

IN MEMORIAL OF W.D. MOHAMMED

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness I rise today to mourn the passing of Imam W.D. Mohammed—the spiritual leader for millions of American Muslims. Imam Mohammed was accepted by his followers to lead The Nation of Islam in 1975 after the passing of his father, Elijah Muhammad, leader and builder of The Nation of Islam. Imam Mohammed led Americans toward tolerance, inclusion and civic engagement.

In 1992 he delivered the very first Invocation in the United States Senate given by a Muslim. He gave an Islamic Prayer at both of President Clinton's Inaugural Interfaith Prayer Services.

His dedication to interfaith dialogue led him to address the Muslim-Jewish Conference in 1996 with leaders of Islam and Reform Judaism. He met with Pope John Paul II on two occasions including in 1999 on the "eve of the New Millennium" in St. Peter's Basilica with other world religious leaders. He served on the Advisory Panel for Religious Freedom Abroad, formed by then Secretary of State, Madeline Albright. He was at his best promoting religious freedom in America and abroad.

Imam Mohammed's loss is immense. His life was led and lived by his faith—a faith that inspired him to reach across the divides of many religions; to knock down the walls of division and search for the commonalities that all faiths share: peace and understanding.

The Imam believed he had a responsibility to speak out on the social issues of the day, taking it upon himself to apply scriptural interpretation to those issues. His leadership was recognized by all.

The world is smaller today because of the passing of the Imam. We all would do well to stop and listen to the lessons left behind by Imam W.D. Mohammed. May his soul continue to guide leaders and legions alike to the world of peace and understanding.

GREATER BOSTON INSTITUTIONS
CONFER TWO AWARDS**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I have had the honor for many years of sharing with the Members information about awards being presented to individuals who have performed extraordinary service to others in the field of medical services.

These awards are presented by "ROFEH International—New England Chassidic Center," under the leadership of Grand Rabbi Levi Y. Horowitz, which provides help across the world in giving access to the first-class medical treatment that we in the Greater Boston area are fortunate to enjoy. Rabbi Horowitz himself has been a distinguished leader in the field of medical ethics, and his dedication to seeing that access to the medical services he has helped support and defend is a great

asset to us all. On November 23, 2008, at the Grand Ballroom of the Boston Park Plaza Hotel, the Annual Dinner of ROFEH International—New England Chassidic Center will honor, as it always does, two individuals who have distinguished themselves by their dedication to others, and the great skill they bring to those tasks. The ROFEH International Award goes to Dr. John B. Mulliken, and the Man of the Year Award is being presented to Mr. Herbert M. Gann.

Madam Speaker, the work in the medical area organized and inspired by Grand Rabbi Horowitz is a superb example of how Americans can best work together to enhance the quality of all of our lives. To Dr. Mulliken, to Mr. Gann, and to Rabbi Horowitz and his fellow and sister workers in this endeavor, I extend my congratulations, but even more important, my thanks for what they do for all of us.

Madam Speaker, I ask that these remarks be printed here along with the relevant biographical information about Dr. Mulliken and Mr. Gann.

MR. HERBERT M. GANN, ROFEH INTERNATIONAL NEW ENGLAND CHASSIDIC CENTER
MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Mr. Herbert Gann lived in Chelsea, Massachusetts until 1946 when he and his parents, Joseph and Rae Gann, and his two sisters, Beverly and Shirley, moved to Newton, Massachusetts.

He graduated Newton High School in 1951 and Boston University with a BS and BA in 1955. Mr. Gann served in the United States Army in Germany from 1956–1958.

Herb started working part time in Joseph Gann Inc., while in high school; continued in college and started working full time after graduating in 1955. He worked together with his father, Joseph Gann, until his father retired in December 2000. Mr. Herbert Gann has been the owner of Joseph Gann Jewelers, in Boston since 1987.

He learned charity from both his parents and is a very philanthropic person in his own right. His interest in Jewish Education started when his oldest daughter, Elisa, enrolled in Solomon Schechter Day School, in 1970. He continues to support that school along with Rashi Jewish Community Day School, Metro West Day School, and Gann Academy. He also supports the work of Combined Jewish Philanthropies.

Herb and Rita Gann are members of Temple Emanuel, Congregation Beth El Atereth Israel and Congregation Agdus Achim-Anshe Sfard.

Mr. Gann started going to the Rebbe's Dinners at the time they honored Reverend Louis Lourie, over 28 years ago. His interest in the Rebbe's work evolved and Mr. Gann has been on the dinner committee for many years.

Herb Gann married Rita (Kaplan) Gann in 1964. Rita was hired in 1962 as the bookkeeper at Joseph Gann Jewelers and continues to work alongside her husband. They have four children and five grandchildren.

JOHN B. MULLIKEN, MD—ROFEH
INTERNATIONAL AWARD

John B. Mulliken, M.D., received his medical degree in 1964 from Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons. Following his surgical residency and a research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital, Dr. Mulliken served in the U.S. Army in Korea and at Ft. Devens, Massachusetts. After his military service, Dr. Mulliken completed a residency in plastic surgery at The Johns Hopkins Hospital in Maryland.

Board-certified in general surgery and plastic surgery, Dr. Mulliken is an Associate

Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School and a Senior Associate in Surgery at Children's Hospital Boston. In addition to being director of the Vascular Anomalies Center, Dr. Mulliken is director of the Craniofacial Centre. He also holds an appointment at Brigham and Women's Hospital.

A Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Mulliken is the co-founder and past president of the International Society for the Study of Vascular Anomalies, and a diplomat of both the American Board of Surgery and the American Board of Plastic Surgery. In 1998, he was the recipient of an honorary degree from Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels.

Dr. Mulliken is the author of 185 original scientific articles; dozens of reviews, journal discussions, and editorials; nearly 40 chapters; and two books, including *Vascular Birthmarks: Hemangiomas and Malformations*, coauthored with British surgeon Anthony E. Young, M.A., M. Chir., F.R.C.S. (Philadelphia: W.B. Saunders Co., 1988; 483 pgs.).

Dr. Mulliken's clinical interests include craniofacial anomalies, cleft lip/palate, and vascular anomalies. His basic research is focused on molecular causes of craniofacial and vascular anomalies.

Dr. Mulliken developed the current, now widely-accepted classification system for vascular anomalies, which divides them into two major categories based on their etiology. Considered one of the world's foremost experts in vascular anomalies, Dr. Mulliken is frequently invited to lecture at hospitals around the globe and is host to many visiting scholars and physicians interested in vascular anomalies.

HONORING BOOKS FOR AFRICA
FOR 20 YEARS OF SERVICE SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mrs. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the work of an internationally recognized non-governmental organization based in St. Paul, Minnesota that for the past 20 years has helped to transform the lives of millions of people—young and old—across the continent of Africa. With commitment and a passion for putting a book in the hands of children and elders hungry for knowledge, Books for Africa is an organization that has shipped more than 20 million books to more than 35 African countries since 1988. In so many African cities, towns and rural schools, where students had no access to books, there are now books for learning, enjoyment, and to experience the wonders of the world.

Mr. Tom Warth is the founder of Books for Africa, and he is an inspirational humanitarian. Tom's vision, enthusiasm, and his on-going commitment, along with the work of all of the board of directors of Books for Africa, continues to transform lives by facilitating the shipment of container after container of books that put real books in the hands of real people.

Now, under the strong leadership of Mr. Pat Plonsky, I am proud to continue my office's ongoing relationship with Books for Africa. Their collaborations with Peace Corps volunteers, the State Department, and the U.S.

Agency for International Development (USAID) enables the U.S. to demonstrate both its generosity and its willingness to provide a tangible learning tool. Last year, in partnership with USAID's Africa Education Initiative, 18 containers of books were delivered to Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. All told, Books for Africa delivered 119 containers of books in 2007 to 22 countries, a truly impressive accomplishment.

This form of public diplomacy—putting the book in the hands of a child or elder—is truly the best face of America and should not only be sustained, but expanded. In the U.S. we take books for granted, but we should never forget the power of a book. And, when they are distributed by the millions, the benefit cannot be overstated.

Let me conclude by also recognizing the extraordinary effort of the volunteers for Books for Africa, as well as the donations of high quality books from publishers, schools and organizations. This combined and coordinated effort is transforming lives. If this generosity and determination to provide books can continue to match the hunger for knowledge, learning, and education by the children and adults all across the African continent then we will have even greater accomplishments to celebrate in the future.

Again, congratulations to Books for Africa for 20 years of extraordinary work to build a bridge of knowledge, education and hope between Minnesota and communities all across Africa.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHFIELD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the citizens of Richfield, Minnesota on the celebration of the city's 100th anniversary.

Richfield is a diverse, vibrant community whose history mirrors that of the State of Minnesota. Originally, the territory was inhabited by the Ojibwe and Dakota tribes, and, in the late 18th century, was claimed by the French. The territory was first settled in 1852 by Riley Bartholomew on the eastern shore of Wood Lake; the Bartholomew homestead remains there to this day, and is listed on the National and Minnesota Registers of Historic Places. In 1804, the territory was purchased by the United States Government from France as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, and in the years following, would become a village, revered for the fertile texture of its soil and its farming communities. Richfield's economy would remain focused on agricultural commodities until the conclusion of World War II.

Today, Richfield is a prosperous community, home to families, education facilities, businesses, community organizations, wetlands and parks. The city will celebrate its first century this year by remembering the past. In honor of the city's centennial, a statue of Charles W. Lindberg, who helped to raise the United States flag atop the island of Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, will be dedicated at Veterans Park on July 4, 2009. The dedication

will also include a memorial to all veterans from Richfield.

I am honored to represent the residents of Richfield, Minnesota in the United States House of Representatives, and I applaud everyone, past or present, who contributed to the history of this great city. I hope the events scheduled to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city are enjoyed by all residents and I look forward to making the next 100 years just as successful as the previous century.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 588, Adjournment, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 585, Approval of the Journal, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 586, H. Res. 1420, Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 587, H.R. 6531, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE WEST HAVEN ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association as they celebrate a remarkable milestone—their 50th Anniversary. As they mark this golden anniversary, their many members and their families can be proud of all that they have contributed and continue to contribute to our community.

My hometown of New Haven, Connecticut and its surrounding communities have always had a large and very proud Italian-American population. Over the years, a number of Italian-American clubs and organizations were formed by small groups within different neighborhoods and most were dedicated to particular towns or regions in the old country or were affiliated with certain Saints or religious societies. It was, is still today, a means of preserving and celebrating the traditions and culture brought to America from Italy.

The founders of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association wanted to create a place where all Americans of Italian descent

could meet and socialize—an organization that was more general in its appeal and that encompassed all that the local Italian-American communities had to offer. They also wanted to create an organization that would allow them to give back to the community and country that had offered them so many opportunities and blessings.

After the official incorporation of both the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and its sister organization, the West Haven Italian American Auxiliary, member contributions made possible the purchase of a plot of land and through the volunteer efforts of the membership, the buildings and grounds were renovated and improved. In less than a decade, because of increased membership, it became clear that they would need additional space for their meetings and social gatherings. Once again the generosity and volunteer efforts of the club's membership allowed them to build a new meeting hall which is still used today.

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association has always been more than a social organization. One of their founding principles was a commitment to give back to the community in which they and their families had found the opportunity to prosper. Through the years, local schools, service organizations, police, fire, and volunteer organizations have all benefited from the generosity of the Association's members. Through its Civic and Welfare Fund, more than \$70,000 has been contributed to various causes. The Association also sponsors numerous youth sports teams and offers free use of their hall for, among many things, school bingos, sports affairs, and community fundraisers. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Association and the Auxiliary have not only realized the vision of the founding members, but have far exceeded them.

For their many invaluable contributions, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the membership—past and present—of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and Auxiliary as they mark their golden anniversary. I have no doubt that they and future generations of members will continue to make a difference in the lives of others leaving an indelible mark on our community. My very best wishes for another 50 years of success!

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) on the occasion of their 39th Biennial National Convention and in recognition of their dedication to veterans' issues and to the community. I am proud to be an honorary member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and of the leadership of the National Commander, Ernest Stetz.

PLAV, founded in 1920, is comprised of American veterans of Polish descent who actively engage in the community through education, charitable and civic activities. In addition to civic engagement, founding PLAV members worked for an independent Poland,