

those Holocaust survivors, sits the beautiful Jewish communities in my district, including Williamsburg, Midwood and Canarsie. These communities represent the best of Jewish life and have successfully resurrected the Jewish community's wonderful religious heritage from the ashes of the Holocaust. Their synagogues, yeshivas, kollels, and social service organizations, which serve all people of all backgrounds, would make their ancestors proud.

On this day, we celebrate their remarkable achievements in bringing up a generation of Jews who have learned from their parents' resoluteness the importance of preserving as much of their tradition as they possibly can. We acknowledge their commitment in the face of unspeakable adversity and their sacrifices so that another generation might carry on their values.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of organizations in my district that have taken extraordinary steps in servicing and caring for the Holocaust survivor population: The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty; The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg; The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush; The Jewish Community Council of Canarsie; The Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; Peasch Tikvah and all the Bikkur Cholim organizations. Their selfless work for Holocaust survivors continues to serve as an inspiration to me and it is a great honor to recognize their hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues here today in remembering the Holocaust. Regrettably, there are still Holocaust deniers today and it is imperative that we never forget and continue to learn from this unforgettable chapter of history.

#### YOM HASHOAH

### HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day.

On this day of remembrance, we mourn—as a community, as a nation, and as a world—the 6 million Jews who lost their lives during one of the darkest periods of our history. We pray that those still pained and anguished by the unimaginable suffering may find peace and comfort. And we reflect on what can happen when the world fails to confront evil, hatred, and bigotry.

Yom Hashoah is also a time to remember the individual acts of martyrdom and heroism committed during the Holocaust. We recall those brave Jewish martyrs in the Warsaw ghetto armed only with pistols and Molotov cocktails who repulsed the sophisticated weaponry of the Nazis for one month. We recall those righteous gentiles who risked their lives to shelter and protect Jews. And, we recall those who were forced to leave their homeland in search of new lives in unfamiliar lands.

My mother, Renee Perl, was one of the many who had to flee their homeland. Forced to start anew at the mere age of 14, she left Austria—alone—spending time in Holland and England before arriving in Philadelphia at 16.

Once arriving at the shores of America, my mother—like so many Jews—was hesitant to tell her story—hoping that by trying to forget about the war she could move on. But, little by little, we came to know her story and the enduring pain it caused for her and so many others.

As we move further and further away from this period of history, those who witnessed such acts and those of us—who have heard first-hand accounts become fewer. It is our duty to pass their stories along so that future generations can reflect on their courage, valor, and heroism. And, it is our obligation to tell their stories so all of us Jews and non-Jews—can heed the lessons of the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously grateful for being able to share my family's experience. I know my mother would be proud to know that we are not only paying tribute to those who suffered tremendous pain and hardship, but recalling the Jewish people's great spirit to survive, our continued faith in God, and our unwavering belief in freedom and democracy.

#### HOLOCAUST MARTYRS AND HEROES REMEMBRANCE DAY

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day. We pause as a Nation on this day to remember the 6 million Jews who perished under Nazi oppression.

Between 1938 and 1945, the Nazi government systematically attempted to annihilate the entire Jewish population simply because of its religion, culture, and history. Countless families were torn apart, entire communities decimated.

On Yom Hashoah, we not only mourn for those who lost their lives, we mourn for one of humanity's darkest times. And we reflect on what hatred, ignorance, indifference and prejudice can do to mankind when allowed to breed unchecked.

Yom Hashoah also marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising of 1943. It is a time to reflect on the bravery of those who fought for justice, freedom and for survival in the face of torture and oppression.

It is fitting then, that this year's Yom Hashoah theme is "Legacies of Justice," honoring the Holocaust survivors who stood as witnesses during the Nuremberg Trials.

Their legacy calls on us to never forget the atrocities that occurred and to never again turn our backs on human suffering, regardless of where it occurs in the world. They call on us to stand for freedom—not only for ourselves but also for all humanity—to fight for those too weak to defend themselves, and to stand vigilant against apathy and hatred.

Today as we commemorate our Jewish martyrs and heroes at the National Rotunda, let us remember our duty to speak out against suffering and injustice.

We best honor the 6 million who perished at the hands of hatred by fighting against anti-Semitism, racism, sexism, and other forms of discrimination that seek to divide us.

And we must vow to never allow such tragedies to happen again. For our sake, for our children's sake, and for the sake of humanity.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. REGINALD FOOTMAN

### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a young man who continues to have a positive impact on the young people of my community through his heart-filled and uplifting music about his home borough. Mr. Reginald Footman, also known as Barshem, is a recording artist from the Bronx who hopes to steer hip hop back to its roots, providing inspiring messages over hard-hitting beats.

Barshem's love of languages has helped him to develop as a lyricist and become the skillful emcee he is today. He began by writing poetry and small rhymes, but it was not until his cousin made his first rap record, that Barshem saw an opportunity for a career. At the young age of 11, he started his own group: "Energy Posse" which evolved into another group named "Alpha Omega." In the mid 1990's, the group became widely known and performed with other notable artists such as Jay Z, Lil Kim, Big Pun, and Fat Joe.

In the late 90's, Barshem made his acting debut in the movie *Above the Rim*, working as a stand in for the late Tupac Shakur. He would later accept roles on the television show *Third Watch* and a short appearance with Academy Award winner Denzel Washington in *The Manchurian Candidate*, but his love for hip hop kept him focused on his music. He has written title tracks for movies such as: *Rock the Paint*, *Marci X*, *Bull's Night Out* and *Full Clip*.

After many years of acting and rapping, Barshem met Allen Boxer, an investment banker with whom he partnered to create B&B Records, LLC. And now, one year after his first song was recorded, Barshem & B&B Records, LLC are set to release Barshem's debut album: *Ghetto-nometry* which includes a hit single dedicated to the borough of the Bronx.

Throughout his career, record executives have pushed Barshem to produce violent and misogynistic music; however, he has consistently stood his ground and refused to compromise his belief that music should empower, not destroy. Fortunately, his hard work has finally paid off and he is set to release an album that he can say he did his way.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the district that gave birth to hip hop and it is my hope that today's hip hop artists will remember the spirit of self-empowerment that once characterized this music genre and realize the tremendous positive influence they can have throughout the world.

I applaud Barshem for staying true to these principles and never forgetting his roots in the Bronx.

#### COMMEMORATION OF HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom

HaShoah, to pay respect to the millions of Jews who perished as a result of the Holocaust. Today more than ever, it is important to recall the insanity that swept through Europe and allowed ordinary men and women to become mass murderers or to permit others to turn a blind eye to the killing. We need to remember the six million Jews whose lives were cut short because of a concerted effort to annihilate an entire people. Their deaths were not the natural result of war and deprivation. They were killed intentionally and for no other reason than that they were Jews. We should also celebrate the brave individuals who sheltered, cared for and protected Jews despite the danger to themselves.

It is shocking to find that a mere 61 years later, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is openly denying the very existence of the Holocaust. President Ahmadinejad stunned the world last December when he made a speech declaring that the Nazi's mass murder of Jews during World War II was a myth. Foreign minister Manouchehr Mottaki affirmed that Holocaust denial is now the official Iranian government position. "The words of [President] Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on the Holocaust and on Israel are not personal opinions, nor isolated statements but they express the view of the [Iranian] government," Mottaki said.

In March 2006, at the initiative of Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, state-run Isfahan University sponsored a conference to 're-examine the scientific evidence for the Holocaust.' More conferences are expected, as Iran tries to wrap its insupportable views in scholarship. Unfortunately, these Iranian leaders are giving voice to a view that is becoming all too common.

After President Ahmadinejad spoke, the vast majority of world leaders immediately condemned his irrational claims. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan urged all UN members to "combat such denial and to educate their populations about the well established historical facts of the Holocaust, in which one third of the Jewish people were murdered along with countless members of other minorities." I believe we need to take affirmative steps in the United States to make sure that our young people understand the horrors of that evil time. That's why I introduced the Simon Wiesenthal Holocaust Education Assistance Act of 2005, to ensure that programs are developed throughout the country to teach young people about the millions who died and the terrible repercussions of unfettered hatred. I am pleased that Senator MENENDEZ introduced a companion bill in the Senate today.

As the generations who survived the Holocaust pass away, we need to make sure that new generations know the horrors of that terrible time. We need to make sure that those who would deny the existence of the Holocaust do not have the ability to rewrite history. The pain of those who perished at the hands of the Nazis is all too real. We have an obligation to remember a time when pure evil swept the globe, millions were swallowed up in the gas chambers and the Jewish people were nearly wiped out of existence. As Simon Wiesenthal said, "For your benefit, learn from our tragedy. It is not a written law that the next victims must be Jews. It can also be other people. We saw it begin in Germany with Jews, but people from more than twenty other nations were also murdered."

## ON THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my voice with those of my colleagues who once again are commemorating the Armenian Genocide. On this somber day, we take time to recall the horrors of long ago, as Armenians are doing all over the world. Beginning in 1914, over 1.5 million people were systematically killed in what historians call the first genocide of the twentieth century, and over half a million Armenians had to leave their homeland.

Knowledge about the Armenian Genocide is spreading. Just recently, PBS broadcast an extremely detailed and heart-rending examination of the subject. Even in Turkey, where the government refuses to acknowledge what happened or consider accepting any responsibility for it, a growing number of historians and prominent individuals have openly defied Ankara to speak truth to power. They include Orhan Pamuk, the country's leading writer. Turkish officials sought to bring criminal charges against him for "defaming Turkishness" but in the end, thankfully, thought better of it.

Unfortunately, President Bush, in his annual message about the Genocide, did not use the word. Once again, terms like "mass killings" and "forced exile" mask the depth of the horror that took place, carefully avoiding the plain truth. In fact, as has been described in numerous newspaper articles, Ambassador John Evans, who was posted in Yerevan, is being recalled for having the courage to say publicly that what happened to the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire was Genocide. It saddens me that the U.S. Government would go to such lengths to deny the undeniable. I would like to commend Ambassador Evans for his bravery—as a career Foreign Service Officer, he must have known what the consequences might be.

I express solidarity with my colleagues in this Congress who called upon President Bush to call the Genocide a Genocide. I hope this is the last year when the United States Government will shrink from using the word in its description of what the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire endured.

Finally, in my annual statements on the Armenian Genocide, I often refer to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and comment on the status of the talks underway to resolve it. In the last year, official sources in Yerevan and Baku, as well as Washington, have occasionally indicated that a deal was close. Hopes were high for the meeting last month between Presidents Kocharian and Aliiev in Rambouillet, France. Unfortunately, we did not see the desired outcome.

I hope that the negotiations will soon succeed in resolving this painful conflict. An Armenia at peace with Azerbaijan would not dampen the painful memories of events in the early twentieth century, but it would offer reassurance over the prospects of Armenia in the twenty-first.

## 91ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

## HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, 91 years ago, a systematic and deliberate campaign of genocide was initiated by the Turkish Ottoman Empire against its Armenian population. Beginning in 1915, and continuing over the next eight years, over one and a half million Armenians were tortured and murdered, and another half million were forced from their homeland into exile.

In his annual April 24th commemoration statement, President Bush once again failed to acknowledge this annihilation of a people as genocide. In a time when the denial of the Armenian genocide is again on the rise in Turkey—and through its agents, even here in the United States as witnessed by a federal lawsuit in Massachusetts opposed to our public school history curriculum on genocide—President Bush once again squandered an opportunity to demonstrate American courage and leadership and speak out with moral clarity on the issue of genocide. By failing to affirm the Armenian Genocide, President Bush insults the suffering endured by the Armenian people and especially the remaining survivors of the genocide, most of whom are now in their 90s.

Luckily, such leadership and courage is not lacking among the Armenian-American community. Not only do they continue their historic work on the recognition and documentation of the Armenian Genocide, but they are genuine leaders and partners in efforts to educate Americans about the other genocides of the 20th and 21st Centuries—the Holocaust of World War II, Cambodia, Rwanda and Bosnia, to note some of the most prominent.

Most recently, the Armenian-American community has been actively engaged in bringing to the attention of U.S. and world leaders the genocide going on right now in Darfur, Sudan. I would like to honor, in particular, the work of Mr. George Aghjayan, Chairman of the Armenian National Committee of Central Massachusetts, who has been especially active in education and organizing activities about Darfur. Mr. Aghjayan, who lives in Worcester, Massachusetts, has helped rally interest and support on Darfur not only from his own community, but from college students, religious leaders, and genocide survivors.

I'm proud to be a member of the House Caucus on Armenian Issues, and to support the activities taking place today in the U.S. Congress in memory of the Armenian Genocide. I am more proud, however, to have had the opportunity to meet and learn from the extensive Armenian-American community in central Massachusetts and from their exemplary community leaders, like George Aghjayan and his wife, Joyce. Through them I have found my own voice and determination to denounce genocide wherever it is taking place, and to confront the culture of denial that would erase the historical record of the Armenian Genocide.