

Congregation Kodimoh in Springfield, Massachusetts, is proud of its history as a prominent Orthodox synagogue, which has made important contributions to the strength and vitality of the Jewish and general communities. Kodimoh's story reflects the common immigrant's success story and parallels the growth of the city of Springfield.

Kodimoh which means "forward" or "progress" in Hebrew was founded in 1916 by a segment of the Jewish community with a spirit of optimism caught up in the success of the first generation of Jewish immigrants and the boom of Springfield as an important economic urban center. The name further suggests the desire of the founding members for the congregation to fit in to the American way of life. The Jewish community formed in Springfield primarily in the North End section of the city in the mass immigration from Eastern Europe in the last decades of the 19th century and early 20th century. When the first generation of Jewish immigrants prospered and achieved economic success, a segment desired to provide for itself a better standard of living.

The move to the beautiful new neighborhood of Forest Park began, and a synagogue was needed. The first meeting of Kodimoh took place in the home of Moses Ehrlich, the first president of the congregation. Kodimoh was founded to maintain Orthodox standards and practices in modern America. English rather than Yiddish would be the language of sermons, while the synagogue and its members would participate in civic affairs. Tradition would feel at home in a new world.

The first building was completed in 1923 on Oakland St. and an adjacent school building was built in 1937. Through the '50s, as more Jews moved to the Park, Kodimoh took its place as a prominent institution in the Jewish community and in the city. The congregation maintained traditional Jewish practice and effectively educated the new generation. The membership required more space for the burgeoning program of services and activities, and the current modern facility was built in 1963, a short distance away on Sumner Ave. While a large segment of the Jewish community and several synagogues moved to Longmeadow, an adjacent suburb, the leadership of Kodimoh decided to keep the synagogue in Forest Park.

The new building witnessed extensive growth through the '70s as Kodimoh continued to follow its mission of maintaining Orthodox Judaism, involvement in the broader Jewish community, and local affairs. As the economic opportunities in Springfield declined, the synagogue also saw many young people seek jobs elsewhere. However, Kodimoh remains a vibrant and important religious center which makes a vital contribution to the community. We have faith that Springfield will continue to strengthen itself and the synagogue will benefit.

Many important rabbis have served the congregation. Rabbi Isaac Klein continued his prominent career in Buffalo, while Rabbi Norman Lamm became the President of Yeshiva University. Rabbi Alex Weisfogel from 1959–1982 led the synagogue during the construction of the Sumner Avenue building and oversaw the congregation's growth. As Rabbi Emeritus, he has remained in the community with his wife, Dr. Bella Weisfogel. Together they continue their involvement in synagogue

and community activities. Not only did Bella support her husband's endeavors, in her own right she contributed in significant ways to the educational and social programming of the synagogue. For all of their accomplishments, Kodimoh honors Rabbi Alex and Dr. Bella Weisfogel at a dinner celebrating the 90th anniversary on June 11, 2006.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE LEONARD PERRY EDWARDS II

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues Mr. HONDA and Mr. FARR today to honor a distinguished American, Judge Leonard Perry Edwards II, who is retiring after nearly 25 years as a Judge of the Santa Clara County, California, Superior Court, and who served as Supervising Judge of the Juvenile Dependency Court from 1993 to 2005.

Judge Edwards' excellence in public service mirrors that of his father, Congressman Don Edwards. He was born in Michigan, earned his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his J.D. from the University of Chicago. Before becoming a Judge he registered black voters in Mississippi during the Civil Rights movement, served in the Peace Corps in Malaysia, taught law in Norway, served as a Public Defender and practiced law. In 1981, he was appointed Superior Court Judge of the Santa Clara County Court by Governor Jerry Brown.

Judge Edwards founded Child Advocates of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, Kids in Common, Juvenile Court Judges of California, Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council, the Greenbook Project and the Forensic Human Services Certificate Program. He has held office in more than 25 professional organizations, and most recently served as President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. He has received more than 40 national, state and local awards for his excellence and service, including the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, given by the National Center for State Courts. He has published more than 40 articles and written two books, one with his wife, Inger J. Sagatun-Edwards. Judge Edwards has lectured in 43 states and eight foreign countries. His next career will be as a consultant for California's judicial system which will enable him to teach his innovative methods to judges around the State.

Judge Edwards has earned the esteem of his colleagues and the admiration of the families to whom he has devoted his career. Because of his tenacity, his creativity, his compassion and his belief in others, thousands of families are now rehabilitated and functioning well.

It is a special privilege for us to honor Judge Leonard Edwards and his extraordinary career, and we are proud to call him our friend. Mr. Speaker, we ask our colleagues to join us in honoring this great American who exemplifies the best in citizenship and whose career in jurisprudence sets the gold standard for our country. As Judge Leonard Edwards retires, he has the gratitude and respect of the entire House of Representatives. He has made our community and our country stronger and better through his leadership and public service.

TRIBUTE TO BUDDY CANNON

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of one of Nashville's most respected music professionals, Buddy Cannon. Just two nights ago, Buddy was named by his peers as the Producer of the Year at the Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas.

Buddy has worked with a long-list of chart-topping recording artists during his years in Nashville. Kenny Chesney, Chely Wright, Reba McEntire, John Michael Montgomery, Sara Evans and George Jones have all benefited from his work as a producer. In addition, he helped launch the careers of stars such as Shania Twain, Sammy Kershaw and Billy Ray Cyrus while a recording company executive. While his award this week honors him for his work as a producer, he is also well known and celebrated as a songwriter with songs recorded by artists from Mel Tillis to Alabama, George Strait and Vern Gosdin.

According to those who have worked with Buddy, his gifts extend beyond the world of music. Buddy is known throughout the music community for his generous spirit and his willingness to spend time with young artists who are still in search of their own sound. Kenny Chesney, honored by the ACM as Entertainer of the Year, said recently that "Back before I even had a record deal, Buddy was writing songs with me at Acuff-Rose and he gave me a lot of respect as someone trying to find their way, and he taught me a lot about respecting songs—even before he was part of my team."

Buddy Cannon's passion for music and respect for musicians is well known in Nashville and the music world. I join with so many others in congratulating Buddy on his latest achievement—being named Producer of the Year. But I also join with so many others in thanking Buddy for his many important contributions to the global music community and to my hometown of Nashville.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for votes on June 6, 2006, I would have voted "yes" on roll call votes numbered 223, 224, 225, and 226.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL JAMIE L. ADAMS, USAF

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Jamie L. Adams on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Department of Defense and his country.

A native son of South Carolina, Jamie grew up in Greenville, just a stone's throw from my home in Travelers Rest. After graduating from Carolina High School in Greenville, he set out on a military career, heading across the state to Charleston, and enrolling in The Citadel, earning a degree in business administration and a commission as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force in 1973. Now, some 33 years later, this highly respected Air Force acquisition professional will end his military career while serving as the chief of staff of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA). DCMA is a worldwide organization of 11,000 military and civilian personnel responsible for ensuring that the supplies and materials going to our men and women in uniform are delivered on time and are of the highest quality.

As a newly commissioned officer, Jamie was assigned to the procurement office at Moody Air Force Base in Georgia. It was there that his ascent to the top echelons of the Defense acquisition community began. Displaying a penchant for understanding the intricacies of Federal contracting, he blazed a career path that in the ensuing decade took him to various contracting assignments throughout the United States and saw him rise through the junior-officer ranks.

In the mid-1980s, Jamie was named chief of the contracting division of the 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing at Bergstrom AFB, Texas, and promoted to the rank of major. While there, he earned a master's degree in business administration, an academic credential that would serve him well as he took on positions of increasing authority and responsibility within the pressure-packed realm of Air Force acquisition management. In 1999, after having been promoted to the rank of colonel, he was tapped to be the chief of contracting for the Air Mobility Command at Scott AFB, Illinois, a demanding job in which he led a cadre of more than 600 contracting professionals who exercised stewardship of \$1.4 billion for procurement in support of America's strategic and tactical airlift mobility network.

But all that was prelude to his capstone assignment for the past two years as DCMA chief of staff, a position that showcased his acquisition knowledge, his human-relations skills, and his results-producing leadership. With Col. Adams in the vanguard, DCMA successfully adopted the principles of performance based management, ensuring effective, outcome-centered support to its customers—principally the military services and National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He consistently demonstrated a blend of technical competence and affability, reconciling divergent points of view and catalyzing the agency's pursuit of acquisition excellence, workforce re-engineering, and customer satisfaction. This past spring, in firm testament to his stature within in the Defense acquisition community, Jamie was a featured presenter at the Institute for Defense and Government Advancement-sponsored Defense Acquisition 2006 forum, where he shared his insights on contingency contracting and the management of contractors on today's battlefield—a challenge of considerable import over the past three years.

Whether he was approving base-level purchase orders, maintaining vigilance over major

systems acquisitions, or steering a large Defense agency through the white waters of change, Col. Adams served with unwavering diligence, integrity, and competence. On the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force, I offer my congratulations to one of South Carolina's finest sons and wish him and his wife, Sandra, well in their future pursuits.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS SWECKER

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to honor and recognize Chris Swecker, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Assistant Director for the Criminal Investigative Division and Acting Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services. On July 13, 2006, Agent Swecker will be retiring from the FBI. His years of service to America have been invaluable, and he will be missed.

Assistant Director Chris Swecker has served in the FBI since June 13, 1982. In his early years in the Bureau, he served as a special agent in Charlotte, North Carolina and in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Later, he served as a supervisor in the Civil Litigation Unit, Legal Council Division, at FBI Headquarters, as acting Special Agent in charge in Miami and Houston, and as an Inspector with the Inspection Division. He later returned back to Charlotte, North Carolina, to serve as Special Agent in Charge from 1999 to 2004. In 2004, he was promoted to Assistant Director for the Criminal Investigative Division. He has also been serving as Acting Executive Assistant Director for Law Enforcement Services since February of 2006.

Chris has served our country in all these different roles with honor and distinction. His work has made America a safer place. During his time in the FBI, he dismantled a Hezbollah terror cell in Charlotte, served as the commander of FBI operations in Iraq, and captured the top 10 fugitive Eric Rudolph. In addition, he has helped streamline and upgrade the criminal investigation divisions in the FBI so that they are more efficient and effective. He has fought public corruption, violent gangs, has protected America's children, and has even formed special child abduction response teams.

Chris has accomplished all this, while being a loving husband and a father to three daughters. I know I speak for everyone back home when I say thank you Chris, for all your hard work. We are safer because of you. Congratulations on your retirement, and best of luck.

TRIBUTE TO LOUISE MCKOWN

HON. ZACH WAMP

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2006

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Louise McKown of Oak Ridge, Ten-

nessee, who was recently recognized here in Washington by the American Bar Association. She received the Paul G. Hearne Award for dedicating her personal and professional life to improving the lives of people with disabilities in her community.

Thirteen years ago when she began to have trouble walking, Ms. McKown was diagnosed with a rare, degenerative neurological condition. It has grown increasingly worse over time and severely restricted her mobility, but anyone who knows her will tell you nothing can hold this very special woman back.

Paul G. Hearne, for whom the award was named, was born with a connective tissue disorder that limited his growth and restricted his movement. But with hard work and determination, he fought through it and created opportunities for himself and others. Like Hearne, Ms. McKown's life is marked by similar achievements despite daunting physical setbacks.

Since 1996, she has worked at the East Tennessee Technology Access Center in Knoxville as their public awareness coordinator and systems change advocate and analyst. The Access Center is the region's only nonprofit agency that helps people with disabilities gain knowledge of assistive technology. It serves people with disabilities in 24 counties—helping them learn, work, play, and lead more productive, independent lives.

A tireless spokesperson for the rights of people with disabilities—whether they were born with a disability or became disabled through an accident, illness or old age—Ms. McKown has fought for their rights to live with dignity and choice. Her achievements on the behalf of the disabled are too numerous to list, but several deserve mention here on the House floor.

In Anderson County, where she lives, she has served on the County Commissioner's Americans with Disabilities Act Oversight committee since its inception in 1995 and now serves as its chairwoman. Ms. McKown has also provided her expertise to the Tennessee Disability Coalition, the lead agency for 35 disability-related organizations statewide. Through her work with the Coalition's Project Vote, Ms. McKown helped drive improvements to polling stations that increased voting access for disabled citizens of Anderson and Knox Counties.

Ms. McKown's energy and caring touch reached from Anderson County across the State of Tennessee. Because of her involvement with the Coalition, when the State rewrote the code governing the Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities in 1999, she was asked to be one of five independent reviewers of the final draft. Her recommendation that group homes across the State for people with developmental disabilities should be less crowded was accepted. Now instead of eight people, they are only permitted to house half that many, greatly improving the quality of life for these physically challenged Americans.

Ms. McKown's life is an example for other Americans, showing that nothing and no one can hold you back if you put your mind to achieving what you want. In the words of her friends, she is truly a woman on a mission and I am proud to stand here on her behalf today.