

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to stand here today to congratulate COL Thomas Chapman, for his tireless work in Sacramento and throughout his 26-year career with the Army Corps of Engineers. As his colleagues, friends and family gather today, including his wife Deidre and their seven children, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Colonel Chapman. His work has kept American servicemen and women safe abroad and the public safe at home. I offer him my warmest thanks and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his life.

LIEL MAGHEN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Liel Maghen, one of my 2010 summer interns in the New Story Leadership Program. The New Story Leadership Program, hosts interns from Israel and Palestine, to Washington, DC every year. As a requirement of the program a Congressional Forum is held, and in my attendance on July 20, 2010 Liel Maghen gave a remarkable speech. His story is very inspirational and it gives a clear perspective of his culture and obstacles he overcame. At this time, I present to you his speech:

“I am Liel Maghen and I am your Master of Ceremony for this morning’s event.

The Middle East story receives high media coverage and public attention. It is a story of a conflict between two people over the same land and it is a story of terror, occupation, and suffering.

The dimensions of this story combine religion, economy, cultural differences and racism in a complex history of hatred, and present reality of mistrust, that seems far from being solved. However, the small particles of this conflict are the personal stories of people that live in that region.

And like looking at atoms of a human body, these stories reveal different perceptions and demonstrate how these separate particles are connected together in one body that is called the Middle East.

My story starts with my heritage. But before I will begin, let me note that today is “Tisha Beav”. It is a day of grief for the Jewish people that commemorate the destruction of both great temples in Jerusalem.

According to the religious scriptures, which refer to these temples as Houses, these temples were destroyed as god’s punishment for corruption, moral degradation, and false hatred.

I believe that we, the Jewish people who are gathered here today, came here in order to prevent the collapse of our third House the Israeli state.

I was born in the state of Israel to an Italian mother and Libyan father, who decided, as true Zionists, to leave their families and home in order to move to the Jewish state. My mother is a daughter of two Holocaust survivors and my father himself suffered persecution in his Arab homeland throughout his childhood. Therefore, my education, which was traditional Jewish, emphasized the importance of a Jewish state and the need of the Jewish people to defend themselves in order to prevent a second Holocaust. My education was also affected by the political activism of my parents, who were members of the Halikud right wing party.

When I grew up, especially in the time of the second Intifada, I adopted my parents’ perspective as my own and believed that the Jewish people are in danger, and that there is no chance for peace. Thus, I was eager to serve my country in a combat unit and to be a representative of my people and history through my army service. This concept of service has a major role in Israeli society and education. And eventually, this service would be the reason for a big change in my perception, a change that occurred because of a friend.

This friend was Johan Zarbib.

I met him in the first week of basic training. We were together in the same unit and partners in the same squad. He, as a foreigner who was born in France, decided to immigrate to Israel for the same reasons as my parents. He told me, that after suffering modern anti-Semitism in his homeland, he understood the importance of the Jewish country and wanted to join the army and contribute his share for the sake of the Jewish people.

I, on the other hand, made a personal and difficult decision to change units. I decided to complete my military service by transferring to an education unit, where I could contribute in a different way.

In the last day of the war of Lebanon, in 2006, after the cease-fire was signed but before it was fully implemented, I was shocked to hear that Johan was killed.

The day after, in his funeral, I saw that many other friends from our unit were injured in the same battle.

Looking at them and thinking about Johan, made me re-examine these values of contribution and service. I have asked myself if serving in the army is the only way to contribute to my society or maybe was there another option.

My conclusion was that it is our responsibility, as people who suffer from the war, to make an effort for achieving peace. Or as Mahatma Gandhi has said: “you must be the change that you wish to see in the world”.

Since then, I have participated in different co-existence programs. Although these experiences are difficult and confront sensitive issues, I have come to understand through them, that both sides suffer from this conflict and that only personal connection between people can create a bridge beyond the walls of separation and fear. I have also come to understand that maybe we don’t agree on the details of the solution, but we can agree on the process of finding one, process that requires communication, compromise, and reconciliation.

And Finally, Here in Washington, I have had a great opportunity to take this understanding one step further. Thank to Congressman Payne and his inspirational staff I have learned about the political process and how it can make a major impact in people’s life. Furthermore, being a part of a group of Israeli and Palestinian activists through the New Story Leadership Program teaches me that many people from both sides are basically on the same side, the side that wants peace.

This future is reachable, and we should join together, Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans, in order to make this future closer to the present.”

Thank you very much,

Shalom, Peace and Salam Aleikum

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in joining me congratulating Liel Maghen and wishing him all the best. He is truly an inspiration to all that know him.

HONORING DYLAN COCHRAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dylan Cochran. Dylan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1179, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dylan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dylan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dylan has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the World Conservation Award. Dylan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dylan constructed and installed a bench along the Maple Woods Conservation Area trail route.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Dylan Cochran for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING USA HOCKEY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of USA Hockey and their support of disabled hockey programs. USA Hockey has proven that hockey truly is for everyone, and their efforts to share the wonderful game of hockey should be commended.

USA Hockey supports four disciplines of disabled hockey, all serving players both young and old. This includes Standing/Amputee hockey, Deaf/Hard of Hearing hockey, Sled hockey, and Special hockey. These groups provide unique practices that enable the players to reconnect with a sport they love. For example, Deaf/Hard of Hearing hockey incorporates a special lighting system and allows coaches and players to communicate through sign language, lip-reading and interpreters. And Sled hockey provides paraplegics with the opportunity to enjoy the sport by using specially designed sleds on the ice.

USA Hockey also proudly supports the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program, providing wounded United States Military Personnel with therapeutic and recreational opportunities to play hockey. This program focuses on integrating disabled and non-disabled players in order to build self-confidence and assist disabled veterans to reconnect with the activities they were involved with prior to their disability. While I can’t begin to comprehend all that these brave veterans have experienced and what they’ve done in service to our nation, I can understand why they still want to play hockey.

I believe that hockey is a tremendous game that teaches its players the value of hard work, discipline, and the benefit of playing as a team. Through the support of USA Hockey,

thousands of disabled participants of all ages are able to learn these important lessons that will help them be successful both on and off the ice.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY COMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act. I'm proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, voting for it in the Communications, Technology, and the Internet Subcommittee and in the full Energy and Commerce Committee. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for it today.

Today is a historic day. It is the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Americans With Disabilities Act, ADA. Twenty years and one day ago, individuals with disabilities did not enjoy the same access to employment, education, or basic services as other Americans. The ADA changed that forever. Our workplaces, schools, buildings, and sidewalks offer safe and fair access for Americans with disabilities, where for too long they had none.

In the 20 years the ADA has been the law of the land, our country has seen significant change. Much of that change has been driven by the high-tech innovators in my Congressional District, the heart of Silicon Valley. In 1990 a supercomputer that would fill a building the size of a warehouse can now fit in the palm of a hand. We can now watch our favorite television shows outside, on an airplane, or in a coffee shop on our computers. Businesses can allow their employees to collaborate face-to-face from offices thousands of miles apart. Communications and video technology have become truly integral aspects of our everyday lives.

Unfortunately, not all Americans have been able to take full advantage of these innovations in technology. By passing the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act today, we will change this.

Working to address the needs of individuals with vision, hearing, and other disabilities by updating communications laws last revised in 1996, the 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act makes technology and telecommunications devices and services accessible to everyone.

I commend the author of this legislation, Representative ED MARKEY, for his leadership and advocacy on behalf of the disabilities community. On this historic day, I'm proud to support this legislation that will ensure no one is left behind.

HONORING THE NEW LONDON ROTARY CLUB

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in appreciation and support for the New

London, Connecticut Rotary Club's Camp Rotary, a service program showcased at a July 23rd event that I had the opportunity to attend. The event joined together the Connecticut College AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers and students and teachers of New London Public Schools to celebrate the success of Camp Rotary.

The Rotary motto "Service Above Self" exemplifies their strong devotion to community service internationally, and the Rotary Club of New London demonstrates this commitment every day. The New London Rotary Club organizes many service projects annually, including a holiday book drive, a literacy initiative, and a community playground cleanup.

Rotarians have long understood that many young students lose academic momentum over summer vacation. Often, students also practice unhealthy eating habits and sedentary lifestyles over the summer because they lack access to healthy, affordable food and places to exercise.

Camp Rotary, now in its 18th year, provides a valuable opportunity for disadvantaged students of the New London Public School system to enrich their summers through physical activities, educational programs, and college preparation. The school system partners with New London teachers and Connecticut College student volunteers who graciously devote their summers to helping these youth progress.

Camp activities aim to provide an educational and entertaining experience for the 11–15 year olds, but the overarching goal of the program is to put the students on a college path. Many of these young people would be the first in their family to attend college, and Camp Rotary helps them plan for their future by offering tours of universities and goal planning workshops.

The importance of this effort was recently underscored by a report issued by the National College Board finding that the U.S. is now ranked 12th in the industrialized world in college graduation rates. As recently as 1986, the U.S. was ranked first. Camp Rotary aims to solve this problem by awakening interest and motivation in college achievement at the middle school level, which experts agree is the most successful strategy to increase college involvement and completion.

The New London Rotarians understood the need for the Camp Rotary program in the community and successfully and generously established a program to provide more productive summers for hundreds of disadvantaged students. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the valuable opportunity the New London Rotary Club and the Rotary Foundation continues to provide for the youth of New London, and the New London teachers and AmeriCorps VISTA volunteers that help Camp Rotary to succeed.

HONORING JORDAN M. McCLOUD

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Jordan M. McCLOUD. Jordan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of ci-

zenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1179, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Jordan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Jordan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Jordan has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the World Conservation Award. Jordan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Jordan constructed a fire ring and installed erosion prevention measures at New Hope Retreat Center outside of Holt, Missouri.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commanding Jordan M. McCLOUD for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today I missed rollcall vote No. 458 on H. Res. 1537. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING SPECTRUM HEALTH ON BEING NAMED A TOP HOSPITAL

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to congratulate Spectrum Health on being named one of the Nation's top ten health care systems. Spectrum has a long-standing reputation as an exceptional health care provider. It is a true benefit and blessing to our community to have world-class health care available locally.

Spectrum Health is now in the company of a very select group of health systems that have demonstrated that they provide better care, save more lives, have fewer medical complications, and make fewer patient safety errors. According to Thomson Reuters, the esteemed national organization presenting this award, Spectrum Health "set the standard for the industry." As a member of The United States House of Representatives serving Grand Rapids and West Michigan, I am delighted to have the opportunity to recognize this health system for its excellence—especially since Spectrum is the only health system in Michigan to receive this honor.

Great recognition brings great appreciation, and I am certain this award will create in our community an increased awareness of the remarkable health care services that Spectrum Health makes available to them through a number of exceptional facilities. I thank Spectrum Health for its steadfast commitment to providing the residents of west Michigan with the finest possible care through the efforts of its physicians and staff.