

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE INSTALLATION OF RABBI MICHAEL PONT AS THE NEW LEADER OF THE TEMPLE BETH AHM IN ABERDEEN, NJ

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to welcome the installation of Rabbi Michael Pont as the new leader of the Temple Beth Ahm in Aberdeen, New Jersey. Rabbi Pont has served his previous community with a great deal of capability and we are delighted to have him join our district.

Prior to joining the Aberdeen community, Rabbi Pont served on the Greensboro Jewish Federation Board of Trustees, Blumenthal Jewish Home Board, and Family Life Council Board. Rabbi Pont was also a participant of the March of the Living Seminar to Poland and Israel, Greensboro Jewish Federation Mission to Moldova, Greensboro Jewish Federation young Leadership Program.

Rabbi Pont served as the Assistant Rabbi at the Beth David Synagogue in Greensboro, NC. Among his many accomplishments, Rabbi Pont directed the religious school, oversaw programming for families and youth, led worship, and served as pastor.

Rabbi Pont has taught several educational courses to youth, young adults, and adults including classes on Jewish holidays, Jewish values, Shabbat, and kashrut. While in Greensboro, Rabbi Pont initiated educational and cultural programs for families of the entire Jewish community, and also initiated a community service project in which Jewish Family Services would assist new immigrants.

Rabbi Pont studied at the University of Judaism in Los Angeles, CA and the Schechter Institute in Jerusalem, Israel for his Rabbinical Ordination. He received his Masters Degree in Jewish Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, and his Bachelors Degree in Psychology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Rabbi Pont is currently a member of the Rabbinical Assembly and MERCAZ USA.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud and honored to welcome a man of Rabbi Michael Pont's experience and dedication to our community. Once again, I ask that you join me in congratulating Rabbi Michael Pont, and extend him good wishes and the best of luck in his new position.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES RECEIVES INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS' MAN AND BIOSPHERE PROGRAM

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations' Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) is managed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) headquartered in Paris, France. Although there are 47 United Nations' Biosphere Reserves in the United States that comprise a land area larger than Colorado, this program is not authorized by even a single U.S. law or international treaty. This lack of legal authority is even more remarkable when one considers that millions of acres of private property in the United States are contained within the boundaries of biosphere reserves.

To better understand the workings of this program, it was necessary for me to write to Dr. Nataran Ishwaran, Director of UNESCO's Division of Ecological Resources in Paris, France, who oversees the Man and Biosphere Program. I desired to learn more about the process for establishing and terminating biosphere reserves as well as the monitoring UNESCO requires for these designations.

Dr. Ishwaran's reply indicated "Member States wishing to remove the biosphere reserve in its country notifies the UNESCO Secretariat which in turn informs the Man and Biosphere International Coordinating Committee (ICC). . . . The ICC is an intergovernmental body made up of 34 countries, elected in a rotational system by the UNESCO General Conference."

I commend my colleagues to learn more about the United Nations' Biosphere Reserves by reading this letter by Dr. Ishwaran, Director of UNESCO's Division of Ecological Resources.

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION,

August 24, 2004.

Mr. RICHARD W. POMBO,
*Chairman, Committee on Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. POMBO: I should like to acknowledge your letter of 3 August 2004 and to thank you for your kind words on my new appointment.

Our replies to your questions regarding biosphere reserves follow below. They are based on the "Statutory Framework" for biosphere reserves, a text negotiated by over 400 experts (including US experts) in 1995 and adopted by the UNESCO General Conference under 28 C/Resolution 2.4 in the same year. This Resolution is considered a "soft law" and is not an internationally binding treaty as is for example the World Heritage Convention. The Statutory Framework, and the accompanying "Seville Strategy" can be found on the MABnet under <http://www.unesco.org/mab/publications/document.htm>.

It is important to understand that before this Statutory Framework was adopted in 1995, nomination and designation of sites did not follow such a formal legal procedure, and that the criteria for biosphere reserves were much more oriented to either nature conservation or scientific research. As you can see from the definition and "vision" for biosphere reserves, the emphasis now is on the combination of three functions of conservation, scientific research and development. This evolution in the biosphere reserve criteria means that the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, which began in 1976, contains a legacy of "old" sites nominated by their MAB National Committees but which do not necessarily conform to the 1995 criteria. This is the case in the USA, where sites were designated from 1976 up till 1991.

(1) Designation procedure—(see Article 5 of the Statutory Framework): UNESCO Member States make nominations for the designation of new sites as biosphere reserves through their MAB National Committees. The nomination form (<http://www.unesco.org/mab/docs/brnomform.htm>) requires endorsement at the local and national levels. The nominations are sent to the UNESCO Secretariat, which submits them for technical evaluation by the Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (a 12 person group of experts nominated by the UNESCO Director-General). The nominations are then decided upon in the light of the recommendations from this Advisory Committee by the MAB International Coordinating Council (ICC). The ICC is an intergovernmental body made up of 34 countries, elected in a rotational system by the UNESCO General Conference. In practice the ICC devolves the decision on new nominations to its Bureau (the Chair and the five Vice-Chairs) that meets about once a year. The UNESCO Secretariat then informs the Member State on the decision. As is stipulated under Article 2.3, individual biosphere reserves remain under the sovereign jurisdiction of the States (countries) where they are situated.

(2) Monitoring—The Statutory Framework makes provision under Article 9 for a "periodic review" every ten years after designation. This is a self-evaluation, carried out by the "concerned authority" which in practice is usually the administrative body responsible for the biosphere reserve. The format for this periodic review report is voluntary, but countries generally use the form designed by the UNESCO Secretariat for this purpose (available on: <http://www.unesco.org/mab/publications/document.htm>). The periodic review reports follow the same process of technical evaluation and examination as for new nominations. The MAB Bureau makes a recommendation to the Member State concerned on each periodic review report: these recommendations are very often suggestions as to the types of measures which could be taken to improve the functioning of the site under question as a biosphere reserve.

(3) Terminating biosphere reserve designation—Technically, this can happen in two ways. As is said under Article 9.8, a Member State wishing to remove a biosphere reserve in its country notifies the UNESCO Secretariat which in turn informs the MAB ICC. A second procedure follows the periodic review

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

process as is stated under Article 9 paragraphs 5 and 6: if the ICC finds that a biosphere reserve does not satisfy the criteria after a reasonable period of time in which the Member State concerned could have taken measures to improve it, the site concerned "will no longer be referred to as a biosphere reserve which is part of the Network" (please refer to Article 9, paragraph 6 of the Statutory Framework). In practice this second means has never been used. To date, four countries have asked that non-functional sites be removed from the Network. The UK, for example, undertook a periodic review of all its sites with the biosphere reserve designation (dating from 1977). It recognized that four of these did not and could not meet the 1995 criteria and asked the ICC to remove them from the Network. This was hailed by the ICC as a positive result of the periodic review.

(4) Reduction in size of a biosphere reserve—There is no formal provision for this, but logically it should follow the same procedure as for an extension, which is given under Article 5.2. De facto, this means following the same procedure as for new nominations.

I trust this answers your questions satisfactorily: if you have any other questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

N. ISHWARAN,
Director, Division of Ecological Sciences.

44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

The relationship between Cyprus and the United States is strong and enduring. Over the last decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under law.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 44th Independence Day, I share the Cypriots' joy for having created a prosperous, open society based on solid foundations. Furthermore, I believe this is an opportunity for the United States of America and Cyprus to come closer together, as we stand united in our resolve to fight the battle on terrorism. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

IN HONOR OF ANN COONERTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ann Coonerty in tribute of her 90th birthday. Ann is a native Californian and long

time resident of Santa Cruz County who continues to offer her services as an educator to our community. It is my pleasure to stand in this House and honor Ann's 90th birthday.

Ann McGinley Coonerty was born in Santa Maria, California on October 16th, 1914. She excelled in school and, at age 19, became the first woman in her family to earn a college degree. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 1934 with a teaching credential and a degree in mathematics; soon after, she began her teaching career in the Santa Maria area. In 1941, she took a break to marry Kevin Coonerty and start a family. When Kevin returned home from serving in World War II, he used the GI Bill to earn a degree in engineering. During this time, Ann tutored her husband in mathematics while raising their three children.

After Kevin began working for Rocketdyne in Southern California in 1953, Ann returned to teaching. In 1975 Ann and her family moved to Santa Cruz where she began working at Happy Valley Elementary School as a teacher's aide. Twenty-nine years later, she is quite simply an institution and an inspiration to parents, children and colleagues. Even today, as Ann approaches her 90th birthday, she plans to continue volunteering her time as an aide.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Ann Coonerty's achievements, accomplishments, and her dedication to education. She has demonstrated a unique passion for family, community, and to her profession. Ann has devoted her life to teaching and tutoring students, a service for which our community is eternally grateful. I join the County of Santa Cruz, and friends and family in honoring this truly commendable woman.

THE RECOGNITION OF MAYOR WILLIAM ROSENBLATT

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise an exemplary individual, and a good friend, Mayor William Rosenblatt. I have known Mayor Rosenblatt for quite some time now, and, in this time, I have always been impressed by his commitment to his community, as well as his sense of obligation towards the preservation of our beaches. This weekend, he will be a deserving recipient of the 'Big Kahuna' award, presented by the Surfers' Environmental Alliance (SEA). As he receives this fitting tribute, I would like to take a moment and laud Mayor Rosenblatt for all that he has done for the beaches of New Jersey.

Born in Newark, New Jersey, Mayor Rosenblatt attended Montclair University, and after he received his masters degree from Rutgers University, he completed his post doctorate training at the Mind Body Institute at Harvard University. Previously he has served as the director of behavioral medicine at Monmouth Medical Center and an adjunct faculty member at Monmouth University, Rutgers University, and Kean University—just to name a few.

Mayor Rosenblatt has been surfing for 42 years, mostly in New Jersey. His commitment and love for the sport is exhibited in his membership to organizations such as Clean Ocean

Action and Surfers Medical Association. In addition, he is the proud co-founder of the Jersey Shore chapter of the Surfrider Foundation, and he sits on the National Board of Directors for the organization. As the Mayor of Loch Arbour for the last 7 years, William Rosenblatt has served proudly and has done a tremendous job. Time and time again, Mayor Rosenblatt has let his actions serve as an example for the rest of the community. By serving as beach captain for the Loch Arbour/Allenhurst Beach sweeps, and writing a surfing column in the Asbury Park Press for the last 3 years, few can deny this individual's obvious passion for the sport of surfing and adoration for our beaches.

The Surfers' Environmental Alliance, identifies a 'kahuna' as a "respected elder of the sport, a mentor to young surfers." This is a fitting description of Mayor William Rosenblatt, who is not only a mentor to young surfers, but also a highly regarded and respected leader in his community, as well as the sport of surfing. Mr. Speaker, once again, I congratulate my friend in receiving this honor and would like to commend the SEA for their work, and for recognizing the contributions of Mayor Rosenblatt.

PROPERTIES CONSIDERED SUITABLE AS ADDITIONAL WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE UNITED STATES

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 4, 2004

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, in 1972 the United States ratified "The Convention Concerning Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage" known as the World Heritage Convention. Since then 20 properties in the United States have been designated as World Heritage Sites and operated under a worldwide program administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which is based in Paris, France.

World Heritage Sites in the United States were non-controversial until the Clinton administration and over-zealous environmental groups used Yellowstone National Park's World Heritage Site designation to stop a proposed gold mine located on private property outside the boundaries of the park. Many in Congress joined me in believing this mission creep of the World Heritage Convention was never envisioned when the United States ratified it over 30 years ago.

I have learned that the National Park Service, pursuant to Article 11 of the World Heritage Convention, has developed a "Tentative" or "Indicative" List of cultural and natural properties in the United States that it considers suitable for inclusion to the World Heritage List. Presently, this list contains 70 properties in over 30 States and the District of Columbia.

Based on the experience during the Clinton administration involving a proposed gold mine on private property located outside Yellowstone National Park, America must be very cautious when it proposes new areas for designation as World Heritage Sites. For example, I note the oil-rich Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is on the "Tentative List" as is the mineral-rich Cape Krusenstern Archaeological