

and Broadway North Andover. She is a renowned dancer herself, winning the talent portion of the Miss New Hampshire pageant twice. She was chosen to tour the United States with Dance Caravan and was the Grand National Female Tap Soloist for Hactor's "Stars of Tomorrow" dance competition in 1992.

I am proud to represent Heidi Marie Noyes in the United States Senate, and wish her much success as Miss New Hampshire.●

IN MEMORY OF RABBI MOSHE SHERER

● Mr. MOYNIHAN. Mr. President, I rise to share with the Senate the sorrowful news that Rabbi Moshe Sherer, one of American Jewry's leading communal leaders, passed away yesterday afternoon at the age of 76. Rabbi Sherer was the President of Agudath Israel of America for over 30 years and has served as a reasoned, wise voice whose counsel was widely respected in the Yeshivot of his beloved Brooklyn and the halls of government in lower Manhattan, Albany, Washington, and Jerusalem.

I first met Rabbi Sherer in the early days of the Kennedy Administration when he came to Washington on behalf of Agudath Israel. I quickly learned to admire his sagacity and rely on his insightful counsel and abiding integrity. For over thirty-five years he was a treasured mentor and a trusted friend.

World Jewry has lost one of its wisest statesmen. American Orthodoxy has lost a primary architect of its remarkable postwar resurgence. All New Yorkers have lost a man of rare spiritual gifts and exceptional creative vision.

While the Senate convenes today, tens of thousands of Jews are gathering in Brooklyn, New York to bid a reverential farewell to this exceptional teacher and rare leader. New York's Governor George Pataki, New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, and New York City Council Speaker Peter Vallone are among the distinguished public officials participating in the funeral.

Rabbi Sherer passed away only hours before the President of the Senate, Vice President AL GORE, addressed Agudath Israel's 76th anniversary dinner in New York. He spoke for the Senate and for all Americans when he eulogized the Rabbi as "a remarkable force for the understanding and respect and growth of Orthodox Jewry over the past fifty years", whose "contributions to spreading religious freedom and understanding have been truly indispensable in defending and expanding those same rights for all Americans in all faiths."

I know I speak for the entire Senate when I express my condolences to his widow Deborah, his loving children Mrs. Rachel Langer, Mrs. Elky Goldschmidt and Rabbi Shimshon Sherer, his bereaved colleagues at

Agudath Israel, and all who mourn the loss of this unusual man of conscience and conviction.

I ask that a brief obituary of Rabbi Sherer, as prepared by Agudath Israel, be printed in the RECORD.

The obituary follows:

Rabbi Moshe Sherer, 76, widely acknowledged as the elder statesman of the American Orthodox Jewish community, was a leader of Agudath Israel of America, a major national Jewish Orthodox organization, for over half a century, including more than thirty years as the organization's president. He also was appointed in 1980 as chairman of the Agudath Israel World Organization, an international confederation of Agudath Israel organizations in a host of countries around the globe.

A prime catalyst of the American Orthodox Jewish community's remarkable growth in size and strength since the Holocaust, the American-born Rabbi Sherer empowered the evolution of an organization that one member of the Jewish establishment in 1941 called "a sickly weed" into a major and effective force on the American political and communal scene. He took Agudath Israel from a small group of activists to a formidable movement—with tens of thousands of members and supporters; branches across the country; and a Washington office that advocates for a host of issues of concern to the American Orthodox Jewish community, from religious rights to moral matters, from non-public education to the welfare of Jews in lands of oppression. He also helped establish Agudath Israel's celebrated Jewish youth groups and summer camps, and pioneered the organization's current role as a leading force in the provision of social and educational services in the New York area.

Rabbi Sherer's earliest work on behalf of the Jewish community—the efforts that first evoked the larger non-Orthodox Jewish establishment's opprobrium—was the grassroots, and largely illegal, organization and transport of food shipments to starving Jews in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe in 1941. His efforts also produced affidavits for European Jewish refugees that helped them immigrate to the United States.

After the end of World War II, he and Agudath Israel continued to assist European Jews—survivors interned in Displaced Person camps—with foodstuffs and religious items, and helped facilitate the immigration and resettlement of Jewish refugees on these shores. In ensuing decades, Rabbi Sherer spearheaded Agudath Israel's efforts on behalf of endangered Jews behind the Iron Curtain and in places like Syria and Iran. In 1991, years of clandestine activity on behalf of Soviet Jews culminated in his establishment of an office in Moscow to coordinate Agudath Israel's activities in Russia. Under his leadership, Agudath Israel also played an important role in providing social welfare and educational assistance to Israeli Jews, and in advocating for Israel's security needs.

Ignoring the pessimistic predictions about Orthodox Jewry made by sociologists and demographic experts in the 40s and 50s, Rabbi Sherer went on to help engineer a remarkable change in the scope, image and influence of the American Orthodox Jewish world. A staunch advocate of Jewish religious education as early as the 1960s, he helped establish the principle in numerous federal laws—like the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965—and state laws that, to the full extent constitutionally permissible, children in non-public schools were entitled to governmental benefits and services on an equitable basis with their public school counterparts. He thereby allied himself with Catholic school advocates and

again rankled the larger American Jewish establishment. In 1972, his efforts on behalf of education led to his being named national chairman of a multi-faith coalition of leaders representing the 5 million non-public school children in the United States.

Under his leadership, Agudath Israel helped foster the phenomenal growth of Jewish adult education as well. This past September, the Agudath Israel-sponsored celebration of the most recent completion of the "Daf Yomi" page-a-day Talmud study program drew over 70,000 Jews to central locations nationwide.●

RECOGNITION OF EARTH ANGELS

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Earth Angels in my home State of Missouri. Earth Angels received the Award for Environmental Sustainability from Renew America. They were among twenty-eight winners from more than 1,600 applicants who exemplify Earth Day.

Earth Angels is a branch of the Guardian Angel Settlement Association in St. Louis, Missouri. The group is made up of more than 150 inner city children and led by Neil Andre, Director of Earth Angels. Their projects range from recycling to planting trees in their Forest of Life to collecting money for other environmental groups. The group is supported by selling "Earth Angel stock." People who buy into the group get a quarterly newsletter with their latest project updates. Earth Angels gives "at risk" children a chance to be part of an important cause and organization.

Commending Neil Andre and the Earth Angels for their Award for Environmental Sustainability, I wish them continued success in the future. It is extremely gratifying to learn of a group of children doing so much to help our environment. Congratulations for a job well done.●

NAT BINGHAM

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I wish today to acknowledge the life and passing of a special man. Nat Bingham was many things: a fisherman, a conservationist, an advocate, an innovator, a husband, a father and a friend to anyone who cares about California's magnificent coastal environment and the lives it supports and sustains. By all accounts he was a person of great decency and conviction. He cared deeply for his profession and all those who heed its honorable call. He will be missed.

Nat and his wife Kathy made their home in Mendocino County on California's rugged North Coast. Tragically, Kathy died just two weeks before Nat. They are survived by their two children, Jolene and Eli. My heart goes out to them both.

Nat first became involved with fisheries management issues through his local Salmon Trollers Marketing Association. He served in a number of capacities with the Association before becoming its representative to the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's