

European leaders have done a lot lately but not enough. It is necessary to do more in the fields of education, public opinion, legislation and law enforcement.

At this time, we the Jews are not alone. I can see many good friends here who are standing with us. I am aware of many people, nations and leaders who are struggling against anti-Semitism, as they understand that anti-Semitism is a danger to the stability and peace in the world, to human values.

I am aware of European governments who are our partners in our efforts and concern to provide security for every Jew and they understand that Jews have the right to live without fear anywhere.

I appreciate the governments in Europe who have already appointed special ministerial committees for fighting anti-Semitism. I appreciate countries whose parliaments dedicated special sessions on the issue of anti-Semitism.

I appreciate those countries who have decided to strongly condemn anti-Semitism in international bodies.

Indeed, now at the beginning of the 21st century, the situation is very serious. There is an increase in violence and an escalation of anti-Semitism against the Jews but there is a big difference. We are not living in the thirties. We have a Jewish, sovereign and independent state and this makes a big difference.

We know what happened in the Second World War and what racism brought upon the world and, because of this I am very pleased that there is more awareness. Now leaders are more sensitive and they protect their citizens. There is legislation and law enforcement in many countries. The leaders speak out and there are many seminars and conferences against anti-Semitism. The strong position of the United States of America in this matter is remarkable. I also very much appreciate the position of the Vatican on this difficult and tragic issue.

I am very sorry that the Irish proposal to the United Nations General Assembly in December 2003, was not adopted, because of the objection of some Muslim countries. It is very sad that a special resolution which condemns anti-Semitism and attacks against Jews cannot be passed now in the United Nations.

The European Union should continue its efforts in this important initiative and in all multilateral organizations, in fighting against anti-Semitism.

We are very proud of our Jewish heritage and history. It is a source of pride for world Jewry. I hope that the Jewish people will also be a source of appreciation, understanding and respect and not a target for hatred.

I hope and pray for cooperation for development, prosperity and tolerance instead of destruction, bloodshed and hatred.

I would like to thank, you, President Rau and Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer for this important initiative. I believe that this meeting will be very constructive and that it will help us achieve our mutual goals.

I hope that the Berlin Conference will serve as a basis for continued efforts against anti-Semitism.

I wish to express my personal appreciation to President Rau for his wise and moral leadership, for his great friendship towards Israel and the Jewish people, and his personal dedication to the fight against anti-Semitism.

We have the strength and the will to create a better world, a just world for all humanity. Let us put all our efforts together to make it possible. Let us work together.

Thank you.

## TRIBUTE TO GLEN DOUGLAS

**HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Master Sergeant Glen Douglas' sacrifice and service to our nation, which spanned twenty-two years and three wars, the first of which was World War II.

Glen Douglas is one of the most decorated veterans in our region, having received the Distinguished Service Medal and seven purple hearts among other honors.

The following excerpts from the May 4th, 2004 weekly edition of the Colville Statesman Examiner are a testament to the sacrifice, courage, commitment and leadership Mr. Douglas displayed throughout the course of his service.

Douglas's service to our country first began as an infantryman in Europe with the 101st Airborne (Screaming Eagles) in 1944 and then in the occupation army with the U.S. Constabulary. Douglas then served in the Korean War with the U.S. 2nd (Indianhead) Infantry Division from 1950-1953 before he was med-evacuated after being wounded for the eighth time. In the incidents prior when he had been wounded and evacuated, he would be taken as far as Japan before he would disappear from the hospital, get clothes and take a boat back to his Infantry Division. "I would get very angry having somebody else lead the men and lose them." Douglas said, "I hardly ever lost a man when I was leading. After being wounded for the eighth time, Douglas nearly lost his legs and spent four years, four months and twenty-six days in the Fitzsimmons Army Hospital in Denver before he was released. He was told he would never walk again. But Douglas had his own ideas. "I was released December 23, 1957" Douglas remembered. By 1959, "I was jumping out of airplanes again." Douglas served two tours in Vietnam with the Special Forces (Green Beret) and then again with the highly classified Studies and Operations Group before retiring after twenty-two years of service.

I was pleased to learn that Mr. Douglas was recently selected by fellow veterans from local chapters of the American Legion, VFW, and Marine Corps League to receive an all expense paid trip to Washington D.C. in order to represent them during the upcoming dedication of the National World War II Memorial later this month.

The Memorial is a fitting tribute to the great courage and selfless dedication of soldiers who fought in the Second World War and as we approach Memorial Day, I encourage my colleagues to reflect on the great sacrifices of men like Glen Douglas.

## IN HONOR OF THE MILE SQUARE DAY CARE CENTER ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mile Square Day Care Center in celebration of its 25th anniversary. The Mile Square Day Care Center will celebrate with a

25th Anniversary Celebration Reception on Thursday, May 20, 2004, at The Lighthouse in West New Jersey, New Jersey.

In 1977, a group of dedicated community minded people, with the help and guidance of Mayor Steve Cappiello, established a not-for-profit corporation to develop and run programs for young children. And through the hard work of the original board of directors, Hugh Kilmer, James Monaco, Dr. Frank Colon, Dr. Gerard Costa; and Charles A. Tortorella, the Mile Square Day Care Center was established in 1979.

In order to maintain the balance of community and parent involvement, the board of directors, since its inception, has consisted of an equal number of community members and parents. The original board of directors developed an environment that was nurturing and loving to the children. With the wide range of social, economic, and cultural groups, the activities in the Mile Square Day Care Center represented and continue to represent the diversity of its children and the city.

For twenty-five years, the Mile Square Day Care Center has touched the lives of over 3,000 families, providing the first preschool program in the City of Hoboken. Established in 1982 by former Executive Director Rosemary Fuocco, the Mile Square Day Care Center also began providing infant and toddler care for children ages three months to three years, and continues to provide preschool service for children three to five years of age. With a curriculum established with a hands-on approach, each child is given the opportunity to reach his or her intellectual and social potential.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the community leaders and dedicated parents, past and present, of the Mile Square Day Care Center, in recognition of their outstanding contributions and dedication to our children over the last twenty-five years.

## TRIBUTE TO A.W. PICKEL, III, UPON THE COMPLETION OF HIS TENURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MORTGAGE BROKERS

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, A.W. Pickel, III, of Lenexa, Kansas, will soon be completing a distinguished tenure as President of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB) and the Kansas Association of Mortgage Brokers. NAMB provides invaluable services for the mortgage broker industry which originates two out of three home loans in the country. It is the voice of the mortgage broker industry, with more than 16,000 members in all 50 states.

As you know, home ownership is at an all time record rate largely due to the contributions of mortgage brokers; through his involvement in NAMB, A.W. Pickel has been instrumental in shaping housing policy in this country.

A.W. Pickel, III, was the founding president of the Kansas Association of Mortgage Brokers and still serves as an active ex-officio member of the Kansas Association of Mortgage Brokers' Board of Directors. In 1999, the

Kansas Association named him Broker of the Year. He is president and CEO of Leader Mortgage Company in Lenexa, Kansas, which is in my congressional district. Leader Mortgage Company also has offices in Dallas, Texas; Des Moines, Iowa; Nashville, Tennessee; Topeka, Kansas; and Pittsburg, Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend A.W. Pickel for his contributions to his profession and involvement in his community and dedication to his wife Diane and daughters, Lara, Alissa, Jessica, and Rebecca. I join with the residents of the entire Third Congressional District of Kansas in applauding A.W. Pickel, III, for his successful tenure as President of NAMB and in wishing him continued success in all future endeavors.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I was detained and was not able to cast my vote on Rollcall #195, passage of H. Con. Res. 424, Honoring past and current members of the Armed Forces of the United States and encouraging Americans to wear red poppies on Memorial Day. Had I been present I would have voted "aye".

#### REPLANTING OF TREE MEMORIALIZING THE LATE REPRESENTATIVE JOSEPH TAGGART OF KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

##### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the honor of working with the Architect of the Capitol to replant on the east Capitol grounds a pin oak memorializing the late U.S. Representative Joe Taggart of Kansas City, Kansas.

Representative Joe Taggart was elected three times to Congress from a House district including Kansas City, Kansas—in a 1911 special election, and then in regular elections in 1912 and 1914. Born in rural Iowa in 1867, Joe Taggart moved to Kansas during his childhood and graduated from Salina Normal University in 1890; after teaching school for two years in Bavaria, Kansas, he was admitted to the practice of law in 1893 in Salina, moving shortly thereafter to Kansas City. Taggart served as Kansas City's prosecuting attorney from 1907–1911, when he was elected as a Democrat to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Alexander Mitchell. Twice re-elected, he was defeated in 1916. During the First World War, Taggart served in the quartermaster corps of the United States Army. After the war, he resumed private law practice in Kansas City and was appointed judge of the Kansas Court of Industrial Relations in 1924. Joe Taggart died in Wadsworth, Kansas, in 1938 and is buried in Atchison.

In approximately 1916, Representative Taggart and his family planted a pin oak in his

honor on the east lawn of the Capitol. The Architect of the Capitol has generously provided me with several prints of photos of that event. This tree survived, although in declining condition, until the area was leveled in order to construct the Capitol Visitors' Center. The staff of the Architect of the Capitol, led by Senior Landscape Architect and Horticulturist Matthew Evans, recently planted here on the Capitol grounds, near Independence Avenue, Southeast, a young pin oak to replace the earlier Taggart memorial tree. I also want to acknowledge the generous support of the Kansas Society of Washington, D.C.; thanks to the support of the Society's current president Heather Wingate and past presidents David Kensinger and Alan Sobba, the Kansas Society donated the cost of the new tree.

The replanting of the Joseph Taggart memorial tree serves as a small reminder of the state of Kansas on the grounds of our U.S. Capitol and I am pleased to have been a part of this event.

#### IN HONOR OF SAINT ANTHONY HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

##### HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the Congress and the nation to a story of excellence so rare that it deserves the attention of all who believe the human spirit is capable of overcoming even the greatest of odds.

This story is being written at Saint Anthony High School, a small school in downtown Jersey City whose motto is "to be all that you can be." While neither the school nor its students possess great financial resources, they are both blessed with the heart of champions.

The latest chapter of this story culminated when the Saint Anthony High School boys' basketball team won this year's New Jersey state championship with a stunning 67–55 win over Bloomfield Tech to cap a remarkable undefeated (30–0) season. With this victory, Saint Anthony High School tied a national record by winning its 24th state championship.

The team's legendary coach, Bob Hurley, has now produced an undefeated team in each of his four decades of coaching (1974, 1989, 1996, 2004).

Since Saint Anthony High School does not have a gym, the boys' basketball team has been forced to practice at a rented facility. Nevertheless, in 32 years of coaching, Hurley has compiled an amazing 826–92 record against high-caliber competition—winning an incredible 90 percent of his games.

Hurley has coached dozens of players who went on to become NCAA All-Americans and NBA stars. More importantly, he has taken thousands of boys and turned them into champions, both on and off the court. In 32 years, all but one of his players went to college.

Coach Hurley has gone on record about this undefeated 2004 team—calling them the best defensive team he's ever coached. That, I assure you Mr. Speaker, is saying something.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Coach Bob Hurley and the State Champion 2004 Saint Anthony High School

boys' basketball team in recognition of their commitment to excellence both on and off the court and for their continuing inspiration to us all.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of Monday, May 17, 2004, the House had votes on H. Con. Res. 420, H. Con. Res. 423 and H. Con. Res. 403. On House roll call votes #177, #178 and #179, I was unavoidably detained at the airport. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each.

#### SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

##### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 20, 2004*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during National Small Business Week to recognize Dr. Sam Rainey, the founder and owner the Family Pet Clinic, a small business located in my Congressional District. Dr. Rainey runs a successful veterinary clinic in Denton, Texas that employ seven North Texans—and he plans to hire another person very soon.

It is small businesses like the Family Pet Clinic that are driving America's economy today. They create the majority of new jobs and account for half of the economy's private output. In 2002, 99.7 percent of all businesses were small businesses.

Small businesses have had an enormous impact on innovation and progress in America. Historically, the bulk of breakthrough products emerged from small businesses. Small firms produce 13 to 14 times more patents per employee than large companies.

The 108th Congress has passed a number of initiatives to bolster small businesses including the Jobs and Growth Reconciliation Act of 2003 which included a provision that tripled the amount that small businesses can immediately expense and increased bonus depreciation for the purchase of capital equipment.

In addition to fiscally helping small businesses, the House of Representatives passed Association Health Plan legislation that would enable small businesses, of similar trade and profession, to pool their employees for better health care coverage benefits. By joining together, small employers will enjoy greater bargaining power, economies of scale and administrative efficiencies.

In conclusion, as we celebrate National Small Business Week, congratulate Dr. Sam Rainey and his thriving small business and urge the U.S. Senate to show their support of America's small businesses by passing initiatives, like association health plans, that are important to small businesses and their employees.