

Comprised of more than 40,000 items, the Blockson Collection continues to grow through the acquisition of both current and retrospective materials. An estimated 25,000 volumes fill the shelves of the collection and an additional 3,500 volumes are rare books. Another 15,000 items of rare Afro-Americana include pamphlets, slave narratives, antislavery broadsides, signed letters, posters, photographs, sheet music, original phonograph recordings and statues.

On March 10, 2010, in recognition of Women's History Month and on the 188th anniversary of the birth of the African American abolitionist Harriet Tubman, I was pleased to honor Mr. Blockson for his donation of his collection of Harriet Tubman artifacts to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC). The donated artifacts included a shawl given to Harriet Tubman by England's Queen Victoria, historic photographs and a hymnal signed by Tubman.

By making this donation to the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture, Mr. Blockson has ensured that this unparalleled collection will be shared with millions of visitors to the museum. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Blockson whose donation represents a continuum of a life dedicated to preserving African American history.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE—FORMER NEW YORK CITY MAYOR ED KOCH

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, no one is more dedicated to maintaining the strength of the American-Israeli relationship than former New York City Mayor Ed Koch. Mayor Koch is a true American patriot who knows that Israel is an indispensable partner in the war against Islamic terrorism. Israel, of course, shares America's belief in freedom and democracy. Like many of us, Mayor Koch is concerned that President Obama's policies have "damaged the relationship between the U.S. and Israel . . . to one in which there is an absence of trust on both sides." Mayor Koch has written a very thoughtful article in which he describes his opposition to the Obama policies—policies which have caused the Mayor to "weep." I commend this article to my colleagues.

A DANGEROUS SILENCE

I weep as I witness outrageous verbal attacks on Israel. What makes these verbal assaults and distortions all the more painful is that they are being orchestrated by President Obama.

For me, the situation today recalls what occurred in 70 AD when the Roman emperor Vespasian launched a military campaign against the Jewish nation and its ancient capital of Jerusalem. Ultimately, Masada, a rock plateau in the Judean desert became the last refuge of the Jewish people against the Roman onslaught. I have been to Jerusalem and Masada. From the top of Masada, you can still see the remains of the Roman fortifications and garrisons, and the stones and earth of the Roman siege ramp that was used to reach Masada. The Jews of Masada committed suicide rather than let themselves be taken captive by the Romans.

In Rome itself, I have seen the Arch of Titus with the sculpture showing enslaved Jews and the treasures of the Jewish Temple of Solomon with the Menorah, the symbol of the Jewish state, being carted away as booty during the sacking of Jerusalem.

Oh, you may say, that is a farfetched analogy. Please hear me out.

The most recent sacking of the old city of Jerusalem—its Jewish quarter—took place under the Jordanians in 1948 in the first war between the Jews and the Arabs, with at least five Muslim states—Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq—seeking to destroy the Jewish state. At that time, Jordan conquered East Jerusalem and the West Bank and expelled every Jew living in the Jewish quarter of the old city, destroying every building, including the synagogues in the old quarter and expelling from every part of Judea and Samaria every Jew living there so that for the first time in thousands of years, the old walled city of Jerusalem and the adjacent West Bank were "Judenrein"—a term used by the Nazis to indicate the forced removal or murder of all Jews.

Jews had lived for centuries in Hebron, the city where Abraham, the first Jew, pitched his tent and where he now lies buried, it is believed, in a tomb with his wife, Sarah, as well as other ancient Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs. I have visited that tomb and at the time asked an Israeli soldier guarding it—so that it was open to all pilgrims, Christians, Muslims and Jews—"where is the seventh step leading to the tomb of Abraham and Sarah," which was the furthest entry for Jews when the Muslims were the authority controlling the holy place? He replied, "When we retook and reunited the whole city of Jerusalem and conquered the West Bank in 1967, we removed the steps, so now everyone can enter," whereas when Muslims were in charge of the tomb, no Jew could enter it. And I did.

I am not a religious person. I am comfortable in a synagogue, but generally attend only twice a year, on the high holidays. When I entered the tomb of Abraham and Sarah, as I recall, I felt connected with my past and the traditions of my people. One is a Jew first by birth and then by religion. Those who leave their religion, remain Jews forever by virtue of their birth. If they don't think so, let them ask their neighbors, who will remind them. I recall the words of the columnist Robert Novak, who was for most of his life hostile to the Jewish state of Israel in an interview with a reporter stating that while he had converted to Catholicism, he was still a cultural Jew. I remain with pride a Jew both by religion and culture.

My support for the Jewish state has been long and steadfast. Never have I thought that I would leave the U.S. to go and live in Israel. My loyalty and love is first to the U.S. which has given me, the son of Polish Jewish immigrants, so much. But, I have also long been cognizant of the fact that every night when I went to sleep in peace and safety, there were Jewish communities around the world in danger. And there was one country, Israel, that would give them sanctuary and would send its soldiers to fight for them and deliver them from evil, as Israel did at Entebbe in 1976.

I weep today because my president, Barack Obama, in a few weeks has changed the relationship between the U.S. and Israel from that of closest of allies to one in which there is an absence of trust on both sides. The contrast between how the president and his administration deals with Israel and how it has decided to deal with the Karzai administration in Afghanistan is striking.

The Karzai administration, which operates a corrupt and opium-producing state, refuses to change its corrupt ways—the president's

own brother is believed by many to run the drug traffic taking place in Afghanistan—and shows the utmost contempt for the U.S. is being hailed by the Obama administration as an ally and publicly treated with dignity. Karzai recently even threatened to join the Taliban if we don't stop making demands on him. Nevertheless, Karzai is receiving a gracious thank-you letter from President Obama. The New York Times of April 10th reported, ". . . that Mr. Obama had sent Mr. Karzai a thank-you note expressing gratitude to the Afghan leader for dinner in Kabul. 'It was a respectful letter,' General Jones said."

On the other hand, our closest ally—the one with the special relationship with the U.S., has been demeaned and slandered, held responsible by the administration for our problems in Afghanistan and Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East. The plan I suspect is to so weaken the resolve of the Jewish state and its leaders that it will be much easier to impose on Israel an American plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, leaving Israel's needs for security and defensible borders in the lurch.

I believe President Obama's policy is to create a whole new relationship with the Arab states of Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt, and Iraq as a counter to Iran—The Tyrannosaurus Rex of the Muslim world which we are now prepared to see in possession of a nuclear weapon. If throwing Israel under the bus is needed to accomplish this alliance, so be it.

I am shocked by the lack of outrage on the part of Israel's most ardent supporters. The members of AIPAC, the chief pro-Israel lobbying organization in Washington, gave Secretary of State Hillary Clinton a standing ovation after she had carried out the instructions of President Obama and, in a 43-minute telephone call, angrily hectoring Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Members of Congress in both the House and Senate have made pitifully weak statements against Obama's mistreatment of Israel, if they made any at all. The Democratic members, in particular, are weak. They are simply afraid to criticize President Obama.

What bothers me most of all is the shameful silence and lack of action by community leaders—Jew and Christian. Where are they? If this were a civil rights matter, the Jews would be in the mall in Washington protesting with and on behalf of our fellow American citizens. I asked one prominent Jewish leader why no one is preparing a march on Washington similar to the one in 1963 at which I was present and Martin Luther King's memorable speech was given? His reply was "Fifty people might come." Remember the 1930s? Few stood up. They were silent. Remember the most insightful statement of one of our greatest teachers, Rabbi Hillel: "If I am not for myself, who is for me? And if I am only for myself, what am I? And if not now, when?"

We have indeed stood up for everyone else. When will we stand up for our brothers and sisters living in the Jewish state of Israel?

If Obama is seeking to build a siege ramp around Israel, the Jews of modern Israel will not commit suicide. They are willing to negotiate a settlement with the Palestinians, but they will not allow themselves to be bullied into following self-destructive policies.

To those who call me an alarmist, I reply that I'll be happy to apologize if I am proven wrong. But those who stand silently by and watch the Obama administration abandon Israel, to whom will they apologize?

HONORING DR. JOHN HARTIG ON
HIS SELECTION AS A MICHIGAN
GREEN LEADER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in appreciation of Dr. John Hartig of Michigan. On April 22nd he, along with 15 others selected from over 300 nominations, will be recognized by the Detroit Free Press as a Michigan Green Leader. This is the first year of the Michigan Green Leader awards to honor the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, our environment, and the hard work and dedication of these outstanding institutions and people.

Dr. Hartig currently serves the United States Fish and Wildlife Service as the Refuge Manager for the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. He is responsible for the conservation, protection, and restoration of habitat for 29 species of waterfowl, 65 different species of fish, and 300 species of migratory birds in the nearly 6000 acres abutting the Detroit River in Southeast Michigan. The Refuge was established in 2001 as part of an effort to preserve this beautiful area, which is the intersection of the Atlantic and Mississippi Flyways and where an estimated 7 million ducks, geese, swans, and coots traverse the region annually as part of their migratory patterns.

As a Trenton native, Dr. Hartig spent his youth fishing on the Detroit River. He is trained as a limnologist and has over 30 years of experience in environmental science, management, and policy. He served a term as President of the International Association for Great Lakes Research—a group dedicated to the study of large lakes and watersheds around the world. He spent 5 years as the Detroit River Navigator, a federal liaison identifying and enacting valuable economic development, environmental stewardship, and historical preservation, for the Greater Detroit American Heritage River Initiative, established by Presidential Executive Order to protect and preserve America's Rivers. He also worked for the International Joint Commission, established by the United States and Canada to resolve Boundary Water issues, and helped establish the Canada-US Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement for more than a decade. He has taught Environmental Management and Sustainable Development as an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University. Dr. Hartig has written over 100 published articles on the Great Lakes and authored or co-authored a number of books including "UNDER RAPS: Toward Grassroots Ecological Democracy in the Great Lakes Basin," "Honoring Our Detroit River, Caring for Our Home," and recently "Burning Rivers: Revival of Four Urban-Industrial Rivers That Caught on Fire." His work has garnered numerous other accolades, including the 2003 Anderson-Everett Award for contributions to the International Association for the Great Lakes, the 2003 Community Luminary Award from the DTE Energy Foundation for his leadership in the development of communities in Michigan, and the 1993 Sustainable Development Award for Civic Leadership from the Global Tomorrow Coalition.

John Hartig has dedicated his career to the protection of some of Michigan's most valuable and most vulnerable resources. His work

affects the present and the future of one of our nation's great treasures and I am proud to stand before you today in order to honor him and the causes he has so diligently championed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TOM
TURNER

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tom Turner, a man who devoted his life in service to the Memphis community. He was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1924, and graduated from Georgia Institute of Technology, after which he served his country as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. Afterwards, he moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he worked as the Division Manager for External Affairs at Buckeye Cellulose Technology for forty years.

Tom Turner was active in a multitude of local organizations during his career and in retirement. He was Chairman of the Boards of Agricenter International, the Memphis Chamber of Commerce, Junior Achievement, and Goodwill Industries. In addition, Mr. Turner served as Vice Chairman of the Boards of the Airport Authority and Christian Brothers University. He was an active participant with Le Moyne Owen College, MIFA and was a big fundraiser for the United Way and the Salvation Army. He was active in the Rotary Club, Memphis in May, Memphis partners and the Tennessee Independent College Fund. Mr. Turner was an active member of his Church, Wesleyan Hills United Methodist, where he was Chairman of the administrative board and taught Sunday School.

This is only a partial list of Mr. Turner's involvement in the Memphis community. He was truly a tireless proponent of civic involvement. The Volunteer Center of Memphis awarded him the Golden Rule Award as the "Top Volunteer in Memphis." Christian Brothers University also awarded him the Maurelian Medal for "exceptional service to the university and to the wider community." Thomas Turner's impact was deeply felt in the Memphis Community and his absence will undoubtedly be deeply felt.

Tom Turner passed away on March 27, 2010, at the age of 85. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Doris Turner, two daughters, Terri Panitz and Lisa Turner and partner Rob Sangster, and five grandchildren. Memphis mourns the loss of Mr. Turner who was tirelessly involved in his community's growth. His life was a reminder of just how much one person can accomplish while serving the community.

HONORING MS. KARYN POREMPSKI

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment to service of Ms. Karyn Poremski, the serving Department

President of the American Legion Auxiliary for 2009/2010.

During her time as Department President, Karyn has worked tirelessly to assist our veterans and communities throughout New York. The Department Presidents Project, which she oversees, is divided into two programs. The first, the Creative Arts, New York project, works to incorporate the arts into Veterans Affairs recreational therapy programs. The project raises funds to purchase medals, certificates, program books, and art supplies, and allows veterans to enter their work into a national competition.

The second of Karyn's projects is designed to provide help for veterans of the Gulf War, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and Operation Enduring Freedom. The project works alongside the Veterans Administration to provide much needed services that might otherwise fall through the cracks because of red tape or budgetary constraints. The funds she raises for this project will help to provide transportation, grocery cards, and refreshments for group events.

Karyn is expected to raise an impressive \$50,000 in funding for these projects. These donations did not come easily, but instead are the result of many trips throughout New York.

Karyn's enthusiasm and commitment to the American Legion extends throughout her family as well. Her husband Joseph is a past Post Commander and District Commander. Karyn's two daughters Holly and Tracey are members of the Auxiliary, her granddaughters Rebecca and Jenna are junior members, and her grandson Jared is a member of the Sons of the American Legion. Her father, sister, and, until recently, mother were also members of the American Legion; Karyn lost her mother this past year.

Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow Members to join me in recognizing Ms. Karyn Poremski for her over forty years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary, our veterans, and western New York.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF
CATHERINE GRACE MCCAULEY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 14, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I wish to celebrate the birth of Catherine Grace McCauley to her parents, John and Jared McCauley of Lubbock, Texas. Cate was born on April 13, 2010, at 11:15 p.m., weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and measuring 20 and one-half inches.

Cate's proud grandparents are Michael and Cathy Buchanan and Roger and Diane McCauley. She is the great-grandchild of Joe and the late Billy Gene Buchanan, Troy and Marge Jones, Arline and the late Ward McCauley and Robert and Betty Minemier, Sr. Cameron and Stacey Buchanan and Dee and Jessica Buchanan are Cate's excited aunts and uncles.

Madam Speaker, as a father of two children, I know what a momentous celebration this is for Juli, Jared and their entire family, for a child truly is a gift of the Lord. This family has prayed about Cate's arrival for years, and today, Madam Speaker, they can proclaim