

Liberty Bell Award, Toastmaster International Regional Communication and Leadership Award, the YWCA of Greater Flint Nina Mills Women of Achievement Award, the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award, Citizen of the Year Award from the National Association of Social Workers, and earlier this week Michigan State University named her the 2006 Outstanding Field Educator for the Flint Program.

In addition to her work with Volunteer Services, Sybyl is also a founding member of the Emergency Services Council, the Genesee County Service Learning Coalition, the local Americorps collaborative, and has found time to work toward a master's degree in Public Administration. As a member of the Committee Concerned with Housing, she is currently studying the gaps in service in the emergency housing sector. Sybyl works within her neighborhood promoting the historic Carriage Town area and the propagation of Michigan's indigenous plants and grasses.

Mr. Speaker, Sybyl Atwood embodies the sentiments in her favorite quotation, "While there is a lower class, I am in it; while there is a criminal element, I am of it; while there is a soul in prison, I am not free." She is a champion of the poor, the helpless, and the innocent. I am proud of my association with her, grateful for the good that she does, and treasure her inspiration, commitment and wisdom. The Flint community is a more humane place because of Sybyl Atwood. I ask the House of Representatives to rise today and join me in honoring this exceptional woman.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with Jews across this nation and around the world to pay tribute to those who perished at the hands of the Nazis during the Holocaust. Today in the Nation's Capital, we gather to pay our respects at the National Commemoration of the Days of Remembrance. I would like to thank the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum for arranging this important and emotional event.

My district, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, is home to perhaps the largest concentration of survivors in the country and certainly in the state, and this day holds deep meaning for those individuals and the entire community.

Recent events in the Middle East and around the world underscore the importance of this day. Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and demonstrations continue in numerous countries. And the President of one of these countries, Iran, has threatened to use nuclear weapons to wipe Israel off the face of the map.

With anti-Semitism on the rise we must be reminded that "Never Again" is not a guarantee, but a pledge that we must uphold through education, dialogue, and determination. It also reminds us that we must continue to strengthen the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel. Moreover, we must redouble our efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

"Never Again" means that we must combat hate wherever it exists. While the Holocaust was a unique incident, a genocide is taking place right in front of our eyes in the Darfur region of Sudan. I recently traveled to Darfur where President Bush and the U.S. Congress have officially acknowledged "genocide" is taking place. According to official estimates, out of an estimated pre-conflict population of 7 million in Darfur, anywhere between 180,000 and 400,000 Darfurians have already died and over 2 million have been displaced. The conflict has spilled across international borders and hundreds of thousands have fled into Chad. The window to provide security and hope is narrowing. According to the Commander of the African Union forces who briefed the participants of my Congressional Delegation in Darfur, "There is no sense of urgency outside."

As a Jew I cannot sit idle while these atrocities continue to unfold in Darfur. The lessons from the Holocaust have taught us that we must never turn a blind eye to terror or discrimination. We must demand that our government hold those who carry out acts of needless brutality accountable. I believe that everyone should take a moment today to consider the role of the U.S. in the prevention and prosecution of genocide.

We must honor those who were lost during the Holocaust by carrying on and living honorable and productive lives. At the same time we must also honor them by carrying out measures to bring to justice those who were implicated and who profited from their suffering. And we must do everything within our power to provide the utmost measure of restitution for those who survived the Nazi's evil plan.

The Holocaust was the most horrific human atrocity the world saw during the last century and perhaps in the history of the planet. Millions of Jews and others were brutalized, raped, beaten, dehumanized, enslaved, robbed, and murdered. While it is hard to grasp how terrible those events must have been, what all of our children, and us must do is to listen to the stories of those few remaining survivors of the Holocaust and ensure that their stories and their suffering are a permanent part of history.

Today we honor and mourn those who perished. We vow to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their memory and ensures others will not suffer their fate.

CONGRATULATING CHARTER SCHOOLS

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Charter Schools across the country and in the 21st District of Florida for their continuing work to educate our country's youth. Charter schools are a great asset for our children and for our public school system. By providing flexible programs, community outreach, and specialized training, charter schools serve the ever changing needs of our students. The City of

Pembroke Pines Florida Charter School, located within the 21st District of Florida, stands as an exemplary model of excellence among all charter schools.

Under Governor Jeb Bush's A-plus plan, the Pembroke Pines charter elementary and middle schools have all earned an "A" for the past two years for exceptional student achievement. The Pembroke Pines Charter School standardized test scores are outstanding. By all measures, this charter school has exceeded its goals and reached beyond expectations.

The City of Pembroke Pines Florida Charter School is exceptional for another reason: its specialized training for autistic students. At Pembroke Pines, autistic students receive training tailored to their unique and individual needs. Not only do these students receive the personal attention that they need, they also are assimilated into the general school population. This innovative program brilliantly serves both needs of our autistic students by expanding their academic ability while fostering good social skills among the general student body.

I wholeheartedly commend our charter schools for their hard work and devotion to our children. With creative solutions and selfless dedication, these schools provide an invaluable service to the next generation of Americans. On the occasion of National Charter Schools week, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest support for this resolution. Most of all, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the teachers, administrators, and students of our Nation's charter schools.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Edwardsville Public Library of Illinois as we celebrate its 100th anniversary. For the last 100 years, the library and staff have served the residents of Edwardsville and the surrounding area.

The first library in Edwardsville was established in 1819; just one year after Illinois was admitted into the Union. In 1823, the Edwardsville Library Association was chartered and it was again revived in 1879. In 1903, through the efforts of the Library Board President Charles Boeschstein, Edwardsville was given a gift of \$12,500 from Andre Carnegie. On June 26, 1906 the library building was dedicated.

The library has gone through several structural changes over the years, including growing from 8,000 square feet to 20,000 square feet. No matter the structural changes, the library patrons still have access to a wealth of information and resources.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the people that have made the Edwardsville Public Library a sanctuary of intellectuality for 100 years and I wish all the best for the years to come.