

equal—including black men. In 1799, he was elected to the New York Society for Promoting the Manumission of Slaves. During his tenure on the standing committee between 1806 and 1809, about 50 slaves were freed. Through his efforts, many other slaves achieved freedom. He exerted himself to fight injustice, to expand the American ideals of freed and equality regardless of race or religion.

Another of our members, Maud Nathan, believed that all men were created equal but so were all women created equal. She was a fiery, internationally renowned suffragette, who worked tirelessly to advance a vision of America that indeed recognized the equality of all its citizens—men and women. As president of the consumer league of New York from 1897–1917, Maud Nathan was a pioneer in social activism, working for the improvement of working conditions of employees in New York's department stores. Equality and human dignity were the rights of all Americans, rich and poor, men and women.

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that human beings have unalienable rights; among them are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These words express the hope and optimism of America. They are a repudiation of the tyranny and oppression that prevailed—and still prevail—in so many lands. America is a land of opportunity, where people can live in freedom. The pursuit of happiness really signifies the pursuit of self-fulfillment, of a meaningful way of life. America's challenge was—and still is—to create a harmonious society that allows us to fulfill our potentials.

President George Washington declared a day of national Thanksgiving for November 26, 1789. Shearith Israel held a service, at which Hazan Gershom Mendes Seizas called on this congregation “to unite, with cheerfulness and uprightness . . . to promote that which has a tendency to the public good.” Hazan Seizas believed that Jews, in being faithful to Jewish tradition, would be constructive and active participants in American society.

Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were not reserved only for those born in America; they are the rights of all human beings everywhere. This notion underlies the idealism of the American dream, calling for a sense of responsibility for all suffering people, whether at home or abroad. American Jews have been particularly sensitive and responsive to this ideal.

On March 8th, 1847, Hazan Jacques Judah Lyons addressed a gathering at Shearith Israel for the purpose of raising funds for Irish famine relief. The potato crop in Ireland had failed in 1846, resulting in widespread famine. Hazan Lyons well realized that the Jewish community needed charitable dollars for its own internal needs; and yet he insisted that Jews reach out and help the people of Ireland. He said that there was one indestructible and all-powerful link between us and the Irish sufferers: “That link, my brethren, is HUMANITY! Its appeal to hear surmounts every obstacle. Clime, color, sect are barriers which impede not its progress thither.” In assisting with Irish famine relief, the Jewish community reflected its commitment to the well-being of all suffering human beings. American Jewry grew into—and has continued to be—a great philanthropic community perhaps unmatched in history. Never have so few given so much to so many. In this, we have been true to our Jewish tradition, and true to the spirit of America.

Who articulated the hope and promise of America more eloquently than Emma Lazarus? “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send

these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” How appropriate is it that her poem is affixed to the great symbol of American freedom, the Statue of Liberty.

Alice Menken, (for many years president of our Sisterhood) did remarkable work to help immigrants, to assist young women who ran into trouble with the law, to promote reform of the American prison system. She wrote: “We must seek a balanced philosophy of life. We must live to make the world worth living in, with new ideals, less suffering, and more joy.”

Americans see ourselves as one nation, indivisible, under God, with liberty and justice for all. Yet, liberty and justice are not automatically attained. They have required—and still require—wisdom, vigilance, and active participation. American legal tradition has been enriched by the insights and the work of many American Jews.

In one of his essays, Justice Benjamin Nathan Cardozo—a devoted member of Shearith Israel—referred to a Talmudic passage which has been incorporated into our prayer book. It asks that the Almighty let His mercy prevail over strict justice. Justice Cardozo reminded us that the American system relies not only on justice—but on mercy. Mercy entails not merely an understanding of laws, but an understanding of the human predicament, of human nature, of the circumstances prevailing in human society. Another of our members, Federal Judge William Herlands, echoed this sentiment when he stated the Justice without Mercy—is just ice!

Our late rabbis Henry Pereira Mendes, David de Sola Pool and Louis C. Gerstein, were singularly devoted to social welfare, to religious education, to the land of Israel. They distinguished themselves for their devotion to Zionism, and played their parts in the remarkable unfolding of the State of Israel. They, along with so many American Jews, have keenly understood how much unites Israel and the United States—two beacons of democracy and idealism in a very troubled world.

These individuals—along with so many other American Jews—were exponents of the American ideals and the American dream. During the past 350 years, the American Jewish community has accomplished much and contributed valiantly to all aspects of American life. We have been free to practice our faith and teach our Torah. We have worked with Americans of others faiths and traditions to mold a better, stronger, more idealistic nation.

America today is not just a powerful and vast country. It is also an idea, a compelling idea that has a message for all people in all lands. As American Jews, we are committed to the ideals of freedom and equality, human dignity and security, to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the pursuit of harmony among ourselves and throughout the world. We have come far as a nation, but very much remains to be done. May God give us the strength and the resolve to carry on, to work proudly as Jews to bring the American dream to many more generations of humanity.

I close with a prayer spoken by Mordecai Manuel Noah at the consecration of our second Mill Street Synagogue on April 17, 1818: “May we prove ever worthy of His blessing; may He look down from His heavenly abode, and send us peace and comfort; may He instill in our minds a love of country, of friends, and of all mankind. Be just, therefore, and fear not. That God who brought us out of the land of Egypt, who walked before us like ‘a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night,’ will never desert his people Israel.”

MILITARY PERSONNEL FINANCIAL SERVICES PROTECTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5011, a bill to correct abusive practices in the sale of financial products to our military.

This bill was strongly supported by myself and all my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee because it provides a necessary correction to a real problem.

Over the past several years, we have seen the growth of unprincipled sales practices pushing marginal financial products, blatantly unsuitable for military personnel.

These contractual plans impose staggering fees and draconian early termination penalties.

They are so undesirable that they are not sold in the civilian market, where the force of normal competition has driven them out.

All the more shame that certain brokers used privileged on-base access to military personnel to force this product on servicemen facing combat.

Our nation's military personnel deserve the best possible financial advice about all the options available to them, with complete and accurate information, clearly presented.

At the very least, they shouldn't be subjected to unscrupulous sales practices or offered financial products that no civilian would choose and that are not suitable for any investor. We should have banned these products and practices years ago; it is high time to do so now.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PARTNERS OF THE AMERICAS ON THEIR 40 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, in 1963 President John F. Kennedy launched the Alliance for Progress, a program of government-to-government economic cooperation across the Western Hemisphere. At the same time, he called for the creation of a parallel people-to-people initiative and the Partners of the Alliance was established the following year. After its founding, the idea of engaging in citizen-to-citizen programs under the direct participation and leadership of the people of the Americas led to the Alliance's re-organization in the private sector. With this change in status also came a new name: Partners of the Americas.

Today Partners of the Americas celebrates 40 years of bringing together citizen volunteers, their institutions and communities from throughout the Americas to address shared concerns of economic, social and cultural development. Partners' commitment to building on these enduring relationships among people of Latin America, the Caribbean and the U.S. is what makes Partners truly unique. These relationships fostered by Partners help spark creative ideas, cultivate friendship and ultimately, produce positive change.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate Partners of the Americas on its work over the past 40 years. Partners embraces the wonderful diversity of the Western Hemisphere and plays a crucial role in building cross-cultural understanding, inspiring hope and creating opportunity. I know others join me in wishing Partners of the Americas continued success in their service to citizens of the Western Hemisphere.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN FEE

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend John Fee, a constituent from Delran, New Jersey, who is currently participating in the Bristol-Myers Squibb Tour of Hope. John was chosen from nearly 1,200 cyclists nationwide to be one of 20 cyclists participating in this awareness-raising tour for cancer research.

The Tour of Hope is a grueling eight-day bike journey across America that is designed to help raise awareness about the need for increased participation in cancer clinical trials. This cross-country tour was designed by Bristol-Myers Squibb and Lance Armstrong, six-time Tour de France winner and cancer survivor, who credits his survival to the many people before him who participated in the clinical trials that ultimately led to the development of the treatment that saved his life.

By participating in the Tour of Hope, which began on October 1st in Los Angeles and will conclude on October 8th here in Washington, DC, John has dedicated himself to being a part of the effort to cure cancer. During his eight-day journey across America, John and his team will be selflessly delivering the Tour's message—the need to support cancer research—to communities across our Nation.

John's commitment to this worthy cause stems from personal, family experiences with cancer, and his bravery and generosity in confronting this issue head-on is commendable. With advocates like John, I am confident that we can ultimately conquer cancer once and for all.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MISSOURI SHERIFF OF THE YEAR, SHERIFF KERRICK ALUMBAUGH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Sheriff Kerrick Alumbaugh for being named the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association's 2004 "Sheriff of the Year."

Sheriff Alumbaugh was born on March 19, 1964, in St. Charles, Missouri. He graduated from Lafayette County C1 High School in Higginsville, Missouri. Later, he graduated from the FBI National Law Enforcement Academy.

In September 1985, Sheriff Alumbaugh began his law enforcement career as a patrol-

man for the Higginsville, Missouri, Police Department. Then, in 1993, he became the Chief of Police of Higginsville, Missouri. He became the Sheriff of Lafayette County on January 1, 2001.

During his time as Sheriff, he has had many accomplishments. Sheriff Alumbaugh formed a county-wide crime scene team comprised of local police agencies and trained by the Kansas City Crime Scene Unit, fought to give deputies a living wage, and was instrumental in the passage of the county-wide law enforcement tax and a new jail and court system. Also, he developed an investigation unit within the department, comprised of two detectives, that investigates and solves rural crimes. These two detectives alone filed more Felony cases in 2003 than the whole department did in 2000.

Most importantly, he has instilled pride and professionalism for the deputies that work for the citizens of Lafayette County.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I wish to extend my congratulations to Sheriff Kerrick Alumbaugh. It is with great pride that I honor him for being named the Missouri Deputy Sheriffs' Association's 2004 "Sheriff of the Year."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BRUCE HILL

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay tribute to Bruce Hill, a dedicated public servant and community leader from Grand Junction, Colorado. Bruce is a dedicated leader and a champion of the city, and I would like to join my colleagues here today in recognizing his tremendous achievements before this body of Congress and this Nation.

Bruce is a Grand Junction native who has naturally assumed many leadership roles. At Tope Elementary School, he was appointed Safety Leader. Later, while attending West Middle School, Bruce's classmates elected him their student council representative, where he was known to lead by example, setting the standards for his peers to follow. After studying accounting at Mesa Junior College, he began working at Superior Alarm. When Bruce was hired, the owner told him that he would have a chance to own the company one day. Two years later, at the age of 22, he purchased Superior Alarm.

Twenty-three years later Bruce is now the Mayor of Grand Junction. Utilizing his past experience as a customer service representative and the owner of Superior Alarm, he has been a true people's representative. Bruce makes himself available to the people of Grand Junction as much as possible. Holding informal gatherings, he takes a keen interest in listening to each individual's issue, and then uses his knowledge and influence to achieve a resolution. Using this style, Bruce has made a significant impact, despite his short four months in office.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to honor Bruce Hill for his ongoing contributions to the people and city of Grand Junction, and the State of Colorado. His leadership as Mayor is an example to all public servants, and it is with

great pleasure that I recognize him today before this body of Congress and this Nation. Thanks, Bruce, for everything, and I hope you can serve this community for many years to come.

HONORING THE LATE REVEREND VICTORIANO F. SANDOVAL

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to the late Reverend Victoriano F. Sandoval. It is with great respect that I pay tribute to Padre Sandoval, who is being honored, In Memoriam, by the Latino American Association of Monmouth County, Inc., as they celebrate their Eleventh Annual Awards Banquet.

Padre Victoriano Fernandez Sandoval was born on December 24, 1933 in the town of Fuentes de los Oteros, in the Castilla Province, Spain. He studied in the Seminary of "los Padres Agustinos" in the Castilla Province. He was ordained as a priest on July 12, 1958.

He worked as a priest for 16 years in Brazil as the Director of the College and Seminary of Braganca Paulista, Sao Paulo. Shortly thereafter, he was the Director of the Educational Faculty at Catholic University and the College of San Agustin in Goiania.

In the United States he worked for 21 years at the Church of the Holy Redemption, Mount Holly, NJ and at Saint John the Baptist Church in Long Branch for 4 years. He served as the Chaplain for Hispanics at the federal prison in Fort Dix and Mid-State Correctional facility. There he ensured that all Hispanic inmates' rights were observed. He made it possible for them to celebrate Christmas with a dinner every year. His rectory door was always open for anyone in need.

Additionally, Padre Sandoval served as the Spiritual Director for marriage retreats in the northeast U.S.A. He also worked with Hispanics at marital retreats in Canada, Puerto Rico, Brazil, and Mexico.

Lamentably, Padre Sandoval died suddenly on June 20, 2002.

Mr. Speaker, it is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to Padre Victoriano Fernandez Sandoval, as the Latino American Association of Monmouth County honors him, In Memoriam, for his unfaltering dedication and commitment to the advancement of Latinos.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MARY GRILLO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I want to take this opportunity to recognize and congratulate Mary Grillo, the Secretary-Treasurer of Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 2028 who is being honored by the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice for