

CONGRATULATING NOLAN THRONE
FOR HIS WIN AT CLASS 1A
STATE FINALS FOR WRESTLING
AT THE IHSA STATE TOUR-
NAMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Nolan Throne, a senior from Rockridge High School, who won the Illinois High School Association's Class 1A State Finals Wrestling Tournament in the 145 pound weight class.

Nolan was in a scoreless bout until the third period, where he took down his opponent and secured a victory. As a former athlete, I appreciate the fortitude Nolan displayed to achieve his dream of being a state champion and commend him for his efforts and attitude. Nolan is an example of the importance of dedication and a strong work ethic, and I am proud to see him represent Taylor Ridge so well throughout the state with his talent and passion.

It is because of student leaders such as Nolan Throne that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Nolan Throne on his Class 1A State Finals title in Wrestling.

THE 72ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE
STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. A. DONALD McEACHIN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. MCEACHIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to include in the RECORD a statement from Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman, founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah in Virginia Beach, and the representative of the Jewish Community at the City of Chesapeake's civic occasions.

As the State of Israel celebrates its 72nd anniversary in its eighth decade, we miss the prophetic voice and heroic presence of Amos Oz (1939–2018), one of Israel's premier authors whose books were translated into forty-four languages. His life mirrored the history of the reborn Jewish state out of the monumental Holocaust that consumed a third of the Jewish people. He was the very embodiment of an inspiring Israel and its acknowledged representative to the world, with foreign leaders seeking his perspective on events involving Israel. He fought in both the 1967 and 1973 wars.

Oz was honored with significant international literary awards, though the Nobel Prize somehow eluded him while being a perennial nominee. He served as Professor of Hebrew Literature at Ben-Gurion University in Be'er-Sheva though he was courted by Jerusalem's Hebrew University from which he graduated. Oz was a great humanist and a distinguished member of the Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism. He was born in Jerusalem during the British Mandate to Fania and Dr. Arye Klausner, a gifted linguist of sixteen languages. They immigrated to then-Palestine from Eastern Europe. Oz's great-uncle was Professor Yosef Klausner, the Hebrew University's renowned scholar of the Second Temple period.

Following Fania's suicide at age thirty-eight, Oz opted at age fifteen to leave his Jerusalem home by himself and move to Kibbutz Hulda where he changed his surname Klausner to the Hebrew Oz which connotes courage. It befitted the kibbutz's pioneering Labor ideology and its break with the European experience to which his parents were attached, particularly its culture. It was a turning point for Oz who was raised on Zeev Jabotinsky's Revisionist ideology of manifest Jewish power. He consequently began identifying with the "new Jew" finding fulfillment in returning to till the ancient homeland, in contrast to the perceived Diaspora Jew represented in his own family.

There is an intriguing early religious chapter in the author's life attending an Orthodox elementary school while his family was secular and even anti-religious. He was exposed to working class students who regarded him as an outsider, a rejection he later experienced in the kibbutz. His second-grade teacher, who deeply impacted him, was the famous poetess Zelda, whom Oz described as his first love.

In his book, *A Tale of Love and Darkness*, Oz recalled the dramatic vote at the United Nations on November 29, 1947 to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states, which the Arabs refused to accept. His father, Arye, was moved to tears lying next to him in bed telling Amos that he would never be exposed to anti-Semitic attacks the way he and Grandpa Alexander were in Poland with their pants forcibly removed by hooligan students at his high school. Oz witnessed the unforgettable night of the critical vote with his neighborhood gathering to listen to the one available radio. His family's small apartment was home to about twenty people during the 1948 War in Jerusalem, all enduring hardship with some losing dear ones.

Oz, an iconic Israeli figure, was a peace activist and a ardent supporter of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, regarding it as vital to Israel's best interests politically as well as ethically, no less than "a matter of life and death for the State of Israel" that must retain a Jewish and democratic identity. He feared for Israel's future internally as well as externally, regarding Judaism's genius in its Biblical prophets' humanistic ideals and moral sensitivity towards society's weak and disenfranchised. Oz advocated the curbing of the establishment's raw power "to cause pain." He was gravely concerned for the growing conflict between those advocating for strict Orthodox Jewish law (Halacha) and the great majority opting to preserve democracy.

He lauded secular Israel's significant and multiple accomplishments in revitalizing the Hebrew language and culture, establishing a flourishing modern Jewish state recognized as the world's start-up nation with such humble beginnings and acute security concerns. Oz's sharp arrows were aimed not only at the political Right but also at Israel's Socialist founders for failing to acknowledge the full tapestry of the Jewish heritage, with patronizing treatment of the Mizrachi and Sephardic Jews who had a moderate approach toward religion and diversity. He bemoaned the worldwide rise of dangerous fanaticism of Islamic fundamentalism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, white supremacy, racism, and xenophobia.

Amos Oz, the secular prophet of pain and promise, doom and deliverance, concludes his last book, *Dear Zealots*, with whom he sought dialogue, on a stirring message of both searing pessimism and consoling optimism, "I am extremely fearful for the future . . . But I like being Israeli. I like being a citizen of a country where there are eight and a half million prime ministers, eight and a half million prophets, eight and a half mil-

lion messiahs. Each of us has our own personal formula for redemption, or at least for a solution . . . What I have seen here in my lifetime is far less, yet also far more, than what my parents and their parents ever dreamed of."

Rabbi Dr. Israel Zoberman is founder and spiritual leader of Temple Lev Tikvah (Heart of Hope) in Virginia Beach. It meets at The Church of the Holy Apostles, the only world's community of both Episcopalians and Roman Catholic. He was born in Chu, Kazakhstan (USSR) in 1945 to Polish Holocaust survivors. He and his family lived among Jewish refugees in Poland, Austria and Germany, prior to moving to Israel in 1949. He is a member of the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission.

HONORING LIEUTENANT CAMERON
McCORD

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lieutenant Cameron McCord for his faithful service to our country as an esteemed member of the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs in the U.S. House of Representatives. In this capacity, Lieutenant McCord facilitated interaction between the Department of the Navy and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. These engagements included, but were not limited to, formal responses to congressional inquiries, counsel to Members and staff, and execution of congressional and staff delegations. These interactions were pivotal in providing Members and staff a greater understanding of the issues facing our Navy and its sailors.

I am particularly proud to note that Lieutenant McCord planned and executed CODEL Panetta to the U.S. Africa Command area of responsibility to examine aspects of U.S. Special Operations Force and partner nation operations in North and West Africa. He coordinated and facilitated movement across six countries and three continents for seven individuals. I am forever grateful for his leadership, persistence, and support of CODEL Panetta.

Lieutenant McCord's distinguished career began after commissioning in the U.S. Navy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His first assignment was in Charleston, SC, where he entered the Nuclear Power School and Nuclear Power Training Unit. After completing the Submarine Officer Basic Course in Groton, CT, McCord reported to the USS *Helena* (SSN 725) in 2015, where he served as the Chemistry and Radiological Controls Assistant, Information Technology Officer, Antiterrorism Officer, and the Assistant Weapons Officer. McCord stood both Junior Officer of the Deck and Officer of the Deck on a dynamic EUCOM deployment from 2016 to 2017, completing multiple missions vital to national security.

McCord holds a Navy Commendation Medal, two Navy Achievement Medals, and has served on a team onboard USS *Helena* that has earned two Navy "E" Ribbons, amongst other personal and unit awards.

Madam Speaker, I commend and thank Lieutenant Cameron McCord on his service to