

is widely known for its socially conscious investment and philanthropic efforts, and as a pillar of the Jewish community from Chicago to Israel.

Tragically, late last month, James “Jim” Crown, Henry’s grandson, passed away in a car accident on his 70th birthday. Born to Renee and Lester Crown, Jim went to high school in Winnetka, attended Hampshire College in Amherst, MA, for his undergraduate studies, and graduated from Stanford Law School. He began his career at Salomon Brothers, eventually becoming vice president of the Capital Markets Service Group. It was during his time on Wall Street that Jim met and fell in love with Paula Hannaway, an investment banker. In 1985, the two married and returned to Chicago to join the family business.

Jim was chair and CEO of Henry Crown and Company, a privately held company dealing in securities, real estate, and other investments. He also was a member of the board of JPMorgan Chase & Co. Jim was one of Chicago’s most prominent philanthropists and a longtime member of the board of trustees for the University of Chicago, serving as chair from 2003 to 2009.

In early 2003, Jim had breakfast with a young Illinois State senator who was gearing up to make a run for the U.S. Senate. Some might have seen an inexperienced newcomer with almost no chance of success. But Jim saw what others did not. In Jim’s words, “I was just taken with his sensibility, his intelligence, his values, and how he conducted himself during that campaign.” That young State senator, Barack Obama, would not only win that seat but go on to become our Nation’s first Black President. And Jim was one of his earliest supporters.

Jim represented the best of finance and business; he knew that success went well beyond profits and bull markets. He understood the importance of giving back. In 2021, Jim and Paula made history with a \$75 million donation to the University of Chicago’s School of Social Work, reportedly the largest ever private donation to a school of social work. Today, the school has been renamed the Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice. Jim’s father Lester Crown said, “[Jim] was the leader of our family both intellectually and emotionally, and he looked out for everybody.” I would add that “everybody” stretched far beyond Jim’s own family.

And just before his passing, as the head of the Civic Committee and Commercial Club of Chicago, Jim was working to convene Chicago business leaders to focus on ways to address violent crime, to make Chicago “the Safest Big City in America.” The strategy centered on investing in the communities most impacted by violent crime, expanding community violence intervention programs, and committing to expand economic opportunity,

all with the goal of breaking the cycle of trauma and ending generational poverty. While Jim may be gone, I hope his work will be continued to make this a reality.

Jim is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Paula; their children, Torie, Hayley, Summer, and W. Andrew; and two grandchildren; as well as his parents Renee and Lester; four sisters Patricia, Susan, Sara, and Janet; two brothers Steve and Daniel. To the entire Crown family and all of those who knew and loved Jim, Loretta and I send our deepest condolences.

Thank you, Jim, for all that you did for the city of Chicago; it will not be the same without you.●

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

TRIBUTE TO SHARON COHEN

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to thank someone who is critical to the functioning of the U.S. Senate—and who has been instrumental in the lives of many of us Senators, staff, and the entire Senate community for more than two decades.

At the end of this week, Sharon Cohen will be retiring after many years of service in the Senate Dining Room. The Senate Dining Room will be a very different place without her, and we will all miss her.

Sharon is wonderful—kind, caring, and dedicated. Since joining the Senate Dining Room, she has won over everyone she has met with her warmth, patience, and dedication—both to her work and to anyone with whom she interacts.

We have all had people who touched our lives, providing guidance during difficult times, or even just a friendly face on long days. Sharon provided all of that—and more—to Senators, staff, and the colleagues who worked beside her every single day.

Throughout her many years of service, Sharon has worked just as hard as anyone else in the Senate—in fact, she has probably worked harder. She never missed a day of work, never showed up late, and never called out sick. Her colleagues always trusted that they could rely on her. It is one of Sharon’s many qualities that will be missed in the Senate.

And she was willing to go above and beyond to support fellow workers, both new and old, and lend a hand no matter the task. While her work may not have made headline news every day, Sharon is one of the many unsung heroes that make the Senate run.

Soon, Sharon will be enjoying her well-earned retirement, but true to form, she will stay busy. In fact, she has already started her next role: grandmother to a beautiful new grandchild. She will spend her retirement caring for Trent, or as she refers to him, “her little man,” alongside her daughter Angie.

I know I am not alone when I say I will miss Sharon’s cheerful presence in

the Senate Dining Room. We all are grateful for her many years of hard work and dedication to this body and our country. We wish her all the best as she embarks on a new adventure.●

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RECOGNIZING CHEAP TRICK

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for most Americans, April 1 is April Fools’ Day, a day of pranks, misleading headlines, deception, and trickery. While that also is true for Illinoisans, in 2007, the Illinois General Assembly gave Illinoisans something else to celebrate: Cheap Trick Day, in honor of the rock and roll band.

For nearly 50 years, Cheap Trick has been part of the American soundtrack, lighting up car radios on cross-country drives, blasting through speakers at weddings, and now playing in the next generation’s wireless headphones. Through it all, Cheap Trick has kept their listeners humming along to popular tunes like “Surrender” and “The Flame.”

But before they were rock and roll legends, they were just a band from Rockford, IL. In 1973, guitarist Rick Nielsen, bassist Tom Petersson, original vocalist Randy Hogan, and drummer Bun E. Carlos came together to form Cheap Trick. The band came up with their name after attending a Slade concert. Following the English rock band’s show, Tom remarked that Slade used “every cheap trick in the book” during their set. The name stuck, and the group would go on to become a regular on the Billboard charts.

In 1974, Robin Zander joined the band, replacing Hogan as lead vocalist. While they started out playing shows across the Midwest—Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Iowa—they would go on to tour the world, opening for the likes of Kiss, Kansas, and Queen. But it was a six-date tour of Japan in the spring of 1978 that changed everything.

Cheap Trick put on the performance of a lifetime before raucous crowds at the Nippon Budokan in Tokyo, Japan. They released the performances as a live album, “Cheap Trick at Budokan,” which went triple-platinum, selling more than 3 million certified units. The album included the smash hit “I Want You to Want Me,” which decades later remains a mainstay on classic rock radio stations across the country. In 2020, the National Recording Registry at the Library of Congress selected “Cheap Trick at Budokan” as one of just 25 recordings to join the National Archives for that year.

And in 2016, Cheap Trick was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, receiving rock and roll’s highest honor and taking their place next to their own musical idols, The Beatles. In addition to leaving behind an impressive discography, the band also has helped shape the sound of the next generation of great bands. Groups like

Pearl Jam, Guns N' Roses, Nirvana, and Green Day, all have credited Cheap Trick as an influence.

Cheap Trick has since become a true family business with Daxx, Rick's son, on the drums and Robin Taylor, Robin's son, floating on guitar, bass, and background vocals. The band is still on the road, playing for crowds from all generations looking to enjoy the nostalgic rock sounds of the 80s. As of this year, Cheap Trick has performed more than 5,000 concerts and sold more than 20 million albums.

Aside from April 1, soon, the band will have another date to celebrate. August 15 will mark 50 years of Cheap Trick. No matter how many sold out shows, world tours, or records sold, Cheap Trick will always be a band that got its start in Rockford, IL. I congratulate Cheap Trick on a half century of hits.●

SALAH EL DEEN SOLTAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak of the importance of Holocaust education and engagement that can help us push back against the rising tide of anti-Semitism we are seeing nowadays, in our country and across the world.

As the Special Representative on Anti-Semitism, Racism and Intolerance for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as many of my colleagues know, I have made it a personal priority to address the rise of anti-Semitism. As anti-Semitism is increasing at home and abroad, it is important to come together to address anti-Semitism, and call out the hate when we see or hear it before it becomes more ingrained in our society.

At the same time, we should celebrate those occasions when a person with a history of making anti-Semitic statements sees the light and realizes the error of his ways, renounces his past statements, and vows never to repeat them. Happily, we have an example of just such a case that I would like to bring to the attention of Senate and the American people.

I would like to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a noteworthy letter from Salah el Deen Soltan, a U.S. person, who wrote last month to his newest grandson, to be shared with other grandchildren, most of whom he hasn't met after a decade in wrongful detention in Egypt.

As Human Rights Watch stated in a report published on May 3, 2023, calling for Soltan to be released from his unjust imprisonment in one of Cairo's most notorious jails:

Before moving to the United States, Soltan was a professor of Islamic Law at Cairo University. He later founded and served as the president of the Islamic American University in Dearborn, Michigan from 1999 to 2004. As a legal US permanent resident, Soltan lived and worked in the US for over a decade before his arrest in Egypt in September 2013 for opposing the military's ousting of elected president Mohamed Morsi. A court sentenced

Soltan to life in prison in September 2017 in a mass trial marred by extensive due process and fair trial violations. The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined in 2018 that his arrest was arbitrary, as the authorities failed to provide credible evidence of wrongdoing, and that his prosecution violated the right to political participation and freedoms of peaceful assembly and expression.

In the coming weeks, Soltan will have served a full decade in Egyptian jails. During this time, he had time to reflect on his personal history of making crude and cruel anti-Semitic statements to his students and followers over the years. So he wrote a letter, that has been smuggled out of prison and delivered to his family.

In this letter, Soltan addresses his previously held anti-Semitic positions and remarks, apologizes for them and disavows them. In solitary confinement, Soltan reflects on his past, corrects the record for his grandson, and lays out how would like to be remembered in case he never gets the opportunity to meet his grandchildren.

As he writes:

My previous statements and stances are wrong and the best of us are those who reflect, hold oneself accountable and repent. Here I am, reflecting and seeking forgiveness from God for the harm that may have been inflicted upon anyone. I apologize to everyone harmed by what I said and called for. I leave behind these prison walls all forms of anger, hate and coarseness. I bear the burden of upholding the sanctity of human life, speaking truth and defending it wherever it may be. I had only intended to stand up for justice but what I did resulted in the exact opposite of the intent; and became a reason for further oppression, suffering and marginalization of the innocent. In fact, my oppressors used my decade-old stances to justify and fend off pressure from concerned western parties about my release.

It is never too late for remorse and redemption.

In 2020, we saw several Muslim-majority Middle Eastern governments normalize diplomatic relations with Israel with the historic announcement of the Abraham Accords. And in the years since, there has been a real thawing of the hostility toward the Jewish state in some of the neighboring countries. Overcoming decades of official hostility toward the government and people of Israel, broadcast through official media outlets, and often imbued with blatant anti-Semitism, will take time. But a journey begins with a single step. And the reconciliation of the peoples of the region begins with one person.

Together, we can choose peace and forgiveness, rather than be prisoners of past differences. In that spirit and consistent with the Jewish tradition of Teshuva, in which people can see the error of their ways and vow never to repeat that which has offended the Creator, I welcome and embrace Salah Soltan's change of heart. Especially given his difficult circumstances, I find it refreshing and notable that he has taken the time and the trouble to send a heartfelt message to his grandchildren. He has accepted responsi-

bility for his previous hateful words and is seeking forgiveness from those harmed by it.

This September, Soltan will have been imprisoned for a decade in Egyptian prisons where human rights organizations have estimated there to be over 60,000 political prisoners. Last May, more than 50 human rights organizations released a joint statement noting that Soltan is at serious risk of death due to deteriorating health conditions.

In recent weeks, Egypt has started to correct course with the release of two high-profile detainees. I urge President Sisi to extend his Presidential pardon to Soltan, so that he may leave Egypt and be reunited with his family.

I ask unanimous consent that the complete text of the letter written by Salah el Deen Soltan to his grandchildren be printed in full at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MY DEAREST BELOVED GRANDSON, SALAH BINYAMEEN: Ever since I learned of your birth and that you will bear my name, I have been praying for you and constantly thinking about you. I fervently pray to God Almighty that you become a positive force in our community and the world at large. It is no secret that you were born during one of the most challenging periods of my imprisonment, yet news of your birth brought me immense solace and joy. Your coming is a reminder of the time that has passed, my fifth grandson, the fourth of whom I have not met or spent time with because of my decade-long wrongful imprisonment in solitary confinement. The passing years have been arduous, and I feel as though time slips away from me without anyone to share my happiness or alleviate my solitude.

Dearest grandson, Salah, enduring a decade of imprisonment and torture, I found solace only in God. The darkness of my solitude has revealed many certainties and has granted me clarity about my past with all of its good and bad, particularly as I witness death so frequently around me. I feel as if I stared death in the eyes while lying on the ground, paralyzed and denied help and medicine for days. During those helpless moments, all I could do was ponder: Will I ever have the opportunity to see you? What will you come to know of me? If you never meet me, who will be your source of information about me? So, I've decided to write you a series of letters, this being the first, so that you may come to know me as I am. I want you to understand who I am, what my values are, and what I stand for.

My dearest Salah, I have always believed, and will continue to believe, that justice is the bedrock of faith. Freedom and justice are the imperatives of our religious beliefs. I have always prayed for divine guidance towards truth, and for inspiration to stand up for the distressed and most marginalized. In the depths of my suffering, I question whether I have consistently lived up to those ideals. I am grateful to God for the guidance on the things I got right and for forgiveness on those that I got wrong. Allah Himself swore by the sanctity of the questioning soul: "And I swear by the reproaching soul" (Quran 75:2). None of us is immune, not even from the gravest of errors, and repentance is a virtue of a sound heart.

The first of these revisions occurred in the immediate aftermath of the 2013 coup and