

DEDICATION OF THE FOX TORAH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the dedication of a Torah is always an extremely important occasion in the Jewish community. But next week's dedication of the Fox Torah at Ezra Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation in Skokie, is truly something special.

The Fox Torah was underwritten by Martin Fox, who found some comfort from the terrors he experienced during the Holocaust in knowing that he could make such an enormous contribution to his faith and to his synagogue.

Martin Fox was 34 years old when the Nazis marched into Poland in 1939. He watched as his wife and three daughters were murdered. Then he was herded onto a train and sent to Auschwitz. He survived, came to Chicago, settled in Chicago's West Rogers Park Community, and became a successful businessman. But while he remarried, he never again had children, and the horrors of what he experienced during the Holocaust never left him.

Martin Fox joined Ezra Habonim but was emotionally unable to say the Kaddish, the prayer for the dead. After many conversations with Rabbi Shlomo Levin, then the congregation's rabbi, Mr. Fox was finally able to say Kaddish for his lost family and light the Memorial Candle at the synagogue's Kristal Nacht service.

The spiritual and personal support that Mr. Fox received from Ezra Habonim, Skokie's oldest synagogue, made a powerful difference in his life. It provided him with a safe and nurturing place, and gave him the emotional strength to recite the Kaddish in remembrance of his lost family. He in turn helped others by becoming a "gabbai" or "trustee" of the synagogue.

Today, Ezra Habonim continues its commitment to creating a warm, caring and supportive community under the leadership of Rabbi Jeffrey Weill. In addition to maintaining the tradition of giving each individual and family the personalized attention they need, the synagogue provides for the educational, religious and social needs of the Jewish community. And, as it did with Martin Fox, it gives members of the congregation the opportunity not just to take part but to give back.

While Martin Fox died in 1981, the Torah that he funded and that will be dedicated on June 1 is a true gift. As Rabbi Weill says, "This Torah symbolizes not only Martin Fox's story, but the remarkable story of the Jewish People. It represents continuity, bravery, fortitude, and the indomitable human spirit."

I want to join the Jewish community in Skokie in celebrating the completion and dedication of the Fox Torah and in thanking Ezra Habonim for the important role it plays in our community.

RECOGNIZING SOUVENISE JEANNE BAZILE

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mrs. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile, who passed away on May 11, 2014.

Mrs. Bazile, who lived in Spring Valley, New York, was 107 at the time of her passing. Originally from Haiti, she moved to the United States in 1978 to join her husband. Mrs. Bazile was a loving mother who dedicated herself to her six children, fifteen grandchildren, and fourteen great-grandchildren.

Just a few months ago, Mrs. Bazile fulfilled one of her dreams—becoming an American citizen. After living here for three decades, working hard and contributing to society, Mrs. Bazile became one of the oldest immigrants ever to gain citizenship. She is truly an inspiration for all those who hope to one day achieve the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize my constituent, Mrs. Souvenise Jeanne Bazile. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring her tremendous life.

TRIBUTE TO GUIDE DOGS OF THE DESERT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an organization whose dedication and contributions to the Southern California community are exceptional. For the past 40 years, Guide Dogs of the Desert have tirelessly committed themselves to the service of the legally blind community. We have all heard the age-old adage, "a dog is a man's best friend," but a guide dog is so much more than a best friend. Guide dogs are essential to the legally blind in ways that are simple, such as crossing the street to go grocery shopping, and ways that can be more complex, like airplane travel. These dogs dedicate their lives so that the blind may see, and in light of all they have done for the community, I would like to recognize these faithful and dutiful animals as well as their equally devoted trainers and volunteers at Guide Dogs of the Desert.

Founded in 1972, Guide Dogs of the Desert was built on the premise that every legally blind person should have the opportunity to adopt a guide dog, regardless of the depths of their hardship. This dream could only be made into a reality because of the amazing volunteers that give their time and effort to this organization's mission. These volunteers selflessly provide love, food, shelter, discipline and socialization to puppies that are just beginning on their journey toward guide dog graduation. The fingerprints of these individuals are found at every juncture of this organization. Among many other responsibilities, these volunteers take in 12 week-old puppies, assist with student interaction to increase awareness in the community, and complete the basic office tasks that allow Guide Dogs of

the Desert to run smoothly. These individuals go above and beyond the call of duty to help those visually impaired come one step closer to independence and today they deserve commendation.

While many of us know the pleasure of canine companionship and loyalty from our family pet, we cannot appreciate the complexity of the relationship that develops between a visually impaired person and their guide dog. These dogs help these individuals in such a wide variety of ways, and their service enriches these lives powerfully, improving their daily quality of life. With over 1,000 dogs trained, many of these success stories may be found scattered throughout the Nation.

The organization's tireless passion for service has contributed immensely to the betterment of the visually impaired community. Although there are many schools, Guide Dogs of the Desert is one of the most exceptional. As one guide dog recipient stated, "Frankly, all of the schools do an adequate job in developing extraordinary animals, but only Guide Dogs of the Desert adapts the training according to the very special needs of the people with multiple disabilities, veterans and even difficult cases like mine." I am certain that many more individuals and families are grateful for the guide dogs, the volunteers, and the organization itself for all of their services and I salute their efforts moving forward into their fourth decade of dedicated assistance.

RECOGNIZING TERESITA BATAYOLA, RECIPIENT OF THE CHAMPION OF CHANGE AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound admiration that I rise to congratulate Teresita Batayola on being honored as a White House Champion of Change. Teresita has been an advocate for the Puget Sound region's Asian-American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) community for many years and is incredibly deserving of this award.

Since the beginning of her tenure as CEO of International Community Health Services (ICHS) in July of 2005, Teresita has worked tirelessly to ensure that the healthcare needs of the AAPI community are met. She has overseen the opening of new clinics in Bellevue and the Rainier Valley, and developed a mobile dental clinic that visits Seattle area middle and high schools. Each year ICHS serves over 19,000 patients in 50 languages, a feat that I am confident would not be possible without Teresita's commitment to understanding the needs and dynamics of the communities her organization serves.

This commitment has taken on a new and innovative form in the last year as ICHS has worked to help AAPI communities in the Seattle area access the benefits of the Affordable Care Act. Under Teresita's leadership, ICHS has enrolled over 5,800 individuals in health plans through their multi-lingual and multi-cultural in-person assister team. This effort to provide culturally appropriate healthcare assistance will have a deep impact on the health and wellbeing of these communities for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I rise with great respect to honor Teresita Batayola. She has truly made our community a healthier and more just place, and I wish her and her organization well in the future.

A MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO DR.
JOHN A. DAVITT

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Dr. John A. Davitt, retired Superintendent-President of Glendale Community College, who passed away on Saturday, May 24, 2014.

John received his Bachelor's Degree at the University of San Francisco in 1954, a Master's Degree in Secondary Education in 1958, also from the University of San Francisco, and his Doctorate in Community College Administration from the University of Southern California. Before coming to Glendale Community College (GCC), John served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Army, taught at a junior high school in San Francisco, was a counselor at Merritt College in Oakland, and was an Assistant Professor at California State University, Los Angeles.

Dr. Davitt began his 38 years of service at GCC in 1968, when he took a position as a history professor. Serving as Administrative Dean of Personnel Services, Vice President, and in 1985, Superintendent-President, he brought his inclusive, enthusiastic and open style of management to GCC, transforming the GCC campus into an innovative and productive center for learning. The longest-tenured head of a community college in California, Dr. Davitt cared deeply about the institution and took pride in GCC being a top transfer college.

An active volunteer in the Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge communities, John's record of community service is impressive. He served on the boards of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce, Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy, Glendale Roundtable, Glendale Symphony and the Glendale College Foundation. In addition, he served on Holy Family High School's Board of Regents, Crestview Preparatory School's Board of Directors, Glendale Memorial Hospital's Community Liaison Council, St. Bede's Pastoral Council and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles' Board of Education.

Some of the honors Dr. Davitt received include the Presidential Leadership Award from the California Community College Foundation, Glendale Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Achievement Award, the GCC Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Contributions to GCC, induction into GCC's Athletic Hall of Fame and the naming of the John A. Davitt Administration Building at GCC.

Married for over half a century, John and his wife Gael, have four children, Terry Davitt, Laure Heale, Vincent Davitt and Michael Davitt.

John Davitt will be sorely missed. He was a respected leader among community college presidents across the state and nation, a dedicated public servant and admired by all as a man of impeccable character. I ask all members to join me in remembering one of our community's most admired citizens, Dr. John A. Davitt.

IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL
ROBERT D. MORIG

HON. SCOTT H. PETERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. PETERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Army Colonel Robert D. Morig on the occasion of his retirement after 51 years of service in the Department of Defense. Colonel Morig enlisted in the United States Army in September 1962, and was commissioned as a field artillery officer in July of 1964 upon his graduation from Washington State University. He later continued his education, earning a Master's degree in Industrial Management from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Colonel Morig also completed extensive military training, attending the Airborne and Ranger schools at Fort Benning, Georgia, the General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Army War College at Carlisle, Pennsylvania. During his time as an officer, he held staff and command posts in Vietnam, South Korea, and West Germany. For his commendable service, Colonel Morig received numerous awards, including a citation for valor in combat. At home, Colonel Morig worked with a number of different offices at the Pentagon, handling congressional issues, program analysis, and industrial base policy. Of particular note was his work in writing Army Doctrine and developing the Army Civilian Acquisition Workforce and Corps. After 30 years of distinguished service, Colonel Morig retired from the Army and joined the civil service. His final assignment in this capacity was teaching business and financial management to the acquisition workforce through the Defense Acquisition University. On behalf of my colleagues, I thank Colonel Morig for his service and wish him all the best in retirement.

REMEMBERING THE WERETH 11

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Gerlach amendment to H.R. 4435, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015 considered en bloc. This amendment recognizes the sacrifice of the Wereth 11, a group of eleven African-American soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion of the United States Army who lost their lives in dedicated service to this country during the Battle of the Bulge in Wereth, Belgium. The adoption of this amendment would ensure that history remembers and pays tribute to these men, and I was pleased to work with Mr. GERLACH on this effort.

ENERGY SAVINGS LEAD TO
EDUCATION FUNDING

HON. RUSH HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, Plainfield, New Jersey Public Schools

has saved nearly \$1.2 million in energy costs. That is 26 percent of the school district's utilities budget over the same time span. These savings are the result of a district-wide, behavioral-based energy savings program. With the help of Plainfield School's energy specialist, Michael Pate, Plainfield School District achieved these savings by encouraging changes in behavior, like turning off lights and computers, and improving maintenance practices, like ensuring the right amount of Freon is used in HVAC systems.

The use of data helped drive this successful initiative. The school district can break down energy consumption of each appliance to the hour and, therefore, derive a cost per hour for each device. As a result, individuals know exactly the size of their energy footprint and how much money can be saved district-wide. Most important, teachers and administrators know that these savings can be redirected into funding classroom supplies and increasing educational services.

Imagine if all school districts in America trimmed their energy expenditures by 26 percent and then reinvested that savings in decreasing class sizes, updating technology, providing science equipment, hiring nurses, psychologists, and special education teachers, creating after-school activities, and organizing events and services that make their public schools the cornerstone of the community. We must give all students the opportunity to obtain a quality education and increase our children's academic competitiveness with their international peers. The \$1.2 million savings Plainfield Public Schools achieved is the reason why I introduced the School Building Enhancement Act (H.R. 115), which would provide grants to states to assist educational agencies in implementing energy-saving practices. As demonstrated by Plainfield, the savings will be significantly higher than the costs. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

HONORING MS. ENID ADLER

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 29, 2014

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Enid Adler, whose tireless work for human rights has bettered the city of Philadelphia. A graduate of Temple University, Villanova University School of Law, and Dickinson University School of Law, Ms. Adler has had a lifelong career as a human rights advocate.

Enid Adler operates her own practice, which focuses on asylum immigration, family reunification, and international human rights. Ms. Adler is the past chairwoman of the International Law Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association and, in 1997, formulated the only United States Twinning Program between the Philadelphia Bar and the Barreau de Lyon in France. In 2001, Ms. Adler was a founding member of the International Criminal Board and was crucial in creating its Code of Ethics. Ms. Adler is a member of the Coalition for the International Criminal Court (CICC) and serves on the Coalition's Team on the Crime of Aggression negotiations. This team created an amendment to the criteria to give the court jurisdiction over the crime, and it was completed