CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF NATHANIEL COLE ZARRELLI

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am happy to congratulate Leslie and Mike Zarrelli of Silver Spring, Maryland, on the birth of their new baby son. Nathaniel Cole was born on February 9, 2006, at 10:46 a.m., weighing 7 pounds and 4 ounces. Nathaniel has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future. His birth is a blessing.

RECOGNIZING AN ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH, VA

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an article written by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The article by Rabbi Zoberman reads as follows:

I was in Israel on a mission of the ARZA (Association of the Reform Zionists of America) Rabbinical Council during the recent Palestinian elections to its legislative Council. The unexpected, stunning victory of Hamas winning 74 out of a total of 132 seats though only 44 percent of the cast votes, remains a source for analysis and a cause of concern.

The embarrassing defeat of ruling Fatah whose leader Mahmud Abbas continues to serve as a Palestinian Authority President, was primarily due to the long frustration and mounting anger caused by years of Fatah's inept management and outright corruption. Hamas cleverly ran on a Change and Reform list having already succeeded in establishing an infra-structure of supportive economic and social services to a deprived population. However, the victory took Hamas too by surprise saddling it with critical choices and decisions. Is it ready through to transform its very identity from a terrorist organization to one recognizing the State of Israel and negotiating peace with, is yet to be seen.

Essential financial support from Israel, the United States and the European Union depend on it. Hamas may likely choose a middle course of not repudiating its very nature while abstaining from military action to allow it to consolidate power, becoming in time even a greater threat to the Jewish state. A nightmarish scenario would be a hostile Hams state bordering on Israel with an extreme Muslim agenda and heavily influenced by Iran who is also behind the Hizballah in Southern Lebanon. That would pause unacceptable risks to the entire Middle East and beyond.

Our group was most warmly greeted by the new American Ambassador to Israel, Dr. Richard Jones, who reiterated President Bush's policy of fighting terrorism and non-support for a Palestinian Authority deviating from the Road Map. We also had the opportunity to meet at the historic King David Hotel with Laura King, Jerusalem Bureau Chief for the Los Angeles Times, who covered the Palestinian elections and conveyed her sense of not being surprised by the outcome.

Our memorable day visit to Jordan's fascinating Petra via the Yitzhak Rabin border crossing at Israel's most southern city of Eilat, was a reminder to appreciate anew the Israel-Jordan peace treaty of 1994. In addition to the natural wonders and rich history of the 1800 year old Nabatean city of Petra carved in Biblical red rock, the past interconnectedness of the entire region through fruitful commerce and cultural exchange should inspire once again its revitalization for benefit of all.

With hospitalized Ariel Sharon's unchanged medical condition, Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's resolve has weathered the evacuation of the illegal outpost of West Bank's Amona in spite of the accompanied violence. Surely it is the first of the post-Gaza disengagement challenges that will test the emerging new leadership and the vibrant Israeli democracy, even as was revealed for the first time by the Israeli Institute for Economic and Social Research the high financial cost of 14 billion dollars investment in the territories since 1967. The centrist Kadima (''Forward'') party created by Sharon and now headed by Olmert continues with only a small drop in its strong showing in the polls toward the March 28 elections. However, the unpredictable nature of erupting Middle East events forestalls the assurity of the elections' outcome at this time. The elections will nonetheless reflect the Israeli voters verdict on Sharon's legacy of sacrificing the vision of a greater Israel for the more realistic one of a smaller Israel yet a Jewish and democratic one; an Israeli society in a far better position to tackle its demanding and urgent agenda of socio-economic dilemmas and gaps that will ultimately determine Israel's character and moral fiber so crucial for its survival.

HONORING AND PRAISING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 97TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2006

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), as they celebrate the 97th anniversary of their inception. The Delaware chapter of the NAACP was founded in Wilmington, Delaware in 1909, only 1 year after the initiation of the national office. The Wilmington branch of the NAACP distinguished itself locally in the equal pay battle for teachers in Delaware. The positive impact that the Wilmington branch had on our community inspired the development of other branches around the state, including lower Sussex, Milford, Central Delaware, and Newark.

I would personally like to thank the past and present leaders of the NAACP in Delaware for their continued dedication to bring about peaceful movements for change. This illustrious organization's success can be attributed to leaders such as Reverend Maurice Moyer, Alice Dunbar Nelson, Louise L. Redding, Samuel Dawson, Gary Hammond, Littleton Mitchell, and Charles Brittingham. They are each heroes both locally and nationally.

These remarkable trailblazers have led the battle for equality in the state of Delaware. They worked to pass the local elective ''one-person, one vote,'' fought for suitable living quarters for migrant laborers, worked for fair public accommodations throughout the state, and made extensive advancements in educational equity.

The perseverance demonstrated by members of the NAACP reflects the strength of this exceptional organization. Over the past 97 years, the national organization has provided communities around the United States with strong and passionate leaders who have fought for social change. I congratulate them on the successes of the past 97 years, and I look forward to many more years of continued achievements in the future.

CONGRATULATING THE 2006 CENTRAL INDIANA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME LAUREATES

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 2, 2006

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to personally congratulate Dick Johnson and Fred Klipsch, two individuals inducted into the Central Indiana Business Hall of Fame last week. These business and civic leaders are being recognized with this high honor for achieving success and contributing to the Indiana business community.

Dick Johnson exemplifies the entrepreneurial spirit that has made Indiana great. He graduated from Indiana University and started a petroleum distribution company in 1957 with a $10,000 loan co-signed by his father. In the beginning, wife Ruth and children Rick and Jenny helped out by preparing all invoices for mailing. Johnson Oil Company grew to be one of the largest independent gas distributors in the country with 200 Bigfoot stores employing 1,500 people.

Dick went on to build multiple companies from scratch, starting with very little capital to build a significant enterprise. A generous philanthropist, he and Ruth have given over $1 million to his alma mater alone.

I am proud to say that Dick has roots in my own hometown of Columbus, where he has never stopped giving back to the community. He has received numerous awards, including Columbus Community Service Award, 1997; IU Annual Distinguished Entrepreneur Award, 1994; and Columbus Small Business Person of the Year, 1988.

Another hometown hero, Fred Klipsch is the model of the successful American businessman. From humble blue-collar beginnings to the blue suits of the boardroom, he made the transition without losing the ethics and values with which he was raised.

Along the way, Fred acquired and managed several companies. Perhaps the most well-known firm is the one that bears his name: loudspeaker manufacturer Klipsch and Associates.

Managing multi-million-dollar companies didn't keep Klipsch from volunteering his services. He has been very active at Purdue University and just retired from a term as president of the Educational Choice Charitable