

world's leading democracy, is all about. We should ponder with somber soul-searching: How could an American perpetrate such criminal carnage in sacred space and time? Lady Liberty is shedding tears.

As a family member of the surviving remnant of European Jewry, the committed atrocity is reminiscent of the Holocaust. How tragically poignant that the Pittsburgh massacre happened only days before observing the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht (November 9–10, 1938), the Holocaust's precursor, when Synagogues and Jewish businesses were set ablaze throughout Germany, 91 Jews were killed, and 30,000 Jews were sent to concentration camps. The Holocaust's lessons should be taught on all education levels, even as we continue to trust in the overriding goodness of the American people. However, we should ever strengthen our democratic institutions and not take them for granted!

In Pittsburgh, two worshippers and four heroic police officers were wounded as well. In the precious honor of all martyred victims, first respondents and our own, let us pledge to spread more loving and enlightening light (the violated synagogue also carries the name, Or L'simcha, namely the delight of celebration) as we affirm that the radiant lights of our fallen fellow Jews will not be driven out. Their undying lights will continue through us and all fellow Americans to turn blemishes into blessings and the evil darkness of all forms of racist hatred into redeeming lights of love. Let us engage in random acts of kindness, as well as reach out to people at large! The four thousand year old inspiring Menorah of Jewish life lit by the Maccabees of all ages will not be extinguished! It was reassuring at the moving gathering vigil organized by the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater at the Sandler Family Campus and Simon Family JCC in Virginia Beach, to have a large assembly with interfaith and community leaders in attendance, including Congressmen Scott Taylor and Bobby Scott.

Just like Joseph, the dreamer and interpreter of incredible dreams (he should have kept some of them to himself!), the Jewish people have believed that noble as well as disturbing dreams have the potential and power to transform reality. In the way of Joseph, who was not accepted by his own immature and treacherous kin, begrudging his unique spirit and grandiose ideas of a dreamy youngster whose father's favoritism put him at risk, we have felt isolated throughout much of history.

We have been rejected for insisting on living our own authentic lives as a minority, yet willing to stand up to the majority if necessary. Our faithfulness to the dictates of our faith and conscience has been interpreted as a negative reflection of aloofness rather than one of a proud choice. Joseph, through his mind's genius and heart's compassion, was able to save both his adopted empire of Egypt and his family from small Canaan. In the process, he taught us that borders and feelings need not be obstacles to a constructive response to the urgent demands of life and death issues.

Joseph managed to transcend his personal insecurities and apprehensions in order to accomplish the larger and lasting goals of putting his substantial talents to the beneficial use of society, rather than dwelling on past hurts and injustices that could have crippled him and others. Thus, he wisely chose the high road allowing him to become a great Egyptian, while earning his status as a great Hebrew brother and leader, whose early self-centered dreams turned into a blessed reality for all concerned through maturity of character wrought by trials and tribulations.

The ultimate challenge though of this mighty ruler, second only to Pharaoh, as is often the human case, was to conquer and control his own raging passions, which he had already proven with tempting and aggressive Mrs. Potiphar, earning him the Rabbi's honorific appellation "Hatzadik" (The saintly one). He was able to repeat it with his brothers at the pinnacle of his brilliant career with so much at stake for himself and for them. What a moving moment of victory it is for all concerned, when Joseph can no longer hold back his tears, and eagerly desires to reveal his true identity to his overwhelmed brothers, not quite realizing that they would never recover from the shock of the encounter and/or from the guilt that would continue to burden them.

Perhaps Joseph's favorable decision to reach out to them was ultimately prompted by Judah's display of sincere love for Brother Benjamin (Joseph's younger brother and Rachel was their mother) as well as for father Jacob's well-being. Earlier, Joseph learned of his brothers' remorse and fear when being challenged by him, acknowledging their past wrongdoing. Upon reconnecting to his family, he was able to rejoin his roots and was thus ennobled and made whole. Joseph could have abandoned his Hebrew background, protecting his painfully acquired identity and status, but he knew that his remarkable life's success had to carry a humbling message of healing and gratitude.

Joseph appeals to us in his touching humaneness, which is not lost when he becomes powerful, and his survivor's skills of ascending from the pit to the palace inspire us, realizing that it reflects the historic Jewish challenge to survive and even thrive in a harsh reality. He is the prototype model of the modern Jew, enlightening us about living in two worlds. He was able to perceive God's guiding hand in his tumultuous life, steeled and sensitized by adversity turned into advantage. Joseph and those with the Maccabees' spirit have taught us that to be a Jew is to somehow make a difference, reducing darkness and rejoicing in the light's promise.

RECOGNIZING WEBB BROWN OF HELENA

HON. GREG GIANFORTE

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Webb Brown of Helena for his decades of leadership in advancing Montana's business community and our job creators.

Mr. Brown recently announced his retirement after 20 years as president and CEO of the Montana Chamber of Commerce and executive director of the Montana Chamber Foundation.

A fifth-generation Montanan from Trout Creek, Mr. Brown has been a strong voice and tireless advocate for Montana businesses since the early 1990s. Before taking the helm of the Montana Chamber of Commerce in 1999, he led business development organizations in Thompson Falls, Lewistown, and Billings.

Under his steady leadership, the Montana Chamber has grown larger and stronger, effectively advancing the interests of Montana businesses at the local, state, and federal levels.

Mr. Brown has been instrumental in spearheading many initiatives to cultivate a more

competitive climate for businesses in Montana. I got to know him as we worked together on initiatives promoting entrepreneurship and expanding telecommuting to bring our kids back home to Montana.

With the help of Mr. Brown and the Montana Chamber of Commerce, entrepreneurship has flourished in Montana. Our state leads the nation in entrepreneurship with more than 1 in 10 Montanans owning a business, according to a 2016 Kauffman Foundation report.

Mr. Speaker, for his dedication to making Montana more business friendly, for his commitment to creating jobs and opportunity for more Montanans, and for always putting Montana first, I recognize Webb Brown for his spirit of Montana.

HONORING THE 6TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the individuals who served of the 6th Congressional District Veterans Advisory Committee.

The members of the Advisory Committee met with my team regularly to discuss emerging veterans issues in Indiana. We owe a debt of gratitude to our veterans and for their service and sacrifices to our country. Ensuring we honor the commitment to all of those who have served has been a top priority of mine since coming to Congress. The Committee's valuable insight helped me better represent Hoosier veterans' priorities in Congress.

I want to thank all of the members of the Committee, including Emmy Hildebrand, Mark Pillar, and Rick Caldwell. I appreciate their service on the Committee and their dedication to making Indiana a better place to live for all veterans. I wish all of them continued success in whatever God has in store for them and their families.

RECOGNIZING THE TENTH ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, on December 15, 2018, Brevard County families, businesses and local community organizations will gather together to celebrate the Tenth Annual Family Christmas Extravaganza. This wonderful event, which will take place at Fred Poppe Regional Park in Palm Bay, FL, will provide an uplifting message of hope and future during this Christmas season.

The House Church, the City of Palm Bay Parks & Recreation, Gator Automotive, Thrifty Produce, Chick-Fil-A, and Church on the Rock, Elevation Church, Calvary Chapel Melbourne, Discover Life Church, Victory Church, Jornada Church, Bay West Church, Victory in Christ Church, and several other business partners have recognized the importance of