

... Peacemaking of course is more than just anti-war, much more."

"And more than just legislation," Stephens adds.

"We believe that peacemaking is very local as well as international," Roesler said. He explains that the meeting works closely with United Community Ministries, a local non-profit. "We view that as peacemaking." Stephens added to this. "What Tom's example reveals to us is that peacemaking is not so much laying demands on the others but enduring sacrifice to serve others . . . Much of peace activism [as practiced by other entities] is making decisions for others." But "Christian peacemaking emphasizes serving rather than dominating . . . With Christian peacemakers, most of the work involves accompaniment, being with groups under attack." But, Stephens said, Fox and his colleagues found that in Iraq their presence often exacerbated violence. So they "had to reinvent" their role. They "trained a Muslim peacemaker task force" and on how to navigate the bureaucracy of the different governing organizations that hold power in the country.

Tom Fox's death brought his work to the attention of the country, but the Friends at Woodlawn remember a life dedicated to small acts of fellowship. Warren Treuer's lasting memory dates from two decades ago, when Fox knew he would be moving to a new meeting. "One of the last things he did was crawl under the building, in the mud, to wrap insulation around the pipes," Treuer said.

As this recollection suggests, maintaining the historical continuity of the Woodlawn Friends community and the building that shelters it is a practical expression of spirituality. This means that the meeting house's location within the grounds of Fort Belvoir has created concern for many Friends.

"It's hard because here we are, a peace activist church, sitting on the edge—surrounded by—a military base," said Spitzer. "We have a lot of members who feel very strongly about peace." In response to Sept. 11, a military checkpoint was built at the intersection with Route 1 that controlled access to the meeting house as well as to the base. Some Friends refused to pass through this entrance because of their pacifist beliefs. Belvoir worked with the Meeting to build an alternate drive. On Sunday mornings, the army allows Friends to pass through without entering the checkpoint.

Jim Nations, clerk of the Trustees Committee (which is comparable to a non-profit organization's board of directors) says that he is appreciative of Fort Belvoir for giving them Sunday access and letting them tap into the fort's water system.

Although Spitzer says some soldiers do attend the meeting, many people on the base, as well as in the wider community, know little or nothing about the small white building tucked in among the trees near Woodlawn Gate. James Cartwright was stationed at Belvoir until he retired in 1992. "The first time I walked in here and sat down for worship I knew this was where I was meant to be." That was 12 years ago. But when he was stationed at Belvoir, "I didn't even know it was here. I drove past the building a whole lot and didn't even know what it was." He said he hopes new signs will make that more clear.

"There's been a lot of disagreement among Quakers" over their relationship with the military, Cartwright said. But Quakerism hasn't changed his perceptions of his own military service. "My perception was changing before that, which is what led me to find them." Cartwright had protested Vietnam, but was drafted. He agreed to join volun-

tarily only if they would allow him to enter the medical corps. He began as a corpsman and worked his way up to respiratory therapist, the trade he practices today.

Cartwright said the meeting has a lot of appeal for its youngest members. "We have families that come here because their kids bring them back." Children say "this is one place they could always come and feel totally accepted for themselves . . . We treat children with respect. We treat them as equals. We're on a first name basis. They call me James . . . We don't put any conditions on them, on how they look or dress or be or believe . . . It's a very warm, loving community . . . You see the teenagers interacting with the little kids. You see little kids sometimes walk into meeting and instead of sitting with their parents they sit with someone else."

Rachel Messenger brings her daughter to meeting, just as her parents brought her. She has been attending meeting "since I was two years old." She remembers when the building had pit toilets and the Friends met only once a month. "It was a lot smaller then [in the 1960's]. It's really evolved into what it is today," she said. "I find it different than the rest of the world. I find it a lot more loving, more accepting, more tolerant . . . I wanted to raise my daughter in a loving environment."

Like many American communities, the Friends of Woodlawn are confronting the gaping holes that war tears into the fabric of daily life. Tom Fox heard something in the silence that called him across the earth to bring simple acts of fellowship into a war zone. But during the Civil War, Woodlawn itself was a war zone, caught in the no-man's land between North and South.

Chalkley Gillingham, one of the meeting's founders, kept a journal during this period. During the battle of Bull Run, he wrote, "while we sat in meeting we heard the noise of war and roar of battle." Later he recorded that "we continually hear the din of drums and guns." At various times, the meeting house was commandeered as a picket for soldiers, officers' quarters and a field hospital. But throughout these disruptions, and true to his Quaker sense of practicality, Gillingham maintained the workings of the farm as best he could. May 13, 1864: "Nearly done planting corn; also very busy about the nursery and tree planting . . . our milk business changed the first of this month into an ice cream business—the [Union] hospitals [in Alexandria] have got someone else to serve them [milk]. We buy all the cream we can get in the neighborhood, say 20 to 50 gallons, and make ice cream. [We] sell it at one dollar a gallon."

Gillingham's tombstone can be found in the small graveyard behind the meeting house. The names of Union soldiers are carved into the walls and into the benches of the building itself. The Friends of Woodlawn are sitting in the silence.

A friend is moved to speak. He recalls an article in the Washington Post detailing how scientists studying the background radiation of interstellar space hypothesize that 13.7 billion years ago, in one trillionth of a second, our universe sprang into being from the size of a marble. The friend reads a quotation from the "Tao Te Ching," seeking to understand the deepest origins of science and faith. In this historic, wood-paneled room, with its lantern brackets and iron stove, it is this searching, the silence and the speaking from it, that is the strongest link to Gillingham and the meeting's past.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on following amendments to H.R. 5441 on June 6, 2006:

King of Iowa Amendment (Roll No. 223): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Kingston of Georgia Amendment (Roll Call No. 224): Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

Mr. Speaker, I was also unable to vote to Table the Appeal of the Ruling of the Chair (Roll Call No. 225). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on passage of H.R. 5441 (Roll Call No. 226). Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

SUPPORT FOR THE WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION COMMISSION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, and its chairman Dr. Hans Blix, on the release of their major report entitled, "Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms." I urge my colleagues to consider and heed the vital recommendations put forward by Dr. Blix and the Commission. At a time when the spread of weapons of mass destruction endangers all of humanity and the international community struggles to find unity in the face of this threat, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission shows us a way forward to a WMD-free future.

As the former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Executive Chairman of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), Dr. Blix is uniquely well-qualified to speak on the issue of weapons of mass destruction, and we would do well to listen closely.

I would recommend that all of my colleagues read this important and timely report. I ask that a summary of the Report's principal recommendations be inserted into the RECORD at this point.

WEAPONS OF TERROR—FREEING THE WORLD OF NUCLEAR, BIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL ARMS SYNOPSIS

Why Action Is Necessary: Nuclear, biological and chemical arms are the most inhumane of all weapons. Designed to terrify as well as destroy, they can, in the hands of either states or non-state actors, cause destruction on a vastly greater scale than any conventional weapons, and their impact is far more indiscriminate and long-lasting.

So long as any state has such weapons—especially nuclear arms—others will want them. So long as any such weapons remain in any state's arsenal, there is a high risk that they will one day be used, by design or accident. Any such use would be catastrophic.

Notwithstanding the end of the Cold War balance of terror, stocks of such weapons remain extraordinarily and alarmingly high: some 27,000 in the case of nuclear weapons, of which around 12,000 are still actively deployed.

Weapons of mass destruction cannot be uninvented. But they can be outlawed, as biological and chemical weapons already have been, and their use made unthinkable. Compliance, verification and enforcement rules can, with the requisite will, be effectively applied. And with that will, even the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is not beyond the world's reach.

Over the past decade, there has been a serious, and dangerous, loss of momentum and direction in disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. Treaty making and implementation have stalled and, as a new wave of proliferation has threatened, unilateral enforcement action has been increasingly advocated.

In 2005 there were two loud wake-up calls in the failure of the NPT Review Conference and in the inability of the World Summit to agree on a single line about any WMD issue. It is critical for those calls to be heeded now.

What Must Be Done: The Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission makes many specific and detailed recommendations throughout its report (see Annex 1 for a consolidated list). The most important of them are summarized below.

1. Agree on general principles of action:

Disarmament and non-proliferation are best pursued through a cooperative rule-based international order, applied and enforced through effective multilateral institutions, with the UN Security Council as the ultimate global authority.

There is an urgent need to revive meaningful negotiations, through all available intergovernmental mechanisms, on the three main objectives of reducing the danger of present arsenals, preventing proliferation, and outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all.

States, individually and collectively, should consistently pursue policies designed to ensure that no state feels a need to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Governments and relevant intergovernmental organizations and nongovernment actors should commence preparations for a World Summit on disarmament, non-proliferation and terrorist use of weapons of mass destruction to generate new momentum for concerted international action.

2. Reduce the danger of present arsenals: no use by states—no access by terrorists:

Secure all weapons of mass destruction and all WMD-related material and equipment from theft or other acquisition by terrorists.

Take nuclear weapons off high-alert status to reduce the risk of launching by error; make deep reductions in strategic nuclear weapons; place all non-strategic nuclear weapons in centralized storage; and withdraw all such weapons from foreign soil.

Prohibit the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons, and phase out the production of highly enriched uranium.

Diminish the role of nuclear weapons by making no-first-use pledges, by giving assurances not to use them against non-nuclear-weapon states, and by not developing nuclear weapons for new tasks.

3. Prevent proliferation: no new weapon systems—no new possessors:

Prohibit any nuclear-weapon tests by bringing the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty into force.

Revive the fundamental commitments of all NPT parties: the five nuclear-weapon states to negotiate towards nuclear disarmament and the non-nuclear-weapon states to refrain from developing nuclear weapons.

Recognize that countries that are not party to the NPT also have a duty to participate in the disarmament process.

Continue negotiations with Iran and North Korea to achieve their effective and verified rejection of the nuclear-weapon option, while assuring their security and acknowledging the right of all NPT parties to peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Explore international arrangements for an assurance of supply of enriched uranium fuel, and for the disposal of spent fuel, to reduce incentives for national facilities and to diminish proliferation risks.

4. Work towards outlawing all weapons of mass destruction once and for all:

Accept the principle that nuclear weapons should be outlawed, as are biological and chemical weapons, and explore the political, legal, technical and procedural options for achieving this within a reasonable time.

Complete the implementation of existing regional nuclear-weapon-free zones and work actively to establish zones free of WMD in other regions, particularly and most urgently in the Middle East.

Achieve universal compliance with, and effective implementation of, the Chemical Weapons Convention, and speed up the destruction of chemical weapon stocks.

Achieve universal compliance with, and effective implementation of, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and improve cooperation between industry, scientists and governments to reinforce the ban on the development and production of biological weapons and to keep abreast of developments in biotechnology.

Prevent an arms race in space by prohibiting any stationing or use of weapons in outer space.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR LLOYD BENTSEN

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to extend my deepest regrets as we mourn the loss of one of our nation's most respected statesmen, Senator Lloyd Bentsen. Senator Bentsen's lifelong service to our country was marked by his sharp intellect, skillful coalition building, and deep personal integrity. As a World War II veteran, public servant, and businessman, Senator Bentsen offered strength of character and compassion to his fellow man. His tireless work on behalf of the citizens of the State of Texas and our nation has made an indelible mark on the institutions and communities he served.

Senator Bentsen began serving his country in 1942 when he enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II. After briefly serving as a private conducting intelligence work in Brazil, he became a pilot and flew combat missions from southern Italy with the 449th Bomb Group. Senator Bentsen quickly ascended the ranks of the military. At age 23, he was promoted to the rank of Major and given command of a squadron of 600 men. In 18 months of combat, he courageously flew 35 missions against highly defended targets that were crucial to the German war effort. In total, he flew 50 missions over Europe. Senator Bentsen was shot down twice during the war and received the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Force's highest commendation for valor, among other decorations.

After the war, Senator Bentsen began his long and distinguished political career, returning to his native Rio Grande as a decorated veteran. In 1946, he was elected Hidalgo County judge, and two years later, at age 27, was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Bentsen served the residents of Houston in the House for 8 years, and then returned to Houston to work in the private sector. After having achieved a great deal of corporate success, he decided to return to public life in 1970 as a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He won a bitter primary and went on to defeat then-Congressman George H.W. Bush for the first of four Senate terms. During his tenure in the Senate, Bentsen sought the Democratic nomination for the presidential primary in 1976, and was the vice-presidential nominee in the 1988 presidential election.

Senator Bentsen's political career was marked by his compassion towards those he served, a deep knowledge of economic policy, and a propensity to build bipartisan coalitions. As a Member of the House, he was only a handful of southern congressmen who voted against the poll tax, which was used to prevent blacks from voting. In the Senate, he attained the rank of Senate Finance Committee chairman, and quickly became one of our nation's most respected voices on tax, trade, and economic issues. Throughout his political career, Bentsen earned the reputation as being highly skilled at navigating the legislative process and crafting deals behind the scenes. As the first Treasury Secretary under the Clinton Administration in 1993, he was one of the architects of the President's deficit-reduction program. In recognition of his service, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1999.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring the work and accomplishments of Senator Lloyd Bentsen. As a soldier, businessman, elected official, and statesman, Lloyd Bentsen served with honor and distinction. His life-long devotion to public service will serve as an inspiration to future generations of Americans, and his many contributions on behalf of the residents of Texas and the nation will continue to offer guidance to the institutions and communities he served.

HONORING CONGREGATION KODIMOH ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to pay tribute to the Congregation Kodimoh of Springfield, Massachusetts as it celebrates its 90 Year Anniversary this year.

It is my honor to represent a congregation whose contributions to Springfield and its Jewish community have been so significant over the years. On this special anniversary, I include in the Congressional Record Congregation Kodimoh's complete chronological history and extend my heartfelt congratulations to Rabbi Alex and Dr. Bella Weisfogel who will be honored for their accomplishments at a dinner on June 11, 2006.