

HONORING THE UNION OF ORTHODOX JEWISH CONGREGATIONS OF AMERICA

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. This national organization has played a leading role in raising awareness of the plight of three Israeli soldiers still missing in action. As a key member of the task force on the Israeli missing soldiers still missing in action. As a key member of the task force on the Israeli Missing Soldiers of the Conference of Presidents of Major American-Jewish Organizations, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America pioneered and instituted an annual national Sabbath commemoration to educate the community about this important human rights issue.

On June 11, 1982, a battle raged in the Bekaa Valley in Northeastern Lebanon between an Israeli tank unit and a Syrian armored unit. Captured by the Syrians on June 11, 1982, Sgt. Zachary Baumel, 1st Sgt. Zvi Feldman, and Cpl. Yehuda Katz were reported missing in Damascus in front of the offices of President Hafaz Assad's brother, Rifaat Assad, who reported that they identified the soldiers as the Israeli tank crew. The tank, belching black smoke and flying the Syrian and Palestinian flags, was greeted by cheers from passers-by. To this day, very little information has been forthcoming about their condition.

Ever since these events took place, the government of Israel has spared no effort and the United States has been doing its utmost to obtain any information possible as to the fate of these missing soldiers, trying to utilize the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the United Nations, and other international bodies. According to the Geneva Convention, Syria bears responsibility for their fate since the areas in which these soldiers disappeared were continually controlled by Syria.

This day, June 11, 1995 marks the bar-mitzvah, or 13th year, that these soldiers are missing in action. To date, President Assad has not revealed their whereabouts.

One of these soldiers, Zachary Baumel is an American citizen from Brooklyn, NY, who began his studies at the Hebrew School of Boro Park, formally known as the Eitz Chaim Yeshiva. An ardent basketball fan, Zachary emigrated to Israel in 1979 with the other members of his family. After graduation from high school, he entered military service which he combined with his religious studies at Yeshivat Hesder, where religious studies and army service are integrated.

When the Lebanon War started, he was at the rail end of his army service and had been accepted by Hebrew University to study psychology. He was due to work for the summer under the auspices of the Jewish Agency. But fate decreed otherwise as he disappeared on the 11th of June, 1992.

Zachary Baumel participated in one of the most costly battles in that war, Sultan Yakub, and has not yet returned. In the 13 years since that fateful day, June 11, 1982, he has been missing and presumed held in a Syrian-controlled part of Lebanon.

We earnestly request of the Syrian government to transcend all political differences and interests, and, in keeping with the international conventions to which Syria is a signatory and in the interests of true peace, to return these sons to their families.

We eagerly look forward to the day as we live in the hope of again welcoming Zachary Baumel to see his family in Israel and in Brooklyn and to greeting Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz.

TRIBUTE TO GUSSIE ERVIN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a truly outstanding member of our community, Mrs. Gussie Ervin, an educator of outstanding ability and commitment who has taught the youth of Dade County for almost 40 years.

On June 17, her friends and family will gather at Moun Tabor Baptist Church in Miami to mark the retirement and celebrate the brilliant career of this remarkable person.

Almost by definition, those who are called to teaching are special, but by any measure, Mrs. Ervin is a very special teacher. She is not scared away by big problems or hard work. To her, challenges are to be overcome, tough decisions are to be made, and problems are to be overcome.

That message has been conveyed to literally thousands of Dade students. Mrs. Ervin has always demonstrated concern for their education and for their personal needs, as well as for the needs of their families. She frequently provided basic necessities like food and clothing to her students, at her own expense.

Her caring and dedication has earned for her the everlasting love and respect of her students, her colleagues, and her community. For thousands of students, the phrase "good teacher" is synonymous with Mrs. Gussie Ervin.

In addition to her service in our schools, Mrs. Ervin has also worked tirelessly to make our community a better place in which to live.

Mr. Speaker, I know that my colleagues join with me in recognizing the remarkable career and achievements of this wonderful person. On behalf of our entire community, I say thank you, Mrs. Ervin, and much success and happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MARVIN SHAPIRO

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding podiatric medical physician, Dr. Marvin Shapiro of Sylvania, OH, who has been a leader and an advocate of podiatric medicine for 63 years. Although he officially retired in 1984, Dr. Shapiro, now 85, has remained a strong voice for his profession, serving this year as the only podiatrist-delegate to the White House Conference on Aging.

In 1959, Dr. Shapiro was president of his professional organization, the American Podiatric Medical Association [APMA]. A gifted speaker and lecturer, he earned the title of "Foot Ambassador" during his term as president when he represented America's podiatric physicians as part of the State Department's People-to-People Program in England, France, and the USSR. Later, in 1963, he visited Poland, Turkey, the USSR, Israel, and Malta under the same program.

This morning I had the pleasure of hosting a breakfast at which Dr. Shapiro presented to the National Library of Medicine a rare and wonderful book he received as a gift while participating in the People-to-People program. The book, "De Calceis Hebraeorum," by Antonii Baynaei, catalogues every reference to the foot found in the Old Testament. Each verse is published in Latin, Hebrew, and Greek. The volume is beautifully illustrated with both medical and artistic drawings of the human foot. The book was written in 1715. I am very happy that this treasure has found a home at the National Library of Medicine.

Dr. Shapiro was also responsible for the first joint meeting between the American Podiatric Medical Association and the American Medical Association in 1959, which did much to enhance mutual understanding between the two health care professions.

To help educate other physicians and the public about podiatric medicine and the importance of foot care, Dr. Shapiro instituted the audiovisual department at the APMA nearly 60 years ago, and he has produced many exhibits and countless slides and videos. His name is also on the APMA's Marvin Shapiro Audiovisual Achievement Award, an international competition for long-term medical contributions in the field.

His outstanding career began as a premedical student at the University of Toledo in 1927, and he was graduated from the Ohio College of Podiatric Medicine in 1932. Dr. Shapiro founded the podiatry department at St. Vincent's Hospital and Medical Center in Toledo and has received many awards and honors from this respected institution. In 1980, Dr. Shapiro received the APMA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Citation.

I applaud Dr. Shapiro on his magnificent career and his life-long efforts to keep Americans walking and to advance the study of therapeutic medical treatment for the foot and human health. It is a delight to have this leader as a constituent.

THE NEED FOR TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING FOR AMERICA'S MAJOR INTERMODAL PROJECT: THE ALAMEDA CORRIDOR

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 8, 1995

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Representatives TUCKER, ROYCE, BECERRA, HARMAN, ROYBAL-ALLARD, TORRES, and WATERS, I am introducing legislation [H.R. 1790] to permit tax-exempt financing of transportation facilities that are directly connected to the activities at a port. This a critical step in making a reality of our vision of a true national intermodal system.