

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 5, 2005*

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to those marking this most solemn of days—Yom Hashoah. Holocaust Remembrance Day commemorates one of the darkest periods in our shared human history. We remember the victims of this unspeakable tragedy. At the same time, this day marks the beginning of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, and we celebrate the indomitable spirit of freedom and hope that resides in all of us.

This day does not belong to one people or commemorate just one moment in time. Yom Hashoah reminds us of the darkness and evil that still exists in this world and charges each of us to stand against the atrocities that men can bring about.

We remember only too well the horrors of "ethnic cleansing" in the Balkans and the genocide in Rwanda just a few years ago. Not only do we remind ourselves of the evils of our recent past, but also we take this time to look at the world we live in today as well. Religious, ethnic, racial and cultural strife continue to divide people around the world. Despite the lessons of our past, we are shamed by the knowledge that the world community was once again too slow to respond to the tragedy that is taking place in the Darfur region of Sudan. We are shamed by the knowledge that we have the ability to prevent genocide and suffering, but we do not act.

That is why it is so important that we speak out today to remember the victims of the Holocaust and of all genocides throughout the world. This year marks the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. Our greatest generation did not stand still against this evil. We must be ready and willing to follow in their footsteps.

Merely saying "never again" is not enough. Only by raising awareness of these atrocities can we begin to stop them from happening to any group or people again. While this day is somber and full of self-reflection, it is important to also recall the kindness of so many who risked everything to save and hide their neighbors, friends, or even complete strangers.

For many people, the bravery of Anne Frank sums up the best hopes for the future of humanity. Though she and her family fell victim to the horror, and ultimate fate of millions, she still wrote in her diary:

"I don't think of all the misery, but of all the beauty that still remains. . . . In spite of everything, I still believe that people are really good at heart."

Through understanding our past and each other, we can create the beautiful, peaceful, and hopeful world Anne Frank once envisioned.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
CHOLENE ESPINOZA ON HER  
40TH BIRTHDAY**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:  
Whereas, Cholene Espinoza is celebrating her 40th Birthday today; and

Whereas, Cholene Espinoza has been a positive influence on those individuals who have been fortunate to meet her; and

Whereas, Cholene Espinoza has exemplified a love for her family and friends and must be commended for her dedication to helping others.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Cholene Espinoza as she celebrates her 40th Birthday.

HONORING THE VAN VANDALS

**HON. JEB HENSARLING**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor the Van Vandals boy's basketball team who won the Texas 3A High School Basketball Championship on March 11, 2005. In their first trip to the state finals in 63 years, the Vandals beat Graham High School to return home with the state championship trophy. The victory capped off an outstanding season for the Vandals with an impressive record of 38–2.

I would like to recognize teammates Grant McMillan, Kacey McCauley, Cory Foster, Beau Garland, Marcus Brown, Cody Huffman, Dalvin Davis, Duncan McFarland, Brandon Roberts, Chris Gossett, Andrew Thompson, Kenny Ghormley, Jeramie Calhoun, Wade Mackey, as well as Head Coach Jerry Cassell and Assistant Coaches Jeff Hutchins and Rick Jones.

As the congressional representative of the families, coaches, and supporters of the Van Vandals, it is my pleasure to recognize their tremendous victory and outstanding season. This is an accomplishment that these young men will remember for the rest of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO LLOYD CUTLER

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to a friend and champion of democracy, Lloyd Cutler. Sadly, Lloyd passed away this past Sunday.

His accomplishments are too numerous to list. Serving as Counsel to two presidents and founding a distinguished law firm are just two of the feats he is known for. But Lloyd was more than just the Washington insider he is often portrayed as and his legacy extends far beyond the highest levels of our government; his connections to Presidents did not diminish

his resolve to fight for the rights of all Americans.

At President Kennedy's request, he founded and co-chaired the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and developed the organization's mission to engage private lawyers in securing equal justice for all minorities and races in our nation. Indeed, it was because of Lloyd's efforts that many of those arrested for protesting segregation decades ago received legal representation.

He also never wavered in his commitment to the preservation of our democracy anytime the strength of our democracy came into question. After the tragedy of September 11, he was a welcome co-chair of the Continuity of Government Commission. After the 2000 elections, he led the National Commission on Federal Election Reform to ensure no American would be denied the right to vote.

What many may not know is that even as a young man, Lloyd was not content to sit by the sidelines in times of trouble. As a newly minted lawyer, he left a high-profile New York law firm at the start of World War II to enlist in the Army. Time and time again, the pattern has repeated itself; where others saw challenges and setbacks to our country, Lloyd saw another opportunity to serve.

He was a model of civility and bipartisanship that almost seems anachronistic in today's strident debates. It has been said that cooler heads prevail; it must be true because Lloyd accomplished so much.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRIAN A.  
ARNOLD—A CAREER OF SERVICE**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, commanding the Space and Missiles System Center at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, the Nation's leading supplier of military space technology, is an accomplishment in itself. Leading the base to an unprecedented 41 consecutive successful launches is nothing short of historic. Lt. Gen. Brian A. Arnold, a 34-year veteran of the United States Air Force, has achieved this record over the past 4 years.

As Base Commander, the three star General has managed the entire spectrum of the Air Force's missile and satellite systems—from research and design to the command, control and launch of these systems.

General Arnold's record of success is more than a statistical anomaly. His organization is responsible for providing cutting edge space technology to the warfighter by creating transformational technologies like the Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle; the Space-Based Infrared System; military communication satellites; the Navstar Global Positioning System; intercontinental ballistic missile programs; the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program; and many other emerging systems critically important to the warfighter.

Leading more than 6,500 employees nationwide, with an annual budget of \$10 billion and an active program portfolio of \$60 billion, General Arnold has established SMC as the Nation's leading center of excellence for military space acquisition.

Under his stewardship, the El Segundo base has built a record of excellence translating directly to a more cost-effective military and a safer America.

Before becoming a guiding force in space procurement, General Arnold spent the majority of his career as a pilot in FB-111 and B-52 aircraft, serving with distinction as a squadron commander, wing commander and sub-unit commander.

Fortunately, General Arnold's retirement from the Los Angeles Air Force Base does not mean that he is leaving the South Bay, as he and his delightful wife Tina will be residing in San Pedro, a part of my Congressional District.

I join the airmen and airwomen at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, as well as countless space program team members, in thanking General Arnold for his outstanding leadership as Base Commander and distinguished service in the war against terrorism.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
BRUCE RATNER ON HIS 60TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Bruce Ratner is celebrating his 60th birthday with family and friends; and

Whereas, Bruce Ratner is a positive influence on all persons in his life, leading by example; and

Whereas, Bruce Ratner has exemplified a love for his family, and must be commended for his dedicated service to the community.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Bruce Ratner as he celebrates his 60th birthday.

HONORING FILER ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL'S PARTICIPANTS IN THE  
"50 MILE BIG WALK"

**HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated group of Filer Elementary School students, teachers, parents and volunteers who will be participating in a fifty mile walk between the Malad Gorge State Park and Filer, Idaho.

Each day this week, the fourth grade class of Filer Elementary School will walk 10 miles along the Snake River Canyon, following the same path crossed over 150 years ago by settlers migrating west on the Oregon trail. These students have been training for months for this big week where they will literally be taking school out on the road. By participating in a physical challenge that is attainable through goal setting, hard work and perseverance, these students redefine their personal potential far beyond what they once thought possible.

While the students journey through Southern Idaho, they will learn about and identify

the large melon shaped boulders along the Snake River Canyon that were formed 15,000 years ago. They will also learn about the hardships faced by the first settlers in whose footsteps they are following. Much like Lewis and Clark, every evening the students will record their impressions in a journal. These journals become a reflection of the transformation that takes place within these children during this memorable week.

Over the past 10 years, more than 1,000 students, teachers, parents and volunteers have completed the "50 Mile Big Walk" The students come to understand that if you can walk 50 miles when you are in fourth grade, there isn't anything in life you can't do if you set a goal, work hard and help others along the way.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate everyone involved in the "50 Mile Big Walk" and commend them on their hard work and dedication. To the walkers, I want you to know that I will be thinking of you and wishing you well every step of the way. Thank you, Filer Elementary School for being an inspiration to us all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ALVARO  
AGUIRRE

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and achievements of Mr. Alvaro Aguirre. A lifelong educator and member of the Latin Chamber, Las Vegas, Nevada, 74, Mr. Aguirre passed away peacefully the morning of Friday, April 22, 2005. Born to Arturo Aguirre Matheu and Marta Diaz Raphael on December 22, 1930, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Alvaro moved to the United States when he was 17 years of age, graduated from San Mateo Junior College, with a degree in Biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. He later completed his doctoral studies in Animal Nutrition at the University of Florida.

Alvaro taught at Harvard Project Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Honduras, and served as the professor of the College of Biological Sciences as well as president of the National University of Guatemala San Carlos regional campus system. He served on the team at the Nutritional Institute of Central America and Panama, credited with creating INCAPARINA, a food substitute for indigent people. Additionally, he was active in the Lions International in Guatemala, having served as president of the Quetzaltenango Club.

Alvaro spent his life as an educator and academic counselor. As a bilingual counselor, he helped thousands of Nevada students, prior to his retirement from the Clark County School District. His dedication to providing the youth of southern Nevada with the finest of educations commends us to look to Alvaro as a role model and personification of the value of education.

Alvaro was a loving husband, father, brother, grandfather and friend. My sympathies go out to those who survive him: his loving wife, Eugenia, sons, Alvaro, Jr., Luis Pedro; Aldo Adrian and Hernan, and daughters Rita and

Eugenia Maria. Alvaro was blessed with many grandchildren, living in Las Vegas, New Mexico and in Guatemala.

I join the community in thanking Alvaro Aguirre for his dedication, commitment and hard work on behalf of so many communities all across the American continent. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family. I urge all of my colleagues to heed the example set by this extraordinary individual in his devotion to providing education to our most vulnerable children.

COMMENDING THE HEROISM AND  
VALOR OF THE UNITED STATES  
NAVY'S CARRIER AIR GROUP 83

**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize and commend the heroism and valor of the United States Navy's Carrier Air Group 83. During World War II, Navy Carrier Air Group 83 was responsible for the identification of, and subsequent successful attacks on, the Japanese midget submarine base on an island off Okinawa before the invasion by Allied forces in April 1945. Carrier Air Group 83 also attacked and contributed to the sinking of the Japanese battleship *yamato* in April 1945.

Carrier Air Group 83 was specifically commended by the commander of the United States Tenth Army for close air support strikes in support of operations on Okinawa in April 1945, and continued to perform those missions in an exemplary manner through May 1945. In addition, Air Group 83 engaged in attacks against the Kure naval facility and the Japanese battleship *negato* in July 1945.

Carrier Air Group 83 is credited with the destruction of over 220 Japanese aircraft in aerial combat and over 75 aircraft on the ground during the months of March to August 1945, a critical contribution to Allied victory over the Empire of Japan in the Pacific Theater during World War II. All Americans should know of and commend the heroism and valor of Navy Carrier Air Group 83 and the contribution of that Air Group and its personnel to the defeat of Japan in the Pacific Theater during World War II.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING  
KAREN RANUCCI ON HER 50TH  
BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2005*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Karen Ranucci is celebrating her 50th Birthday with friends and family; and

Whereas, Karen Ranucci has experienced many accomplishments in all aspects her life; and

Whereas, Karen Ranucci has exemplified love for her family and friends and must be applauded for her devotion to her loved ones.

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in congratulating Karen Ranucci as she celebrates her 50th Birthday.