

On August 14, 1944, an Italian prisoner of war was lynched at Fort Lawton following a nighttime confrontation between members of three all-black Army port companies, a company of prisoners in an Italian Service Unit and many other Army personnel. Subsequently, 28 of the 43 African-American soldiers charged in the melee were convicted of rioting; two soldiers were also found guilty of manslaughter. Although the sloppiness of the investigation, coupled with clear racial discrimination, tainted the entire court-martial proceeding, the ruling and the dishonorable discharge of the 28 convicted soldiers stood for more than six decades.

However, following the publication of a scrupulously researched account of the clash and courts-martial by a Seattle author, and the interest of my colleague on the other side of the aisle, Congressman JIM McDERMOTT, the U.S. Army overturned the convictions of the 28 soldiers and granted them honorable discharges. Although the wheels of justice turned painfully slow for 28 African-American veterans, July 24–26 will be a wonderful celebration of their dedicated service to our country and the final corrections of their military records.

Unfortunately, only two of the original 28 soldiers are alive today, meaning 26 Army veterans passed away before an extreme personal injustice was rectified. My hope is that the families of the deceased veterans can find some kind of peace knowing their loved ones service is truly appreciated and honored.

SUNSET MEMORIAL

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Madam Speaker, I stand once again before this House with yet another Sunset Memorial.

It is July 17, 2008 in the land of the free and the home of the brave, and before the sun set today in America, almost 4,000 more defenseless unborn children were killed by abortion on demand. That's just today, Mr. Speaker. That's more than the number of innocent lives lost on September 11 in this country, only it happens every day.

It has now been exactly 12,960 days since the tragedy called *Roe v. Wade* was first handed down. Since then, the very foundation of this Nation has been stained by the blood of almost 50 million of its own children. Some of them, Madam Speaker, cried and screamed as they died, but because it was amniotic fluid passing over the vocal cords instead of air, we couldn't hear them.

All of them had at least four things in common. First, they were each just little babies who had done nothing wrong to anyone, and each one of them died a nameless and lonely death. And each one of their mothers, whether she realizes it or not, will never be quite the same. And all the gifts that these children might have brought to humanity are now lost forever. Yet even in the glare of such tragedy, this generation still clings to a blind, invincible ignorance while history repeats itself and our own silent genocide mercilessly annihilates the most helpless of all victims, those yet unborn.

Madam Speaker, perhaps it's time for those of us in this Chamber to remind ourselves of

why we are really all here. Thomas Jefferson said, "The care of human life and its happiness and not its destruction is the chief and only object of good government." The phrase in the 14th Amendment capsulizes our entire Constitution. It says, "No State shall deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law." Madam Speaker, protecting the lives of our innocent citizens and their constitutional rights is why we are all here.

The bedrock foundation of this Republic is the clarion declaration of the self-evident truth that all human beings are created equal and endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Every conflict and battle our Nation has ever faced can be traced to our commitment to this core, self-evident truth.

It has made us the beacon of hope for the entire world. Madam Speaker, it is who we are.

And yet today another day has passed, and we in this body have failed again to honor that foundational commitment. We have failed our sworn oath and our God-given responsibility as we broke faith with nearly 4,000 more innocent American babies who died today without the protection we should have given them.

So Madam Speaker, let me conclude this Sunset Memorial in the hope that perhaps someone new who heard it tonight will finally embrace the truth that abortion really does kill little babies; that it hurts mothers in ways that we can never express; and that 12,960 days spent killing nearly 50 million unborn children in America is enough; and that it is time that we stood up together again, and remembered that we are the same America that rejected human slavery and marched into Europe to arrest the Nazi Holocaust; and we are still courageous and compassionate enough to find a better way for mothers and their unborn babies than abortion on demand.

Madam Speaker, as we consider the plight of unborn America tonight, may we each remind ourselves that our own days in this sunshine of life are also numbered and that all too soon each one of us will walk from these Chambers for the very last time.

And if it should be that this Congress is allowed to convene on yet another day to come, may that be the day when we finally hear the cries of innocent unborn children. May that be the day when we find the humanity, the courage, and the will to embrace together our human and our constitutional duty to protect these, the least of our tiny, little American brothers and sisters from this murderous scourge upon our Nation called abortion on demand.

It is July 17, 2008, 12,960 days since *Roe versus Wade* first stained the foundation of this Nation with the blood of its own children; this in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 504, on the Shuler Amendment to H.R. 415, I was unavoidably detained.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MUSEUM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I proudly join in a bipartisan effort with Congresswomen ROSA DELAURO, DEBORAH PRYCE, MARCY KAPTUR, and ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON in introducing the National Women's History Museum, NWHM. This bill directs the General Services Administration, GSA, to house a National Women's History Museum in one of their properties in Washington, DC. NWHM must pay fair market value for the property and reasonable timeframes are included for the transfer of the property and for construction to begin. NWHM will be built and maintained with private funds.

Women's history is largely missing from textbooks, memorials, museum exhibits and many other venues. In contrast, men have hundreds of years of written and available history to reflect upon and use for inspiration. Of the 210 statues in the United States Capitol, only 9 are of female leaders. Less than 5 percent of the 2,400 national historic landmarks chronicle women's achievement and according to a survey of 18 history textbooks, only 10 percent were dedicated to women.

The museums and memorials in our Nation's Capital demonstrate what we value. We have museums dedicated to flight, postage stamps, law enforcement and many other important people and issues of interest, but not to women. This bill would provide women, comprising 53 percent of our population, a long overdue home on our National Mall to honor their many contributions that are the very fabric of our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in filling this void and honoring our Nation's foremothers by becoming cosponsors of the National Women's History Museum Act of 2008.

RECOGNIZING RWA SLOVAKIA AND HFPJC-AVOYSEINU FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE MARCELOVA CEMETERY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the House of Representatives the work of Heritage Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries, HFPJC-Avoyseinu in preserving Jewish cemeteries in Europe and to offer recognition to RWA Slovakia for their humanitarian contribution to the protection of a Jewish cemetery in Marcelova, Slovakia.

I have the highest respect for HFPJC and its efforts to preserve Jewish cemeteries throughout Europe. The Nazis not only destroyed the Jewish population of Europe during the Holocaust, but they left Jewish cemeteries in ruin. The fall of the iron curtain and

the brutal rule of the communists in Eastern Europe only further desecrated the final resting places of millions of Jews. HFPJC is trying to right the wrongs of the preceding decades by working with communities throughout Europe to preserve the graves of their ancestors.

In my work with HFPJC on preservation of cemeteries in Slovakia, I have learned about the Marcelova Jewish Cemetery Project and the role the RWA Slovakia company played in enabling the cemetery's preservation. I would like to share this important story of generosity and interfaith understanding with the House.

The Marcelova Jewish cemetery site, after the Holocaust, became a deserted wasteland and passed from community to municipal to private ownership. RWA corporation owned the Marcelova Jewish cemetery lot for at least the past decade. As a burial ground, the Marcelova cemetery is sacred to people of the Jewish faith. HFPJC, acting on behalf of some highly concerned Marcelova descendants, attempted to secure the return and appropriate preservation of the cemetery before it is accidentally desecrated through construction or development.

After individual meetings between both the Marcelova mayor and several managing officers of RWA, in which all displayed exceptional courtesy, consideration, and understanding of the humanitarian significance of the issue, RWA agreed to allow the fencing and preservation of the cemetery site, adjoining their office complex. I have seen photographs of the restoration of the cemetery and would like to offer my highest commendation to RWA Slovakia for their work with HFPJC to preserve the Marcelova Jewish cemetery.

Madam Speaker, this is a generous and humane gesture on the part of RWA Slovakia, and is worthy of public recognition. Therefore, with this statement in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the House of Representatives of the United States, I officially commend the RWA Corporation of Slovakia for its preservation of the Marcelova Jewish cemetery.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, November 6, 2007, I could not be present for rollcall votes 500 to 508, due to a previous commitment to a distinguished constituent of mine.

Had I been present, I would have cast the following votes: "yes" on rollcall vote 500, 501, 504, 505, 507, 508 and "nay" on rollcall vote 502, 503, 506.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL VALLEY CHEESE

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Pearl Valley Cheese in Fresno, Ohio is celebrating 80 years of business since 1928; and

Whereas, Pearl Valley Cheese has developed a fund raising program for local 4-H, FFA, church and nonprofit community groups; and

Whereas, Pearl Valley Cheese has won a number of coveted awards, including a silver medal at the World Cheese Competition for their smoked Swiss and a number of awards at the Ohio State Fair: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I commend Pearl Valley Cheese for their unwavering commitment, dedication and contributions to their community and country in recognition of their 80 years.

HONORING DOCTOR RALPH MESSO

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. FOSSELLA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a constituent who has faithfully served the people of Staten Island for many years, Dr. Ralph Messo.

Born on Staten Island in 1961, Dr. Messo was inspired by the compassion and caring nature of the physicians he encountered as a young boy. After graduating from Wagner College, Dr. Messo pursued and was awarded a degree in Osteopathic Medicine from the University of New England in 1989. Dr. Messo was drawn to osteopathic medicine and its holistic approach to treatment—care that extended beyond the patient to his or her entire family.

After medical school, Dr. Messo returned to New York to care for the residents of Staten Island. Over the years, he has earned the respect and gratitude of my constituents across the Island through his generous spirit, his caring nature and unyielding commitment to health care in the borough. Dr. Messo's gentle demeanor and reassuring tone provide comfort to all his patients—the new mothers and fathers struggling to navigate the sometimes choppy waters of parenthood . . . and seniors who may need extra reassurance and a sympathetic ear.

He is currently the president of the Richmond County Medical Society, serves as counselor to the American College of Physicians, is an attending faculty member at both of Staten Island's medical centers, and sits on the Medical Advisory Board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He served as the assistant director of the Internal Medicine/Pediatric residency program at Staten Island University Hospital from 1993–2007 and was recently appointed Adjunct Clinical professor at Tourocom, a new medical school in Harlem, New York. In addition, Dr. Messo has been given The Consumer's Research Council of America's "Top Physician" award, the Peter Barbero Humanitarian Award, and was named "America's Top Pediatrician" in 2007 and 2008.

Dr. Messo continues to give back to his profession, lending his years of experience to young medical students and residents—the physicians of tomorrow who work alongside him, share in his knowledge and learn that caring for a patient is as much about listening as it is about treating.

For his decades of service to the Staten Island community, I ask that my colleagues join

with me in honoring Dr. Ralph Messo and thanking him for his dedication to health care.

CONGRATULATING JAKE DEITCHLER FOR MAKING THE 2008 U.S. OLYMPIC WRESTLING TEAM

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate Jake Deitchler of Anoka County, Minnesota for qualifying for the 2008 U.S. Olympic Wrestling team. Jake is a three-time State champion from Anoka High School and will be attending the University of Minnesota in the fall.

Jake's path to joining the Olympic team was certainly not an easy one. Competing in the 2008 Olympic Team Trials in the Greco-Roman style, Jake defeated a two-time World Bronze medalist in the semifinals and was then victorious in a hard fought final to earn a spot on the team. Just 18 years old, only two other high school wrestlers have ever qualified for the U.S. Olympics, and even more remarkably, not one wrestler his age has qualified since 1976.

Jake's success in the Olympic Trials carries on Minnesota's proud tradition of Greco-Roman wrestling. Since 1968, at least one man has made the U.S. Olympic Wrestling team from the North Star state. Jake will be one of 16 wrestlers representing the United States in the Beijing Games taking place in China in August.

Congratulations, Jake, and America looks forward to you bringing home the gold. We are all proud of your tremendous accomplishment and our Nation wishes you and your teammates the best of luck in Beijing.

H.R. 6307, SUPPORTING THE "FOSTERING CONNECTIONS TO SUCCESS ACT"

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, the House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 6307, the Fostering Connections to Success Act, sponsored by Representatives JIM McDERMOTT and JERRY WELLER. This bill is a strong first step in reforming the foster care system, and it includes provisions supporting kinship caregivers that I have championed for years. Specifically, the bill includes the 3 core elements of my bill, H.R. 2188, the Kinship Caregiver Support Act, which I introduced with Representative TIM JOHNSON: (1) it allows states to use Federal funds to support family caregivers raising relatives in the foster care system; (2) it provides funding to establish kinship navigator programs; and (3) it requires notification of relatives when a child enters the foster care system.

These provisions are critical to supporting our children and youth. Nationwide, almost 19 percent of kinship care providers live in poverty, and 30 percent to 40 percent of children