

admiration we have for our nation's soldiers who risk their life to defend our country.

RECOGNIZING A STATEMENT BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a statement by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia in recognition of the hope of peace created by recent Middle East developments.

Israel's historic disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank has begun on August 15, 2005. These unilateral acts by a democratic Israel, though coordinated with the Palestinian Authority, approved by its government and Knesset, and commanding a majority in the Israeli public, are nonetheless painful and controversial in uprooting thousands of Israeli settlers from areas associated with Biblical Israel gained following the 1967 Six-Day War.

Paradoxically, that miraculous victory by a gravely threatened Israel facilitated through a pre-emptive strike by the superb Israeli Air Force that destroyed the Egyptian planes still on the ground, saddled Israel with two challenging dilemmas; a recalcitrant, fast growing Palestinian population with its own national aspirations and a rising messianic Judaism mesmerized by a universal redemptive vision rooted in the stunning return to the ancient inheritance with every inch of it consequential, flying in the face of classical Zionism's operative principle of compromise with the Arabs.

I surely sympathize with fellow Jews who accomplished much and whose lives are now dramatically impacted with their realities and dreams undergoing demanding change. We also recognize that both Likud and Labor-led governments encouraged the settlement enterprise as a patriotic act. How ironic and symbol-laden that Prime Minister Sharon is the one presiding over the transfer of territory that he was the grand architect of settling, stamped by his unique style of charismatic leadership and pioneering zeal. I personally witnessed during earlier missions to Israel the enthusiastic use of dotted maps by the once hero of the settlers' movement and the political Right who has turned into their maligned figure, making him into the most guarded man on earth.

How history repeats itself with altered twists. It was Sharon who as Defense Minister ordered the destruction of Yamit in 1982 in the wake of the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt which included the Sinai Peninsula's loss. It is this courageously transformed Prime Minister Sharon who, following the bloody Second Intifada of barbaric suicide bombings against Israel's civilian population, the death of his longstanding nemesis Chairman Arafat and the yet unsettling murder of Prime Minister Rabin by a fanatic Jew, has finally decided to act.

He thus offsets world pressure and begins to draw, with the Road Map's backdrop,

Israel's future boundaries sans the Palestinian demographic trap, signaling with sacrificial acts to the Palestinian Authority Israel's abiding interest in reaching a peace agreement and its commitment to establishing a Palestinian state. The Israeli military is also freed from the cumbersome and expensive yoke of guarding the Gaza settlers, attempting to preserve the genuinely Biblically connected major blocks of West Bank settlements, assuring greater Jerusalem's Jewish destiny.

This realistic Zionist vision comes with the heavy and traumatic price of relocating Israelis whose majority peacefully complies albeit with some understandable legal demonstration. However, a hard core minority with outside agitators seems bent on resisting the order to evacuate in spite of offered compensation, even as we pray that in the moment of truth the tragically unacceptable scenario of Jew fighting Jew will be averted. To be sure, the state's authority properly carried out should prevail to safeguard its very foundation.

What is described as Israel's most fateful internal test since 1948, will hopefully prove a rallying point for reordering the only Jewish state's priorities toward applying its limited resources to pressing economic, social and educational needs along with focusing on the holy as well southern Negev and northern Galilee, without which an enduring Israel is truly at risk, quality-wise and physically.

The Palestinian Authority has a golden opportunity and responsibility, not to be missed, assuring that violence from its midst will not interfere with Israel's forthcoming move which benefits both sides to this far too long and costly entanglement. Indeed, the challenge for President Abbas remains to put an end to Palestinian terrorism and competing organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, undermining both Israel's and his own dreams for his people. How his leadership will run the evacuated territory will be indicative of what's in store for a future Palestine state. Active American involvement and essential support remain key for the prospect of peace and prosperity to the entire turbulent region bearing upon the world at large these eventful times.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER MIAMI CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Greater Miami Chapter of The Links, Inc., on their 50th year of outstanding commitment to community service. The ceremony recognizing this important milestone will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2005, at Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida.

The Greater Miami Chapter was chartered on Saturday, November 5, 1955, when founding members Maude K. Reid, Mayme E. Williams, and Susie W. Francis brought together 15 other charter members for an installation ceremony at the Carver Hotel in Overtown.

During its 50th anniversary celebration, the chapter will honor 7 honorees: charter member Susie W. Francis, Frances J. Chambers, Gwendolyn H. Welters, Dorothy J. Fields, Ph.D.; Castell V. Bryant, Ed.D., Regina J. Frazier, and Senator Frederica S. Wilson.

The Greater Miami Chapter lists among its many accomplishments programs that bolster the arts, promote awareness of international issues and multicultural events, and assist young people in reaching their full potential.

Nationally, The Links, Inc. has grown to 274 chapters and approximately 11,000 members who reside in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the Bahamas, Germany and South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years after their founding, the members of the Greater Miami Chapter of The Links, Inc. are a powerful force for change in the South Florida Community. I thank them for all of their efforts, and wish them another successful 50 years of making a positive impact in the lives of others.

DAYS OF AWE: FORGIVENESS, ATONEMENT AND PEACE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish L'Shanah Tova "Good Year" to my Jewish friends in Congress and to Jewish people around the world as they begin the celebration of the Days of Awe: the sacred Holy Days beginning with Rosh Hashanah continuing to the holiest day Yom Kippur, which falls on October 13, 2005. To those Jews who must feel the most forgotten and alone whether in Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and the remnants still living in poverty in Poland, Russia and other parts of Eastern Europe who can only celebrate these Holy Days in their hearts, I rise to say you are not forgotten.

For Jewish people Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as well as the days between are the most solemn of all the Jewish Holidays and for some the most important. These ten days are sometimes known as the Days of Remembrance, the Days of Repentance and the Days of Awe. Unlike other Jewish holidays and festivals which are closely tied to harvests and changes of seasons, the High Holy Days are spiritual days of soul-searching and prayer.

Rosh Hashanah is a beginning of a spiritual new year, when each Jew can ask forgiveness for sin of conduct and of the heart, atone for those sins and begin again asking God to inscribe him or her in the "Book of Life." On Rosh Hashanah the Book is opened. The Shofar, the curled ram's horn, calls the Jewish people to gather together to pray on Rosh Hashanah as the Book of Life is opened, just as it has for the last 3000 years.

The Jewish liturgy or prayers said during this holiday not only ask for forgiveness from God for sins against both of conduct and of the heart, the prayers remind the people that they cannot be forgiven by God for sins committed against their fellow man. For forgiveness from others, they must atone by seeking it from the people they have hurt and doing charity. The liturgy, both the ancient derived from many beloved psalms as well as newer liturgy, which recognizes political realities of

our time, center on ethical concerns, searching for the core of the ethical human being, the meaning of righteousness and good.

For Jewish people this High Holy Day is one for evaluating their conduct of the past year, not only toward their fellow man, but for all the creatures of the earth and for the earth itself. This re-thinking of their conduct requires each person to examine his or her moral and spiritual values, principles, ethical standards, in other words the moral core of their being. The Jews from ancient times valued these high holy days more than the other holidays and traveled to the Temple in Jerusalem so the High Priests could perform the spiritual rituals that would cleanse them of their sins and seek blessings of peace for them and inscribe each with his or loved ones in the Book of Life. This day is the beginning of the Jewish calendar year. It is a beginning in a spiritual sense which is more important than a change in the calendar.

For the Jewish people, each Rosh Hashanah is a new year that is one more step in a history thousands of years long. Jewish people strive to understand the values of our forebears and build on what has gone before. Jewish people all over the world read from the writings of the sages who wrote during the long exile in Babylon a model for moral behavior:

“The one who proceeds with integrity, and takes action for justice, and speaks truth with their heart, the one who does no harm to others, and does not raise trouble for their neighbor. . . .”

On Rosh Hashanah Jews also reflect on the words of Isaiah,

“Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean. Put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes. Cease to do evil; learn what is good. Seek justice; relieve the oppressed; Speak out for the orphan; advocate for the widow.”—Isaiah, I: 16-17

The prayers are also a promise to God to strive for peace. In this Holy Day liturgy which spans the millennia, the Jewish people around the world pray for God’s peace: Bring peace, the Jews sing, peace to the Jews and to the whole world.

The second High Holy Day, Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is the most solemn day of the Jewish year. Yom Kippur is a day of fasting, reflection and prayers. The names of this day in Hebrew are many: Yom HaZikkaron, “Day of remembrance,” Yom ha-Din “Day of Judgment”, the day on which God judges all human beings by their deeds during the year just ended and inscribes their fate in the heavenly record book for the next year. Some believe the Book of Life will close at sundown on Yom Kippur. As the sun slowly sinks in the sky, the fasting people stand for the entire evening service. Some believe literally, others believe metaphorically, that on this day God has determined who will live, and who will die. They make a last plea for their loved ones and themselves. They also pledge to live the ethical life they believe is required of them by soul or spirit that is the spark of God in them. In Judaism, ethics are the foundation of prayer and the theology of prayer. This is most evident on the High Holy Days.

Yom Kippur is also called in Hebrew, Yom Teruah, “The Day of the Sounding of the Shofar” In the ancient past trumpet sound called the people together to repent sins, to forsake evil and to pursue goodness and mercy. One

of the most important observances of this holiday is hearing the repeated trumpeting sound of the Shofar in the synagogue.

For most Jews the call of the Shofar is a reminder of their rich heritage, the centuries in a Diaspora when they had nothing but their Holy Book and their liturgy. The call of the Shofar reminds Jews they survived the Roman Empire which burned their Holy Temple twice and drove them to exile; survived expulsion from Spain, survived pogroms, poverty and restrictive regulations in Russia and Eastern Europe and even survived the Nazi “final solution, genocide the murder of their men, women and their babies; survived to have a Jewish Country and flag. In all that time and through all those trials, the Jews of the world have kept their Holy Days. Their Holy Book is unchanged from the day they took it into exile. The Jews have lived now to hear the Shofar blown in Israel as it was before the Diaspora. The liturgy has remained as it was in ancient times, but in the last century prayers and remembrances have been added for the victims of the Holocaust.

The words of the Kaddish are a hymn that praises God. It is a public declaration of the Jewish belief that God is Great and Holy and it envisions a time when Peace will be established on earth. One form of the prayer says “may He who makes peace in heaven, make peace for us.”

On the High Holy Days, the Days of Awe of 2005, I join with my Jewish friends and wish peace for us.

HONORING ANDREA LEIDERMAN

**HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and contributions of Ms. Andrea Leiderman who recently passed away. Andrea is survived by her parents and siblings, and her loving husband, Hayes Alexander, III. She will be sorely missed by her many friends and our community. Today, I honor her energy, her determination and her life-long service to the Bay Area community.

Andrea Naomi Leiderman was born on August 8, 1959 in Boston, Massachusetts, to Drs. Herbert and Gloria Leiderman. The family moved west when Andrea, the youngest of four children, was four years old. Andrea grew up on the Stanford campus where her father is a professor emeritus, and has always been politically active. As a child, she organized a school grape boycott in support of the United Farm Workers; as an adult, she worked on the presidential campaigns of George McGovern, Jimmy Carter and Alan Cranston.

Andrea attended Vassar College, majoring in political science. After college, she worked as a legislative assistant to former New York Representative Matt McHugh and, later, as the LBJ Congressional Fellow to former California Representative Norman Mineta, currently U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Andrea also served as an aide to County Supervisor Jim Beall during his tenure on the San Jose City Council.

Andrea was only 28 years old when she was elected as chairwoman of the Santa Clara County Democratic Party. She was also elect-

ed as chair of the Women’s Caucus, and received the highest number of votes in delegate elections.

Andrea served on the Santa Clara County Board of Education, including two terms as President of the Board in 1995 and 2000. Andrea spearheaded school board policy on neighborhood outreach while advocating workforce education and emphasizing assistance to underrepresented students. She was also a valued trustee of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District.

Most recently, Andrea was Director of Government and Community Relations for Kaiser Permanente’s South Bay facilities, using her experience in the public sector to promote healthcare. She was a dedicated and committed worker until the end.

Andrea Leiderman died at the very young age of 46, on September 11, 2005. When she passed away, our community lost one of its most dynamic community activists—an advocate of minority rights, social justice, education and equality.

IN HONOR OF COACH SAM MILLS

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a distinguished athlete from my district, Carolina Panthers’ Linebacker Coach Sam Mills. Unfortunately, after fighting cancer for two years, Mr. Mills passed away on April 18, 2005 at the age of 45.

Not only did Mr. Mills play in the NFL for twelve seasons, he used his expertise to coach the Panthers’ linebackers. Sam Mills played his first nine seasons with the New Orleans Saints and his last three with the Panthers. He earned five Pro Bowl selections, including one while playing for Carolina in 1996. Sam was the second member of the Panthers Hall of Fame and was elected to the Sports Hall of Fame of New Jersey in 2003. Despite injuries to two of his best linebackers last season, Coach Mills led his linebacking corps to be an integral part of a defense that has ranked in the top ten for the past two seasons.

John Fox, the head coach of the Carolina Panthers, stated upon Mills’ passing, “. . . as a coach he made the players better; as a friend he made us all better”.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in acknowledging the life and work of this exceptional individual. I wish to honor Coach Sam Mills for his ability to impart his skills and intelligence upon his players and for his outstanding career as both a professional player and coach.

TRIBUTE TO GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES WHO ARE CAREGIVERS

**HON. BOB BEAUPREZ**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 7, 2005*

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, across the country there are more than 6 million children