

will grieve over the loss of this incredible individual, we can take comfort knowing his sacrifice was made while fulfilling his dream of serving our nation. I would like to extend my heartfelt respects to his family and friends as they mourn his passing. It is my honor to pay tribute to the life of Chance Phelps before this body of Congress and this nation.

A TRIBUTE TO CANTOR BARRY REICH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to honor and pay tribute to Barry Reich, the Cantor at Peninsula Temple Shalom of Burlingame, California, located in my Congressional District. Cantor Reich, who received his Hazzan Minister Commission in 1979 from the Cantor's Assembly of the Jewish Theological Seminary, is not merely a Cantor, but a multi-talented musician who has used his talents to affect the lives of thousands of people.

Cantor Barry Reich was born in 1948 in the Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles, California, where he came from a long line of cantors. His father was a renowned cantor, and at the time of Barry's birth was the Cantor at the legendary Breed Street Synagogue. As one would imagine, Barry was immersed in world of music and religion as cantorial music from record players and music books could be heard and seen throughout the Reich home.

From a very young age it was obvious that Barry possessed extraordinary talents. In fact, Mr. Speaker, at the young age of five, Barry sang a solo during the High Holiday service of Slichot with such mastery that when he was finished the entire congregation congratulated him. This wonderful performance had the unintended consequence of Barry upstaging his celebrated father, who had to wait out the hosannas before he could continue the service which was supposed to begin immediately afterwards. Another indicator of his magnificent musical talents was shown when Barry, then only 8 years old, joined the Breed Street Synagogue Choir as its youngest member. He was aided by the fact that his father, the Cantor was in desperate need for a soprano vocalist and Barry was a wonderful soprano.

When the Reich family moved to Florida when Cantor Reich was offered an important position at Temple Emanuel of Miami Beach, Barry continued his musical education on the East coast where he attended the Frost Conservatory of Music. It was in Florida that Barry met Harry Volpe, a widely renowned guitarist, who Barry credits with being the single biggest influence on his musical direction.

By the time Barry was ready to attend high school his father, which had expanded to include his brother Brian, had returned to Los Angeles. After graduating from Lincoln High School, Barry Reich went on to study at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and San Francisco State College, where he earned his Bachelor of Music Degree.

Mr. Speaker, it was while he was in college that Cantor Reich's future employer, Peninsula Temple Shalom's Rabbi Gerald Raiskin first heard Barry Reich. When the then future cantor was performing at an Israel Bonds rally.

Rabbi Raiskin, who knew Barry's father, was so impressed with the eighteen year old Barry that he called Barry's father to request that Barry audition to be the cantor at Peninsula Temple Shalom. Since that fateful day, thirty-six years ago, Barry Reich has been the Cantor of Peninsula Temple Shalom and has become part of the fabric of the synagogue. By his own estimates he has prepared over 1500 youth for their Bar or Bat Mitzvah with his trademark passion and innovative approach to music and education.

Mr. Speaker, Cantor Barry Reich has poured his heart into to his cantorial work and has generously shared his talents with many, passing on his passion of music onto numerous persons. He is most deserving of this tribute and our praise, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in honoring a great man, an excellent musician, and an extraordinary Cantor.

THE DANGER OF THE CHAVEZ REGIME TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND HEMISPHERIC PEACE

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the deterioration of democratic institutions in Venezuela under Hugo Chavez and the need for immediate international action.

Under Hugo Chavez, Venezuela is becoming a cancer in the Americas. As Chavez seeks closer ties with the tyrant Castro, and other totalitarian regimes, the rule of law in Venezuela is eroding, human rights abuses are on the rise, and ties with terrorists are continuing.

The community of nations can no longer remain impassive as freedom loving Venezuelans are trampled on by the Chavez regime. At this moment in time, the countries of the Western Hemisphere must take a stand for freedom, and support the immediate approval of the recall referendum on the tenure of Chavez.

Why is immediate international action needed? Under the OAS agreement of May 2003, the recall referendum must occur before August 19, 2004 if the Chavez regime is to be removed from office before January 2007. If the referendum is held after August 19, 2004, and Chavez is removed from office by the Venezuelan people, then his appointed Vice-President would serve the remainder of his term. The Chavez regime will then have been removed from office but allowed to retain power. This would be a tragedy for the Venezuelan people.

If the referendum is held before August 19, 2004, and Chavez is ousted by the Venezuelan people, then there will be a special election 30 days later to elect a new President. Under the OAS agreement of May 2003, after the recall is certified and approved, the recall referendum must be held within the next 97 days. If Chavez is to be held accountable to the democratic will of Venezuela, then the recall must be approved by the second week of May.

The community of democracies must not allow Venezuela to become the next totali-

tarian state in the Western Hemisphere. Though Venezuela has been moving steadily towards a dictatorship, we must not allow the slow pace of repression to shield us from the reality of a Chavez regime with tyrannical intent.

Today and everyday we must extend our solidarity to the freedom loving people in Venezuela. We must bring an international spotlight and coordinated pressure on the recall process and Chavez' delaying tactics. It is my belief that the longer the international community passively observes the erosion of rights in Venezuela, the more probable dictatorship becomes. We cannot practice the politics of appeasement in Venezuela. We must practice the politics of solidarity and put pressure on the regime to ratify the recall signatures before the regime runs out the clock and retains two more years to wrap the rope of dictatorship around the necks of all Venezuelans.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of the more than six million Jews who died in the Holocaust. Among those that were killed were women and men, adults and children, young and old. They were killed not for committing heinous crimes, but because of their religion. The Nazis seized their homes and murdered them in the gas chambers of Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau. Those who were not killed were worked until their bodies could no longer withstand the torture. Today, we remember all that they accomplished and the potential that remains unfulfilled. We also remember those whose lives were forever changed as a result of the Holocaust.

If you read towards the end of Jewish prayer services, you will find the Mourner's Kaddish. Although the Mourner's Kaddish does not speak of death, it has been interpreted to talk about the greatness of God and the desire for peace: peace between nations, peace between individuals, and peace of mind.

Unfortunately, the world in which we live is not one of peace. Every day, many Jews around the world face the injustice of anti-Semitism. Spurred on by propaganda and regimes that seek no less than the destruction of the Jewish people, anti-Semitism is gaining support around the globe. As we continue with the war on terror, let us remember those who have died and those who continue to be persecuted just because of their religion.

On this day, Yom Hashoah, we remember the more than six million Jews who died in the Holocaust and in the tradition of the Mourner's Kaddish, work for peace among nations, among individuals, and for peace of mind.

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. WAYNE POTTER, VOLUNTEER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who selflessly dedicated his

life to aid those who need it most. Wayne Potter of Harlingen was a man who went to great lengths to improve the community.

He took the time to volunteer. Even when his health was failing, he still found the time and energy to keep up with what was so important to him: his mission of volunteering. His life was an example we should all aspire to emulate.

Mr. Potter aided those patients who are mentally ill. He also served as volunteer board member of the Family Crisis Center, the Public Library, the Retired Teachers Association and the Rio Grande Valley Museum.

As a public official he was Harlingen City Commissioner and served a term as Mayor Pro Tem. His presence and his energy in the community have been sorely missed since we lost him last year.

Wayne Potter was a philanthropist for his country, his fellow teachers, neighbors and friends. As a math and science teacher, Mr. Potter ensured children's concerns were not overlooked; he served as a mentor and counselor to them in their time of need. During War World II when his country was in need, he enlisted in the United States Air Force, attaining the rank of Lt. Colonel.

Mr. Potter's service and volunteer efforts are greatly missed in The Rio Grande State Center. Since the center opened its doors, Mr. Potter volunteered his time and served as an officer of the organization. By the time of his passing, he had given 20,000 hours of his personal time to others. Mr. Potter leaves a legacy we all admired; as the Good Book says: "It is better to give than to receive." That's how Wayne Potter lived his life.

Mr. Speaker, the volunteering community of South Texas will honor Mr. Potter's memory and lifetime of service by naming the 55-bed mental health unit at the Rio Grande State Center the "Wayne Potter Memorial Building." His volunteering efforts will now live on through his name on the Center, which was so important to him, and his spirit of generosity.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in commending the life and service of Mr. Wayne Potter, and in paying tribute to this great example of a man whose efforts and dedication made a difference in his community, with his students, and in the lives of those less fortunate than most of us.

HONORING JASON DEDWYLDER

HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, a dedicated member of my staff has moved on to another phase of his career here in Washington DC, but I would like to take a moment to honor his service to my office and to the people of my district in Mississippi.

It was the Summer of 1998 when Jason Dedwylder first joined my team as an intern. Showing hard work, the will to learn and initiative, he came back to my staff in the Fall of 2000 to serve first as a Legislative Correspondent and then my Legislative Assistant. He worked on many issues in my office, but I am especially proud of the work he did in education and health care.

He assisted schools and Head Start centers in my district secure greater funding. He

helped shepherd teachers and principals through the No Child Left Behind reforms. When my constituents called and wrote with questions about our nation's education priorities and how our policies would impact Mississippi, Jason was always ready to discuss their concerns and answer their questions.

Jason worked many hours with me on the Energy and Commerce Committee as we crafted the landmark Medicare Act of 2003 that provided a prescription drug benefit to America's seniors. He was there as we introduced our provisions early in the process that addressed the needs of Mississippi's rural health providers to treat seniors who could otherwise not seek medical care. He was there while we built a self-injectible pilot program to reduce the costs to the Medicare system by expanding choice for seniors with afflictions like arthritis. He was even there that night when we finally passed the Medicare Act. I walked out of the Capitol that morning with Jason as the sun rose on a new day for American seniors.

Quitman—Jason's hometown in Clarke County, Mississippi—should be proud of him. He graduated from Quitman High School and then after earning a Bachelor of Science in Political Science at Mississippi State University, he came to Washington DC and made an impact not only on his family and friends back home, but on Americans across the nation. He learned the intricacies of policy and politics and added to his education a Masters in Public Policy from The George Washington University.

As Jason moves into the private sector, our office will miss his experience, knowledge, and skills, but I know he will continue to work for smart, positive policy that will benefit our nation.

Jason Dedwylder left a formative mark on the shape and operation of my office. We will not forget his good nature and considerate dedication to his work. I thank him for his service to this office and to Mississippi.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE RESERVE G.I. BILL

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, as the largest mobilization of National Guard and Reserve troops since World War II continues, the high operations tempo is undoubtedly taking a toll on members and their families. Through March of 2004, 363,000 reservists have been mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. This new operations tempo reality for the Reserve components has altered perceptions of what it means to serve as a Reservist or National Guardsman, while raising serious questions about how Reserve members are compensated in terms of benefits. If the nation is to rely on the Reserves to assume a similar role to our active duty troops in military operations, then it is essential that Reserve compensation and benefits adequately reflect that new role.

Congress has become increasingly sensitive to the needs of these servicemembers and

their families and I am heartened that we have improved Reserve component benefits in several areas. Unfortunately, education benefit shortfalls for reservists have not drawn the attention they should, as one benefit that has been left behind is the Reserve Montgomery GI Bill.

When the modern Montgomery GI Bill was established in 1985, Guard and Reserve GI Bill benefits were set at 47 percent of active duty benefits. For every \$100 that an active duty servicemember or veteran received in GI Bill benefits, a Reservist would get \$47. This ratio continued until the late 1990s, when Congress improved the active duty Montgomery GI Bill through large increases. Our active duty servicemembers have more than earned this improved educational benefit, but no similar major increases have been made for the Reserve program.

As a result, Reserve MGIB benefits have slipped to 29 percent of active duty GI Bill benefits. This is simply unacceptable and with over 350,000 Guard and Reserve members having been mobilized in the last 2 years, and many thousands more scheduled for deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq, it is well past time to fix this problem. We must not leave our citizen-soldiers behind as they go into harm's way to fight the Global War on Terrorism. Helping them transition back to civilian life by improving their educational benefits will be one important way we can help.

Today, I am introducing legislation, along with Mr. MCINTYRE of North Carolina, which will increase the Reserve GI Bill to 50 percent of the Montgomery GI Bill over a 5-year period and then keep it linked to the Montgomery GI Bill at the 50 percent rate. This bill, the LoBiondo-McIntyre Reserve GI Bill Improvements Act of 2004, would also authorize Reservists who serve on active duty for 24 months during a 5-year period to qualify for benefits under the Montgomery GI Bill program, which is now open to only active duty personnel. This is a fiscally responsible way to make an achievable increase in educational benefits for the Reserve component.

The 253rd Transportation Company out of Cape May Court House, New Jersey, in my district has just returned from over a year in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. We are very proud of the 253rd and the great contributions they have made to the Global War on Terrorism. I dedicate this legislation to all the National Guardsmen and Reservists from the Second District of New Jersey and to the thousands of other Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airman, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who secure our freedom through their dedicated service to our nation.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

FREEDOM FOR PEDRO ARGÜELLES MORÁN

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker I rise today to speak about Pedro Argüelles Morán, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Argüelles Morán is a member of the Cooperative of Independent Journalists and the