

too soon. It is an honor to recognize his life here today and extend my thoughts and prayers to his family and friends during this most difficult time.

HONORING THE MOUNT FREEDOM
JEWISH CENTER 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mount Freedom Jewish Center, located in Township of Randolph, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Founded by a group of residents as an orthodox synagogue in 1923, Mount Freedom Jewish Center served the summer and bungalow communities of Morris County. Mount Freedom Jewish Center continued to grow with the population of Morris County, and eventually became a year-round synagogue. The building has been renovated several times to accommodate the ever-growing population, but the walls of the original structure remain a part of the center.

The only synagogue in Randolph, Mount Freedom Jewish Center serves the diverse community of Morris County not only as a house of worship, but also a place of learning, a source of caring, and an outlet for social enjoyment. The center has an active Hebrew School for grades one through eight, as well as active religious and social programs and groups. The Mount Freedom Jewish Center serves all residents of Morris County through interfaith collaborations with other houses of worship, providing programs for young adults with special needs, as well as opening its doors to those in need. Additionally, the center also has the only Jewish Cemetery in Randolph.

The Mount Freedom Jewish Center has planned a year of festivities in celebration of its 90th anniversary. Throughout the year, there have been, and will be, special services, programs and speakers, and special dinners. The year of festivities will culminate with a 90th Anniversary Gala in December 2013 to celebrate the contributions the center has made to the community. The center looks to start off their 10th decade of vision and dedication to enriching the lives of congregants and the larger community by providing an inviting environment for spiritual, educational and social interaction.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Mount Freedom Jewish Center as they celebrate their 90th anniversary.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NICHOLAS
MARIOTTI JR.

HON. TIM RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Nicholas Mariotti Jr., 72, who passed away April 7, 2013, at his res-

idence in Niles. Nick was born Feb. 18, 1941, in Youngstown, the son of Nicholas Sr. and Mary Levero Mariotti.

Nick was a 1959 graduate of Niles McKinley High School. He worked at US Steel for 22 years in the inspection department and later at Taylor Steel in Warren for 18 years as a splitter before retiring in 2003.

Nick was a member of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish in Niles, Niles Frontliners and Rebounders and enjoyed sports, casino trips and most of all spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

On a personal level, he was Coach Mariotti to me. He was my first football coach and he taught me how to run the option play in 5th grade flag football. Under his leadership, our team went on to win the championship game—something I'll always cherish and remember.

Nick was a father in the best sense of the word. His son, Nicky (Gumsy), was one of my best friends growing up. I fondly remember Mr. Mariotti taking us to amusement parks, festivals or sporting events. He was always available to make sure we had a fun and active childhood. He never missed a game for any of his children. He was warm, caring and always quietly supportive of his kids, saving any comments or suggestions for private.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Sandra Stull Mariotti, whom he married Aug. 4, 1962; a son, Nicholas G. (Nicholle) Mariotti of Leesburg, Va.; two daughters, Lisa (Michael) Sybert of Mount Juliet, Tenn., and Laurie (Scott) Paden of Niles; brother, Anthony (Kristine) Mariotti of Niles; sister, Marlene Mariotti of Niles; and seven grandchildren, Alyssa, Ariana, Alec and Andrew Sybert, Scott and Kyle Paden and Sophia Mariotti.

To some, Nick will be remembered as a friend, colleague or coach. To others, he will be remembered as father and grandfather who left behind a lasting legacy. To his family, Nick will always be remembered as a loving husband, devoted father to his children, and as a proud grandfather. I will always remember him as someone who always stepped up to help in whatever way was needed. His contributions to this community will not be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it gives me great pride to honor the life of Nicholas Mariotti Jr. I extend my most sincere condolences to Nick's wife, Sandy, his son Gumsy, daughters Lisa and Laurie, grandchildren, and the entire Mariotti family.

REMEMBERING MR. ELENO OVIEDO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, today, we remember the life of a wonderful man whose strength, courage, kindness and passion for the Cuban people's struggle for freedom inspired countless activists.

Eleno Oviedo was born in Havana, Cuba, and later served with distinction in the U.S. Army. He was captured at sea by Castro's thugs, and became a political prisoner in a Cuban gulag for twenty-six years. While in prison, Eleno was a plantado, or prisoner who refused indoctrination or any acts that would affirm the legitimacy of his confinement.

Eleno's defiance of the brutal Castro dictatorship resulted in especially harsh treatment in grossly inhumane prison conditions.

Despite his bleak circumstance, Eleno used his time in prison to become fluent in several languages. When he finally was released from prison in 1988, Eleno returned to the United States where he continued to speak out against the Castro regime's atrocities and oppression of the Cuban people. He met with lawmakers to draw attention to the grim realities of the Castro regime, and became director of the effective and highly commendable organization, Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba.

Some complain that our younger generations have no heroes to inspire them to greatness. They need only look to the example of Eleno who, despite remarkably trying circumstances, held to his principles. He was not only resilient in overcoming the appalling injustice that cost him a quarter of his life, but he managed to maintain his compassion and zest for life.

Sadly, Eleno passed away on April 4, 2013. I am grateful to have known and worked with Eleno over many years. He is irreplaceable. His life's work remains a blessing to those who continue the cause of freedom for the Cuban people. My prayers are with him and his family. May God bless his soul.

COLLABORATIVE FOR CHILDREN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 12, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, four-year-old Jaylen in Houston, Texas wants to be a teacher when he grows up. It isn't every day that you meet a youngster with aspirations as big as Jaylen's. It takes a special role model, advocate, and teacher to spark the dreams in kids as young as him. The best news for these kids is that the world is their oyster; they have a world of opportunities awaiting them. Teaching our kids about the opportunities that are available is exactly what Collaborative for Children works to do each day. In Houston, Collaborative for Children is an admirable organization that promotes and builds strong educational foundations in the lives of kids for a brighter future.

For over 25 years, Collaborative for Children has partnered with families, teachers, care providers, and community-based groups to provide Houston area youth with the best possible educational foundation. Collaborative for Children's commitment to education for kids, ages zero through six, ranges from helping parents find good child care, providing parental guidance, and providing parents and teachers with necessary educational resources, all the way to strengthening early childhood education systems through policy changes. Every day, the non-profit organization does everything it can for the role models in the lives of the kids so that they can continue leading them toward their dreams.

The impressive Collaborative for Children services are possible because of its strong team. The organization is run by a board of directors made up of diverse citizens from all different fields in the community. Dedicated volunteers help guide the organization and