

Madam Speaker, I am truly honored to stand here today to congratulate COL Thomas Chapman, for his tireless work in Sacramento and throughout his 26-year career with the Army Corps of Engineers. As his colleagues, friends and family gather today, including his wife Deidre and their seven children, I once again ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Colonel Chapman. His work has kept American servicemen and women safe abroad and the public safe at home. I offer him my warmest thanks and wish him continued success in the next chapter of his life.

LIEL MAGHEN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Liel Maghen, one of my 2010 summer interns in the New Story Leadership Program. The New Story Leadership Program, hosts interns from Israel and Palestine, to Washington, DC every year. As a requirement of the program a Congressional Forum is held, and in my attendance on July 20, 2010 Liel Maghen gave a remarkable speech. His story is very inspirational and it gives a clear perspective of his culture and obstacles he overcame. At this time, I present to you his speech:

"I am Liel Maghen and I am your Master of Ceremony for this morning's event.

The Middle East story receives high media coverage and public attention. It is a story of a conflict between two people over the same land and it is a story of terror, occupation, and suffering.

The dimensions of this story combine religion, economy, cultural differences and racism in a complex history of hatred, and present reality of mistrust, that seems far from being solved. However, the small particles of this conflict are the personal stories of people that live in that region.

And like looking at atoms of a human body, these stories reveal different perceptions and demonstrate how these separate particles are connected together in one body that is called the Middle East.

My story starts with my heritage. But before I will begin, let me note that today is "Tisha Beav". It is a day of grief for the Jewish people that commemorate the destruction of both great temples in Jerusalem.

According to the religious scriptures, which refer to these temples as Houses, these temples were destroyed as god's punishment for corruption, moral degradation, and false hatred.

I believe that we, the Jewish people who are gathered here today, came here in order to prevent the collapse of our third House the Israeli state.

I was born in the state of Israel to an Italian mother and Libyan father, who decided, as true Zionists, to leave their families and home in order to move to the Jewish state. My mother is a daughter of two Holocaust survivors and my father himself suffered persecution in his Arab homeland throughout his childhood. Therefore, my education, which was traditional Jewish, emphasized the importance of a Jewish state and the need of the Jewish people to defend themselves in order to prevent a second Holocaust. My education was also affected by the political activism of my parents, who were members of the Halikud right wing party.

When I grew up, especially in the time of the second Intifada, I adopted my parents' perspective as my own and believed that the Jewish people are in danger, and that there is no chance for peace. Thus, I was eager to serve my country in a combat unit and to be a representative of my people and history through my army service. This concept of service has a major role in Israeli society and education. And eventually, this service would be the reason for a big change in my perception, a change that occurred because of a friend.

This friend was Johan Zarbib.

I met him in the first week of basic training. We were together in the same unit and partners in the same squad. He, as a foreigner who was born in France, decided to immigrate to Israel for the same reasons as my parents. He told me, that after suffering modern anti-Semitism in his homeland, he understood the importance of the Jewish country and wanted to join the army and contribute his share for the sake of the Jewish people.

I, on the other hand, made a personal and difficult decision to change units. I decided to complete my military service by transferring to an education unit, where I could contribute in a different way.

In the last day of the war of Lebanon, in 2006, after the cease-fire was signed but before it was fully implemented, I was shocked to hear that Johan was killed.

The day after, in his funeral, I saw that many other friends from our unit were injured in the same battle.

Looking at them and thinking about Johan, made me re-examine these values of contribution and service. I have asked myself if serving in the army is the only way to contribute to my society or maybe was there another option.

My conclusion was that it is our responsibility, as people who suffer from the war, to make an effort for achieving peace. Or as Mahatma Gandhi has said: "you must be the change that you wish to see in the world".

Since then, I have participated in different co-existence programs. Although these experiences are difficult and confront sensitive issues, I have come to understand through them, that both sides suffer from this conflict and that only personal connection between people can create a bridge beyond the walls of separation and fear. I have also come to understand that maybe we don't agree on the details of the solution, but we can agree on the process of finding one, process that requires communication, compromise, and reconciliation.

And Finally, Here in Washington, I have had a great opportunity to take this understanding one step further. Thank to Congressman Payne and his inspirational staff I have learned about the political process and how it can make a major impact in people's life. Furthermore, being a part of a group of Israeli and Palestinian activists through the New Story Leadership Program teaches me that many people from both sides are basically on the same side, the side that wants peace.

This future is reachable, and we should join together, Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans, in order to make this future closer to the present."

Thank you very much,

Shalom, Peace and Salam Aleikum

Madam Speaker, I call upon my colleagues in joining me congratulating Liel Maghen and wishing him all the best. He is truly an inspiration to all that know him.

HONORING DYLAN COCHRAN

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Dylan Cochran. Dylan is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 1179, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Dylan has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Dylan has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Dylan has earned the rank of Warrior in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and the World Conservation Award. Dylan has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Dylan constructed and installed a bench along the Maple Woods Conservation Area trail route.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Dylan Cochran for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

RECOGNIZING USA HOCKEY

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of USA Hockey and their support of disabled hockey programs. USA Hockey has proven that hockey truly is for everyone, and their efforts to share the wonderful game of hockey should be commended.

USA Hockey supports four disciplines of disabled hockey, all serving players both young and old. This includes Standing/Amputee hockey, Deaf/Hard of Hearing hockey, Sled hockey, and Special hockey. These groups provide unique practices that enable the players to reconnect with a sport they love. For example, Deaf/Hard of Hearing hockey incorporates a special lighting system and allows coaches and players to communicate through sign language, lip-reading and interpreters. And Sled hockey provides paraplegics with the opportunity to enjoy the sport by using specially designed sleds on the ice.

USA Hockey also proudly supports the USA Warriors Ice Hockey Program, providing wounded United States Military Personnel with therapeutic and recreational opportunities to play hockey. This program focuses on integrating disabled and non-disabled players in order to build self confidence and assist disabled veterans to reconnect with the activities they were involved with prior to their disability. While I can't begin to comprehend all that these brave veterans have experienced and what they've done in service to our nation, I can understand why they still want to play hockey.

I believe that hockey is a tremendous game that teaches its players the value of hard work, discipline, and the benefit of playing as a team. Through the support of USA Hockey,