

unflinchingly of their energy, time and finances to enrich and improve their community.

The congregation of Agudath Achim is an extended family who shares in the celebrations, joys and sorrows life brings. The Agudath Achim membership is proud of their heritage and with God's help will grow in strength and continue to be an inspiring factor in the lives of its membership and to the larger community of Blair County and the city of Altoona.

Over the past 125 years, the members of Agudath Achim and Jews throughout the world have born witness to immense transformations of their people. They have endured the horrors of intolerance and inhumanity brought on by the Holocaust. They have been uplifted by the formation of the State of Israel and they have seen their community flourish through Jewish immigration from post-war Europe. Through it all, the congregation of Agudath Achim endured and provided a stable foundation on which to grow.

The fact that we are able to commemorate Agudath Achim's 125th anniversary is a testament to the character of its members and the congregation's success is a testament to all of the men, women, and children who have made the Agudath Achim Synagogue the paramount focus of their lives. I would like to congratulate Hazzan G. Michael Horwitz, Dr. Elliott Bilofsky, Joel H. Hollander and the synagogue's past presidents of both the Synagogue Boards and the Sisterhood and all of their past and present members who have guided Agudath Achim's destiny over the past 125 years. I have no doubt that the members of Agudath Achim will continue their path of excellence as they begin to write the next chapter of their history.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK STATEMENT

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, it was my great pleasure to serve this year as the Congressional Co-chair for the House of Representatives for National Bible Week, November 23 through November 30, 2008.

The Bible was foundational to the development of our country. The English Puritans came to the New World to follow the Bible according to the convictions of their own consciences. Of the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence, 24 had what today would be considered Bible college or seminary educations. Only a few years later, in 1782, Congress itself authorized the printing of the Bible.

The Bible has found its way into everything from casual conversation—expressions like “by the sweat of your brow” and “the salt of the earth” and myriad others all come from Scripture—to the landscape of America. From Corinth, Maine to Bethel, Alaska, the Bible has marked our national map.

More than any map, however, the Bible has marked who we are as a people. Earlier generations of Americans almost inhaled the words of Scripture as they inhaled the air. To read the inaugural addresses of our Presidents, from George Washington to George W. Bush, is to read repeated allusions to or quotations of biblical texts.

The Bible speaks to the uniqueness of man—that we are all made in the image and likeness of God. It speaks of the greatness of God—that He is the object of true worship, the fount of all blessings, and the Redeemer, Lawgiver, Friend, Savior and Judge.

Historically, we have been a people of the Book. We lose our allegiance to and our reliance on the Bible to our grave peril.

The Bible can be hard to understand. Yet as the theologian R.C. Sproul has written, “We fail in our duty to study God's Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work.”

And it is worthwhile work. There can be nothing nobler than seeking not only to know the Bible's teachings but also to know the Bible's God.

It was President Lincoln who said, “I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.” Or, as Jesus Himself remarked, “Search the Scriptures . . . for they testify of Me.”

Today, Madam Speaker, I echo Abraham Lincoln's comments and urge my colleagues and all Americans to reacquire themselves with the Bible. As literature, it is unmatched. As philosophy, it is unparalleled. And as truth, it will make you free.

I commend the National Bible Association for its outstanding work to bring the Bible to the attention of all Americans of every faith and creed. And I am humbled by the opportunity to serve in such a way as to draw attention to this most precious of books.

HONORING JEANNE ANN WHITMIRE FOR HER ADVOCACY OF ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE ISSUES

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor Jeanne Ann Whitmire for her commitment and dedication to Arkansas children. Jeanne Ann, an attorney in the Office of Chief Counsel for the Arkansas Department of Human Services in Van Buren, has placed hundreds of children in both foster care and adoptive homes throughout the Third District of Arkansas.

She has an outstanding record of fighting for adoption and foster care issues. Not only is she proactive in placing children in loving homes, but she practices what she advocates, sharing her love with an adopted daughter.

Jeanne Ann's efforts were nationally recognized by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute through its program Angels in Adoption, which honors the good work of the American people who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans in the United States and abroad.

I thank Jeanne Ann for the unselfish work she does on behalf of children. Jeanne Ann is a true hero and a champion for Arkansas children, showing them there are people who care and finding them a place they can call home.

HONORING DR. SURESH ANNÉ

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Suresh Anné. Dr. Anné is the President of the Genesee County Medical Society. He will be honored at the Genesee County Medical Society and Genesee County Medical Society Alliances Presidents' Ball on November 1st in Flint, MI.

After graduating from the Andhra Medical College in Andhra Pradesh, India, Dr. Anné practiced medicine in India. He was the Resident Medical Officer for a construction company in Amman, Jordan before coming to the United States. After completing a residency in Internal Medicine at Hurley Medical Center and a fellowship in Allergy/Immunology at the State University of New York, Dr. Anné returned to Flint and established a practice in the Flint area. He belongs to numerous professional associations and has received many awards for clinical research. Dr. Anné is currently involved in a treatment study for hereditary angioedema.

In addition to his practice, Dr. Anné is an open consultant at the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic, sees patients at the five hospitals in the Flint and surrounding areas, and teaches at the NRI Academy of Sciences Medical School and Hospital in Andhra Pradesh. He also cofounder of “Medical Office Management Systems, Inc.” a company dedicated to helping physicians manage the business and patient sides of their practices. Dr. Anné is also enthusiastic about cricket, and during 2006 helped to create the first cricket grounds in the Flint area. Married 25 years to Dr. Aruna Anné, the couple have a daughter, Lajari.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the work and life of Dr. Suresh Anné. His dedication to the field of medicine is to be commended, and I wish him continued success for many years to come.

HONORING ZAKA SEARCH AND RESCUE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an Israeli organization that has dedicated itself to assisting the victims of terrorist attacks and other life-threatening situations, and making sure that those who pay the ultimate price receive a proper Jewish burial.

ZAKA Search and Rescue is an organization of 1,500 volunteers who live and work throughout the State of Israel. At a moment's notice, they are prepared to drop everything and rush to the scene of a traffic accident or terrorist incident. Wearing their trademark yellow vests and weaving through traffic jams on motor scooters, ZAKA volunteers are often the first to arrive on the scene. They provide first aid to victims until emergency medical personnel arrive on the scene. When an incident results in fatalities, ZAKA volunteers perform the grim but necessary work of collecting and

preserving victims' remains so they can be buried according to Jewish law, and helping family members cope with the tragedy.

ZAKA volunteers are widely recognized and respected throughout Israel for their devotion to the difficult duties they perform. During 2007, they participated in more than 18,000 life-saving or search-and-rescue incidents. More than 2,000 times they were involved in activities to honor the dead after fatal accidents or attacks. Because of their professionalism, they have forged close working relationships with police and other emergency responders.

ZAKA has also expanded its work to respond to accidents and catastrophes around the world. They helped identify Jewish victims of the deadly Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami in 2004 in Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, and Indonesia. They helped return the remains of victims of plane crashes in Russia and Namibia. They helped save 2,000-year-old Jewish catacombs in Italy. And they helped rescue and preserve sacred Jewish Torahs in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

I had the privilege of speaking at a lunch last week here in Washington honoring ZAKA and its founder, Yehuda Meshi Zahav. ZAKA's motto is "Saving those who can be saved, and honoring those who cannot." They live up to this motto every day. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this great organization, and to the many volunteers who give selflessly of their time to help those in need in Israel and around the world.

TRIBUTE TO GAYLE O. AVERYT

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a tremendous business and civic leader and a great friend. Mr. Gayle Averyt is being honored on October 1st for accomplishing an extraordinary feat—50 years of service to the same employer—Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company.

After earning a bachelor's degree from Davidson College and an MBA from Harvard Business School, Gayle joined the staff of Colonial in 1958 at the age of 25. He rose through the ranks at Colonial, proving himself a very capable and collegial businessman. By 1970, he became Chairman of the Board of Directors and Chief Executive Officer at a youthful 37 years of age. He held those positions for 23 years, until assuming the title of Chairman Emeritus of Colonial Life in 1993. That was the same year Colonial merged with UNUM Corporation of Portland, Maine, and he served on UNUM Corporation's Board of Directors from 1993–1999.

Gayle is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Health Insurance Association of America and served as Secretary of the South Carolina Insurance Commission. He also served on the Board of NationsBank, a board member of the National Association (Carolinas) from 1992–1995 and as a member of the Board of Directors of the South Carolina Ports Authority from 1995–1999.

Despite his hectic career, Gayle believed in his community and sought opportunities to

give back. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Foundation for Columbia's Future and is a former member of the Executive Committee (1979–1995) and Vice President (1988–1995) of the South Carolina State Fair Association. He has been a trustee of the University of South Carolina Business Partnership Foundation and is past president of the University of South Carolina Research and Development Foundation, having served as a Trustee of the Foundation from 1980–1991. He is past president of the University of South Carolina Orchestra Association and served on the board of the Cultural Council of Richland and Lexington Counties.

Gayle has been awarded numerous recognitions. In 1989, the South Carolina State Chamber of Commerce recognized him as South Carolina Businessman of the Year. The University of South Carolina awarded him the honorary degree of Doctor of Public Service that same year. He received Distinguished Service Awards from USC and from the Moore School of Business at USC in 1993 and 2006 respectively. In 1994, he received the Order of the Palmetto, which is the highest civic honor awarded by the Governor to individual citizens for outstanding service to the state. Four years later, he was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame.

While Gayle has been a lifelong Republican who has been very active in numerous political campaigns, he has been a very ardent support of me and my political efforts. I am proud to call him a dear friend.

Gayle is married to the former Margaret "Peg" Finlay, and the two have three daughters, Caroline, Margaret, and Elinor. They are very active members of Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Gayle Averyt for a remarkable career at Colonial Life & Accident and a lifetime of dedication to his community. He is a man of honor and integrity. I applaud his many contributions, and extend my best wishes and Godspeed on this tremendous occasion.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING OF STAFF SERGEANT DARRIS JULIUS DAWSON UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I rise today to honor the sacrifice of Staff Sergeant Darris Julius Dawson. On September 14, 2008, while serving his third tour in Iraq, Staff Sergeant Dawson was killed in the line of duty in Tunnis, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sergeant Dawson joined the United States Army shortly after graduating from Escambia High School in Pensacola, Florida. Darris re-enlisted twice and was assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Madam Speaker, the Northwest Florida community is proud of his service, and we offer our sincere condolences to his wife, four

children, family and friends as they mourn their loss of this fine man. On behalf of the United States Congress and a grateful Nation, I am humbled to recognize his dedication and love for our country. May God continue to bless Darris and all of the men and women in uniform who protect our freedom, and may God continue to bless America.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND HARD WORK OF EDWARD JOHNSON

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Edward Johnson, Arkansas' 2008 Outstanding Older Worker of the Year.

His commitment and dedication to establishing employment opportunities for Americans who are beyond the traditional retirement age has helped play a vital role in Arkansas' economy.

There is no one more deserving of this recognition. Mr. Johnson loves to see the excitement on a veteran's face when he or she gets a good job.

He continues to lead a life of service he started when he joined the Army in 1948. Serving tours in Japan, Korea, Panama, and Vietnam and earning numerous medals he hasn't retired from helping his neighbors.

Following his military career, Mr. Johnson became the Workforce Services Veterans representative for areas in the third district, a position he has held for 30 years.

Married to his lovely wife, Louise, he has taught the importance of being involved in the community to three children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Johnson remains active with the chamber of commerce and he enjoys the company of his family and friends.

I congratulate Mr. Johnson and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING OXI DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 25, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to join Hellenic-Americans and Philhellenes everywhere to celebrate "OXI Day (No Day)," which falls on the 28th of October. This year marks the 68th anniversary of a very important day in Hellenic history, the day on which brave Greek patriots said "No" to fascism, "No" to injustice, and "No" to slavery. For those individuals who lived through that momentous period and their descendants, many of whom live in the 14th Congressional District of New York, "OXI Day" is more than a memory: it is the embodiment of Hellenism and its highest ideals.

At dawn on October 28, 1940, General Ionnas Metaxas was confronted with an ultimatum. An Italian ambassador delivered a message directly from General Mussolini demanding that Greece allow Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy certain unspecified "strategic locations" or face war.