

anti-democratic process for electing our Nation's highest federal officeholders.

On five occasions in our history, the Electoral College has permitted the national popular vote winner to lose the presidential election, including the most recent election, where Hillary Clinton won nearly 3 million more votes than Electoral College winner Donald Trump. This occurs because a presidential candidate needs only 270 electoral votes and 48 states award their electoral votes on a "winner-take-all" basis. As a result, the Electoral College creates perverse incentives for candidates that further distort the presidential campaign process in undemocratic ways.

For example, the Electoral College encourages candidates to focus their campaign efforts on only a handful of so-called swing states. During the last presidential campaign, for example, both major party candidates largely bypassed three of the four states with the largest populations and skipped campaigning in 12 of the 13 smallest states as well.

Additionally, the Electoral College is an anachronistic institution intended, in part, to protect the institution of slavery. According to Yale Law School Professor Akhil Reed Amar, who participated in a forum on Electoral College reform sponsored by House Judiciary Committee Democrats last year, the Electoral College was established, in part, to preserve the political influence of slaveholding states. Although enslaved populations were not allowed to vote, slave states insisted that three-fifths of enslaved persons be counted when determining a state's representation in the House, which in turn affected the number of Electoral College votes allotted to the state.

Given its history and undemocratic nature, it is clear that the Electoral College system must be replaced with a process that determines the election of the president and vice president by a national popular vote. As such, Congress and the States should consider a constitutional amendment to reform the Electoral College.

And, Congress should also encourage the States to reform the Electoral College through the formation of an interstate compact. Eleven states representing 165 electoral votes have already entered into an interstate compact to cast their electoral votes for the national popular vote winner. When enough states—representing 270 electoral votes—join the compact, the presidential election will essentially be determined by national popular vote, obviating the need for a constitutional amendment.

In a democracy, no person's vote should be worth more than any other person's vote. Congress should affirm its commitment to this essential principle and definitively declare that the American people, not state-based Electors, should have the power to directly select the President and Vice President of the United States.

HONORING REV. DR. AMOS BROWN
AND JANE BROWN

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Reverend Dr. Amos Brown and Jane

Brown, as they celebrate 40 years of service at the historic Third Baptist Church of San Francisco.

Born on February 20, 1941 in Jackson, Mississippi, Rev. Brown became a fighter for civil rights and social justice at an early age after being influenced by Emmitt Till's murder and other examples of injustice in the Jim Crow South.

As a student leader attending Jim Hill High School, he spoke out about segregation in public education, and was barred from serving as valedictorian despite being elected to that position by his schoolmates.

His social activism led him to Morehouse College, where he was personally selected by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to enroll in the only class that Dr. King taught during his life. After graduating from Morehouse, Rev. Brown dedicated himself to the ministry and received his Masters of Divinity from Crozer Theological Seminary, and his Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary.

In 1976, Rev. Brown and his wife Jane moved west when he accepted a position as the senior pastor of Third Baptist Church of San Francisco. In that position he was able to combine his passion for tending to the spiritual well-being of the community with his desire to promote social and community activism to address the causes of injustice throughout society.

Under his guidance, Third Baptist has established itself as a leader in addressing the physical needs of the community and built bridges to expand the reach of his congregation in helping those in need around the world.

Third Baptist has led relief efforts in Africa, including sponsoring refugees and helped enable 80 children from Tanzania to receive heart surgery in the United States.

Rev. Brown's social activism also led him to many leadership positions outside of the ministry. He has served as the President of the San Francisco NAACP, and on the board of the national NAACP organization. He has also held elected positions as a San Francisco Community College Trustee and a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

On a personal note, I have been honored to learn from and work alongside Rev. and Mrs. Brown. I am incredibly grateful for their support, and for the selfless example that they have set by living out the teachings of scripture in their everyday lives.

Today, on behalf of California's 13th Congressional District, I salute Reverend Dr. Amos Brown and Jane Brown for their 40 years of service to the greater Bay Area, and beyond. The East Bay joins in celebrating the leadership that you have shown, and I look forward to many more years of working with them and Third Baptist.

IN HONOR OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF HARVEST CHURCH OF
GOD

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention to recognize the 100th Anniversary of Harvest Church of God in Anniston, Alabama.

In 1916, J.B. Ellis walked through Gadsden, Alabama, and started the Alabama City Church of God, then moved on to Jacksonville, Alabama, and founded the Jacksonville Church of God. In 1917, in Anniston, Alabama, he put up a tent in Zinn Park and started a revival meeting that resulted in church set in order as Anniston Church of God.

Today those humble beginnings have resulted in Harvest Church of God. The church has 1,750 members who worship in a \$12 million sanctuary, ministering to all of Northeast Alabama through multiple ministries. The church has also been a global television ministry for 20 of the 100 years.

The present pastor, Bishop Jerry Irwin, was appointed Senior Pastor of the church in 1986 and has begun his 32nd year of serving in the position.

The 100 year celebration will take place at Harvest Church of God on September 17, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Harvest Church of God.

SUMMER 2017 TRIP TO POLAND,
LITHUANIA, AND ISRAEL

HON. SCOTT TAYLOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD remarks on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in 1945, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors.

"It was early Sunday morning and I was leaving the house on the way to preach at Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach. I am, gratefully, this historic church's Honorary Senior Rabbi Schol-ar. Having visited Poland, Lithuania, and Israel earlier this summer, I was eager to share my unsettling and transforming experiences from the trip, experiences that still keep me up at night. My 97-year-old mom's call from Haifa, Israel, 6,000 miles away, alarmed me. My indomitable mom, a Holocaust survivor from the Ukraine, worriedly uttered, "What's happening in Virginia?" She was referring, of course, to the tragic events that unfolded in Charlottesville due to the neo-Nazi, white supremacist, and KKK (What an unholy alliance!) repulsive rally.

That truly anti-American, vile anti-Semitic rally resurrected history's worst images which led to untold pain and loss. My mom's keen conscience and life's trying legacy, prompted her to be deeply concerned about what transpires in America 2017. After all, she is a witness that hatred of the other, fueled by prejudice, bigotry and jealousy, can end up, as it did, in gas chambers and mass executions of millions. The presence of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in our nation's capital is a poignant statement and a timely warning that democracies, even our great one, are vulnerable institutions; that poisonous ideas and pernicious minds can undermine all that we so cherish.

Virginia and the entire United States are “For Lovers” and not haters! Had the blessings of our uniquely American interfaith relations existed back then in Europe the magnitude of the Holocaust would surely be diminished. It is high time to revisit our educational system to ensure our basic American values of democracy, diversity and decency that have made America a leader, are taught on all levels lest the American dream becomes a nightmare.

When I examined the Ayelet Tours’ June 2017 advertised trip to Poland and Lithuania accompanied by Professor Natan Meir of Portland State University (what an added bonus to a pilgrimage of sacred witness!), I couldn’t but notice that my father’s hometown of Zamosc in southeastern Poland was on the itinerary. My first exposure to Poland was at age six months old in 1946 when my family of Polish Holocaust survivors returned home from Siberia and Kazakhstan (then USSR) where I was born. However, we left after only four months. Some 1500 Jews were murdered by Poles who begrudged our survival and eyed our properties.

I visited Poland in February 1992 for a packed three-day trip sponsored by the Chicago Board of Rabbis. I recall seeing the sign leading to Zamosc and my frustration of not going there. This time I was in Zamosc and I am still overtaken by breathing the same air generations of my ancestors breathed, loved and labored till the tragic onslaught of Nazi terror. Imagine my speechless elation at being in the restored Sephardic “Renaissance Synagogue” built in the early 17th century, the only such edifice in Poland, which officially opened on April 5, 2011 with Poland’s President Bronislaw Komorowski in attendance as Honorary Patron.

After all, my great-grandma Dina Menzis Zoberman was a descendent of Spanish and Portuguese Jews whose industrial and communal leadership in Zamosc was immense. Dina and her husband Rabbi Yaakov Zoberman perished in the Belzec death camp along with other family members and many of Zamosc’s 14,000 Jews. I led our 17-member group in the memorial kaddish prayer. Half a million entered this latest of the six major Nazi death camps to be cared for (the American Jewish Committee played a pivotal role) and only three survived at war’s end with two of them murdered following testifying in court!

Poland was the world center of Jewish life before WWII. Less than half a million Polish Jews survived out of 3.5 million, about half of the Holocaust’s six million victims. Warsaw, Poland’s capital has been rebuilt from its ruins and is now a thriving international metropolis. Its new Museum of the History of Polish Jews is called The Polin Museum. Polin is the Hebrew word for Poland meaning “here we sleep and stay.” This state-of-the-art museum is promising testimony to the new Poland which is free from both Nazism and Communism, proudly acknowledging its 1,000 years of Jewish life which contributed so much to Poland. It is significantly located next to the imposing Warsaw Ghetto Monument. How moved I was that after emerging from the breathtaking museum tour, the large IDF (Israel Defense Forces) annual delegation of “Witnesses in Uniform” conducted a memorial ceremony at the monument. It is an educational attempt to bond Israelis with past heroism and sacrifice. The servicemen and women also assist in cemetery work. We welcomed Shabbat at the Progressive synagogue of Beit Warszawa and in the morning, we joined at the Orthodox Nozyk Synagogue, the only one that survived the war, and met there Poland’s Chief Rabbi who is American, Rabbi Michael Schudrich. We encountered Israeli tourists who took the 3 1/2-hour flight from Tel-Aviv to Warsaw on attractive

“deals” with also a shopping spree in mind. The Chopin piano recital by Anna Kubicz was an elegant touch of Polish culture.

A memorable visit to Lodz with its reminders of a great industrial past of Jewish input. The former large Litzmannstadt Ghetto, the last of Poland’s to be liquidated and second in size only to the Warsaw Ghetto, is a stark reminder of a tragic end. Controversial Chaim Rumkowski was the head of the Judenrat, the Jewish Council appointed by the Germans. In Lublin, we were at the once renowned Chachmei Lublin Yeshiva and the touching Brama Grodzka-NN Theater in the old Jewish quarter which preserves the rich Jewish past by very dedicated Gentile Poles. I’m still haunted by the photo of a Lublin Jewish boy who resembles by own grandson Danny, and the grim struggle and fate of the Jewish children and their helpless parents in the ghettos and camps. At the Majdanek death camp, the first major one to be liberated by the Russians as part of the Allied Forces, I mentioned in Hebrew to a number of Israeli officers from the delegation that they arrived 70 plus years too late. They responded that there was then no State of Israel, “that’s the point” I retorted. Of the 360,000 lost lives, there, 120,000 were Jewish.

I was enchanted in Krakow by the largest Market Square in Europe, Wawel Castle, the Jagiellonian University with its Institute of Jewish Studies, the Cathedral which was home to Pope John Paul II and more. In the medieval Jewish Quarter of Kazimierz there are restaurants offering Jewish dishes and Klezmer music in Yiddish and Hebrew by Poles who capture the Jewish spirit. I was moved by hundreds of American Jewish youth who celebrated Jewish life, connecting to both a glorious and painful past as they continued to Israel’s Jewish rebirth. Being in Oskar Schindler’s life-saving factory turned museum was an important reminder of those Righteous Gentiles who heroically stood by us. The Krakow JCC established with the aid of Prince Charles of England is uplifting indeed, and the instructive Galicia Jewish Museum where Professor Edyta Gawron, its academic advisor, addressed us. The city is host to the famous annual Jewish Culture Festival. Visiting vast Auschwitz-Birkenau (symbol of evil’s essence) where the Nazi death machine claimed a million and one-half Jewish lives was an eerie experience of shock and numbness. How monstrously deceptive is the infamous welcoming sign, “Arbeit Macht Frei” (work makes you free).

We witnessed the sites of once vibrant small Jewish communities in Poland’s pastoral countryside, and the creative and noble synagogues’ restoration as Jewish museums and cultural centers thou sadly without Jews; Sejny’s neo-Baroque synagogue is home to the Borderland Foundation dedicated to Poland’s rich multi-cultural heritage that is Polish, Jewish, Lithuanian, Belarussian and Russian; Tykocin’s 17th century Baroque synagogue; picturesque Sandomierz with its cathedral depicting a medieval blood-libel painting of rabbis sacrificing a Christian baby for matza baking. However, following much Jewish protest there is a recently placed plaque testifying that the alleged never took place; Chmielnik with its uniquely renovated synagogue-museum, a bima encased in glass and memorabilia of a once flourishing community.

Captivating Vilnius (Vilna), Lithuania’s capital, evokes memories of Jewish religious and cultural heights. We attended the burial place of the Vilna Gaon, delighted that one of our fellow travelers from New York had recently discovered he was a descendent of this great rabbi. We visited the former ghetto as well as the Ponar Forest where 70,000 Jews were murdered, and the site of the famous escape tunnel dug by Jews who were

ordered to burn the exhumed bodies. The calm forest belies the indescribable slaughter that should have shaken heaven and earth. Faina Kukliansky, Chair of Lithuanian Jewish Communities addressed us. At the Genocide Museum (a former KGB prison) we were exposed to the bloody brutalities of the Soviets toward Lithuanians in general along with mass deportations to Siberia, all regarded by Lithuania as genocidal policy. Lakeside Trakai, the medieval capital of Lithuania, offered us a respite, and we were enlightened at the Karaite museum, learning how this sect escaped Nazi persecution.

We are grateful to The Foundation for the Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland for its remarkable initiatives and accomplishments! The observed signs of Jewish renewal are encouraging and heartwarming, but surely this amazing journey was bound to stir deep and mixed emotions.

I continued by myself to Israel and how rewarding it was to know that there is a welcoming Jewish state following unfathomable destruction! To top it all, the aircraft carrier USS H. W. Bush whose homeport is Norfolk arrived in Haifa, my hometown, with close to 6,000 sailors and pilots aboard following bombing ISIS targets. It was the first American carrier to arrive in Israel in 17 years, spending July 4th in Israel. It was greeted enthusiastically, reaffirming the special bond between the two democratic allies. I fondly recall being present when a Torah Scroll (democracy’s foundation) originally from Germany was presented to this incredible vessel, symbol of American freedom’s resolve.”

CELEBRATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF CNA

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge CNA in Arlington, Virginia, which is celebrating its 75th Anniversary of work in the public interest. CNA operates both the Center for Naval Analyses, which is the Federally Funded Research and Development Center for the Navy and Marine Corps, and the Institute for Public Research, which works for a variety of federal agencies including FEMA, Health and Human Services, the Coast Guard, and FAA. CNA was founded in 1942 at the request of the U.S. Navy by civilian scientists who left their positions at prestigious universities to help address the problem of U-boats sinking U.S. ships. In CNA’s rich history, CNA has:

Served the U.S. Navy with scientific analysis throughout World War II, leading Admiral Jerauld Wright to conclude: “I believe that no group of comparable size contributed more to the successful conduct of our war effort.”

Served the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps continuously for 75 years. The nonprofit organization in its service for the Navy and Marine Corps specializes in operations, weapons systems, logistics, manpower, training, policy, planning, special operations, and cyber warfare.

Analysts who have accompanied U.S. troops in every war and major operation since World War II. CNA analyst Dr. Irving Shakhnov made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation when he was shot down during the Korean War while collecting data in a Marine