

have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING BRUNO SCHUSTEK

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Schustek Pond in the Village of Willowbrook, Illinois.

On July 6, 1930, the wealthy heiress Mary "Merry" Fahrney decided to try her hand at skydiving for the first time without any prior training or a qualified instructor to assist her. Upon exiting the airplane her parachute became entangled on the plane's wing, leaving her helplessly suspended hundreds of feet above the ground for over two hours. Charles Geiger and Bruno Schustek witnessed Fahrney's predicament from the ground and decided to assist her. When he reached Fahrney's plane, Schustek climbed out of his own airplane, down a rope, and onto the wing of her aircraft freeing her parachute and allowing Merry to glide safely to the ground. Unfortunately, Schustek was unable to climb back into his plane and fell to his death.

Eighty-five years to the day after Bruno Schustek's death, the North American Spine Society unveiled a new plaque in his honor. Decades after his heroic act, Schustek's memory lives on thanks to Maria R. Traska, Joseph Kubal and Keith Yearman, amateur historians who discovered and publicized Schustek's story. With the dedication of the Schustek Pond, his selfless actions will continue to inspire and remind us of his sacrifice.

PEARLAND ISD PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR—SHARON BRADLEY

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sharon Bradley of Pearland's Jamison Middle School for being named Pearland Independent School District's 2015 Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year.

Ms. Bradley has served as principle of Jamison Middle School for ten years. Previously, she taught multiple different grade levels including as a junior high assistant principal. She developed a passion for helping to guide her students into becoming strong leaders through the school system. Ms. Bradley has demonstrated great leadership and dedication to her students and colleagues.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sharon Bradley for winning the Pearland Independent School District's 2015 Elementary and Secondary Principal of the Year Award.

CELEBRATING STEFAN
ROZENFELD

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, on July 12, 1940, six-year-old Stefan Rozenfeld arrived on the shores of the United States of America with his mother and father, after a long and perilous journey from Poland. This week, he will celebrate the 75th anniversary of his arrival.

His journey, albeit encompassing a narrative far too familiar for many American Jews, represents a remarkable story of survival and courage.

When they fled their native Poland in January 1940, Stefan Rozenfeld and his mother escaped certain death at the hands of the Nazis. Only weeks after they departed their home in Lodz, the Jews of Lodz were rounded up and crammed into a ghetto that served as a staging ground for deportations to Nazi extermination camps. The Rozenfelds made their way to Belgium, where they reunited with Stefan's father and secured American immigration visas. However, unable to obtain passage to the United States before the Nazi invasion of Belgium in May 1940, they narrowly evaded the Nazis once again, securing safety in France. But when France capitulated to the Nazis in June, 1940, the Rozenfelds were trapped. Denied entrance to their last two remaining hopes, Portugal and Spain, vulnerable and without anywhere else to turn, Stefan and his family seemed destined to fall into the Nazis' murderous hands.

Portugal, neutral throughout World War II, had closed its borders to Jewish refugees. It was only the actions taken by an exceedingly courageous diplomat, Aristides de Sousa Mendes, the Portuguese consul in Bordeaux, which permitted the Rozenfelds, along with tens of thousands of other refugees, to successfully flee the Nazis. Despite a government directive strictly prohibiting the issuing of visas to Jews, Sousa Mendes instructed his vice-consuls to issue Portuguese visas to anyone who petitioned for one, regardless of nationality or religion. Yet, in saving as many as 30,000 lives, Sousa Mendes sacrificed his own career and livelihood. Put on trial by the Portuguese government, the formerly high-ranking diplomat was convicted and forced into retirement, tarnishing his reputation and leaving him impoverished.

While Sousa Mendes was unjustly blacklisted and punished, the Rozenfelds were able to escape to Portugal and then to the United States, where they landed in Hoboken, New Jersey on July 12, 1940. Settling in Queens, New York, Stefan's father started a company that dubbed and translated foreign films for American audiences. The company became an important component of the American film industry, most notably dubbing the Vittorio De Sica film, "Two Women," which starred Sophia Loren. After graduating from Stuyvesant High School in downtown Manhattan and Perdue University in Indiana, Stefan joined his father's company. In 1958, he married Linda Schoengold, a childhood friend he had known since he was eight years old and with whom he had four children: Julie, Laurie, Paul, and Leah. After raising the children in

New Rochelle, where Linda volunteered in the community and worked to encourage voter participation, Stefan and Linda today live in active retirement, yet make sure to return every summer to Pine Lake Park, where they first met. Stefan maintains his lifelong passion for classical music through his extensive collection of recordings and the series of concerts he and Linda host for friends. Despite having faced incredible adversity, the Rozenfeld family, with the help of the heroic Aristides de Sousa Mendes, survived and managed to thrive, embodying the very ethos of the American dream.

After Aristides de Sousa Mendes died in disgrace in 1954, his name was largely forgotten. Many of the refugees whose lives he had singlehandedly saved were scattered around the world. Yet after decades of hard work by his children, and with support from Congress, the Portuguese diplomat eventually came to be known internationally as a hero. Named by Israel in 1966 as Righteous Among the Nations, he would later be honored in his native Portugal, where Portugal's president Mario Soares declared him "Portugal's greatest hero of the twentieth century." In 2004, after reparations were paid to his family and his name restored, celebrations were held in over thirty nations to commemorate Sousa Mendes on the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

Aristides de Sousa Mendes recorded the names and visa numbers of the individuals he granted visas to in a ledger book which now lies in the Portuguese Foreign Ministry in Lisbon. I recently viewed images of Sousa Mendes' list, and, although to some it may appear only as names and numbers, to me it represents promise and hope for the Jewish people and the heroism of one exceptionally brave man.

The story of the Rozenfelds' flight from Nazi persecution, the righteous actions taken by Aristides de Sousa Mendes, and the Rozenfelds' successful passage and settlement in America is important to recognize. I am deeply grateful for Sousa Mendes and his actions, which allowed Stefan and thousands of other refugees to escape the evils of the Nazis and live a life of freedom and promise. I am pleased to be able to share the story of the Rozenfelds' perseverance and courage, of Sousa Mendes' heroic actions, of a case of the United States fulfilling its role as a haven, affording refugees welcome and freedom, and of the refugees contributing their energy and industry to the United States, with the House of Representatives today.

I wish Stefan Rozenfeld and his family well as they celebrate this historic anniversary.

HONORING JAMES MONDO

HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 8, 2015

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate James Mondo of Ridge, New York who turned 100 years old on July 4, 2015.

James, who is commonly known as Jack but more affectionately known as "pop", was born in Brooklyn, New York. The youngest child of Italian Immigrants, Francis and Clara, James grew up with seven siblings. In 1933,