

have been identified and nominated by educators.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Christopher Tantillo, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING GUY GABALDON

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to all U.S. service members and veterans for their service and dedication to our Nation. During Hispanic Heritage Month, we would like to pay special tribute to service members and veterans of Hispanic decent who have served with pride, valor and distinction since the revolutionary war.

In particular, we want to recognize World War II veteran Guy Gabaldon, who passed away recently. Born in Los Angeles, California on March 22, 1926, Mr. Gabaldon grew up in Boyle Heights. He died on August 31, 2006 in Old Town, Florida. Mr. Gabaldon is an excellent example of the dedication that Latinos in uniform have demonstrated while providing the highest service to our country.

As a child, Marine Private First Class Guy "Gabby" Gabaldon, befriended and eventually moved in with a Japanese American family. When the U.S. entered WWII, Gabaldon joined the Marines, and served as a mortar crewman and scout observer. Through his familiarity with the Japanese language and culture, Mr. Gabaldon gained the distinction of capturing more enemy soldiers than anyone else in the history of U.S. military conflicts.

While serving in Saipan, he received a Silver Star for obtaining vital information and capturing more than 1,000 enemy personnel in the face of direct fire. PFC Gabaldon was able to persuade the weakened Japanese soldiers to surrender, in spite of their orders to fight. His commanding officer and fellow Marines nominated him for the Medal of Honor. He was awarded the Silver Star, which was elevated to a Navy Cross in December of 1960.

Mr. Gabaldon and the more than one million Latino service members and veterans deserve our gratitude and admiration. They have always been an integral part in the fabric of our military. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mr. Gabaldon, and all of our nation's Latino service members and veterans.

HONORING DR. RICHARD P. HALLION

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Richard P. Hallion, who is retiring as Senior Adviser for Air and Space' Issues at the Directorate for Security, Counterintelligence and Special Programs Oversight at the Pentagon. His distinguished career and record of achievement reflects selfless commitment to our country.

Dr. Hallion graduated from the University of Maryland in 1970, and completed the Kennedy School of Government's National Security Studies Program in 1993. His career spanned a variety of offices, including the working at the Air Force Flight Test Center, Andrews Air Force Base, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, the Air Force Centennial Flight Office, and the National Air and Space Museum. His experience and education has afforded him the opportunity to author numerous articles and books on the evolution and history of airborne warfare. Tirelessly, Dr. Hallion continues to write to this day.

Dr. Hallion has been recognized numerous times for his hard work and dedication to military aviation. In 2005, he received the Annual Award of the Conference of Historic Aviation Writers, and was recognized as a Distinguished Lecturer and Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. He has received similar recognition from the Society of Experimental Test Pilots, the Aviation Space Writers Association, the Air Force Association and the Air Force Systems Command.

His contributions to the Air Force will be missed as he moves on to new and exciting opportunities. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. Richard P. Hallion and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION TO HONOR JACOB BIRNBAUM

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, with the approach of International Human Rights Day on December 10, I would like to take this opportunity to chronicle for the national record the life and work of a remarkable human rights activist, Jacob Birnbaum of New York. It is interesting to note that he was actually born on December 10, 1926. As December 10, 2006 will mark his 80th birthday, it is entirely appropriate that his work should be portrayed in the RECORD of the Congress of the United States.

Jacob Birnbaum's immediate family fled the Nazis and settled in the United Kingdom. In 1946, following the end of World War II, the 19-year-old Jacob Birnbaum devoted several years to providing relief for younger survivors of the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian systems. From the young Polish Jews who managed to exit the USSR after the war, he became familiar with the iniquities of the Soviet system. This early experience fueled his later passion to mobilize American Jewry in the drive to rescue Jews from the oppression they faced in the Soviet Union.

In the mid-1950s and early 1960s, he became involved in assisting people from the disintegrating Jewish communities of North Africa caught up in the struggles of their host countries for independence from France.

Thereafter, traveling the United States, he decided to create a national student spearhead to activate the grassroots of American Jewry. Settling in New York in 1964, he set up his first student committee; then he concentrated on building a student core at Yeshiva University. Finally, he called a national

founding meeting at Columbia University on April 27, 1964, followed by a large student demonstration four days later on the Soviet holiday May Day in front of the Soviet UN Mission. The authoritative Center for Jewish History has listed the demonstration as the beginning of the public struggle for Soviet Jewry. Mr. Birnbaum named the new organization Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSSJ).

Throughout the rest of the 1960s, under his direction, the Student Struggle continued working full time in response to the oppression of Soviet Jewry.

As we know, the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia led to the imprisonment of Soviet Jews behind the Iron Curtain. Jewish culture, Jewish religion and Jewish communal life were forcibly extinguished under the Soviet regime, which also indulged in numerous anti-Semitic manifestations. Even after Stalin's death, the Soviet kingdom of fear abated only slightly. The Cold War effectively continued to cut off the Jews of Russia and Eastern Europe from their co-religionists in the West.

Nevertheless, expressions of outrage began to accumulate in the early 1960s, with a few pioneers leading the way. In April, 1964 the major Jewish organizations met in Washington, DC and an American Conference on Soviet Jewry was established. The same month, Mr. Birnbaum created the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry for the purpose of fashioning a student spearhead to "mobilize a tidal wave of public opinion." (First SSSJ Handbook)

After the mass arrests of young Jewish dissidents on June 15, 1970, and after the Leningrad Trial of December 1970 with its death sentences, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry was created. The Greater New York Conference, under the direction of the young activist Malcolm Hoenlein, initiated the profoundly important Solidarity Day marches, modeled after Birnbaum's Jericho, Redemption, and Exodus Marches and rallies of the 1960s. Mr. Hoenlein is now the Executive Vice Chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Of great significance was the creation in 1970 of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, a coalition of non-Establishment regional groups, under the chairmanship of Dr. Louis Rosenblum, with whom Mr. Birnbaum had worked for many years.

Mr. Hoenlein has publicly stated that he considers Mr. Birnbaum "the father of the Soviet Jewry movement." Similar statements have been made by other major public figures such as Dr. Meir Rosenne, who worked closely with Mr. Birnbaum in the early formative period 1964-1967. Dr. Rosenne later became Israel's Ambassador to France and then to the United States. Sir Martin Gilbert, the official British historian of Winston Churchill, has made a similar statement.

In May, 1965, Mr. Birnbaum was the first to testify before a Congressional Committee on the importance of utilizing economic leverage on the Kremlin. When the late Senator Henry Jackson initiated the legislation which finally resulted in the passage of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment in 1975, Mr. Birnbaum worked closely with the director of Senator Jackson's office, Dorothy Fosdick, and, of course, Richard Perle, who played a major role in the initiation and development of the legislation.

The idea of placing economic pressure on Communist states to increase emigration

played a key role in softening up the Kremlin regimes to make possible the Soviet Jewry demand to "Let My People Go." For the first time, there was legislation to put teeth into the previous congressional humanitarian resolutions.

From 1976 to 1986, Jacob Birnbaum conducted annual Most Favored Nation campaigns, based on Jackson-Vanik, to pressure Romania to increase emigration and release prisoners. He testified annually before both Senate and House committees.

In the latter 1970s, Mr. Birnbaum enlarged his Soviet Jewry strategy. He expanded the slogan "Let My People Go" by adding "Let My People Know" (their heritage). The Kremlin had pulverized Jewish religious, cultural, and community life, and, in the 1960s, the Soviet Jewish resistance underground began to generate Jewish self-education cultural, religious, and Hebrew-speaking groups. Mr. Birnbaum conducted numerous campaigns for their protection, enlisting the aid of many Christian religious denominations. These efforts reached a high point when he organized and led a delegation of the Synagogue Council of America to meet with the Deputy Secretary of State and the Department's Human Rights Director, Warren Zimmermann, in September, 1985.

Mr. Birnbaum's vision was partially realized with Malcolm Hoenlein's Solidarity Rallies in New York, and, finally, by the great national rally in Washington on December 7, 1987 on the eve of Gorbachev's meeting with President Reagan.

Finally, in 1990, the Kremlin conceded and permitted a mass emigration which now totals two million (one million to Israel and one million elsewhere, mostly to the United States). This was no small accomplishment, and many people played a role in making it happen.

In addition to the courageous work of Mr. Birnbaum, tribute ought to be paid to the pioneers and the national organizations which fought so strenuously for the liberation of Soviet Jews.

The pioneers and the national organizations that Mr. Birnbaum asked me to publicly acknowledge for their support in this noble effort include:

Morris Abram, U.S. human rights commissioner; Dr. Moshe Deeter, the scholar whose research fueled the early movement; Justice Arthur Goldberg; the distinguished theologian Rabbi Dr. Abraham J. Heschel; Senator Jacob Javits; NASA scientist Dr. Louis Rosenblum of the Cleveland Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism; and Elie Wiesel, whose book "The Jews of Silence" was so influential.

Furthermore, Mr. Birnbaum recalls the important roles played by colleagues in the following national organizations:

Agudath Israel of America; Center for Russian Jewry with Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, of which he is the founder and national director; Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations; Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, whose founding director was Malcolm Hoenlein; International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews, founding chairman Morris Brafman; Senator Jacob Javits; Nehemiah Levanon, Israel Liaison Bureau for Soviet Jewry; the Lubavitcher Hasidic movement; National Conference on Soviet Jewry; Honorable Richard Maass, founding chairman; National Community Relations Advisory Council; Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, founding chairman

Dr. Louis Rosenblum; and Ambassador Dr. Meir Rosenne.

Following the collapse of the Soviet regime, Mr. Birnbaum spent a substantial part of the 1990s in combating anti-Semitic manifestations in former Soviet Central Asia, mostly in Uzbekistan, intervening via the State Department and enlisting Malcolm Hoenlein's aid in engaging the Uzbek Ambassador in Washington.

In his 80th year, Mr. Birnbaum continues to support groups engaged in the Jewish education of former Soviet Jews and their children.

For all of these reasons, the House of Representatives ought to honor the life and six decades of public service of Jacob Birnbaum and especially his commitment to freeing Soviet Jews from religious, cultural, and communal extinction. He is a true hero.

INTRODUCTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FREEDOM ACT OF 2006

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the International Women's Freedom Act of 2006. This legislation establishes an Office of International Women's Rights within the State Department headed by the appointed Ambassador at Large, and additionally, would create a United States Commission on International Women's Rights. The positive links between the empowerment of women and effective and sustainable development are very clear and this legislation would seek to protect women's rights by channeling U.S. security and development assistance to countries that are not found in gross violations of women's rights. According to the World Bank, when men and women are equal within a society, not only do the poor move more quickly out of poverty, but economies flourish and familial well-being is enhanced. I believe that all people, regardless of gender, should have the power to shape their lives and participate in their communities without the fear of oppression. When given the tools they need, such as education, access to employment, land, and economic assets, and the opportunity to contribute to civic life, women and girls improve their situation in society and have a positive impact on society as a whole. By annually reviewing the status of women's rights in each country and designating countries of particular concern, more succinct policy recommendations can be made to the President, the Secretary of State and the Congress.

In 1998, Congress created a Commission on International Religious Freedom, and the bill I am proposing today is modeled after it. According to news reports, the Commission on International Religious Freedom has made substantial progress towards expanding religious freedom in Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan. We require the State Department to issue reports on battling international bribery, religious freedom, and narcotics control, among many others. Creating a report on the status of women's rights is vitally important to assuring the rights of women worldwide.

COMMEMORATING THE 275TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 29, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 275th anniversary of Prince William County, Virginia.

Prince William County, Virginia, was created on March 25, 1731, from territory that had been part of Stafford County and King George County. It is named for Prince William Augustus, 1720–1765, Duke of Cumberland, and a son of King George II, who became Captain-General of the British Army.

In 1608, Captain John Smith and his party rode a barge along the Potomac River and stopped in Prince William County on their way from Jamestown. They were the first Europeans recorded in this area. Doeg Indians, Algonquin speakers, lived in villages along the Potomac. The Souian-speaking Manahoac people lived in the Piedmont region. By trading with the native tribes, Captain Smith and his men were able to obtain enough food to sustain themselves and the settlers they had left behind in Jamestown. Native American settlements disappeared from the county by the beginning of the 18th century.

The first English settlement in the Northern Neck of Virginia, the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, took place about 1643 in what is now Northumberland County. The first land patent in what is now Prince William County was taken out in 1653 by Thomas Burbage. After successive divisions, Prince William County reached its current outer boundaries in 1759. Manassas and Manassas Park were established as independent cities in 1975.

Prince William County, located 20 miles southwest of the Nation's Capital, is a perfect place to live, work, play, and raise a family. With a desirable location, highly educated work force, nationally recognized schools, and pro-business environment, Prince William County has it all.

Prince William is the second largest county in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Prince William school system is one of the finest in the Nation. It is the State's second largest school system, with Internet access in every classroom. Prince William County offers a highly educated workforce—with more than 50 percent of adults holding a college degree. The county is swiftly becoming a major source of northern Virginia's highly educated labor pool. Prince William County is the new center of business opportunity in Metropolitan Washington.

In 2006, Prince William County will host a year-long celebration with special events to honor this momentous anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate the citizens of Prince William County on the occasion of their 275th anniversary. I call upon my colleagues to join me in celebrating the history of this great county, and in wishing for its continued prosperity.