

I support the resolution also because it also forcefully expresses the condemnation by this House of anti-Muslim discrimination and bigotry against racial, ethnic, religious, and other marginalized communities.

Mr. Speaker, nearly thirty years ago, as a young mother, I first visited Israel and the Holy Land, and I have returned many times since then to the region that gave birth to three of the world's great religions, civilizations, and cultures.

I have been a passionate supporter of the Mickey Leland Kibbutzim Internship program, which for nearly thirty years has enabled inner-city high school students who live or study in the 18th Congressional District the opportunity to spend a summer in Israel.

As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, better known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I have traveled abroad on numerous occasions to participate in parliamentary diplomacy in support of OSCE and other European efforts to combat anti-Semitism, including legislation calling for increased security for the Jewish community, funds for civil society coalitions to combat hate, and a U.S.-EU Joint Action Plan to combat prejudice and discrimination that would include a specific focus on anti-Semitism.

As a member of the Commission I supported the successful effort to include anti-Semitic incidents in the annual State Department International Religious Freedom Reports and Country Reports on Human Rights, and to create the position of the U.S. Special Envoy on Anti-Semitism within the State Department.

Mr. Speaker, nearly 74 years have passed since the end of World War II but for those who survived, and the descendants and relatives of those who perished, the Holocaust is not ancient history but a reminder of the evil that can be unleashed when humans give into their worst instincts and appetites.

The Holocaust is the worst example of man's inhumanity to man in human history and the magnitude of its destruction numbered more than 12 million deaths, including 6 million Jews and 1.5 million children.

A haunting quote in the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum refers to the story of Cain and Abel: "The Lord said, 'What have you done? Listen! Your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground'" (Genesis 4:11).

The Holocaust is a testament to the fragility of democracy and it forces us to confront uncomfortable questions such as the responsibilities of citizenship and the consequences of indifference and inaction, and the importance of education and awareness.

That is why we, all of us, must reject and resist prejudice and intolerance in any form.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is the name for the bigotry and form of racism endured for centuries by Jewish people for no other reason that simply because they are Jews.

In 2017 the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported a 37 percent increase in hate crimes against Jews or Jewish institutions and found that attacks against Jews or Jewish institutions made up 58.1 percent of all religious-based hate crimes.

And it was just last year, on October 27, 2018, the perpetrator of the deadliest attack on Jewish people in the history of the United States killed 11 worshippers at the Tree of Life Synagogue building in Pittsburgh and reportedly stated that he "wanted all Jews to die."

There is an urgent need to ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities, including synagogues, schools, cemeteries, and other institutions.

Outside of the United States, Jews are the targets of anti-Semitic violence at even higher rates in many other countries.

Anti-Semitism includes scapegoating or blaming Jews as Jews when things go wrong; calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or extremist view of religion; or making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotyped allegations about Jews.

Another way that anti-Semitism manifests itself is when Jewish people are subject in the media and political campaigns to numerous other dangerous myths, including the canard that Jews control the United States Government or seek global, political, and financial domination, or that Jews are obsessed with money.

Mr. Speaker, we need to denounce and reject forcefully and continuously the scapegoating and targeting of Jews in the United States that has persisted for many years, including by the Ku Klux Klan, the America First Committee, and by modern neo-Nazis, whose membership decidedly is not comprised of "very fine people."

We also must have zero-tolerance for any suggestion or accusation that Jews are more loyal to Israel or to the Jewish community than to the United States.

Such accusations of dual allegiance constitutes anti-Semitism because they suggest that Jewish citizens cannot be patriotic Americans and trusted neighbors, when Jews have loyally served our Nation every day since its founding, whether in public or community life or military service.

Accusations of dual loyalty have an insidious and pernicious history and led, inter alia, to the discriminatory incarceration of Americans of Japanese descent during World War II on their basis of race and alleged dual loyalty; the Dreyfus affair, when Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish French artillery captain, was falsely convicted of passing secrets to Germany based on his Jewish background; and the questioning of John F. Kennedy's fitness to serve as President of the United States because of his Catholic faith.

Following the terrorist attack of September 11, we saw a noticeable increase in suspicion of, and hostility to, Muslim-Americans in the United States, including Islamophobia, based on false accusations that they were supportive of, or associated with, terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, in 2017, mosques were bombed in Bloomington, Minnesota, and burned in Austin, Texas, Victoria, Texas, Bellevue, Washington, and Thonotosassa, Florida, and mass attacks on Muslim communities were planned against communities in Islamburg, New York, in 2019, Jacksonville, Florida, in 2017, and Garden City, Kansas, in 2016.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has reported that hate crimes against Muslims or Muslim institutions in the United States increased by over 99 percent between 2014 and 2016.

That is why I am so pleased that the resolution before us also strongly denounces anti-Muslim bigotry, which entails prejudicial atti-

tudes towards Muslims and people who are perceived to be Muslim, including the irrational belief that Muslims are inherently violent, disloyal, and foreign; or sympathize with individuals who engage in violence or terror or support the oppression of women, Jews, and other vulnerable communities.

It is very important and significant that the resolution before us also condemns White supremacists in the United States who have and continue to exploit bigotry and weaponize hate for political gain, targeting traditionally persecuted peoples, including African Americans, Native Americans, and other people of color, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, immigrants, and others with verbal attacks, incitement, and violence.

Let us be very clear: these purveyors of hate will not win because as the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., taught, persecution of any American is an assault on the rights and freedoms of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, anti-Semitism is wrong and based on a lie—as are racism, Islamophobia, sexism, homophobia, and xenophobia—but remember the words of William Cullen Bryant, who said:

Truth, crushed to earth, shall rise again;
The eternal years of God are hers;
But Error, wounded, writhes in pain,
And dies among his worshippers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H. Res. 183 and I encourage every person in the United States to confront and reject anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, and other forms of bigotry and do all they can to ensure that the United States lives up to the transcendent principles of tolerance, religious freedom, and equal protection as embodied in the Declaration of Independence and the first and 14th amendments to the Constitution that have made it the envy and the hope of the world.

IAN STEWART EARNS THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ian Stewart of Pearland, TX for earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest honor a Boy Scout can earn.

Only a small percentage of Boy Scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout. This honor requires years of effort to develop the necessary leadership, service and outdoor skills. To earn it, Ian developed and provided leadership to others in a service project. For his project, Ian refurbished soccer goals on fields throughout the Shadow Creek Ranch Planned Community in Pearland, TX. His dedication to our community has prepared him to be a leader in his future endeavors and benefit all those around him.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Ian for becoming an Eagle Scout. We are proud of his continued success and thank him for his dedication to making our community a better place.

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF VICTOR VALLEY HONORED BY THE APPLE VALLEY OPTIMIST CLUB

HON. PAUL COOK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. COOK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible service of the Assistance League of Victor Valley, who was honored by the Apple Valley Optimist Club on Saturday, March 8.

Founded in 1979 and achieving Full Chapter Status in 1982, the Assistance League of Victor Valley is a nonprofit organization focused on identifying and funding ongoing, community based philanthropic programs in the Victor Valley. Their signature program is Operation School Bell, which provides new school clothes to children in need living in the Victor Valley. Since the Operation began, 27,244 local children have received clothing, with 1,357 students receiving clothing during the 2017–2018 school year. The Assistance League has also logged 28,000 volunteer hours during that same period and gave 1,620 bears to children in local hospitals.

The Assistance League of Victor Valley is one of the most effective nonprofit organizations in the High Desert, and I am proud to see them receiving some very well-deserved recognition. I wish them nothing but success as they continue to help the less fortunate in our community.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF DALE COOK

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Congressman JERRY McNERNEY to pay tribute to Dale Cook and recognize his service to our country.

Dale was born in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. After enlisting in the Marine Corps as a high school senior in 1944, Dale was assigned to the 4th Marine Division on Maui.

Seventy-four years ago, Dale was one of the few surviving Marines who invaded Iwo Jima on February 19, 1945. He was wounded by an enemy grenade and evacuated to Guam where he joined the first of his many Veterans organizations, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

After returning to the United States, Dale was recruited by the Atomic Energy Commission as a regional public information officer and later moved to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he spent the rest of his career and retirement. He joined the Army Reserve as the Chief Public Information Officer of the 6th Army command at the Presidio of San Francisco, while continuing his involvement in veterans organizations.

Dale continued to serve his community by leading an annual commemoration of the Battle of Iwo Jima for many years, first at the Golden Gate National Cemetery and later at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco. He also volunteered as a Boy Scout troop leader and mentored many Eagle Scouts. A proud Marine, he started raising English Bulldogs, the military branch's mascot.

Dale will be sincerely missed by his family, the veteran community, and all those who had the great pleasure of knowing him. He will be remembered for his service to and love for his country.

HAPPY SESQUICENTENNIAL—CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE WEST POINT ASSOCIATION OF GRADUATES PART I (1969–1990)

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 11, 2019

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD an article by Keith J. Hamel honoring the 150th Anniversary of the West Point Association of Graduates.

“On May 22, 2019, the West Point Association of Graduates will turn 150 years old. Think about it—one hundred and fifty years! When “the Association,” as it used to be known, held its first organizational meeting in the office of Dr. Horace Webster, Class of 1818, President of the College of the City of New York, the light bulb had yet to be invented; the telephone had not been patented; the U.S. flag had only 37 stars; and the machine gun, dynamite, and the torpedo were less than a decade old.

The year was 1869, an important year in the history of West Point graduates. On March 4 of that year, Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1843, became the 18th President of the United States. Grant, of course, received national acclaim for commanding the Union Army to victory during the U.S. Civil War, accepting the surrender of Confederate forces from another West Point graduate, Robert E. Lee, Class of 1829. That recent conflict, roughly four years over by the time a handful of graduates met in Webster's office one Saturday afternoon for that first meeting, is often cited as the reason the “Association” was formed; that is, to heal the divide between West Point graduates who fought on opposing sides of the U.S. Civil War. While it may be romanticized, such a theory is plausible. After all, bridging chasms seemed to be the spirit of the age in 1869. On May 2 of that year the “golden spike” of the First Transcontinental Railroad was driven into the ground at Promontory Summit of Utah Territory, linking America's East Coast with its West Coast. Later that year, on November 17, the Suez Canal officially opened, finally completing a centuries-old idea to create a waterway between the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

Yet when Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, wrote to Sylvanus Thayer, Class of 1808, on January 28, 1869 to propose the formation of “an association of the graduates of the Military Academy,” he never mentioned the Civil War as a *raison d'être* for this endeavor (and Anderson was the officer in charge of Fort Sumter when it was fired upon by P.G.T. Beauregard, Class of 1838, to start that war!) Instead, Anderson plainly told Thayer he wanted to form an association “to see what should be done to perfect and perpetuate this truly national Institution.” [West Point] and, in his February 12, 1869 reply to Anderson, Thayer agreed.

Three months later, 15 graduates gathered in Webster's office for the purposes of officially forming an “Association of the Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy.” Neither the Civil War nor the “perpetuation” of West Point was explicitly mentioned in the minutes from that meeting. Instead, the

graduates present, including Anderson, passed seven resolutions, the last pertaining to the “fundamental principle that the characteristic of this Association shall be.” According to the “Preliminary Meeting” minutes, Reverend Dr. Francis Vinton, Class of 1830, Assistant Minister of Trinity Church in New York City, introduced a resolution that the Association be “formed purely for the promotion of social and fraternal intercourse.” Vinton's resolution became Article II of the new Association's Constitution: “The objects of this Association shall be to cherish the memories of our Alma Mater, and to promote the social intercourse and fraternal fellowship of its graduates.”

Does this end the debate regarding the purpose of the Association of Graduates' founding? Not quite. Article IV of the Association's original Constitution complicates matters. It states, “Political, or any other discussions foreign to the purposes of the Association, as set forth in this Constitution, or any proceedings of such a tendency, are declared inimical to the purposes of this organization, and are prohibited.” Such an article calls attention to itself and seems to support the notion that the recent U.S. Civil War and its political aftermath might impede the formation of an Association of West Point Graduates. Furthermore, Article III, 2, states, “The oldest graduate belonging to the Association shall be President; and in his absence the senior graduate present shall preside at the meeting of the Association.” This made Thayer the “official” first president. Although Thayer never attended a meeting of the Association of Graduates (and, interestingly, his name does not appear on the roll of members until 1872), this passage marries Thayer's legacy with the creation of the Association, including his desire to form such an organization for the benefit of West Point. Going forward, both implicit political matters and the promotion of West Point routinely enter into the dialogue regarding the Association's early history and business.

Take the Association's first public act after a committee of 13 graduates, chaired by Webster, met on June 16, 1869 and drafted the constitution and bylaws for the new Association. Soon after, the committee mailed the proposed constitution and bylaws to all graduates; 128 joined (of more than 1,350 living graduates), including three former Confederate officers: Richard S. Ewell, Class of 1840; James Longstreet, Class of 1842; and Nathaniel R. Chambliss, Class of May 1861. In fact, Ewell sent a letter back with his dues stating, “I cannot think that any graduate of the Academy would, unless blinded by prejudices, decline to aid the work of reuniting . . . a bond broken asunder by civil discord and war.” Conversely, Simon Bolivar Buckner, Class of 1844, the first Confederate general to surrender an Army to Union forces, perhaps stinging from so-called “Radical Republicans” attempts to strip ex-rebels of their right to vote and hold office in the First Reconstruction Act (1867), wrote back to the committee saying, “Fraternal fellowship can exist only in the light of an acknowledged equality, [which] is denounced by the legislation of the central government which extends its fostering care to our class of graduates of our Alma Mater and at the same time prescribes the other . . . an acknowledgement of the inequality which renders agreeable social intercourse impossible.” Buckner's sentiment becomes an important theme taken up by committee member Charles Davies, Class of 1815, in his address to graduates at the Association's first reunion on June 17, 1870.

Forty-three graduates sat in the pews of the West Point Chapel (now known as the Old Cadet Chapel) to hear Davies' address.