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# STATEMENT ON HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

## HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe Yom Hashoah, the Holocaust Martyrs and Heroes Remembrance Day.

The Holocaust was an unprecedented crime that took the lives of 6 million Jews, broke apart families, and wrongfully imprisoned individuals subjecting them to tortures, rape and other horrendous actions.

In 1933, the Jewish population of Europe stood at over 9 million. Most European Jews lived in countries that the Third Reich would occupy or influence during World War II. By 1945, close to two out of every three European Jews had been killed as part of the Nazi policy to systematically murder the Jews of Europe.

Yom Hashoah serves as a reminder that we must never forget the appalling tragedy of the Holocaust, and the 6 million Jews who lost their lives.

It was racism, bigotry, anti-Semitism and general religious intolerance that drove Hitler to pursue the destruction of the Jewish people. To honor the victims who lost their lives in the Holocaust, and to ensure that such acts never happen again, there must be a concerted effort to fight intolerance and discrimination.

Before I was elected to Congress in 1990, my family and I and our two children visited Dachau in southern Germany. It was important not only for my wife and I, but also for our children to see what inhumanity mankind could do to itself; not only for our generation but for our children and the next generation to make sure that it never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues on this Yom Hashoah in commemorating those who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

# TRIBUTE TO MR. HAROLD SOENS

## HON. DUNCAN HUNTER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and community service of Mr. Harold Soens, who recently passed away at the age of 66 at his home in Santee, California. As President of the San Diego Off-Road Coalition and the California League of Off-Road Voters, Mr. Soens was passionate about off-road recreation, devoting his life toward working with the community; especially children. He educated others about the sport, teaching the value of off-road safety and etiquette and working to protect the rights of all off-road enthusiasts while, at the same time, appreciating the environment with which we have been blessed.

Mr. Soens learned the value of service at a very young age, losing his father aboard the USS *Arizona* during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. It was this example that Mr. Soens would follow throughout his life as he devoted his time toward the goal of creating a positive environment and future for outdoor recreation in California.

An off-road enthusiast since 1958, Mr. Soens rode everything from midgets to sprint cars and spent some time racing as a competitive motorcycle rider. Known for his sense of humor, friendliness, frankness and energy, Mr. Soens served in several capacities with the California Off-Road Vehicle Association, the American Motorcyclist Association, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreational Area Technical Review Team and the Stakeholders Roundtable for OHV Recreation in California. Even with these responsibilities, Mr. Soens found the time to volunteer hundreds of hours at the Ocotillo Wells State Vehicular Recreational Area and as an ATV Safety Instructor for the State of California.

Mr. Soens was also heavily involved with the Survivors of Pearl Harbor and the California Police Activities League (CalPal) program where he served as a mentor to inner-city and under-privileged children by providing the opportunity for them to appreciate the beauty of our desert and the enjoyment of off-road activities. At all times, with all students, Mr. Soens stressed the responsibility of being safe and treating the land in which they lived and played with respect.

I wish to express to his wife, Jean, his four children, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild, my sincerest condolences for their loss. In a time where the idea of volunteerism is often seen as a burden, Mr. Soens' dedication and service is a reminder to us all that effort rendered toward the benefit of our community is the greatest use of our time.

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO HERB TOBMAN

## HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Herb Tobman, who passed away this past March. Herb was known as a successful businessman and a community leader and his quiet generosity that impacted the lives of countless Nevadans.

Herb was born in the Bronx in 1924. In the 1950s, Herb moved to Las Vegas, where he opened City Furniture Exchange, the first used furniture store in Las Vegas. The business thrived, and it was a Las Vegas landmark for more than 25 years. His success as a businessman led Herb to start Western Cab Company in 1965. Herb started with one cab, and ended with more than 134 taxicabs and 355 employees.

In addition to his business accomplishments, Herb was also an active participant in Nevada politics. In 1986, he ran in the Democratic gubernatorial primary against incumbent Richard Bryan. Instead of using his wealth to fuel his political aspirations, Herb limited contributions to \$10 per individual. Needless to

say, those limits put him at a competitive disadvantage, but Herb still managed to receive more than 15 percent of the primary vote.

Herb also knew the importance of giving back to his community and made many charitable contributions throughout his life. However, Herb never sought recognition for his efforts, but he impacted almost every life in southern Nevada. Every year, during the holidays, Herb anonymously fed hundreds of homeless individuals in Las Vegas. He helped local children with their college expenses, and he helped people who were down on their luck. No challenge was too great. If Herb knew you needed help, he was there to provide it oftentimes unknown to his beneficiaries. I needed help on several occasions, and Herb was always available. Herb was my friend and I will miss him very much.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the memory of Herb Tobman for his professional successes and distinguished philanthropic record. His death is a great loss to the community and he will be greatly missed. Nevada is a better place because of Herb.

# TRIBUTE TO DAVE BIANCO

## HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Dave Bianco, the Project Coordinator, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program, at St. Margaret Foundation.

Mr. Bianco, a resident of Hampton Township and an Iraq veteran, has designed the AED program to support a "heart safe" community. The AED program trains, and places AEDs in places where people tend to congregate like schools, churches, community centers and police and fire departments. AEDs are designed to reverse Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) which kills 300,000 people annually. The AED program through St. Margaret Foundation began 1998 and has saved 17 lives, including eight since June 2005. The Foundation has donated 162 AEDs since 1998 and continues to be the only foundation in the country that provides complimentary AEDs and full-service, diagnostics and repairs. Two AEDs will be donated to Al Zarenko, Director of Community Services, to be placed in the new community center in Hampton Township.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Dave Bianco for all of his work for St. Margaret Foundation. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a dedicated individual.

# TRIBUTE TO AN AMERICAN HERO— MICHAEL J. NOVOSEL

## HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 27, 2006

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of America's greatest military heroes, Michael J. "Mike" Novosel, who

passed away on April 2 at the age of 83 at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC.

Mike Novosel was a remarkable man who ranked among the best who ever donned a military uniform. I'm proud to point out that he spent much of his life in southeast Alabama where he had a monumental impact on the mission of the U.S. Army Aviation Center at Fort Rucker.

Born in Pennsylvania in 1922, Novosel joined the U.S. Army Air Corps when he was 19. His training eventually took him to Maxwell Air Force Base where he qualified to fly the B-29 Superfortress. In 1945, he flew four Pacific combat missions with the 58th Bombardment Wing during the final days of World War II. But he did not stop there. Novosel commanded a B-29 as part of a fly-over during the Japanese surrender ceremony. His military career then led him to command the 99th Bombardment Squadron in the Pacific where he served until 1947 when he returned to the United States as a B-29 test pilot and then joined the Air Force Reserve. Soon after, he was called back to active duty at the Air Command and Staff School during the Korean war. But this was all just the beginning for Novosel.

During the Vietnam war, then Lieutenant Colonel Novosel volunteered for duty in the Air Force Reserve. However, he was turned down because of his age. So, he traded his blue suit for the uniform of a U.S. Army warrant officer, and instead of piloting B-29's, took the stick of a Bell UH-1 Huey. As a "dust-off" helicopter pilot, Novosel served two tours in Vietnam, totaling 2,543 missions airlifting 5,600 medical evacuees. Amazingly, one of the men he rescued was his own son, who, ironically, later rescued him. In one rescue mission, Novosel braved tremendous enemy fire to rescue no less than 29 men.

His bravery resulted in his receiving the Congressional Medal of Honor. He returned stateside to instruct the Army's Golden Knights parachute team at Fort Bragg and later he taught at the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker. In 1985, Novosel was the last World War II pilot still flying. Fort Rucker named its main street "Novosel Avenue" for him, and after retirement Novosel remained in Enterprise, AL, where he was an active member of the community until his death.

Mr. Speaker, CWO4 Mike Novosel will rightfully be buried in Arlington National Cemetery alongside America's other great heroes. We can all be proud of his exemplary record, and I extend my condolences to his family.

#### IRAN FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSS CARNAHAN**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 26, 2006*

Mr. CARNAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support today of the Iran Freedom Support Act because this bill shows our undisputed commitment to addressing the situation in Iran.

We have seen the potential effects of international inaction in this type of situation.

The regional security in the Middle East cannot be further compromised by an Iranian loose cannon.

There is little doubt that Iran is on a mission to rebuild its nuclear weapons and use that capability to wreak havoc and destruction on Israel and others throughout the world.

Without action, we are going to continue to allow Iran to be a safe harbor for terrorists, see its economy further deteriorate, and see the Middle East further destabilize.

This bill includes the necessary tools for the U.S. to help prevent Iran from pursuing nuclear and other weapons programs, deny them the resources they need to support terrorism, and stop them from oppressing the Iranian people.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO LTC PHIL WAGNER, USMC

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of LTC Phil Wagner, U.S. Marine Corps. Phil died at the age of 87 this past February.

Phil Wagner, one of the "Greatest Generation" served in World War II and retired from the Reserves having attained the rank of lieutenant colonel. Lieutenant Colonel Wagner was a member of the American Legion for 52 years and served as Post 31's commander in 1970-71. He then took over the demanding job of adjutant, a post he held from 1972-1997, 25 years, with only one hiatus in 1977. He was not only active as a member and administrator of Post 31, but also of Grace Community Church, Boulder City Hospital Board and the BPOE Elks Club. Phil's dedication to his fellow veterans and to the community as a whole is admirable.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of LTC Phil Wagner. His death is a profound loss for the community.

#### HUGH O'BRIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

**HON. MELISSA A. HART**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, as a alumna of Washington and Jefferson College, I am especially pleased to recognize that this year's Hugh O'Brian Youth, HOBY, Leadership Seminar will be held at Washington and Jefferson College from June 15 to June 18, 2006.

The HOBY Leadership Seminars are designed to prepare our country's high school sophomores to become effective, ethical leaders in their home, schools, workplaces and communities. Selected high school students from each of the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Canada, Mexico, Korea, Taiwan and Israel attend annually and interact with recognized leaders from business, education, the arts, government and other professions. These discussions are intended to generate opportunities for young people to demonstrate and develop their leadership abilities when they return home for the betterment of community and country through community service.

This year marks the 48th year of outstanding dedication to recognition and devel-

opment of leadership potential in high school students and the 28th year that the seminars are being conducted in Pennsylvania. Moreover, the Western PA Seminar is a 3-day workshop modeled after the World Leadership Congress and hosts over 70 students from high schools in the western one-third of Pennsylvania.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminars and their distinguished service in Pennsylvania. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute this premier leadership development program.

#### IN MEMORY OF ED DAVIS

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 27, 2006*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in memory of my friend, former Los Angeles police chief and former California State Senator Ed Davis.

In the days since Ed died Saturday at age 89 in San Luis Obispo, California, many adjectives have been thrown around, including his moniker of "Crazy Ed." But Ed Davis was crazy like a fox. He was tough, intelligent, and perhaps most importantly, innovative.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Ed Davis started his police career as a beat cop and never forgot that. One of his many accomplishments as police chief was the creation of the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation to help families of officers killed in the line of duty.

He also is credited with creating community policing programs that were at first ridiculed, then copied across the country. His twenty principals of policing are still studied. He used to tell his officers that good policing means saving a life rather than taking one. But he was tough when he needed to be. Perhaps the statement most widely quoted is Ed's suggestion to hang airliner hijackers at the airport. He also stood up to city officials over law enforcement funding by telling the citizens to "bar your doors, buy a police dog, call us when we're available and pray."

As we all know, innovation is fun, but it's also worthless if it's ineffective. Ed Davis' policies were very effective. While crime increased 55 percent across the country during Ed's tenure, it fell 1 percent in Los Angeles.

Ed retired from the LAPD in 1978 and ran successfully for the State Senate 2 years later. A year later I ran for the City of Simi Valley City Council. Ed represented Simi Valley for the 7 years I served as mayor of the city. He never tried to impose his will on the city, but was always ready, willing, and able to help the city grow and prosper during those years.

After he retired from the Senate in 1992, Ed Davis became an elder statesman to police departments and State officials. His innovations live on.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Ed Davis' life and accomplishments, and in expressing our condolences to his wife, Bobbie, his children and grandchildren, and his many, many friends. Godspeed, Ed.