

Albanians did not see Jews as “foreigners” but rather as “guests” who needed to be protected even at great risk to their hosts.

Information about the safe haven that many Albanians provided to Jews who were being persecuted during the Holocaust was suppressed by the communist regime of Enver Hoxha, who controlled the country for five decades. When former Congressman Joe DioGuardi and I became the first U.S. officials in 1990 to enter Albania in 45 years, Albania's new leader, Ramiz Alia, showed us never-before-seen archives with letters, photographs and newspaper clippings about Albanians who saved Jews during World War II. Congressman DioGuardi sent this material to Israel, where the documents were authenticated by Yad Vashem. In cooperation with former Congressman Ben Gilman and the Albanian American Foundation, Albania was added to the “Righteous among nations” section of the U.S. Memorial Holocaust Museum in 1995.

The Yad Vashem exhibit was created with the help of the Albanian American Civic League and financial support from the Righteous Persons Foundation, the Jewish Communal Fund, the New York State Department of Education, the McBride Family Foundation, and the Albanian American Foundation. It will be on display for two months at Yad Vashem before traveling to museums and Holocaust memorial sites around the world. It will be displayed on January 27, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Madam Speaker, as a Holocaust survivor who survived certain death due to the kindness of strangers, I am immensely grateful to the Albanian people for their bravery, selflessness and generosity in risking their lives to hide and protect so many Jews during one of the world's darkest hours. I am delighted that this exhibition is finally giving Albania the recognition it deserves for the vitally important role its citizens played during World War II. I am grateful to my former colleague and friend Joe DioGuardi and the Albanian American Civic League for their efforts in ensuring that this information becomes publicly available. Madam Speaker, I wish to formally recognize the opening of this remarkable memorial and encourage all of my colleagues to visit it where possible.

INDIA HOUSE HOUSTON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, America, as a Nation made up of many cultures, has always been one to embrace traditions of the past, while at the same time looking towards the future. Members of the India House organization follow this same time honored philosophy. Their mission to “unite cultures, create bridges, and serve human needs,” is a testament towards this group's significance. With over 120,000 Indian-American's residing in the Houston area alone, the importance for community interaction becomes increasingly apparent.

As the Indian population continues to grow throughout South East Texas, so does the need to raise awareness of their increasing

footprint. India House has successfully stepped up to this challenge through diverse organizations provided for all Houstonians. Services ranging from legal advice and financial education to yoga and meditation are made available by the organization.

Yet, until recently the rendering of these positive benefits was somewhat difficult resulting from their dispersed locations. In order to better connect the needs of their increasing community India House recently broke ground on their new facility. At 100,000 square feet it will be the largest of its kind in the Nation, offering over 500 different activities to the community annually.

Phase one of the projects will work towards further educating and assisting Houstonians, allowing them to thrive. This building, most importantly, will work towards meeting both the health as well as financial needs of the Indian-American population. Senior activities areas are also a part of the master plan, hoping to increase their social interaction. Yet perhaps the most important aspect included in this segment, comes with the availability to further ones education. Various classes, such as English, will be provided for members so that they may better become part of society.

Showcasing and promoting Indian culture to the Houston community makes up much of the buildings second phase. The Cultural Arts Center is designed to house performances, relevant retail and craft shows, as well as food related events. By educating neighbors in Indian-American culture, this group takes positive strides towards becoming part of our Nation's future. While the initial construction concentrates on assisting members, this later development is particularly involved with celebrating tradition.

India House recognizes the need to work together as a community, and to discern how to meet the needs of their population. Contemporarily, they are one of the largest legal Asian immigrant groups, with the highest level of educational qualifications surpassing any other ethnic group in America. Their impact on the future of our society is thus undeniable. However, the strides to become a working part of our Nation's economy and society through groups like India House, is unquestionably commendable.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING FRED KELLEY FOR HIS EFFORTS TO PROMOTE HEALTHY LIVING THROUGH “PEDDLIN' FOR A CURE”

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, there are many unsung heroes throughout our great nation who give selflessly of their time in order to help others. Mr. Fred Kelley, of Monroeville, Alabama, is one of these individuals.

Fred has dedicated his life to helping others by encouraging families to take up bicycling. His tireless efforts to promote healthy living have raised over \$330,000 for the American Cancer Society. Founder of Monroe County's “Peddlin' for a Cure,” the largest fundraising event in the American Cancer Society's southeast division, Fred and his team raised an in-

credible \$140,000 at this year's ride for cancer research.

“Peddlin' for a Cure” began almost by accident. In 2004, Fred Kelley and Phill Allen, co-hosts of the Morning Show on Monroeville's WMCF 99.3, made a plea to their listeners to raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Fred challenged his listeners saying, “If we can raise \$1,000 this morning, I'll ride my bicycle from the Monroeville Square to the Battleship Alabama.” Within 20 minutes, \$5,000 had been raised and numerous callers had volunteered to ride with Fred, and that morning, “Peddlin' for a Cure” was born. The first ride to the battleship exceeded everyone's expectations raising \$36,000, and in just four years, “Peddlin' for a Cure” has raised \$334,000 for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, in addition to other cancer fundraising events throughout the country.

Fred's commitment to his community doesn't end there. He is also a volunteer with the Alabama Obesity Task Force in Montgomery and uses his skills as a commercial pilot to volunteer with Pilot's for Christ, an international organization that uses airplanes for missionary work. With Pilot's for Christ, Fred has flown numerous cancer patients for specialized treatments all of the United States.

Earlier this week, President George W. Bush invited Fred Kelley to the White House to personally thank him for his selfless service to others.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Fred Kelley for his selfless commitment to helping his community and for inspiring others to do the same. Fred's story serves as an inspiration not only to those of us in southwest Alabama but also to people across the country. Without a doubt, we need more people like Fred Kelley in this world—a true hero.

MRS. BEVERLY HATCHER, PRESIDENT OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE MINORITY BUSINESS COUNCIL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to recognize a community leader in southeast Texas. Mrs. Beverly Hatcher has worn many distinguished hats, including mother, wife, member of the Junior League of Beaumont; Honorary Member of Delta Sigma Pi Fraternity of Delta Eta Chapter; Beaumont Rotary Club Member; Beaumont M.L. King, Jr. Parkway Commission; Texas PTA Honorary Life Member; Member of the National Association of Parliamentarians; Board Member of the 100 Club of Jefferson and Hardin Counties; Member of Leadership Texas, Leadership America and Leadership Southeast Texas; Vice President of Membership of the Three Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America; U.S. Small Business Administration District VI Minority Small Business Advocate of the Year; Port Arthur Weed and Seed Advisory Board; and '04-'06 Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison's Business Leadership Summit.

Since 1990, Mrs. Hatcher has led the Golden Triangle Minority Business Council. As president of the GTMBC, Mrs. Hatcher helps

educate, promote, and develop minority and women owned businesses by providing a variety of programs, services and business opportunities.

Mrs. Hatcher and the GTMBC routinely bring corporate and public interests together for the benefit of southeast Texas by providing a unique partnership in economic and community development. By consolidating the interests and resources of industries through advertisers and mentors and making them available to minority owned businesses, the GTMBC enlightens and strengthens local communities by preparing business leaders for competition in a global market. Through Mrs. Hatcher's leadership, the GTMBC was one of only 29 applicants in 1999 to receive an award from the U.S. Small Business Administration as Small Disadvantaged Business Private Certifier.

I applaud Mrs. Hatcher and the Golden Triangle Minority Business Council for working tirelessly on behalf of minority and women owned businesses. The knowledge and support that she provides to local businesses ensures that the entrepreneurial spirit will be nurtured, and tomorrow's business leaders will be prepared for global economic growth.

I applaud Mrs. Beverly Hatcher on her outstanding achievements. She has helped make our world a better place to live, and I applaud her unwavering service and dedication to the community.

That's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO BILL OVERMAN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Bill Overman, City Clerk of Rhodes, Iowa, for his distinguished public service and dedication to the Rhodes community on the occasion of his retirement from that position.

For the past 28 years, Bill has served as city clerk. A life-long resident of Rhodes, Bill previously served as mayor from 1970 until 1979 before taking over the clerk position. He also retired from Lennox in Marshalltown in 2005 as a lean materials analyst after working for 37 years. As city clerk, Bill has been the chief administrator of services with a strong understanding of the needs and desires of the community.

I know that my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me to commend Bill Overman for his leadership and service to Rhodes, Iowa. I consider it an honor to serve Bill in Congress and I wish him the best in the future.

QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise, reluctantly, in favor of the motion to table House Resolution 799, Impeaching Richard B. Cheney, Vice

President of the United States, of high crimes and misdemeanors, and in favor of referring that resolution to the House Judiciary Committee for full consideration. I voted to table this resolution not because I do not share the gentleman from Ohio's desire to hold those responsible for the Iraqi debacle accountable; but rather, because I strongly believe that we must follow established protocol in matters of such importance. During my entire time in Congress, I have been outspoken in my opposition to war with Iraq and Iran. I have warned my colleagues and the administration against marching toward war in numerous speeches over the years, and I have voted against every appropriation to continue the war on Iraq.

I have always been strongly in favor of vigorous congressional oversight of the executive branch, and I have lamented our abrogation of these Constitutional obligations in recent times. I do believe, however, that this legislation should proceed through the House of Representatives following regular order, which would require investigation and hearings in the House Judiciary Committee before the resolution proceeds to the floor for a vote. This time-tested manner of moving impeachment legislation may slow the process, but in the long run it preserves liberty by ensuring that the House thoroughly deliberates on such weighty matters. In past impeachments of high officials, including those of Presidents Nixon and Clinton, the legislation had always gone through the proper committee with full investigation and accompanying committee report.

I noted with some dismay that many of my colleagues who have long supported the war changed their vote to oppose tabling the motion for purely political reasons. That move was a disrespectful to the Constitutional function of this body and I could not support such actions with my vote.

I was pleased that the House did vote in favor of sending this legislation to the Judiciary Committee, which essentially directs the committee to examine the issue more closely than it has done to this point.

H.R. 3355, THE HOMEOWNERS' DEFENSE ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I voted against H.R. 2255, which would create a Federally-backed national catastrophe risk consortium and provide below-market catastrophic loans to State reinsurance and insurance plans.

I appreciate the efforts of my colleagues from Florida to raise awareness about the increasing costs of natural disasters on their constituents and the insurance industry. This is made worse because the number of people who live in harm's way is expanding dramatically; some estimates say that 75 percent of Americans are at risk for some type of disaster. Climate change will only compound the problem with predictions of increased frequency of extreme weather events and rising sea levels.

However, at its core, this legislation continues the trend of disguising the risks associated with living in hazardous areas. The Fed-

eral Government is already facing a huge financial liability associated with the impacts of Hurricane Katrina on the National Flood Insurance Program. Yet we have refused to take steps to address the root causes of the problem: more development and more expensive development in harm's way. I am concerned that this bill will increase our liability, without requiring communities to take meaningful steps to reduce their own vulnerability to natural hazards. This bill could potentially dramatically expand Federal liability before we come to grips with the problems of the National Flood Insurance Program and our natural disaster policies. We can't afford to take this leap.

The Federal Government has a special opportunity and responsibility to help communities prepare for and prevent damages from natural disasters. Instead of making it easier to develop in these areas, we should be taking steps to reduce property damage and loss of life, save taxpayer dollars, and protect the environment. Mitigation works: recent studies have shown that 1 dollar spent by FEMA on hazard mitigation saves 4 dollars in future disaster spending.

Until we deal meaningfully with prevention and mitigation, I must oppose this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CIVIL WAR ARTIFACT AUTHENTICITY ACT"

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, today I, along with my colleague JOHN CULBERSON, are introducing the "Civil War Artifact Authenticity Act" that will curb the proliferation of fraudulent Civil War artifacts and memorabilia entering the legitimate market place.

Since the last shot fired in America's Civil War, countless numbers of people across the Nation have become fascinated with this monumental conflict. From the battlefields of Virginia and Louisiana's Red River to the hallowed ground of Antietam, Gettysburg, and thousands of other places that saw brother fighting brother, this war touched virtually every part of this country and every home and hearth. More than 600,000 combatants died from battle, disease, and imprisonment.

With the war's end, soldiers who fought in that conflict returned frequently, often with families in tow, to the places of the most stirring moments of their lives. They revered the fields on which they fought and established numerous associations, North and South, commemorating those who served. These veterans created strong links to their service and sacrifice, through their memoirs and other writings and the personal items and artifacts they carried on the battlefield and brought home to rest in conspicuous places on the mantles of their homes in recognition of the soldiers' service and sacrifice.

Over the ensuing decades, as the soldiers and families who owned and cared for these artifacts died away, many of these heirlooms began to scatter, particularly as later generations forgot the importance of these historic belongings, failed to care for them, or sold the items to augment their incomes.