

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 begrimed 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 descendant 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 Grozdko-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 descendant 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 Shaknov made the supreme sacrifice in service of the nation when he was shot down during the Korean War while collecting data in a Marine

Corps fighter. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom.

Analysts who have been injured or rescued from the water in the course of their service to the armed forces.

Analysts who serve in war and peace as scientific advisors at the side of combat commanders on land, at sea, and in headquarters organizations like the Pentagon.

Been a “go to” source of independent and objective advice that Congress relies upon. CNA has supplied analysis in response to congressional mandates for reports on Sea Based Air Platforms, the capacity of the national airspace system, Top Officials National Counter-Terrorism Exercises, detention programs for foreign detainees, the Afghan National Security Forces, and U.S. counterterrorism against Al-Qaeda, among others.

Provided research leadership. In support of the Gates Commission, CNA was instrumental in laying the analytical foundations for ending the draft and creating the all-volunteer military.

Repeatedly demonstrated its independence and willingness to stand behind scientific analysis even when it has proven unpopular. Its work on success rate of Tomahawk cruise missiles in Operation Desert Storm and changes in Soviet naval strategy in the 1970s challenged conventional wisdom at the time.

Provided field analytical support in response to humanitarian disasters in its service to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Navy, and the Department of Health and Human Services. It has provided both real-time and after-action analysis for Hurricane Katrina, Hurricane Rita, the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, Hurricane Sandy, and now, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

I applaud CNA and its 75 years of public service, and urge my colleagues to join me in supporting organizations like CNA that are committed to objectivity and data-driven solutions to the nation’s problems.

HONORING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOURO UNIVERSITY CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Touro University California upon the occasion of its 20th Anniversary of providing quality graduate and professional programs to its students.

In 1997, Touro University California was established in San Francisco, California as the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine. Two years later, on May 27, 1999, the College relocated to Mare Island in Vallejo, California. Today, Touro owns twenty-three historic buildings and structures on forty-four acres on Mare Island. They have grown to more than 1,500 students enrolled in three fully accredited colleges: the College of Osteopathic Medicine, the College of Pharmacy and the College of Education and Health Sciences.

Touro University California’s academics are student-centered and research oriented. The College of Osteopathic Medicine hosts “Research Days” where students and faculty can share their research with our community. The

Public Health program is using a one million dollar grant to research HIV prevention in high-risk populations with the KHANA Research Center in Cambodia. US News and World Report has ranked Touro in the Top 10 for placing graduates into primary care residencies for six consecutive years.

Touro University California is dedicated to helping their students develop rewarding careers in community service. The business community in Solano County awarded Touro the Spirit of Solano Award for Community Service. In 2012, Touro partnered with Solano County Public Help, increasing access to three county clinics for more than 30,000 patients. In the past year, the student-run clinic, staffed by groups of Touro students and faculty, recorded 420 free patient visits and 1,300 volunteer hours at the clinic.

Mr. Speaker, for the past twenty years Touro University California has offered a quality education to their students and many hours of service to our community. I am proud to have such an institution operating on Mare Island. Therefore, it is fitting and proper that we honor them here today.

RECOGNIZING THE AMITY FIRE COMPANY

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Amity Fire Company for serving Berks County, PA since 1961. These men and women work tirelessly to ensure the safety of the community to which they belong. Since extinguishing their first fire in 1963, the Amity Fire Company continues to help local citizens who find themselves in harm’s way.

The Amity Fire Company held its first social event in 1964. They sought to provide an opportunity for citizens to kindle relationships with their first responders. Since then, the fire company has become a pillar of stability in the area. They serve as a model for how an engaged and proactive group of leaders can contribute to a community’s safety and welfare. I commend the personnel of the Amity Fire Company for all their efforts and wish them another 56 years of success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on September 7, 2017 my vote on Roll Call 473 on Grijalva Amendment No. 18 to H.R. 3354 was recorded as Nay, but I intended to vote Aye.

HONORING THE LIFE AND DEDICATED SERVICE OF DR. JAMES DURELL TUBERVILLE

HON. MIKE JOHNSON

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I rise today to recognize the life and dedicated service of one of the Lord’s most humble servants, Dr. James Durell Tuberville. He made it his life’s work to help others during difficult times, and he was a beacon of light and a towering figure in the life of countless many people, including my own family. His lasting influence on our community cannot be expressed enough. I am humbled to rise and pay tribute to his life, his resolved stewardship and unwavering commitment to the people of Northwest Louisiana.

James Durell Tuberville was born on October 25, 1958, in Shreveport, Louisiana and on Sunday, August 13, 2017, he left this world to be with our Lord. After graduating from Southwood High School in Shreveport, Dr. Tuberville continued his education at Grawood Christian School and Southwestern Assemblies of God College. He majored in pastoral ministry at Southwestern University and received a master of arts in counseling from Louisiana Tech University.

He did all things for the glory of God, and brought care and compassion to multitudes. Dr. Tuberville served his early ministry as a youth pastor in Luna and Natchitoches, Louisiana. He later served as pastor of Bethel Assembly of God in Shreveport for more than 11 years, before becoming counselor on the pastoral staff at Shreveport Community Church, and president of Personal Solutions, Inc. He selflessly aided those suffering through some of the largest disasters of our lifetime, including the horrific earthquake in Haiti, the Oklahoma City bombing and the great tragedy on September 11, 2001.

Known and loved by all, Dr. Tuberville also served selflessly as chaplain for the Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office, Caddo Fire District 3, and as National Chaplain of the firefighters’ Brother’s Keepers Motorcycle Club. It is difficult to imagine our community without the larger-than-life, always encouraging presence of Dr. Tuberville. His legacy and example are an enduring lesson for all of us. We are comforted to know he has been received by the Lord with that ultimate affirmation, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is a privilege to honor Dr. James Durell Tuberville and to celebrate a life exceptionally well lived. My wife, Kelly, and I extend our prayers and sincerest condolences to his wife and soulmate, Susan, and two sons, Joshua Durell and Dustin Bruce, to the entire Tuberville family and all those whose lives were changed by this giant of a man.

HONORING DR. KENNETH J. AHLER

HON. TODD ROKITA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2017

Mr. ROKITA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Hoosier, Dr. Kenneth J. Ahler