

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE AND THE 69TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. SCOTT TAYLOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD on behalf of my constituent, Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman. Rabbi Zoberman is the Founding Rabbi of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in 1945, he is the son of Polish Holocaust Survivors. Rabbi Zoberman asked me to include the following remarks in the RECORD:

We remember lest the world forgets or denies the genocidal tragedy that befell the Jewish people at the hands of Nazi Germany and its collaborators of the greatest crime in human history. We dare not forget the six million innocent Jewish victims who were all begrudged their covenantal bond with Israel's God of compassion, caring and love, ever prodding the human family to rise higher and higher. So much that is precious has been forever lost. Nazi ideology sought to eradicate Western civilization's life affirming Judeo-Christian system. We remember the survivors whose numbers are now being naturally diminished, and their resilient spirit that allows them to rebuild their lives with the affirmation of life's undying goodness and the human capacity to overcome evil. We remember the rescuers, those righteous gentiles, who risked their own lives and the lives of their loved ones to protect and save vulnerable Jewish lives. Last but not least, we remember the liberators and heroes who paid the ultimate sacrifice, fighting to preserve human dignity.

My Jewish friend, Ed Shames, is one of the greatest of the Greatest Generation whose legendary legacy is captured in *Airborne* (the Combat Story of Ed Shames of Easy Company) by Ian Gardner. Edward David Shames was born on June 13, 1922, in Virginia Beach, when it was but a rural community. He was the youngest of the four children, of David and Sadie, who ran the "Shames Provisions" country store, with the family living above it. The father's sudden death at age 42 and the Great Depression challenged the family. He grew up rowing and fishing in Chesapeake Bay, target practicing with his father's pistols and learning navigation when hiking with a gift of maps and a compass from his sacrificial mother. Shames went to great length to firmly train his third platoon. Though his strictness was resented by some, it did pay in saved lives. Not only did Ed hold the best record for saved lives among the Division's 500 platoons, he also was the Division's first to receive a battlefield commission following D-Day. Furthermore, he was the first officer of his Division to enter Dachau a few days following its liberation and the horrors he faced are still with him today. The book's sales proceeds admirably go toward wounded warriors and their families. I can personally attest to Col. Shames' keen convictions, biting humor, and profound humility of a soldier's soldier and a hero's hero. He was honored by the French Government and the legislature in Richmond, Virginia.

As we celebrate Israel's 69th Anniversary, we look forward with lasting gratitude to the 50th Jubilee of the 1967 Six-Day-War miraculous victory, and the reunification of Jerusalem, the Jewish people's eternal capital. We recall the preceding gripping fear of another Holocaust, this time by the sur-

rounding and menacing Arab states begrudging the triumphant survival of European Jewry's remnant which includes my own family. At last, all of Jerusalem's holy sites are safeguarded and respected. We pray for Shalom's blessing of elusive peace to embrace Israelis and Palestinians with the latter finally accepting the exceptional return of an ancient people uprooted from its native land by the Roman sword's power. For two trying millennia, Israelis, never abandoned its divine bond with Zion and Jerusalem, thus proving the superiority of the human soul's power.

We marvel at Israel's world-class, astonishing accomplishments and innovations in its brief and challenging years of renewed sovereignty, even as it faces existential threats from a nuclear capable seeking Iran, its proxies, and the close presence of ISIS and Jihadist groups. The genocidal tragic Syrian scenario is entering its seventh year of massive human destruction and the greatest refugee crisis since WWII. President Trump's military response to the latest gas attack on the long abandoned Syrian civilians including children, reminiscent of the Holocaust, is deeply appreciated. New opportunities have emerged for rapprochement between Israel and the Sunni Arab states. We bemoan the precipitous and alarming global rise of anti-Semitism, the world's oldest hatred that made the Holocaust possible. The threats within the United States against Jewish institutions, the desecration of Jewish cemeteries and anti-Israel/Jewish activities in American schools make mockery of sacred memory, justice and truth, while enabling aggressors to persist and delay peace.

The United Nations, created in the wake of WWII and the Holocaust, has shamefully turned into a bastion of anti-Israel propaganda as we praise Israel's valiant defense as well as staunch opposition to the destructive BDS movement by American Ambassador Nikki Haley, a shining light in a house of darkness. The unique bond of genuine brotherhood with the United States, vital to both countries, is between the world's leading democracy and the only democracy in the Middle East. The constructive role of American Jewry cannot be overstated.

HONORING THE CLAY COUNTY PARK RANGERS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I pause to thank and honor the Clay County Park Rangers for their efforts in serving Smithville following the March 6, 2017 tornado.

The EF-2 rated tornado left a trail of destruction up to 1,000 feet wide and 18 miles long. In Smithville, over 60 houses were damaged with several completely destroyed, resulting in over 65 tons of debris. Miraculously, no injuries were sustained during the storm.

After the storm, officers from the Clay County Park Rangers helped set up a perimeter, went door-to-door making sure residents were safe, and helped protect the neighborhood with a 24/7 presence in the days that followed. The effect of the rangers on the neighborhoods affected by the tornado cannot be understated, whether through making the victims feel safe from scroungers or looters or by helping residents with their physical needs throughout the recovery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and the community of Smithville in thanking Interim Park Security Manager John Davis and the rangers and staff of the Clay County Park Rangers for their service following the March 6 tornado and wishing them God's blessings and protection in the years to come.

PRAISING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN SOLVING THE MURDER OF CHIEF DEPUTY CLINT GREENWOOD

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep appreciation and admiration to all of the Texas federal law enforcement officers who worked so diligently in getting to the bottom of the tragic and senseless murder of Harris County Precinct 3 Constable, Assistant Chief Deputy Greenwood.

My hat goes off to the Baytown Police Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Marshals Service, Houston Police Department, Gulf Coast Violent Offenders Task Force, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), Texas Rangers, Harris County Sheriff's Department, and Harris County District Attorney. These men and women showed tremendous determination and commitment in their efforts to find this evil perpetrator and deliver justice. While we continue to mourn the loss of another one of our brave Texas law enforcement officers, their hard work and tireless efforts have helped bring healing and closure to the family and the entire law enforcement community.

My prayers continue to be with the family of Assistant Chief Deputy Greenwood.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH FRIENDLY PRODUCTS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to recognize the outstanding public service of the Vlahakis family on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of their family's company, Earth Friendly Products. The success story of the Vlahakis family is one of love, labor, and perseverance. This family owned and operated company began with the vision of Van Vlahakis, who immigrated to America from Greece with just \$22 in his pocket. He spoke little English, yet he made something of himself, studying chemistry at Roosevelt University and founding the company out of his garage in 1967.

Born out of Van's own experience suffering the effects of exposure to harsh chemicals, Earth Friendly Products was a green company before being green was fashionable.

The Vlahakis family's commitment to sustainability is evidenced by their decision to use safe ingredients, earning recognition as the 2015 EPA Safer Choice Partner of the Year. Just last year, they opened a new Carbon