

support, and community service. I am so proud that this unit is in the Fourth Congressional District and going above and beyond in its defense of the United States of America. May God bless them for their service.

A TRIBUTE TO FORMER REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES E. BENNETT OF FLORIDA

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chairman of Florida's Congressional Delegation to honor the extraordinary life of former Congressman Charles E. Bennett. I would be hard pressed, Mr. Speaker, to find a better and more compelling individual dedicated to ethical reforms than Mr. Bennett in his 44 years in the House. Mr. Bennett was a long time proponent of such reforming legislation as the creation of the House Ethics Committee and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. Earning the title of "Mr. Clean" for his unwavering determination to financial disclosure, Mr. Bennett set an example for all public servants as early as 1950.

Mr. Bennett attended the University of Florida and graduated in 1934 with both a Bachelor and Law degree. During World War 11, Charlie defended his country with undying patriotism and fearless courage in the South Pacific, earning the Silver and Bronze Stars for his distinguished service. In 1948, Mr. Bennett was elected to the 81st Congress representing the Jacksonville metropolitan area. Forty-four years later, Charlie remains Florida's longest serving member of Congress. Despite contracting polio from his Army days, Congressman Bennett served his country with such fervor and passion rarely seen before or since.

In the early 1990's, Charlie's advocacy for the disabled community translated into his strong support and sponsorship of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Despite the use of crutches, Charlie only missed one legislative vote in 41 years; a remarkable legislative accomplishment. Mr. Bennett was also an accomplished author of seven books, as well as a passionate advocate of the preservation of Florida's natural resources and history. A well-respected member of his community, Mr. Bennett has a Federal building and a school dedicated in his name for his remarkable service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, Charlie and I served side-by-side for 12 years before his retirement in 1993, and the news of his death has greatly saddened our State, our country, and me. I am honored to have called Charles Bennett a friend and colleague during his remarkable life and our prayers go out to his surviving family; his wife Dorothy; his children Bruce, James, and Cindy; and his three grandchildren. Charles Bennett will always have a place in the hearts of everyone he represented and his memory will no doubt live forever in the State of Florida.

TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2989) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation and Treasury, and independent agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of full funding for the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). Congress made a commitment to election reform with the passage of this Act last year and should provide the funding required for HAVA-mandated improvements.

An amendment offered by the Honorable ALCEE HASTINGS to H.R. 2989 would have increased HAVA's funding to its authorized level of \$727 million. This was offset by eliminating \$165 million from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) information system funding. While I support efforts to increase HAVA funding, necessary maintenance and improvements to the IRS' information system are critical. For these reasons, I was compelled to vote against H. Amdt. 357.

I look forward to considering further legislation regarding HAVA funding in the future. Election reform is important to democracy in our country and in North Dakota. It is my hope that Congress will find a way to fully fund HAVA without reducing support for the necessary work of the IRS.

LEGISLATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VA FACILITY IN EAST-CENTRAL FLORIDA

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, as a Congresswoman from Florida, to offer legislation that authorizes \$170 million for construction of a much-needed VA facility in East-Central, Florida.

The legislation comes about after VA released, to the Capital Assets Realignment for Enhanced Services Commission, a draft report for VA review. The draft report recommends that Florida's East-Central Market receive a new hospital.

Florida's Central Market has the largest workload gap and the greatest infrastructure investment need of any market in the United States. The CARES draft report states that the logical choice for a new hospital in Florida is Orlando. There is a former 150-bed Naval Hospital in Orlando, originally designed for two additional floors, which can be restructured to take on additional services.

This will mean a big difference in many veterans' lives because currently more than 50 percent of them must travel 60 miles or one

hour to the nearest VA facility. This is a problem that must be addressed now. Veteran population growth within a two-hour radius continues unabated. If a new facility is not available to veterans in East-Central, Florida soon, the hardship of long drives and waiting periods will grow even greater for our veterans.

As the Congresswoman from Florida's third district, I know firsthand of the need for a new VA facility in Orlando. I have been there for our veterans time and time again. I personally escorted former VA Secretary Jesse Brown to the old Naval facility in Orlando and told him what a perfect site it would be for a VA outpatient clinic. The James V. Haley VA Hospital in Orlando, Florida was later opened, and it is proving to be the best location available to provide even greater services to our veterans.

The goal of the CARES commission is to modernize the VA health care system. This is an important first step in making certain that the needs of our veterans are met. They are indeed, the best of the best, and deserve to be treated as such.

I abhor the treatment of America's veterans under this administration. From the shabby effort to provide for full funding of concurrent receipt, to the exclusion of new Priority Eight veterans from the VA health care rolls, this administration has proven that it is a miserable failure at treating our veterans with the honor and gratitude that they have earned.

ANIBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ, of Puerto Rico, and SHELLEY BERKLEY, of Nevada, join me in sponsoring this measure that additionally provides \$250 million for the construction of a VA hospital in Las Vegas, Nevada, and \$30 million for seismic upgrades at the VA medical center in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

I would like to thank Senators BOB GRAHAM of Florida, and HARRY REID of Nevada for introducing the companion legislation to this bill in the United States Senate.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall No. 481, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 482, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 483, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 484, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 485, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 486, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 487, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 488, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 489, I would have voted "yes." On rollcall No. 490, I would have voted "no." On rollcall No. 491, I would have voted "no."

A TRIBUTE TO BARUCH TENENBAUM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to pay tribute to Baruch Tenenbaum, a truly

remarkable person. He has, in an extraordinary way, made enormous efforts to promote the life and mission of World War II hero Raoul Wallenberg. As a young Swedish diplomat, Wallenberg was responsible for saving nearly 100,000 Jews in Budapest from the horror of the Holocaust. This brave man disappeared in 1945, last seen going to meet with members of the Soviet army. Though many theories regarding his disappearance abound, the world continues to wait for answers regarding Wallenberg's fate. Mr. Tenenbaum is one of the most visible leaders in carrying on Raoul Wallenberg's name.

Mr. Speaker, even before Mr. Tenenbaum started to work for Raoul Wallenberg's cause he had lived an extraordinary life. He was devoted to supporting the Jewish community in Argentina and to creating a deeper understanding between Jews and Catholics worldwide. He was the First General Director of the Argentine-Israeli Cultural Institute and focused the majority of his efforts on educational endeavors. Some of his undertakings included founding the Tarbut School and organizing the first Latin American Bible contest. In addition, he translated Spanish classics and *Haskala* literature into Hebrew and Yiddish.

In 1966, together with writer Jorge Lues Borges, Tenenbaum founded the first inter-confessional organization, Casa Argentina en Jerusalem (Argentine House in Jerusalem). This organization has received many distinctions on behalf of the Vatican for its work in promoting ecumenism. Tenenbaum's outstanding commitment to the Jewish and Catholic communities has earned him accolades and honors from Pope Paul VI and from Monsignor Antonio Caggiano, Cardinal Primate of Argentina.

Mr. Tenenbaum and I co-founded the International Raoul Wallenberg Foundation (IRWF) in 1997. Since then, we have worked tirelessly to make Raoul Wallenberg's story known around the world. Mr. Tenenbaum has personally convinced over 60 heads of states to become members of IRWF. Some members include German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, former U.S. President Gerald Ford, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Dalai Lama and Elie Wiesel.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will agree that preserving the memory of Raoul Wallenberg is very important. Wallenberg is a truly timeless role model for all generations, representing an ideal sense of selflessness and caring of all people. He taught us about the importance of standing up for the immutable rights of all people and the need to combat evil when it confronts us. Wallenberg will always serve as a reminder of the tremendous difference just one man can make, and keeping his spirit alive means ensuring and preserving the spirit of humanity. In carrying on Raoul Wallenberg's name, Mr. Tenenbaum has made a tremendous effort in keeping his spirit alive and carrying his message on to future generations.

Under the direction of Mr. Tenenbaum, the IRWF has undertaken a number of various endeavors to further the memories of Holocaust heroes, including Raoul Wallenberg. There have been a number of statues raised and countless exhibits displayed around the world as a result of IRWF's efforts, honoring keepers of humanity during the Holocaust. In addition, Wallenberg has been honored throughout the world with commemorative postage stamps,

and a number of streets and schools named in his honor. The IRWF's goals for these initiatives in honor of Wallenberg and other Holocaust heroes is to stimulate the educational authorities in dozens of countries to teach not only the stories of the Holocaust, but also the stories of the heroes that emerged from the horrors. By educating future generations about the plight of Holocaust heroes like Wallenberg, perhaps they will adopt just a fraction of the humanitarian values these brave men and women held.

Mr. Speaker, at the age of 67, Mr. Tenenbaum has never received a salary nor any other financial compensation for his work. He covers nearly all IRWF expenses himself and he devotes all his time to the Raoul Wallenberg cause. I am honored to pay tribute to this extraordinary man and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in congratulating Baruch Tenenbaum for his outstanding achievements. This exceptional person is truly an inspiration to us all. Like the man whose legacy he works tirelessly to preserve, Mr. Tenenbaum is living proof that one man can make a difference.

A TRIBUTE TO EAST SURRY LITTLE LEAGUE GIRLS 16 AND UNDER FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my congratulations to the fine athletes of the East Surry Little League of Pilot Mountain's 16-and-under girls' fast pitch softball team. The dedication, talent, and hard work of these girls has won them a place in North Carolina's history as the very first North Carolina team to win a Little League World Series Championship.

After a series of wins, the girls of East Surry clinched their final victory against Kentucky to claim the title as World Series Champions. Their victory on August 16, 2003 in Jeffersonton, Kentucky is certain to be remembered with pride in the hearts and minds of North Carolinians for many years to come.

I commend the fine sportsmanship of these girls and wish them a future of successes. I am proud of their efforts in placing North Carolina among the states to hold a Little League World Series Championship win.

To Manager Breck Honeycutt, Coaches Mike Burge and Brent Hull, and players Samantha Smith, Haley Burge, Kate Jewell, Karlie Love, Beth Hauser, Megan Hull, Sara Bartlett, Catherine Mitchell, Lauren Angel, Brooke Honeycutt, Jessica Hauser, Rachael Brooks, and Ashley Simmons, I assure you that the people of Surry County, and indeed all North Carolinians, are very proud of your accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I am not recorded on rollcalls Nos. 476 and 477. I was

unavoidably detained and was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcalls Nos. 476 and 477.

RECOGNIZING THE ARTICLE "REMEMBERING THE AWESOME LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST"

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the article "Remembering the Awesome Lessons of the Holocaust" written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman. The article appeared in the *Virginian-Pilot* and *The Ledger-Star* on Saturday, June 12, 1993.

Rabbi Zoberman is spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan, in 1945, and raised in Haifa, Israel, he is the son of Polish Holocaust survivors.

REMEMBERING THE AWESOME LESSONS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Visiting the recently dedicated official United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is not an ordinary experience, nor should it be one.

Along with fellow Americans, gentiles and Jews from all walks of life, I was conscious of entering upon sacred space. The resultant education experience, through ingenious multimedia presentation and architectural genius, exposes us to the unfolding stages of the Third Reich's evil, allowing us a closer reach to an unfathomable reality.

We are led on a journey whose consequences of disaster for the Jewish people and for humanity in general become increasingly evident at each turn.

Hitler's early threats were far from idle. What was dismissed as the political rhetoric of a novice was methodically translated into a program of genocide. Failure to stop the Nazi regime early on yielded the largest harvest of death in history.

Recognizing that the tragedy's magnitude is such that without personalizing it we risk losing it, we watch a tower of photos depicting the life of an entire community that is no more, from family gatherings and children at play to loved ones and pastoral calm. In two days of mass executions, 3,000 Jews, young and old, of Elshishok, Lithuania, where Jews had lived for 900 years, were slain. This was one among more than 4,950 destroyed communities.

Focusing on the shoes of gassed victims, my eye caught one belonging to a child. Who can remain neutral toward a little one's fate?

The video (hidden from view of those who could not bear it) of the medical experiments on live subjects—gypsies and twins were favorites—was ample proof of science's culpability and academicians' corruptibility. Yet, the inspiring example of the French village of Chambon, which saved 5,000 Jews, including many children, from round-up and deportation, shines through the darkness.

Watching on-screen survivors reminisce illustrated the power of witness and the sacred duty to preserve their essential legacy, as age diminishes their numbers, for the sake of those to follow.

At the tour's beginning one receives a passport of a person who encountered the war. Mine was of a man who expired en route to the Belzec death camp where many members of my own extended family perished. One identity card bears the name of a surviving relative, Gitla Zoberman (now Gertrude Kupfer), who lives in Richmond, Virginia.