

In 1964, he and a nucleus of 35 families founded Stephen Wise Temple on a beautiful 18-acre mountain site situated between the city's two largest Jewish population centers: the West Side and San Fernando Valley.

□ 1015

It is a beautiful temple. When you are there for a service and hear the great singers and see the sunset out the windows, you know that you are in a very special place. This temple became one of the largest Jewish congregations in the entire world.

Uncle Shy, we miss you. We thank you, and we know that you have impacted tens of thousands of people so positively, and we will honor you, remember you for your legacy and your impact on generations to come.

RECOGNIZING OFELIA RUDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning in recognition of Ofelia Ruder, who will be celebrating her 90th birthday this May.

Ofelia Ruder is the executive director of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation, a religious organization in my congressional district that was dedicated to providing a home for Jews coming out of Cuba.

Like me and my family and so many others, Mr. Speaker, Ofelia Ruder was forced to flee Castro's brutal tyranny. In 1960, she arrived in the United States, this great land of opportunity, with her husband and two boys. Soon thereafter, sadly, she lost her husband to cancer and was faced with a challenge of raising her two small children by herself. They both eventually became dedicated civil servants working to improve our south Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, in the 50 years that Ofelia Ruder has served at the synagogue, she has touched the lives of so many and has been a beacon of hope for all those who know her. Her work has earned her many awards and recognitions for her contributions to our county, to the Cuban Hebrew Congregation, and to Israel. I am very thankful for Ofelia Ruder's service.

"Feliz cumpleaños," "happy birthday," Ofelia.

HONORING PALMETTO BAY NATIVE, MIKI EREZ

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Palmetto Bay resident Miki Erez, a constituent of my congressional district who recently competed in the 2018 Fitbit Miami Marathon and Half Marathon.

Miki was injured while serving in the Israeli Air Force during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, where he suffered multiple spinal injuries. Despite three spinal operations over an 18-month period, Miki never let his injuries slow him down.

Miki's experiences led him to create a revolutionary home training system

for wheelchair users called Wheelchair Fitness Solutions. This system, the first of its kind, was designed specifically for disabled individuals.

Miki also participates in a range of activities in south Florida, including wheelchair basketball and swimming, as well as contributing to the spinal cord injury community and veterans associations. Forty years later, his injuries have not prevented him from being an active and inspiring member of our south Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to represent people like Miki who inspire others each and every day.

Congratulations to Miki Erez.

PROVIDE TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS WITH LIFESAVING TREATMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again urge this House to put right-to-try legislation on the floor and to provide Americans with terminal illnesses potentially lifesaving treatment.

Matt Bellina, my constituent, a 31-year old Navy veteran, husband, father of three, and an ALS warrior who has been a partner in this fight, recently sent me the following message: "In ALS there is only one active phase III trial. The drug is NurOwn, and it looks incredibly promising, but I didn't meet the exclusion criteria, so I am unable to participate in this trial. It looks like the drug has a good shot of making it to market in quarter one of 2020. Unfortunately, there is a good chance that I will be dead by then.

"The right-to-try bill is the only viable option for me at this point. I am begging you and the rest of Congress to get this done. I want to be there to watch my three boys grow up."

Mr. Speaker, we must not delay this lifesaving legislation any longer. I urge House leadership to put this bill on the floor for a vote. Terminally ill patients across this country are depending on us.

RECOGNIZING OLYMPIANS FROM BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exceptional athletes from Bucks County who will be representing our Nation in the 2018 Winter Olympics next month.

Jamie Greubel Poser, from Newtown, Pennsylvania, will represent the United States as a member of the bobsled team.

Ryan Gunderson, from Bensalem, Pennsylvania, will be joining the U.S. Olympic hockey team as a defender.

Brian O'Neill, from Yardley, Pennsylvania, will join the U.S. hockey team as a forward.

Jamie is a veteran of competition at this level, having won a bronze medal at both the 2017 World Championships—also held in South Korea—as well as the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics.

For Brian O'Neill, this will be his first experience as an Olympic competitor. A standout player at Germantown Academy and Yale University, Brian went on to play for the New Jersey Devils before eventually playing for the Kontinental Hockey League.

Ryan Gunderson, also a first-time Olympic competitor, led Holy Ghost Prep to its first Flyers Cup. He currently plays in the Swedish Hockey League.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Ryan, Jamie, and Brian great success. They will, no doubt, make Bucks County and our entire Nation proud.

DEFENSE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. HARTZLER) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. HARTZLER. Mr. Speaker, as Members of Congress, we have an explicit constitutional responsibility to provide for the common defense. Yet some of my colleagues would rather use our military as a bargaining chip for political reasons.

For 3 days, our military was held hostage while the government shut down for an unrelated immigration issue. For 3 days, military families across the globe faced fear and uncertainty over whether they would be paid on time. Unfortunately, this is not the last time or the first time our military has been used as a political pawn. Year after year, defense spending is held hostage, causing our readiness to reach a dangerously low level.

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Secretary Mattis stated: "No enemy in the field has done more to harm the readiness of our military than sequestration."

We are facing a host of threats from every direction; threats that jeopardize our safety, our freedom, and our way of life. North Korea is aggressively pursuing a nuclear arsenal that can target the United States and our allies. China's land reclamation has sparked international clashes. Russian opportunistic aggression is threatening our allies and could trigger a NATO alliance response. Violent extremists are threatening global stability as their evil ideology poisons minds and induces followers to kill innocent people. Iran continues to invoke instability by sponsoring terrorism around the globe.

We expect our military to be able to respond to each of these threats, yet years of budget cuts and continuing resolutions have degraded our military's capabilities and destroyed morale.

Here are the stunning and sobering facts:

Less than half of the Navy's aircraft can fly due to maintenance and spare parts delays.

Of the 58 Army combat brigade teams that our Nation depends on to deploy overseas to defend our freedoms, only five could be called upon to fight tonight.