

Federal Executive Board and the thousands of federal employees who live and work within the Cleveland community. Their dedication to their work continues to preserve, protect and strengthen our entire community.

RECOGNITION OF SERGEANT
FRANK LEHR OF THE NEWARK,
CALIFORNIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sergeant Frank Lehr. Sergeant Lehr retired from the City of Newark, California's Police Department on January 27, 2012.

Sergeant Lehr began his career with the Newark Police Department on August 2, 1986. Prior to joining the department he served as an officer in the City of San Jose Airport Police Force. During his time as a Police Officer in Newark, Sergeant Lehr served two terms with the Southern Alameda County Narcotics Enforcement Team as a Narcotics Detective. In addition to his patrol and detective assignments, Sergeant Lehr served as a Field Training Officer, an instructor for the Citizens Police Academy, a SWAT team member, a hostage negotiator, and in 1990 was named Officer of the Year by his peers.

Sergeant Lehr was promoted to the rank of sergeant on July 1, 2004. He was assigned to the Patrol Division and was the Community Safety Team Sergeant. In this position he worked with his team on gang related problems in Newark. In addition to his day-to-day duties, Sergeant Lehr also served as the Hostage Negotiation Team Sergeant and was an original member of the City of Newark's first Honor Guard.

On August 12, 2009, Sergeant Lehr graduated from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute. The Institute is designed to stimulate personal growth, leadership, and ethical decision-making among California law enforcement's front-line supervisors.

Throughout his tenure with the Newark Police Department, Sergeant Lehr has served with distinction. I extend congratulations to him on his retirement and join the City of Newark in thanking him for his commitment to exemplary law enforcement.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SAINT AN-
DREW GREEK ORTHODOX
CHURCH

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church, located in the Township of Randolph, Morris County, New Jersey as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary.

Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church came together with approximately 50 families and their first priest, Fr. Konstantine Tsigas, for their First Divine Liturgy on December 23, 1962 in Dover, New Jersey. The ground

breaking ceremony for a new church facility in Randolph, New Jersey took place on December 16, 1973. The Church has thrived throughout its many decades, growing from 50 families to over 500 and will continue to thrive for the many years to come.

Saint Andrew prides itself on not only preserving the Greek Orthodox faith and heritage for future generations but also on sharing its culture and faith with the Morris County community.

St. Andrew's incorporates individuals of varying interests and backgrounds through their comprehensive selection of community activities and programs. The Church has enriched the community by offering regular religious services, religious education, and weekly classes on the Greek Language and Hellenic culture. Members of their community can participate in the Church's Byzantine Choir, join one of the many Greek folk dancing groups, attend youth or adult Greek language classes, or join one of several service groups. By offering an array of cultural programs and activities, St. Andrew has succeeded in keeping the Greek culture and language a part of the holistic Orthodox experience.

The Church also provides philanthropic services to the community through volunteer work and services such as providing Life Line Screening, which preemptively scans for risk factors for Stroke, Vascular Disease, and Osteoporosis. St. Andrew's Daughters of Penelope organization award numerous college scholarships to graduating high school seniors in the area while the Philoptochos Society strives both to promote the Greek Orthodox tradition and to assist those in need through fundraisers.

Through their steadfast dedication to addressing the educational and social needs of the community while preserving the cultural and religious diversity of the Morris area, Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church has proved itself to be a pillar of our community.

The Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church is truly a place where anyone is welcome to find God and find a community of caring, friendly faces. We are proud to have them here in Morris County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church as they celebrate their Fiftieth Anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF TOAST-
MASTERS INTERNATIONAL, DIS-
TRICT 10

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the members of Toastmasters International, District 10 as they gather in Cleveland, Ohio for their Spring District Conference on April 27 and 28, 2012.

Toastmasters International was established in 1924 as an organization dedicated to making people more confident in front of audiences. The organization empowers people to achieve their full potential. Through its member clubs, people throughout the world can improve their communication and leadership skills, and find the courage they need for suc-

cessful public speaking. Toastmasters International has more than 270,000 members that belong to 13,000 clubs in 116 countries. District 10 of Toastmasters International serves approximately 1,700 members and consists of more than 100 active clubs in Northeast Ohio.

The theme of the Spring Conference is "Strive for Excellence" and will consist of educational workshops, contests and a dinner. It will also feature the 2011–2012 Toastmaster International President, Mr. Michael Notaro and the Communication and Leadership Award recipient, Reverend Larry L. Harris, Sr., the Senior Pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing the members of Toastmasters International, District 10 as they gather for their Spring Conference.

RECOGNIZING ELIE WIESEL

HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter a statement into the Record on behalf of my constituent, Dr. Israel Zoberman. Dr. Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He is also the president of the Hampton Roads Board of Rabbis and Cantors. Dr. Zoberman asked me to enter the following remarks into the Record recognizing Elie Wiesel. Dr. Zoberman's statement follows:

"With over 50 books to his illustrious credit, Elie Wiesel continues to bless us at age 84 with his multiple pursuits, including recently as a musician of his childhood songs and melodies. If anyone deserves the honorary appellation of "Our Teacher and Rabbi" these unsettling times of post-Holocaust perplexities for Jew and Gentile, it is this distinguished yet humble survivor of the Holocaust's unique tragedy, calling upon us to bear sacred witness with Zachor's undying remembrance. He emerged from the "Kingdom Of The Night" resolved to help save humanity, struggling with his shaken faith in his early classic "Night," while contending with his brethren's fate in Soviet captivity in "Jews Of Silence," ever faithful to his rich Jewish moorings as well as universal culture.

Wiesel, a 1986 Nobel Peace Laureate—he should receive one for literature too—is on the very short list of those serving as humanity's conscience. He courageously speaks out for human rights in addition to his "Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity," and academic work as the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University. Among many awards and honors, this great American and humanitarian is a recipient of the United States Congressional Gold Medal along with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and is the 1980 Founding Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, receiving on May 16th, 2011, the first U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Award, the museum's highest honor, now bearing Wiesel's name. He turned down, reportedly, in 2007 the sure opportunity to become Israel's President.

Wiesel's latest literary gem, "The Sonderberg Case," is a suspenseful Holocaust related novel reflecting his being at home both

in the vineyard of Jewish knowledge as well as general philosophy and literature. Wiesel is the Founding President of the Universal Academy of Cultures. In the book, Werner Sonderberg's grandpa, and unrepentant ex-Nazi officer of the notorious Einsatzgruppen, boasts to his grandson of his murderous record and only regretting that Hitler lost the war with hope of yet a future victory. My own maternal aunt, Bas-Malka Bobrov Gurvitz, husband Shachne and children Aharon, 14, Yisrael, 12, and Rochel-Leah, 2, were murdered in Sarny, the Ukraine, on August 27–28, 1942, among 14,000 Jews by the Einsatzgruppen and their collaborators.

My grandma Esther Bobrov was killed by German air bombs when on the run with my mother, Chasia, from their hometown Sarny. My great-grandparents, Rabbi Yaacov and Dena Manzies Zoberman from Zamosc, Poland, perished in the Belzec death camp and great-grandparents Yitzchak and Zipora Anker were also among the many victims from both family sides, of the 6 million martyrs with its million and a half children. Five million Gentiles were murdered by the Nazis with World War II claiming the lives of 50 million. My uncle, Emanuel Zoberman, who was a member of a Russian attached Polish commando unit, helped liberate Poland and was killed while crossing the Oder River.

My father, Yechiel Zoberman, served in the Russian Army for five years, fighting on the outskirts of Moscow and St. Petersburg (Leningrad), among other battles. We cherish the enormous sacrifices of the heroic American military and all the Allied Forces, along with Righteous Gentiles who stepped forward to protect human dignity and honor.

Wiesel applies the Holocaust's awesome lessons of guilt and responsibility, resonating in the anguished sharing of his German students at Boston University, as well as those of healing and hope, to the lingering conflict between Palestinians and Israelis while trying to acknowledge all concerned and seeking to protect the "The Other" that both sides have suffered from. He probingly reflects on the opposite polls and messages of Auschwitz and Jerusalem, altering and sensitizing us toward mutually respectful and professional relations, and that what we do bears moral consequence. Wiesel eases the burden of memory without diluting its sacred essence.

The outstanding Holocaust Commission of the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater of which I have been a proud member for many years, sponsors this season the 15th annual Elie Wiesel Writing Competition and the 10th annual Elie Wiesel Visual Arts Competition. Teachers' Awards for Excellence in Holocaust Education are also given out at an inspiring annual gathering of commemoration. A new documentary, "What We Carry," featuring four local survivors, Dana Cohen, Kitty Saks and of blessed memory David Katz and Hanns Loewenbach, has already received high acclaim.

So close to recalling the destruction of 2/3 of European Jewry—a 1/3 of world Jewry—which has reduced the potential of the Jewish people and humanity, we celebrate this year the 64th anniversary of the only Jewish state, The State of Israel, that is America's very special democratic ally in an uncertain world. With its deep historical roots in the Middle East from whence its prophets challenged humanity with the message of universal shalom, the re-

established Third Jewish Commonwealth absorbed the remnant of Holocaust survivors and dispersed Jews from over 100 countries and diverse cultures, bound together by shared faith and fate. It has set a high bar with its astonishing accomplishments in all fields of human endeavor in spite of mighty existential threats, as it rose from the ashes of a consuming Holocaust following a most trying history of exile and denial, with its survival vow, "Never Again!"

In the midst of a still raging "Arab Spring" with the Syrian slaughter continuing and the international community doing so little, a reminder of the Holocaust's years of deafening silence, Israel's flourishing democracy and loadable stability stand out in a region lacking both, as a beacon of hope and noble example. Iran, whose theocratic leaders are Holocaust deniers calling for Israel's destruction, is a threat to the entire world. It is the world's largest exporter of terrorism seeking a nuclear capability to further its goals of de-stabilization and dominion, and being able to conclude what Hitler began."

INCREASING AMERICAN JOBS
THROUGH GREATER EXPORTS TO
AFRICA ACT

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I chaired a hearing that examined U.S. policy toward American exports to Africa as a part of U.S.-Africa trade. The original African Growth and Opportunity Act, or AGOA, was intended to be mutually beneficial for both African and American entrepreneurs, but the focus of the three administrations since its passage in 2000 has been on increasing African exports to the United States and the resultant job growth on the African continent.

This policy has neglected the job growth here in the United States that could be created through increasing U.S. exports to Africa. The purpose of the Increasing American Jobs Through Greater Exports to Africa Act of 2012, H.R. 4221, which I introduced together with Rep. Bobby Rush on March 20th, is to address this important component of U.S.-Africa trade by increasing U.S. exports to Africa by 200 percent over the next decade. This bill does not replace AGOA; it complements it by providing for a rebalancing that makes it beneficial to Americans as well as Africans. Senators Dick Durbin and John Boozman have introduced an identical version of the bill in the Senate—S. 2215.

The bill intends to achieve its ambitious, but achievable, goal by taking several steps, including the creation of a U.S.-Africa trade coordinator to ensure that all U.S. agencies involved in trade work in concert with one another. This legislation also calls for not less than 25% of available U.S. trade financing to be devoted to facilitating U.S.-Africa trade. Furthermore, it encourages the descendants of Africa in this country, who largely operate small and medium-sized businesses, to play a greater role in trade with the countries in Africa.

Small and medium enterprises in Africa and the United States have not benefited from

AGOA to the extent that they could have or should have, and the bill addresses this deficit. U.S. companies can benefit from an expanding African market of businesses and consumers, and increased American production will create new, sustainable jobs.

Some have expressed concern that such an expansion of U.S. exports to Africa could flood African markets and damage their economies. However, many of these U.S. exports, such as in the agriculture sector, will enable African producers to become more efficient and profitable and create jobs for their workers as well. In trade, the best situation is one of observing the principle of comparative advantage: countries sell what they make most efficiently and buy what another country makes most efficiently. In this way, both buyer and seller countries benefit from trade by meeting each other's needs.

According to the U.S. International Trade Administration, the United States is the world's largest importer of sub-Saharan African goods, receiving 20.2% of the region's total global exports. On the other hand, during the height of the global recession in 2008–2009, our exports to sub-Saharan Africa plummeted by 45% from \$78.3 billion to \$42.8 billion. As of the end of 2011, the United States sold nearly \$20.3 billion worth of goods to sub-Saharan Africa, while purchasing more than \$74 billion worth of goods. Consequently, we had a trade deficit with the nations of sub-Saharan Africa last year of nearly \$54 billion.

The African Development Bank estimates that one out of three Africans is considered to be in the middle class—that's 314 million Africans who have escaped poverty and can now buy consumer goods, including those from the United States. In order to reduce our trade deficit with the nations of Africa, there is room to engage in trade that increases economic opportunity for Africans and Americans. We just haven't taken advantage of the opportunities that exist. The United States has over the last decade taken many steps to enhance U.S.-Africa trade. African governments have taken steps to encourage trans-Atlantic trade as well. Still, both sides can do better.

More exports help the economy grow because they typically boost factory production, which can fuel more hiring and lead to greater consumer spending. Fewer imports subtract less from growth, largely because consumers are spending less on overseas goods and services. H.R. 4221 would contribute to job growth in the United States by facilitating increased sales to the emerging markets of Africa.

The rest of the world understands how valuable the nations of Africa have become as economic markets. Last month, this subcommittee held a hearing on the role of China in Africa that not only pointed out China's designs on selling their goods to Africa countries, but also illustrated the economic interest in Africa shown by nations as far-flung as Brazil, Turkey and South Korea. We in the United States must join in the more equal two-way trade the rest of the world envisions for their commerce with Africa.

Our witnesses yesterday discussed current administration policy toward U.S.-Africa trade, the U.S. business sector view on trade with Africa, and examined the realities of doing business in Africa by both a current and a prospective enterprise on the continent.