

HONORING THE LIFETIME MEMBERS OF THE RICHMOND COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2015*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the following Lifetime Members of the Richmond County Volunteer Fire Department: Randy Passagaluppi (22 years), Gary Hayes (23 years), Timmy Brann (25 years), Ray Hinson (25 years), Wayne Mothershead (26 years), Leslie Clark (28 years), Ronnie Mundie (37 years), Fred W. Mothershead (44 years), J.D. Jr. Dawson (45 years), Chris Sanders (45 years), and Webster Sanders (64 years). I thank them for their lifelong service to their community and insuring the safety of Richmond County.

RECOGNIZING THE GRAND OPENING OF SIEGFRIED AND ROY PARK

**HON. DINA TITUS**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2015*

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, on December 3, 2015, the Clark County Commissioners and Department of Aviation are hosting the grand opening of a 20-acre park near McCarran International Airport, appropriately named for Siegfried Fischbacher and Roy Horn.

What began as a simple magic act aboard a cruise ship in 1957, Siegfried and Roy's show became one of the most successful extravaganzas in Las Vegas history.

Ten years later, Siegfried and Roy began performing in Las Vegas at the Tropicana. The duo went on to perform around the world until 1989 when their act found a permanent home at The Mirage in Las Vegas.

Siegfried and Roy entertained in Las Vegas and internationally for over 30 years to sold-out audiences, delighting more than 25 million fans with their amazing magic while showcasing the beauty and majesty of wild animals. Their passion and talent made a lasting impression on everyone who met them, knew them, or just saw their show.

Siegfried and Roy's act came to an end in 2003, but their spirit lives on at the Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat exhibits at The Mirage Hotel and Casino, and through their charitable work with the SARMOTI Foundation.

For the past 25 years, Siegfried and Roy's Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat have encouraged better stewardship of the environment by teaching visitors, students, and scholars about the incredible creatures housed there and about why conservation efforts are so important for maintaining a robust ecosystem and preserving the amazing species that share the earth with us.

Every day at the Secret Garden and Dolphin Habitat, visitors can experience firsthand the enchanting world of bottlenose dolphins, white tigers, white lions, and leopards. In August, the Secret Garden welcomed four tiger cubs to the family, continuing a legacy of commitment to conservation.

The SARMOTI Foundation works to conserve and protect endangered and threatened animals around the world, including tigers, lions, cheetahs, panthers, and leopards.

How appropriate that a park which stands at the gateway to Las Vegas, and District One, should bear their name.

Thank you, Siegfried and Roy, for your service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEACETREES VIETNAM

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2015*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of PeaceTrees Vietnam and their continued service to help heal communities affected by war. PeaceTrees Vietnam's tireless work alongside the Vietnamese people honors those who have given their lives in service and fosters trust and collaboration between our two nations.

The story of PeaceTrees Vietnam began on January 6, 1969, when US Army Helicopter Pilot Lt. Daniel Cheney sacrificed his life in the Vietnam War to save the life of a fellow pilot. From this profound loss, his mother Rae Cheney, sister Jerilyn Brusseau and her late husband Danaan Parry vowed to find a way for families like their own to reach out to the Vietnamese people, to honor losses on all sides of the war, and begin building bridges of friendship and understanding. On November 12, 1995, a group of inspired Washington state citizens joined the three founders and pledged their support to launch an organized effort to clear the land of bombs and landmines and plant trees where landmines used to be. That day, PeaceTrees Vietnam was born.

Since 1995, PeaceTrees Vietnam's steadfast humanitarian service has removed more than 89,000 landmines and dangerous weapons from over 846 acres of land, starting in the former "DMZ" on the site of the former US Marine Combat Base at Dong Ha. As the first international nongovernmental organization to be permitted to conduct humanitarian demining work in Vietnam, PeaceTrees has ushered in a new era by bringing together American and Vietnamese people, including veterans from both sides, to work, play, and plant trees as a means of promoting peace, friendship, and renewal through mutual understanding and respect.

For two decades, PeaceTrees' expansive service in Vietnam has gone beyond landmine removal to include building sustainable communities by enhancing education and economic opportunities. Hand-in-hand with the Vietnamese people, PeaceTrees has invested in a safe and healthy future in the poorest and most war-torn regions of Vietnam through the construction of homes, libraries, and schools.

Mr. Speaker, PeaceTrees Vietnam's work has restored land, assisted communities, and created opportunity in partnership with the people of Quang Tri Province of Vietnam. Making the land safe, returning the environment to its natural beauty, and creating new educational and economic opportunities collectively heals the enduring wounds of war that linger for both the Vietnamese and American people.

I am proud to recognize the 20th Anniversary of PeaceTrees Vietnam and thank the family of Lt. Daniel Cheney, the founders, and all those in the United States and Vietnam who have worked to restore the land, build community and heal the wounds of war.

OUR ONE GOD OF FAITH

**HON. E. SCOTT RIGELL**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 2, 2015*

Mr. RIGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a statement on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to submit the following remarks:

We are grateful for our one God's blessings, who bring us together to be one family, gratefully united and gloriously diverse through the divine commandments of loving kindness.

We have gathered during our sixth annual Veterans Day service at the enchanting sites of the Reba and Sam Sandler Campus and the Simon Family JCC of our beloved Tidewater Jewish Community, home to the state's Jewish War Veterans Monument and captivating Holocaust sculpture linked to the embracing Gifford Holocaust Memorial Garden. Let us pause for both heartfelt gratitude and sacred reflection in the enviable spirit of our unique Tidewater togetherness.

In this awesome region of perhaps the world's most concentrated military might, we owe much to the descendants of the Macabees, our heroic sisters and brothers in uniform from past, present and future, for safeguarding our great American nation as well as its undying dream. We continuously advocate for and advance the cause of our leading democracy so that it may ever be a guiding and gracious beacon of light and consecrated resolve to all near and far.

We are painfully mindful of terrorism's darkness unleashed by Iran and its Lebanese and Palestinian proxies, along with Syria's Basher al-Assad and the Islamic State with its affiliates, threatening the very essence of human civilization to which the Jewish people have immeasurably and devotedly contributed. The past Thanksgiving celebration, modeled after the Biblical festival Sukkot, is a poignant reminder of the vital link and unshakeable bond between America's very foundation and the Jewish heritage.

The courageous Pilgrims joyfully regarded themselves as walking in the shoes of the Israelites who fled from Egypt's House of Bondage, and were inspired by the ideals and values of the Hebrew scriptures with which they fell in love. In fact, they wanted Hebrew to be the official language of the New World but there were not enough Hebrew scholars around. Imagine there would have been no need for a separate Hebrew school for our children. The past Thanksgiving eve, my congregation Beth Chaverim and Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church held our 16th annual Joint Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. What an endearing display of the American tradition of sharing across lines of faith.

On November 9, 2015, we commemorated the 77th anniversary of Kristallnacht (The Night of the Broken Glass), the beginning of the end of European Jewry. We shall always cherish our own Arnold Lind, of blessed memory, who at age ten raced into his burning Synagogue in Muhlheim in Germany to