and helped to found his local fire company. He was a veteran of the Second World War and, with a strong connection to his church, Ralph acted as Sunday school superintendent for many years, was a member of his church council, and later chaired the church's stewardship committee. Throughout his life and through his livelihood, Ralph has demonstrated his commitment to the community and people he cared so much about. I share his story today because I believe it is worthy of our admiration and it is evidence of how the American Dream continues to inspire us.

My thoughts will be with the family and friends of Ralph Gamber this Flag Day. When our national banner is raised over Dutch Gold Honey, it will be a reminder to all who see it that love, perseverance, and community are the keys to success in family and in life.●

AMERICA: A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

● Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, each year the American Immigration Law Foundation and the American Immigration Lawyers Association sponsor a national writing contest on immigration. Thousands of fifth-grade students from across the country participate in the competition, responding to the statement, "Why I'm Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants."

These essays remind us that it is of great importance that we not forget our rich history and heritage as a nation of immigrants. Continued immigration is part of our national well-being, our identity as a nation, and our strength in today's world.

I had the privilege of serving as one of the judges for this year's contest,

and was very impressed by the young writers. In their essays, the students showed great pride in our Nation's diversity and its immigrant heritage, and many told the story of their own family's immigration.

I am pleased to announce that this year's winner is a Massachusetts resident, Nicole Florio, a fifth-grade student in Framingham, MA. In her poem, "Why Am I Glad," Nicole explores the value of her friends' cultures and how their diversity enhances her life. She describes the diverse traditions and treasures of her friends, from Ceilidh's Irish step-dancing to Anastasia's nesting dolls. In the final stanza, Nicole notes how she herself is a product of immigrants, as all of us are, and that without immigration, "there would be no me!"

Other students honored for their creative essays were Mike Duffy of Sarasota, FL, Emily Friedman of Los Angeles, CA, Christina Jundt of Norcross, GA, and Ilana Peña of North Miami Beach, FL.

I believe that these award-winning essays in the "Celebrate America" contest will be of interest to all of us in the Senate, and ask that they be printed in the RECORD.

The essays follow.

WHY AM I GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Nicole Florio, Hemenway Elementary School, Framingham, MA, Grand Prize Winner)

People come to America from many different places, I have lots of friends of many different races. Ceilidh's from Ireland, we have loads of fun, she taught me Irish step-dancing we dance till day is done! Jessica's from Colombia, she speaks Spanish, to speak two languages is my wish.

Anastasia is from Russia, I adore her nesting dolls, I looked for them in all of the malls.

Cara and Cady are from China, Cady's grandma grows bamboo. They both love Chinese New Year and I do too!

Murat is from Turkey, his wedding I did love, when we left the fireworks blasted 'bove!

Nicole is from Israel, she is thirteen. When she had her Bat Mitzvah she looked like a queen!

If I didn't have these friends, how boring life would be! I'm glad America has immigrants as you can plainly see.

Mom's family is from Poland, Dad's from Italy, if my grandparents didn't come there would be no me!

Based on a true story!

WHY I AM GLAD AMERICA IS A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Mike Duffy, Pine View Elementary, Sarasota, FL, Runner-Up)

I am glad America is a nation of immigrants. When the original immigrants came to America, they came here seeking freedom of expression, religious freedom, and freedom from oppression. This helped to form our constitution, which gives us those same equal rights today.

The diverseness of the people who came here for opportunities brought about a culture that the world had not previously seen before. It also gave us ideas that would have never come to light otherwise.

Living with other cultures teaches us new things and makes us more tolerant and understanding of our fellow man. The education we gave each other makes us more open to new ideas and better technology. Our nation is the strongest and best because of our unity.

In America all religions are practiced freely. Our different beliefs are acknowledged and respected. This makes us strong and proud. Our way of life is often challenged though. Freedom is always at stake from those who wish to dominate. Brave immigrants past and present, who took the chance of coming here for a better life; help keep our country free and strong. Once they have enjoyed the freedom we have, they are willing to stand up and fight to keep that freedom.

Mutual respect, which all people can enjoy here in this country, is why we (all cultures) come together so readily, when any part of our nation is in trouble. It is living proof that despite our differences we are all Americans at heart.

A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Emily Friedman, Stephen S. Wise Elementary, Los Angeles, CA, AILA Southern California Chapter Contest Winner)

In early September my teachers asked, "Do you think America is a melting pot or a salad bowl?" After thinking about it, I decided America is neither. America is not like a melting pot because all the cultures do not blend together and become unnoticeable. However, America is not a salad bowl because cultures do not stay as distinct as lettuce and cucumbers in a salad. I thought America should be described as a chunky, minestrone soup. The ingredients stay distinct, but as the soup simmers, the ingredients like cultures interact and blend with each other.

The different spices and vegetables that go into minestrone soup are like the immigrants from different places around the world. The immigrants spice up the soup and make it flavorful. With the exception of Native Americans, we were all once immigrants. The best secret of a minestrone soup is that it never stays the same. As immigrants come from all over the world, they contribute to the taste of the soup. They bring their language, traditions, foods and customs and their various dreams for a better life for freedom and opportunity. They also add their ideas for a better America and make contributions to our society.

I am proud to live in a country where people can be free and where everyone can contribute. I am glad America is a nation of immigrants because without them, America wouldn't be a chunky bowl of delicious minestrone soup.

AMERICA—A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS

(By Christina Jundt, Simpson Elementary School, Norcross, GA, AILA Atlanta Chapter Contest Winner)

As Immigrants traveled over the rolling sea, checked in at Ellis Island, suffered