

Recently, the president and publisher, Michael G. Kane, wrote in a message to readers: "Through 150 years, 16 publishers, seven name changes, five building locations, and more than 45,000 editions, we have been the eyes and ears of mid-Michigan. And a remarkable community it is: capital of the great state of Michigan, home of one of the nation's great universities, and birthplace of an automobile industry."

Clearly, the newspaper leadership and its staff understands that in one of the most diverse regions of the state, the Lansing State Journal is called on to fulfill its responsibility as community mirror, historian, and monitor. From birth to death, the Lansing State Journal chronicles the important milestones in the lives of the people who live and work in mid-Michigan, captures in print and picture the ebb and flow of life in each community throughout the region, and serves as a key element in the mid-Michigan marketplace.

From the reception desk to the newsroom and advertising department, to the press room and the circulation office and distribution team, the people who produce a newspaper every day of every year are truly part of the heartbeat of the mid-Michigan region.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Lansing State Journal and its employees and retirees for all they have accomplished. May we extend best wishes for the future, and express our respect and appreciation for their important role in the community.

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

Tuesday, April 19, 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.

I have been witness to remarkable developments in the Middle East with far-reaching implications, giving that volatile and violent region and the world at large renewed hope for peaceful transformation following four and a half years of the bloody Second Intifada now formally ended.

As a member of the Rabbinical Council of ARZA, the Association of The Reform Zionists of America, serving the million and a half Jews of Reform Judaism, our delegation was at Israel's Knesset when German President Horst Kohler accompanied by Israeli President Moshe Katzav entered to address the parliamentary body on the 40th anniversary of Israeli-German diplomatic relations. Sixty years since the death camps' liberation it was still too trying for a few of Israel's elected representatives to hear the language used by the Holocaust's perpetrators though Germany has become Israel's close friend.

Yet this historic opportunity, the first for a German president on an official state visit with the German flag decorating Jerusalem's streets, is an appreciated lesson that peace can follow a painful past. It also alerts us that fears and vulnerabilities simmer just

below the surface, mindful of the global rise in anti-Semitism and the apprehension concerning ultimate Arab intentions. In our discussions with Knesset members of both the coalition and opposition, we were exposed to Israel's vibrant democracy that hopefully will spread throughout the Middle East.

Equally significant was to watch Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's motorcade speed through Israel's Capital. Her poignant presence so closely following her installation in office was a clear signal to all concerned that the United States led by President George W. Bush placed the settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict high on its agenda of concerns, to enabling both sides to reach that elusive peace which involves the traumatic disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank along with further trying concessions for the two long-embattled peoples. Chairman Abu Mazen's immediate and fateful challenge is to prevail upon militant Palestinians to end the terrorism of suicide bombings and rocket launchings that might derail progress as in the past. However, Jewish extremists pose danger of their own, recalling Prime Minister Rabin's 1995 assassination.

I was glued to Israeli T.V. as the Sharon Summit with Prime Minister Sharon, Chairman Abu Mazen, President Mubarak and King Abdullah gathered with evident determination to break through the vicious cycle of death and despair. Both Sharon and Abu Mazen vowed to immediately cease all military operations with Egypt and Jordan committing to returning their ambassadors to Israel. When Sharon heartfeltdly spoke these unforgettable words, "to kindle for all the region's nations a first light of hope," I whispered my own "Amen."

Our warm meeting in Tel-Aviv with American Ambassador Daniel Kurtzer was an illuminating experience, as we were briefed by a Middle East expert on the arena's shifting dynamics. He expressed cautious optimism following Arafat's departure, the one who was the stalling obstacle at Camp David 2000 and beyond. We toured various segments of the "security barrier," and in Jerusalem we were guided by Colonel (Res.) Danny Terza, the project's head administrator for the Ministry of Defense who has been responsible for its complex erection in a city with multi religious and ethnic layers that he successfully dialogued with to avoid hard feelings. The cement part of the fence, only 4.5 percent of it, is designed to be dismantled when called upon. Its purpose of blocking terrorist infiltrations has proved itself over ninety percent.

We held a memorial service in the Nahalal cemetery of the Jesreel valley for Israel's first astronaut, Ilan Ramon, who perished along with his heroic fellow crew members of the Columbia shuttle two years ago. Ilan, who participated as a pilot in 1981 in destroying Iraq's nuclear facility and whose mother survived Auschwitz, will remain an enduring symbol of courage and creativity. Our group of rabbis also paid respect at the Abukasis home in the town of Sderot, who lost their seventeen year old daughter Ella, an exemplary young woman, in a rocket attack on January 15 from neighboring Gaza. The heroic high school senior was killed while she saved the life of her wounded ten year old brother Tamir, protecting him with her own body.

Let the day come soon when the children of both parties to the tragic conflict will grow up to fulfill their soaring dreams. After all, it is their birthright and the best guarantee for lasting peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF GERTRUDE BAGNALL

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Gertrude Bagnall for her courageous and selfless actions, which resulted in the rescue of a human life.

Mrs. Bagnall, with little regard to her own safety, raced into a church building in Farrell, Pennsylvania that had, moments earlier, exploded. Gertrude rushed to the aid of Pastor Barbara McCrae and parishioner Bruce Davis. She was able to assist Pastor Barbara McCrae from the building and into a waiting ambulance. Gertrude uncovered Mr. Davis from debris that had fallen on him in the explosion, allowing him to be rescued by emergency workers that arrived on the scene. Gertrude's bravery will be recognized at the "Celebrate a Hero" banquet to be held in her honor on Saturday, March 19, 2005 at the Hermitage Fire Hall.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring Gertrude Bagnall. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute citizens such as Gertrude that display such selflessness and courage.

HONORING HENRIETTA VILLAESCUSA

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Henrietta Villaescusa, who passed away at the age of 84 on March 6, 2005, in Tucson, Arizona. As we join her family and friends who mourn her loss, I would like to acknowledge Henrietta for her remarkable contributions to public health, the nursing profession and the Hispanic community.

Henrietta Villaescusa was a pioneering Latina at a time when Hispanic women were not widely represented in the nursing field. Henrietta served as the only Hispanic public health supervising nurse for the Los Angeles City Health Department. She later broke boundaries in the federal government as the first Hispanic nurse to serve as Health Administrator for the Health Services Administration and the first Mexican-American Chief Nurse Consultant in the Office of Maternal and Child Health. Henrietta eventually rose to the position of chief nurse of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, where she was responsible for all nursing aspects of the nation's maternal and children's health programs.

Henrietta's work was not limited to America. She helped improve health care in Latin America through her work at the Alliance for Progress, the President's Office of Community Development and the Agency for International Development.

Nor was her work limited by her retirement. After officially retiring in 1985, Henrietta was asked by the Surgeon General to help develop

the Hispanic Health Initiative. President Reagan's Health and Human Services Secretary appointed her to the Task Force on Minority Health to advocate for Hispanic health needs. Henrietta also edited the first Hispanic Health Bibliography, which highlighted Hispanic health research needs and the need to prepare more Hispanic health professionals to conduct such research.

Henrietta gave so much of herself to assist others. She mentored Hispanic leaders and shared her vision with the federal government, local community health programs in Los Angeles, and organizations including the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization and the Mexican American National Women's Association.

Her accomplishments as a Latina, nurse and activist for others less fortunate are truly extraordinary. She will be greatly missed by those whose lives she touched.

TRIBUTE TO MARY ANN RABIN

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special constituent, Mary Ann Rabin, on the occasion of her receipt of the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction. This award is the OWBA's highest award for professional excellence and is bestowed annually on a deserving attorney who exhibits leadership in the areas of advancing the status and interests of women and in improving the legal profession in the State of Ohio. It gives me great pleasure to wish Ms. Rabin my warmest congratulations on this truly special occasion.

Mary Ann (Mickey) Rabin is a nationally recognized bankruptcy practitioner and a founding partner of Rabin & Rabin Co., L.P.A. She practices law with two of her three children. Ms. Rabin received her J.D. degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 1978 and her A.B. degree in music in 1956 from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ms. Rabin is a Fellow of the American College of Bankruptcy, a member of the Bankruptcy Trustees for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Ohio since 1983, a life member of the Eighth Judicial Conference, and a founding member of the Ohio Women's Bar Association.

Ms. Rabin is a dedicated community activist devoting hours of pro bono work to local organizations including serving on the board of the Cleveland Legal Aid Society.

On April 29, 2005, OWBA President Halle M. Hebert will be presenting Ms. Rabin with the Ohio Women's Bar Association's Justice Alice Robie Resnick Award of Distinction at its Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

It gives me great pleasure to rise today, Mr. Speaker, and join the OWBA in congratulating Mary Ann Rabin and wishing her continued success.

KEN-CREST CENTERS CENTENNIAL

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, 2005 marks Ken-Crest Centers' centennial celebration. For the past 100 years, this faith-based, non-profit organization, which was started by the Lutheran Church in Plymouth Meeting, PA, has been dedicated to the concept of bringing ability to life.

Throughout its history, Ken-Crest has pioneered services for the most vulnerable, including the terminally-ill, the abandoned, and the disabled. Ken-Crest began its work in 1905, leading the fight against tuberculosis in the Kensington section of Philadelphia by providing the children of infected families with a safe refuge.

As a former social worker, I am inspired by the story of Sister Maria Roeck, a Lutheran Church deaconess and German immigrant, who founded Ken-Crest, originally called the Kensington Dispensary. Sister Roeck was called to action by the loss of loved ones to tuberculosis. She passionately battled the so-called "white plague" that decimated her beloved Kensington; abiding by the motto "to cure sometimes, to relieve often, to comfort always."

In the 1950s, as tuberculosis became better contained, Ken-Crest took on a new mission—providing for the mentally retarded and those with developmental disabilities. Its success has made it the largest community-based provider of assistance to people with disabilities in the Philadelphia region, serving more than 6,400 people at 350 locations.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in congratulating Ken-Crest on more than 100 years of outstanding service. I know their good work and mission will continue for many years to come.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF
PREGNANCY CARE CENTERS

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Pregnancy Care Centers on its 20th Anniversary, and recognize the exemplary performance of service that the organization provides the 4th District of Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1985, the Pregnancy Care Centers have provided over 7,000 women with free pregnancy tests, and have counseled its clients to find alternatives to abortion. The Pregnancy Care Centers have helped to teach the message of abstinence and have provided post abortion Bible studies to dozens of women who have sought healing and forgiveness.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Pregnancy Care Centers. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the service of organizations like the Pregnancy Care Centers which provide such valuable services.

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS'
RIGHTS WEEK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, last week I stood unified with my constituents in Jamestown in observing National Crime Victims' Rights week.

Every person, male, female, children and adults alike have the right to be free from violent acts not only in the community in which they live but also in their homes. This week and every week to follow let us stand strong as one to break the cycle of violence in America.

Our wonderful Jamestown community has been blessed with Thelma Samuelson, Chairperson for the Chautauqua County Victims' Rights Week Effort and the numerous individuals and organizations that gave of their time to support the effort to ensure justice in all of our lives.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that you do to make Jamestown a better place to work, play and raise a family. Your efforts do not just benefit Jamestown but they also reflect upon Chautauqua County, New York State and all over the United States.

“MODERN DAY MOSES”

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Congressman STEVE KING for his excellent speech, included here for the RECORD, addressing courts' attacks on religion in the United States. Our Constitution never intended for religion to be eliminated from the public square, but that is what judges are forcing upon us. I appreciate Congressman KING's eloquent statement on the judicial assault on religion.

[From the desk of Congressman Steve King, Iowa, Fifth District, Mar. 6, 2005]

MODERN DAY MOSES

I turned my eyes away from "In God We Trust," engraved deeply in the stone above the Speaker's chair, and walked under the direct stone gaze of Moses, as I left the chambers of the United States House of Representatives. I walked through statuary hall in the U.S. Capitol where Thomas Jefferson and James Madison were among the first presidents to attend regular church services. The House Chaplain had given the opening prayer to start the legislative day and our member's chapel in the capitol was open for morning meditation as I walked briskly across the capitol grounds to the Supreme Court. The cases of *Van Orden v. Perry* and *McCreary County, Kentucky v. ACLU*, were to be heard this day. I went expecting to hear profound Constitutional arguments before the only court created by the Constitution, the Supreme Court.

I walked up the steps of the high courthouse. From the top of the pediment, looming, larger than life, Moses gazes down, holding the Ten Commandments. All who pause here and all who enter here are on notice, this is a nation built upon a moral foundation, a nation of laws, not of men, a nation