

OPENING OF THE POLISH CENTER
OF DISCOVERY AND LEARNING
AT ELMS COLLEGE IN CHICOPEE,
MASSACHUSETTS

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to take a few minutes to recognize a significant event is my district that will both recognize and honor the impact the Polish American culture has made upon western Massachusetts.

On Saturday, June 3rd, the Elms College in Chicopee, Massachusetts will open a new Polish Center of Discovery and Learning. This new center will address a need in the community that is not currently being met by other area academic research centers and cultural associations. The Polish Center will provide support materials for local schools and educational institutions to encourage and assist people in western Massachusetts and from throughout New England to learn about and discover Poland.

The Polish Center will develop a permanent exhibit of historical and cultural materials which will be housed in an inviting community meeting space. The mission of the center will be to offer a variety of workshops, exhibits, concerts, conferences, films, plays and lectures. All of this will be done in an effort to make known the achievements of Americans of Polish descent and others whose relationships with the ethnic Polish culture has contributed to the economy, the arts and the sciences in New England.

The resources at the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning will include a library collection of English language materials for undergraduate students and the general public on topics of Polish history and culture. The Center will also include a database of historical and statistical information with a concentration on Poles in the United States. Historical and cultural artifacts, as well as support materials and bibliographies will be available.

What is most special about the Center, however, is that it will draw upon the collective experiences of people of Polish origin who live within the western Massachusetts area. Programming will be available for adults, children and college students, and traditional Polish customs and traditions will be passed down through the generations.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent such as interesting and unique Center dedicated to learning and sharing the Polish American culture that thrives in my area. I look forward to working closely with the directors of this Center, and to participating in the many exciting programs and events that are to come in the future.

Congratulations to Elms College for establishing the Polish Center of Discovery and Learning.

COLORADO STATE
REPRESENTATIVE, DEBBIE ALLEN

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading ladies, State Representative Debbie Allen. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative Allen's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House in 1992, a seat she would hold until present. Representative Allen rose quickly to positions of great importance within the House. Debbie served as the chairman of the Education Committee. Some of her key issues have been crime, law enforcement and educational reform. Debbie is also a Republican activist, serving as the President of the Aurora Republican forum.

Representative Allen also received many honors. She received the Top Metro Legislator award, Friend of Agriculture award, CU Alumni Legislative Award, and the Junior League Champion for Small Children Award. Debbie also received the 5 year award for a 4-H leather instructor.

2000 marked the end of Representative Allen's tenure in the State House of Representatives. Her career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative Allen a debt of gratitude and I wish her well.

HONORING WOMEN WHO HAVE
SERVED, FOUGHT AND DIED FOR
FREEDOM

HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, from our nation's beginning to the present, women have answered the call to duty without hesitation. Like their male counterparts, they put their lives, their goals, and their dreams on hold to serve their nation.

Women's participation in the military dates back as early as the Revolutionary War when in June of 1778 at Monmouth Courthouse a woman came to the aid of General George Washington and his weary troops. Moving across the battlefield binding wounds and dispensing water, this woman, who became known as "Molly Pitcher", noticed that one of the gun positions had ceased firing. She quickly put down her water pitcher, took over the gun position and fired her cannon. She stayed at her station until relieved by artillerymen. Historians recorded her deeds and actions and while her true identity is not known, "Molly Pitcher" is representative of the women who served with the Continental Army in our country's fight for independence.

During World War I women served as nurses in the armed forces. By the end of the

war, 34,000 women had served in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps, the Marines, and the Coast Guard. These women served with honor not only on American soil, but overseas as well. Three Army nurses received the Distinguished Service Cross, a combat medal second only to the Medal of Honor. Twenty-three received the Distinguished Service Medal, the highest non-combat award. Many received foreign medals and some 38 women made the ultimate sacrifice for their nation and were buried overseas in U.S. cemeteries.

World War II ushered in a new era of service for women in the military. In 1942 laws were passed establishing the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the Navy Women's Reserve, the Marine Corps Women's Reserve, and the Coast Guard Women's Reserve. With the signing of the Integration Act of 1948, women were given permanent, legal status as enlisted personnel. By the end of the war, roughly 350,000 had served in the armed forces in virtually every occupation outside of direct combat. These women all had two things in common—they had all volunteered and they had a desire to serve their nation.

The record of women's service to the Armed Forces does not stop with these early wars. Some 265,000 women served during the Vietnam Era and approximately 35,000 women served during the Persian Gulf War. There can be little doubt that these brave women performed a valuable role in service to our nation. Historical documents are full of testimonials attesting to the excellence of women's service, disciplined character and overall positive effects on the armed services. The brave women who served and continue to serve this nation deserve our respect and gratitude.

None of us who have served in our country's armed forces will ever doubt the importance of the service of women in the military. Accounting for an increasing percentage of those in uniform today, women now hold positions of leadership and achievement few would have predicted, even as recently as World War II.

Today a special observance will be held to honor the women who have served in the Armed Forces. Fittingly, this observance will be held at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial. This will be the third annual observance, honoring women who have served admirably in our armed services, some whom have made the ultimate sacrifice so that Americans may enjoy the liberty and freedom we too often take for granted.

Dedicated on October 18, 1997, the Women's Memorial is an inspiring monument that honors and illustrates America's service-women throughout history. Sited at the ceremonial entrance to Arlington National Cemetery, it is the nation's only major national memorial honoring women who have served in uniform in and between our Nation's wars.

I join with many of my colleagues today in saluting the women who have proudly and honorably served in our Nation's military. The debt which we owe them is great and it is most appropriate to pause today to pay them tribute for their individual and collective contributions to our Nation.

REFORM IN IRAN

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Secretary Madeleine K. Albright for articulating the United States' willingness to engage Iran after Majlis (parliamentary) victories for Iranian reformers. Her effort to expand cultural and economic ties with Iran is wise and appropriate. While I do not condone the egregious violations of human rights and international law that routinely take place in Iran, we must make it clear to reformers there that the U.S. is eager to reciprocate moves toward a friendlier relationship.

Through the election of Mohammad Khatemi and his pro-reform allies in the Iranian parliament, the Iranian people have expressed a desire to moderate their nation's conservative Islamic government. Ali Khamene'i and Iran's other religious leaders, who hold ultimate control over virtually all Iranian policy, have, for the most part, allowed Iran's new elected leadership to take their places in the Majlis. However, the Washington Post recently reported that the Council of Guardians has overturned several electoral victories for reformers at the provincial level, in addition to manipulating Iran's electoral institutions to favor conservatives in parliamentary runoffs. I believe that while the electoral victories represent an important victory for democracy in Iran, the tenuousness of those victories highlights the degree to which Iran's major institutions are still controlled by a handful of oligarchs. There is much work to be done on these issues.

I would also like to recognize the work of Iranian-American citizens who have worked hard to open up economic ties between the U.S. and Iran. I hope that the lifting of luxury imports and increase in travel visas that Secretary Albright announced in her speech will create some improvement in the quality of life for ordinary Iranians. Further, I hope that improvements in Iran's economy will amplify the cries for democracy.

Once again, I want to reiterate my support for Secretary Albright's attempt to engage and bolster Iranian reformers.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS W. FOX ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL, RECIPIENT OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I offer my sincerest congratulations to Louis W. Fox Academic and Technical High School in San Antonio, TX, upon the notification of their receipt of the Blue Ribbon School Award.

Schools are awarded the Blue Ribbon School Award based on their performance in regards to several criteria, including: student focus and support; active teaching and learning; school organization and culture; challenging standard and curriculum; professional

community; leadership and educational vitality; school, family, and community partnerships; and indicators of success.

Fox Tech High School is among eight schools in San Antonio and 198 schools nationally, all of which excelled in these areas and were rewarded with the Blue Ribbon School Award from the United States Department of Education.

To receive consideration for this prestigious award, schools must be recommended for national recognition by their individual state department of education or sponsoring agency. Nominations are then evaluated by a National Review Panel including the Department of Education, the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Council for America Private Education and a select group of educators from around the country. The Secretary of Education then makes a final determination based on the recommendations of this panel.

In receiving this special recognition, I believe that Fox Tech High School will inspire others to provide the level of quality education that this Blue Ribbon School Award merits. I am proud to represent a district and hail from a state that has clearly placed an emphasis on the education of our children.

**THE HONORABLE GARY
McPHERSON**

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to take this moment to recognize the career of one of Colorado's leading statesmen, Colorado Representative, Gary McPherson. In doing so, I would like to honor this individual who, for so many years, has exemplified the notion of public service and civic duty. It is clear that Representative McPherson's dynamic leadership will be greatly missed and difficult to replace.

Elected to the State House of Representatives in 1992, he served on the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. He dealt with legislation regarding minors and smoking. He has also worked very aggressively on education, crime and welfare reform. Gary was also the vice chairman and the board member of the Arapahoe County Recreation District.

Representative McPherson received many honors. He was named CACI Legislator of the Year and received the Aurora Public Schools' Superintendents' award.

2000 marked the end of Representative McPherson's tenure in the State House of Representatives. His career embodied the citizen-legislator ideal and was a model that every official in elected office should seek to emulate. The citizens of Colorado owe Representative McPherson a debt of gratitude and I wish him well.

**REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR DAVID
IVRY AT THE DAYS OF REMEM-
BRANCE COMMEMORATION**

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 23, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 4, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the Days of Remembrance in the rotunda of the United States Capitol. The theme of this year's commemoration was "The Holocaust and the New Century: The Imperative to Remember."

After more than half a century, Mr. Speaker, we must still commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust in order to honor the memory of those victims of Hitler's twisted tyranny. At the same time, we must mark this catastrophe because mankind still has not learned the lessons of this horror, as evidenced most recently by the mass killings in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, David Ivry, Israeli Ambassador to the United States delivered a moving address at this year's Day of Remembrance ceremony. I ask that Ambassador Ivry's remarks at the Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Capitol be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give them thoughtful consideration.

David Ivry was appointed Israeli Ambassador to the United States in January 2000. From 1977 to 1982, he held the rank of Major General and Commander of the Israel Air Force. Ambassador Ivry is a graduate of Technion University, where he earned a Bachelors of Science in Aeronautical Engineering. He has held many governmental posts, most recently serving as Israel's National Security Advisor and Head of the National Security Council. He and his wife Ofra have three children and two grandchildren.

**REMARKS OF DAVID IVRY, ISRAELI
AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES**

His Excellency, Goran Persson Prime, Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Chairman, honored Members of Congress, diplomatic colleagues and friends: "Yizkor—remember." The act of remembering has always been a basic principle for the Jewish people. In order to remember, the Jewish people have a traditional prayer called the Yizkor, which is recited around the world today. The word Yizkor is in the future tense. It teaches us that the act of remembering the past goes beyond the present and pushes humankind into the future.

My father left Czechoslovakia when Hitler came to power. He reached Israel in 1934 and that is where I was born. Our house contains an album with photos of many members of my family who perished in the Shoah. Few understood the danger. Few believed that such a tragedy could take place. Few imagined that the human mind could conceive such a twisted path. Even today it is difficult to understand. There were brave individuals who provided shelter to Jews. My father's sister was given shelter and hidden by a Christian family in Bratislava, and at the end of the war she made Aliya to Israel. We must also remember those who extended a hand while endangering themselves.

Ladies and gentlemen, in my career as an Air Force pilot, I was given the privilege to view the world from thirty thousand feet and