

the Northern District of Indiana. It is truly an honor for me to recognize Judge Rodibaugh, who has consistently demonstrated generosity and selfless dedication to the citizens and legal community of northern Indiana.

On Friday, June 13, 1997, a new bankruptcy courthouse on the corner of Western and South Michigan Street in South Bend, IN, will be dedicated in honor of Judge Rodibaugh and his numerous contributions to the legal community. He is recognized by the community and his peers as an honorable man worthy of such a tribute. Judge Rodibaugh has served the citizens and legal community of the Northern District of Indiana wisely, efficiently, and honorably since his initial appointment as a referee in bankruptcy in November 1960 and throughout his legal career as a bankruptcy judge.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his tenure, Judge Rodibaugh has presided over the growth of the bankruptcy court from one small courtroom with a part-time referee and a clerk's office of two employees in South Bend, IN, to four different courtrooms in the cities of South Bend, Fort Wayne, Gary, and Lafayette, IN, with four full-time judges and a clerk's office of over 40 employees. Judge Rodibaugh has fulfilled his duties as a referee in bankruptcy and bankruptcy judge with patience, fairness, dedication, and legal scholarship which is most worthy of recognition. His high standards have benefited the many law clerks and judicial personnel who have served under his tutelage, the lawyers who have practiced before the bankruptcy court, as well as the citizens residing in the Northern District of Indiana.

At the beginning of the current Congress, I reintroduced legislation, H.R. 81, in the U.S. House of Representatives to designate this courthouse as the Robert K. Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse for the South Bend Division of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Indiana. As you may recall, I introduced identical legislation which was passed by the House of Representatives during the last session. Unfortunately, the measure was not considered by the Senate before the 104th Congress adjourned last September. I am honored to be the sponsor of H.R. 81 and pleased that the majority of the Indiana Congressional Delegation has cosponsored my legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for me to indicate that the firm of Panzica Development Co. with Western Avenue Properties, LLC, has graciously agreed to name the new privately owned courthouse building in Judge Rodibaugh's honor, owing to his unblemished character and numerous professional achievements in the bankruptcy field.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the Robert Kurtz Rodibaugh United States Bankruptcy Courthouse is an appropriate title for the new bankruptcy court facility. Judge Rodibaugh is a shining example of the importance of public service, whose tireless contributions provide an invaluable service to our community. I am confident that Judge Rodibaugh will continue to play a constructive and important role in our community, and will continue to serve as a powerful inspiration to all of those who come into contact with him.

## RABBINIC CABINET VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA

**HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recommend the following article to my colleagues authored by Rabbi Israel Zoberman entitled "Rabbinic Cabinet visits Jewish community in Tunisia" which appeared in the March 14, 1997, edition of the Southeastern Virginia Jewish News. I commend Rabbi Zoberman for his efforts to promote peace in the Middle East.

[From the Southeastern Virginia Jewish News, Mar. 14, 1997]

### RABBINIC CABINET VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY IN TUNISIA

(By Rabbi Israel Zoberman)

Toward the end of January 1997, I traveled to Tunisia as a member of the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal in a historic mission, the first of its kind to represent all the religious movements of American Jewry. The 14 rabbis and three spouses visited the Tunisian Jewish community that is at least 2,000 years old. The Middle East peace process made it possible to visit this remarkable, moderate Arab state that never fought with Israel. Tunisian President Ben Ali has been an active and proud participant in the on-going grand venture to transform a region that has known the burden of costly wars and much suffering, yet is the cradle of human civilization and the birthplace of the three great monotheistic religions.

The Muslim country of Tunisia, which was freed from French rule in 1956, is located in North Africa in the southern Mediterranean with Libya and Algeria as neighbors. In a population close to nine million people, there are about 1,900 Jews, almost equally divided between the capital Tunis in the north and the island of Jerba in the south. The once flourishing Jewish community, which is still quite traditional, numbered over 100,000 members before the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948.

We witnessed first-hand the dedicated labor of faithful love of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (known as JDC and the "Joint"), led by Evelyn Peters, in maintaining human dignity for the old and young, ever ready to act on the highest principles and values of the Jewish legacy. As a young child who was born in Kazakhstan in 1945, my own family of Polish holocaust survivors benefited from the JDC's humanitarian services when we were in the Displaced Persons Camp of Wetzlar at Frankfurt, Germany, in the American zone of occupation, from 1947 to 1949, prior to moving to Israel.

We were warmly received by Chief Rabbi Haim Mador, the lay leaders and members of the Jewish community as well as by the officials of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry who were our kind hosts at a kosher dinner with which they broke the Ramadan fast! We also had an unforgettable reception in Tunis at the official residence of the American Ambassador, Mary Ann Casey. She and her staff were most gracious welcoming us and responding to our questions and insights. They truly made us feel at home away from home. Our nation ought to be proud of the high quality diplomatic team we have in that sensitive and volatile part of the world!

Joined by the affable Gideon Behar in the absence of Shalom Cohen, head of Israel's

Economic Interest Section, we learned of Israel's budding diplomatic presence which, to its discomfort and concern, is still housed at a hotel, and of its earnest desire to have a greater impact on building friendly and mutually productive relations with Tunisia.

Our Rabbinic delegation continued to Israel via Rome in the improved climate of renewed hope for the peace process following the signing of the Hebron agreement between Prime Minister Netanyahu and Chairman Arafat. However, the tragic accident of the collision between two helicopters resulting in the death of 73 IDF soldiers on the way to their positions in Lebanon's security zone, united the entire small people in mourning, bringing out its unique sense of family. At the same time, it triggered an essential debate, though a heated one, on relations with Lebanon and Syria, particularly the pivotal role of the latter, being the real power broker in keeping alive (and deadly) the Hezbollah attacks on Israeli forces who are ultimately guarding the Israeli northern border and beyond.

The impressive presence of the aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt in Haifa Bay was a moving statement of the powerful bond between the United States, the world's last superpower, and its brave and reliable ally, the Jewish State. I was reminded of my privilege a few years back to speak in commemoration of the Holocaust aboard that Norfolk-based great symbol of American resolve and capability.

We met with Tunisian Jews in Israel and witnessed their accomplishments and sacrifices. In the southern town of Ofakim, we were in a synagogue modeled after the one left in Jerba. In the nearby Moshav Gilat our host was Aharon Uzon, a former Minister of Agriculture, whose soldier son Shelomo was killed in action and the settlement's synagogue bears his name. Our enchanting guide, Dr. Esther Schely-Newman of the Hebrew university, grew up there and received her doctorate from the University of Chicago.

We were delightfully exposed to the JDC's collaborative creative work in Israel reaching out to children of disadvantaged and problematic families as well as rejoicing with teenagers from the former Soviet Union who displayed through Hebrew song an admirable peace and spirit of absorption into the ancestral homeland which by their own heroic efforts they now proudly claim as their own.

## JERUSALEM EMBASSY RELOCATION ACT

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 12, 1997*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of moving America's Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, and to require U.S. Government publications refer to Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I would also like to take this opportunity to urge the Palestinian Authority to increase its efforts to minimize the horrors of terrorism and encourage commerce between Israelis and Palestinians.

My support for moving the embassy is not to say that I do not support the peace process, it is merely to state that I feel Jerusalem should be Israel's capital and our embassy should be located there.

In every country in the world, in which the United States has diplomatic relations, we