

With 2000 years of History behind us,
Our current effort to worship, an added plus.
We can recall times and places
Where we have endured persecution and
trouble.
We can still pray, worship, and commune
with God—all together in the great
outdoors,
While maintaining social distancing and
Greeting each other with hands folded in
prayer, fingers pointing to heaven, a
simple bow of the head—the Namaste
greeting—
Acknowledging, “I recognize the Spirit of
God within you.”
Our Faith still alive and flourishing, car-
rying us through difficult times.
Our effort shows our resiliency and resource-
fulness—
To be together, yet apart, as we cope with
our current distress.
We are up to the challenge—Praising God in
new and creative ways.

Our prayers and sympathy for the tragic
loss to the Wuhan Virus of Nursing Student
Joshua Bush of the University of South Caro-
lina-Aiken. Our community is blessed with the
determined leadership of University Chancellor
Sandra Jordan.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KRISTIN JACOBS

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I, along with Representative DEUTCH, rise to honor the life of our dear friend, Florida State Representative Kristin Jacobs.

We were heartbroken to learn of her passing and join Floridians in mourning this tremendous loss to Broward County and the state of Florida.

Representative Jacobs began her career in public service on the Broward County Commission, eventually serving as Mayor in 2012. She served in the Florida House of Representatives from 2014 until her passing on April 11, 2020.

She was a groundbreaking environmental leader and fierce protector of Florida's lakes, streams, and oceans. She spearheaded the development of the Southeast Florida Regional Climate Compact, created the Broward Water and Climate Academy, and during her term as Mayor, was selected to serve on President Obama's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience. Representative Jacobs fought her illness just as she fought for our community—with determination, resilience, and grace. She was smart and tough and stood up for her beliefs, always backing them with facts and data.

Even while she underwent chemotherapy treatment for cancer, she remained an active member of the Florida State Legislature, serving her constituents from her hospital bed.

Kristin was the most genuine, decent, caring, and effervescent person. She was a loyal, real, and true friend, and we will miss her deeply.

Our hearts are with her three children, three grandchildren, and all her extended family. May her memory be a blessing.

SAVAUGHN CROOKS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Savaughn Crooks for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Savaughn Crooks is a 10th grader at Kearney Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Savaughn Crooks is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Savaughn Crooks for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF RABBI ALAN MAYOR SOKOBIN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Alan Mayor Sokobin, Rabbi Emeritus of The Temple—Congregation Shomer Emunim in Sylvania, Ohio. Rabbi Sokobin suddenly passed from this life on Friday April 3, 2020.

Rabbi Sokobin was a giant in our community. Learned, faith-filled, a family man, loving, a leader, compassionate, a World War II veteran, funny, high-spirited, reverent, a community leader and so much more. As we mourn Rabbi Sokobin's passing, in the midst of Passover, as the Jewish people commemorate the exodus from Egypt to the promised land, they recognize the importance of welcoming the stranger, to opening one's home and the Passover dinner table to the other. Rabbi Sokobin spent his life welcoming the stranger and his imprint on our community is writ large, his contributions invaluable.

Alan Mayor Sokobin was born on March 8, 1926 in Newark, New Jersey, to parents Pauline and Max. At the age of fifteen he slipped away from his family to join the Navy, honorably serving in Europe and Japan. After the war he graduated from Syracuse University, and then pursued rabbinic studies at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, Ohio. He went on to receive his Doctor of Theology degree from Burton College. Marrying the love of his life on May 19, 1957, together he and Mickey raised two children and eventually presided over a family including five grandchildren.

Rabbi Sokobin came to our community in 1972 to join the congregation as co-rabbi with Leon Feuer. He soon established himself as an intellectual and ecumenical community leader, pairing with Toledo's mayor to improve Toledo Municipal Court, chairing the Labor-

Management-Citizens Committee, and working with Promedica Health System. Rabbi Sokobin's greatest gift to the faith community was the partnerships he formed with Toledo's faith leaders in the Catholic, Muslim, and other religious traditions.

After officially retiring in 1992, Rabbi Sokobin decided to go to Law School and graduated in 1996. He was named outstanding student of his class by a vote of faculty members. Rabbi Sokobin remained a constant figure not only in his congregation, but our community as the years passed into this decade. His wise counsel was sought and carefully considered regarding issues of the day. His thoughtful countenance and astute observations were treasured. Yet, it was always the most charming sight to see Rabbi Sokobin pull a balloon ever present in his pocket and fashion an animal as children—and adults—watched in wonder.

The young Anne Frank noted “Our lives are fashioned by our choices. First we make our choices. Then our choices make us.” Rabbi Alan Mayor Sokobin chose to live his life serving God with his whole heart,” a choice that made many all the richer. He spent his days putting the pieces of the world back together, he worked to fix the disconnected, to repair the world—he truly embodied *tikkun olam*. Today we mourn at his passing, but we celebrate his life and the progress he made to fix our broken world. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his family as they mourn this great man.

ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Enrique Hernandez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Enrique Hernandez is a 10th grader at Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Enrique Hernandez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Enrique Hernandez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

NEVER FORGET SMOLENSK MASSACRE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this month, the people of Poland

mark 10 years since the tragic Smolensk plane crash, which killed 96 people including President Lech Kaczynski and Polish First Lady Maria Kaczynska. On April 10, 2010, a Polish state delegation was heading to Smolensk, Russia, to commemorate the murder of nearly 22,000 innocent Polish citizens by the Soviet secret service NKVD in the spring of 1940 during World War II. The gruesome crash in the thick fog near Smolensk in western Russia was Poland's worst air disaster since World War II and completely stunned the country as scores of military political leaders were killed in one fell swoop.

The American people stand with the people of Poland in solemn commemoration of this horrible national tragedy that still reverberates throughout Polish society to this very day. The Soviet Union was complicit with Nazi Germany in the oppression of the courageous people of Poland. Despite the ongoing Wuhan Virus, senior Polish officials laid wreaths at the monument to the victims of the Smolensk air disaster at the Pilsudski Square in Warsaw earlier this month.

Unfortunately, questions relating to the cause of this tragedy still linger. Although an official Polish government investigation concluded that the crash was caused by pilot error, suspicions of foul play persist. At the memorial earlier this month, Polish President Andrzej Duda said, "After 10 years, it's difficult to say anything or predict whether the case can ever be resolved." This is mainly because Russia has consistently refused to turn over basic evidence to the Polish state. The Russian government is still in possession of the plane wreckage including the black boxes that could provide more clarity.

In a press statement from earlier this month, Poland's Foreign Ministry renewed demands that Moscow return the wreckage of the Tupolev aircraft that crashed so that the Polish people can finally find some closure. Russia's refusal to turn over evidence raises many suspicions, despite claims by Russia's Investigative Committee that crew errors led to the accident.

The American people support the Polish Foreign Ministry's calls to return the wreckage to Poland, as well as the Ministry's assertion that "no norm of international law gives grounds for Russia to impound Polish property." We stand with the people of Poland in remembering the victims of this awful tragedy and supporting efforts for a transparent investigation into its cause to provide a measure of justice to the victims and their families.

The Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington is well represented by Ambassador Piotr Antoni Wilczek, promoting the message to never forget this catastrophe. President Andrzej Duda is appreciated in America. Democratic Post-Communist Poland is the only country in Europe to have 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth, which I saw firsthand in January. I particularly know the significance of America's beloved Polish-American Community of 10.5 million citizens. My daughter-in-law Jennifer Miskewicz Wilson is grateful for Krakow heritage and her association with Poet Adam Mickiewicz.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN F. (JACK) BARRY

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY III

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of one of my longtime constituents from Millis, Massachusetts, John F. (Jack) Barry, and to congratulate him on his retirement this coming April after 40 years of service with the American Hospital Association.

Jack has held several leadership positions at the AHA since 1980, including a temporary assignment from 1993 to 1995 in Washington, where he directed the association's regional operations during the Congressional deliberations over national health reform legislation. Since 1996, Jack has served as the AHA's regional executive in New England. He has worked with the region's six state hospital associations and hundreds of member hospitals to direct grassroots advocacy on issues of importance to hospitals.

Jack has long had ties to both Massachusetts and Washington, D.C. Born in Newton, he earned a B.A. in journalism from George Washington University in 1976 and an M.B.A. with a concentration in health care management from Boston University in 1991.

Jack looks forward to enjoying his retirement with his best friend and spouse of 38 years, Ellen Kelly, a retired nurse; his daughter Elizabeth; his son Patrick; and the host of friends and colleagues he has amassed over the years. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Jack Barry and wishing him and his family much happiness as he begins the next chapter of his life.

MINDY FREEL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. Perlmutter. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mindy Freel for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Mindy Freel is a 10th grader at Northglenn Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mindy Freel is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Mindy Freel for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE SELFLESS AMERICANS WORKING ON THE FRONTLINES TO BATTLE THE CORONAVIRUS

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to all the brave men and women of this country who are risking their own lives every day to help our nation get through this terrible coronavirus pandemic. They are our emergency first responders, doctors, nurses, grocery store employees, members of the postal service and those who work in the shipping and delivery industries. Their continued service throughout this crisis means life or death for some patients fighting off this disease, and it also means that our families can continue to have the food and products we all need to survive.

Our local newspaper, Florida Today, recently highlighted the efforts of fifteen Brevard County nurses as they rushed to aid Americans suffering from COVID-19 in the town of Taunton, Massachusetts, a hard-hit community just south of Boston. These brave nurses, currently on staff with Rockledge Regional Medical Center, answered the call for help and volunteered to go for two weeks to treat seriously ill COVID-19 patients. Since being there, they have vowed to stay as long as they are needed.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the selfless acts of nurses Jennifer Nelson, Lorraine Blake, Tandy Beck, Allison Salidino, Betty "Joanne" Crespo, Deidra Gansel, Jill Barrett, Amanda Tebault, Lisa Colon, Arlene "Solly" Salzwedel, Kris Smith, Nora George, Linda Fleming Dutton, Kara Ehrhardt and Gena Gillespie. These are real life heroes.

"When I first walked into ICU, I thought, 'Oh, my goodness. What is this?' It looked like, to coin a phrase, a war zone," Nurse Arlene "Solly" Salzwedel was quoted describing the situation saying in Taunton. "The housekeepers do not come in to clean the rooms at all. That's the job of the nursing staff. So not only are you the patients' nurse, you're their cleaner. You're their spiritual support system, even though they're intubated and heavily sedated."

Andy Romine, President of Rockledge Regional Medical Center, said originally thirty nurses had volunteered to go to Massachusetts, but our own needs in Brevard County required some to stay and care for patients in our own community. "Our organization is very proud of them for their willingness to put their safety at risk to care for others—their courage and selflessness is a source of pride for us," said Romine. Since then, forty-five other nurses have traveled to Boston to treat the surging cases of COVID-19 putting their lives at risk.

I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting these brave nurses, and all of the selfless Americans who are risking their lives every day to help the American people overcome this serious coronavirus pandemic.