

or subcommittees. And, the issues that Louise championed are moving. We are proud to pick up the torch that she left.

I commit to you, Louise, to fight for antibiotic resistant research, for equal pay for equal work—she was the chair of rules when we passed Lily Ledbetter—for ethics in government with regards to Supreme Court justices, and for trade agreements that work for working people. Louise and I fought against NAFTA and the TPP.

Each of those priorities were Louise's. Now, they are at the forefront of our agenda.

This is Louise Slaughter's majority. We miss her voice in the Congress, but we are moving forward with a positive agenda for the people. And it is because of her.

We miss Louise. We love her. And, we thank her.

RECOGNIZING RABBI ISRAEL
ZOBERMAN'S ARTICLE

HON. ELAINE G. LURIA

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Israel Zoberman and include in the RECORD this article, Learning a Shared History of Sorrow:

On February 22, 2019, George Washington's birthday, during Black History Month, I was privileged to travel to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, close to the Washington Monument on the inspiring National Mall of our nation's capital. I was in good company for the long-awaited tour organized by the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission. The 44 passengers on the bus included members of the Commission, of which I am a grateful member, representation of the Virginia Beach City Council and the Mayor's office along with the Virginia Beach Police Department, students and staff of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools as well as leaders of the African American Culture Center of Virginia Beach. What an impressive array of civic commitment!

As a family member of the Holocaust's surviving remnant of European Jewry. I knew ahead of the searing visit of the tragic bond between the African American experience and the destruction of European Jewry, of the binding bond among all affected by infectious racial, religious, ethnic, national and gender hatred seeking to demean, dehumanize and demonize the "other". There is an unmistakable thread connecting the 2015 murder of 9 Black members at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston S.C., with the gunning down of 11 Jewish worshippers at a Sabbath service in Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue in 2018; between the historical lynchings of Blacks and the 2017 White Supremacist mayhem in Charlottesville, Virginia, resulting in a murder, with the dreaded shouts of "Jews will not replace us!" still ringing in our ears. Vitriolic anti-Semitism is precipitously on the rise in the United States and Europe.

The imposing structure of the African American Museum stands within sight of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. I recalled my first visit there and the subsequent ones, when I felt the overcoming sense of uncontrollable loss. It was the same sensation of being assaulted to the core of my humanity that I experienced traveling the challenging halls of the African American Museum. Yet,

I emerged from both encounters with greater resolve to mend the world, Tikkun Olam, turning blemishes into blessings. Who can remain untouched gazing at the casket of brutally murdered 14-year-old Emmett Till and the photo of his agonizing mother, the only exhibit we are forbidden to photograph that we should focus uninterruptedly?

We were guided by an incredible docent telling the story of proud Africans forcibly and so cruelly separated from their rich roots and brought to America—those who made it through the terrifying Middle Passage—and brought here to be violated of all that is sacred. Both they as slaves and Europe's Jews were deemed sub-human. The former ones by colonial powers and a new America promising to advance liberty's cause, and the latter ones by a Germany regarded the world's most civilized nation. The vital Jewish and African American partnership during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, needs to be revitalized in the context of a wider coalition to move America forward.

I wish that both museums could be connected by a bridge or a tunnel to visualize their inseparable bond. Recently heroic French Father Patrick Desbois had a memorable presentation in Virginia Beach. He is renowned for documenting unknown Nazi massacres with local collaboration in occupied lands during WWII along with ISIS's mass crimes in Iraq. He shares a stunning statement in his unsettling book, *In Broad Daylight*, that applies as well to the inhumane treatment of African Americans, "I feel a mounting disgust for our species. The sort of nausea that makes you want to quit the human race." But we dare not quit the human race. Great strides have taken place though progress is an arduous work in the making. The large number of visitors at the museum, particularly the many students, is a hopeful sign. We dare not despair of past and present pain, for that only serves the hateful aggressor, while indifference, as Eli Wiesel taught us, only enables evildoers to succeed.

We need better tools to fight the scourge and resurgence of all forms of hatred, bigotry and discrimination. Democracies are at risk of backsliding, as was the case in Germany, and require eternal vigilance.

A precious teachable window is open to us following trying circumstances, as we celebrate this year the 400th Anniversary of Virginia with its dark shadows and shining lights. Let us pledge, one diverse but united family, to rise together higher and higher.

RETIREMENT OF ROBERT SEWELL

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of a longtime area union leader, Mr. Robert Sewell, and to wish him well in his retirement.

Bob is a second-generation plumber, and like his father before him, a proud union member. After beginning his career as an apprentice with Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 159 in 1979, Bob has remained a member for nearly 40 years, serving as an officer and a prominent member of union leadership.

In 2002, Bob was elected as the union's Financial Secretary Treasurer and has served as its Business Manager since 2016. Among many other responsibilities, Bob led the Local in partnering with other regional unions to ne-

gotiate project labor agreements. Thousands of residential units in Contra Costa County benefited from his efforts to ensure that all workers earn a living wage and benefits.

Bob has also been a leader in collaborating with community organizations to encourage environmental responsibility in development, and has promoted workforce training through his role as the chair of the Local's Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee.

After a long career of fighting for working people, Bob is now retiring. Please join me in congratulating Mr. Robert Sewell for a life of hard work and service, and in wishing him luck in his next chapter.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL
CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOME
RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the National Capital Planning Commission District of Columbia Home Rule Act. This bill would remove the authority of the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP) to review or approve the development of District of Columbia-owned land. This bill would also remove the requirement that the Mayor of the District get NCP's approval before selling D.C.-owned real estate, and would allow D.C. agencies to transfer jurisdiction over District-owned land among themselves without NCP's approval.

Under federal law, the development of District-owned public buildings, including the location, height, bulk, number of stories and size of such buildings, in the "central area" is subject to NCP approval. The District is required to consult with NCP on its buildings outside the central area, but NCP has only advisory authority in those areas. The central area is defined by the concurrent action of NCP and the D.C. Council, and currently consists of the Downtown and Shaw Urban Renewal Areas.

This authority is unnecessary, as shown by the virtual absence of its use to disapprove sales or development. This latent authority of the federal government should not be able to slow or block the development of District-owned land, or add to the cost of development. The District is not a federal agency, and should not be treated any differently by federal law than other local jurisdictions, where local development proceeds without federal interference.

NCP consists of 12 members, three appointed by the President, two appointed by the Mayor, the Mayor, the Chair of the D.C. Council, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of General Services, and the Chairs of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee and the House Oversight and Reform Committee.

This bill is one more important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.