

In addition to his public service, Ed's sense of humor and his generosity will not soon be forgotten. An example of his kindness and compassion for others was made evident when, without hesitation, Ed gave fifty dollars to a friend in need who couldn't afford to fix his chainsaw, which he used for his livelihood—sawing holes for ice fishing.

Indeed, Ed's sympathy and goodwill earned him an impeccable reputation. He will always be remembered as an excellent fisherman, public servant, and loving husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Teresa, their daughter Merry, sons James and Edward Warner Jr., who is following in his father's footsteps as a newly appointed Southampton Trustee.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of New York's first congressional district, the residents of Hampton Bays and the entire town of Southampton, I thank the House for this opportunity to express our sadness in the wake of Ed Warner's passing. He was a good man whose many enduring contributions to his community will always be remembered with fondness and gratitude.

HONORING PENN HIGH SCHOOL ON
WINNING THE INDIANA ACADEMIC
SUPER BOWL

HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, today I am excited to honor Penn High School for winning the Indiana Academic Super Bowl. Their first place showing at the Indiana Academic Super Bowl State Finals at Purdue University is their second in a row.

Vince Lombardi once said that "Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all time thing. You don't win once in a while, you don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit." If this is true, then the Penn High School Academic Bowl Team is a great example of having a habit of winning.

The team members are: Jenny DeVito, Dmitri Gekhtman, Maggie Gerdes, Andrew Gresik, Josh Klopfenstein, Matt Klopfenstein, Kelsey McClure, Angela Shan, Josh Walker, and Michele Weldy.

I congratulate their Coach Peter Dekeever and all the members of the Penn High School Academic Super Bowl team on their great accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO BOB LARSON OF
WMBD-TV IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS

HON. RAY LaHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bob Larson of WMBD-TV in Peoria, Illinois.

Next Tuesday, May 23, Bob will celebrate 35 years at this television station. Over that time, Bob has become an icon in Central Illinois. Every evening many citizens of my district tune in to the newscasts of Channel 31 to

get the day's news from the familiar, friendly face of Bob Larson.

Bob started his broadcasting career at the age of 16 in his hometown of Morris, Illinois, and has served over the years on both radio and television as a reporter, weatherman, and anchor. He delivers the news in a straightforward, Midwestern style, sprinkled with humor and modesty. Through years of advancing technology and ever-changing news partners, Bob has remained a part of everyday life for Peorians and a bedrock part of WMBD. The Associated Press has honored Bob for Best Downstate Illinois Radio Newscast and Best Downstate Illinois TV Newscast. "I take the responsibility of giving Central Illinois the most comprehensive newscast we can very seriously," Bob has said.

Not only is a Bob an accomplished newsman, he has spent his career interacting with the public and being a tireless volunteer for many community activities. Bob is often seen riding in his convertible at the many parades throughout our area. He has hosted the Muscular Dystrophy Association telethon for more than 25 years. He has also served as host for the Easter Seals Telethon and Peoria's annual Santa Claus parade. Bob takes community service seriously, and he set a wonderful example for our community.

Today I congratulate Bob for his 35 years of service to WMBD. I count him as a friend and I look forward to watching his newscasts and working with him in the community for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 131, 132, and 133, had I been present, I would have voted 131—"yes"; 132—"no" and 133—"yes."

HONORING NATIONAL SENIOR
CENTER WEEK

HON. JEB BRADLEY

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to senior centers across New Hampshire during National Senior Center Week, which is May 15th through May 19th.

This year's theme is "Senior Centers—Our Community Investment." And an investment it is—senior centers provide a focal point for older Americans to access services, meet new People, and find ways to serve their communities. These centers offer invaluable services including employment assistance, health and wellness programs, transportation services, networking opportunities, and meal and nutrition programs, among others. They also introduce seniors to new technology through computer classes and Internet training.

In New Hampshire, there are approximately 45 senior centers across the State, including some in rural areas. I am fortunate to have

had the opportunity to visit several of them, as well as a number of senior housing complexes and nursing homes. The seniors who visit these centers have a lifetime of experiences to share with others, and I enjoy hearing their stories. Many have answered the call to service: they serve as Foster Grandparents in schools, mentoring at-risk youth; others deliver meals to home-bound senior citizens; and many others serve their local communities by holding public office.

Each year in May, during Older Americans Month, we honor senior citizens for their contributions to our communities, which make them better places to live, work and raise a family. By continuing to provide programs that assist and educate older Americans, we can help them live longer, healthier, and more productive lives. I thank all of the volunteers and staff members at the senior centers around New Hampshire for their dedication to our Nation's older Americans.

HONORING LEROY HOMER, CO-
PILOT OF UNITED AIRLINES
FLIGHT 93

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the life and legacy of an African-American pilot and hero, LeRoy W. Homer, Jr., the First Officer of United Airlines Flight 93, which crashed into a reclaimed coal-mining area near Stonycreek and Shanksville on September 11, 2001.

At an early age, LeRoy W. Homer, Jr. knew that he wanted to be a pilot. As a child, LeRoy assembled model airplanes, collected aviation memorabilia and read books on aviation. LeRoy was 15 years old when he started flight instruction in Cessna 152. Working part-time jobs after school to pay for flying lessons, he completed his first solo at 16 years old, and obtained his private pilot's certificate in 1983.

In the fall of 1983, LeRoy entered the Air Force Academy, and graduated with the Class of 1987, 31st Squadron. After completing pilot training in 1988, he was assigned to McGuire AFB in New Jersey, flying the C-141B Starlifter. While on active duty, LeRoy served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and later supported operations in Somalia. He received many commendations, awards and medals during his military career. In 1993, he was named the 21st Air Force Aircrew Instructor of the Year. LeRoy achieved the rank of Captain before his honorable discharge from active duty in 1995.

LeRoy continued his military career as a reservist, initially as an instructor pilot with the 356th Airlift Squadron at Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio, then subsequently as an Academy Liaison Officer, recruiting potential candidates for both the Air Force Academy and the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. During his time with the Reserves, he achieved rank of Major.

LeRoy continued his flying career by joining United Airlines in May 1995. His first assignment was Second Officer on the B727. He then upgraded to First Officer on the B757/767 in 1996, where he remained until September 11, 2001.

On September 11, 2001, LeRoy was flying with Captain Jason Dahl on United Flight 93. Based on information from several sources that day, we know LeRoy and Jason were the first to fight against the terrorist threat to the airplane.

LeRoy was able to accomplish much in his short life. He was able to do so because of the support of his family and friends, and the encouragement of his teachers and mentors. For his actions on board Flight 93, Homer received many awards and citations posthumously, including honorary membership in the historic Tuskegee Airmen, the Congress of Racial Equality's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Award, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Drum Major for Justice Award, and the Westchester County Trailblazer Award.

Above all of the accolades and awards, it is because of Homer's sacrifice that I pay tribute. I take great pride in recognizing Mr. LeRoy W. Homer, Jr., an African-American hero.

INSPIRING INTER-FAITH MUTUAL COOPERATION AND RESPECT

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I had a unique opportunity to address on Holocaust Memorial Day (April 25) about 200 clergy and lay leaders representing 64 churches of the Presbyterian of Eastern Virginia at their quarterly meeting at the historic Carver Memorial Presbyterian Church in downtown Newport News.

The gathering on that particular day of members of the Presbyterian Church, USA, was coincidental though my invitation to join them was not. It was a very thoughtful and touching gesture by a minister friend of mine, the Rev. Dick Keever of Bayside Presbyterian Church in Virginia Beach who served as the meeting's moderator. It speaks volumes of the inspiring inter-faith climate of mutual cooperation and respect in greater Hampton Roads which I've come to appreciate during my 21 years of living in this community and serving it as a rabbi. From 1985 to 1995 my congregation of Beth Chaverim was the only one in the world to meet in a Catholic facility, the most gracious Church Of The Ascension in Virginia Beach.

I was most gratified and a bit concerned to be welcomed by Presbyterian colleagues and friends given the recent tensions born of the controversial resolution to consider divestment from companies doing business in Israel which impacts upon the Palestinians. I felt that resolution was far too one-sided and discriminatory failing to invest toward a better future for all. I also happen to be the first rabbi to have earned a doctoral degree from the Presbyterian affiliated McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, adding an intriguing dimension to my special encounter on a day reminding me more than any other of being a son of Polish Holocaust survivors. I spent my early childhood in a Displaced Persons Camp in Frankfurt, Germany, and then grew up in Haifa, Israel, prior to coming to Chicago in 1966 to join my Holocaust survivor grandmother who lost her own parents, five siblings and countless others.

I was moved to share with my distinguished Presbyterian audience that the poison unleashed from the destruction of European Jewry had allowed for other genocides to occur, from the killing fields of Cambodia to Bosnia, Rwanda, Saddam Hussein's mass graves, suicide bombers wreaking havoc in New York and Israel, and Sudan's Darfur region where those with lighter skin color begrudge the presence and very lives of those with darker skin. The Holocaust, the defining event of the previous century, may yet prove to be the beginning of the end of civilized human life. After all, it took place in Christian Europe at the hands of the German nation deemed to be a leader in many fields, yet so quickly succumbing to the worst of human impulses. Though it was nourished by centuries of church led demonizing and dehumanizing, persecutions and expulsions of a vulnerable minority that in spite of its abuse as a scapegoat refused to abandon its distinct heritage. Among the Holocaust's victims were members of my father's family, direct descendants of Spanish Jews expelled in 1492 and ultimately invited to build the town of Zamosc in eastern Poland in 1588, till Hitler sealed their destiny in 1939 without the option even of conversion.

The State of Israel, home to the largest number of Holocaust survivors who are now quickly diminishing with age, is the only nation-state on earth threatened openly with annihilation by the President of another state, Iran, while he denies that the Nazi Holocaust ever took place and thus proposing one as he is bent on acquiring a nuclear capability. I pleaded with the Presbyterians, having the misguided divestment plan in mind, not to endanger in any way the Holocaust's survivors who did not seek revenge at the war's end but rather to rebuild their lives in an ancient homeland where the dream of universal peace was first conceived. Survivors, like my parents, living in an Israel which ironically has not known shalom's blessings since its 1948 inception and on May 3rd will celebrate the 58th anniversary of the Jewish state. I vividly recall attending with my father Israeli military Independence Day parades early on, and his enthusiastic acclaim to the sight of a "Jewish tank" and a "Jewish plane," a response to our dire helplessness in the past and the sacred act of defending one's people and honor.

However, to presently despair in light of mighty challenges, would only betray the survivors noble and life-oriented spirit as well as the words of Anne Frank, one of a million and a half Jewish children including cousins of my own, "in spite of everything I still believe that people are really good at heart, I simply can't build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery and death." Indeed Jews, Christians, Muslims and all who share our anguished planet-earth ought to be reassured by Anne's loving message and make her vision a reality for all children including Israeli and Palestinian, American and Chinese, now and forever.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach.

TRIBUTE TO MR. KEN POTTS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Ken Potts who is moving on after having served our community in Southwest Michigan as the director of the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport for 16 years. Ken has a strong bond with the Kalamazoo area as he also received his BS in Aviation Technology and Management and his MBA from Western Michigan University.

Ken's distinguished career began as an intern as at the Kalamazoo Municipal Airport, which would later become the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport. After two stints managing airports in North Carolina and Vermont, Ken returned home to direct the airport where his career started in Kalamazoo—he remained there for 16 years. His other career highlights include being an Accredited Airport Executive by the American Association of Airport Executives and serving as President of the Michigan Association of Airport Executives.

After so many years of great service, I want to be sure that proper recognition was given to Ken; his long career in the aviation field speaks for itself and I think that all of us in Southwest Michigan are quite lucky that we had him aboard for so many years. The presence of an airport in Kalamazoo not only makes travel convenient for our local folks, it also makes our corner of Michigan attractive to businesses that continue to view Southwest Michigan as an ideal place to run their business.

Ken leaves our airport better than he found it. We wish Ken and his family all of the best in their future endeavors.

USA RENEWABLE FUEL ACT OF 2006

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 17, 2006

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce my introduction of the USA Renewable Fuels Act of 2006. I worked on this legislation with Congressman GUTKNECHT of Minnesota, who is also a strong supporter of biofuels.

The USA Renewable Fuel Act of 2006 is aimed at assisting domestic producers of biofuels, including ethanol and biodiesel. This act would ensure that key provisions of the 2005 Energy Bill pertaining to renewable fuels production would apply to U.S. production only. My vision is to help make agriculture a partner in the energy future of this country by investing in U.S. producers and manufacturers of biofuels. This legislation helps ensure that vision.

Last year, Congress passed and the President signed legislation that doubles the use of ethanol and biodiesel by the year 2012. Recently there has been a push to eliminate tariffs on the importation of biofuels from other countries—an action that could threaten the competitiveness of domestic producers.