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109th Congress (2005 - 2006) - 2nd Session

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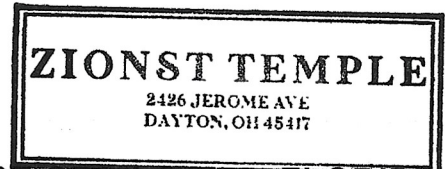
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80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA; Congressional Record Vol. 152, No. 63 (Extensions of Remarks - May 19, 2006)

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80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CITY OF OPA-LOCKA, FLORIDA

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

of florida

in the house of representatives

Friday, May 19, 2006

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to bring to the attention of

my colleagues the 80th anniversary of the City of Opa-Locka, Florida, which I am proud to represent in the United States Congress.

Home to more than 15,000 residents in Northwest Miami-Dade County, ``The Great City'' of Opa-Locka has had a long and colorful history, from its founding in the mid-1920s, rapid expansion prior to and during World War II and its recent efforts at revitalization.

The name Opa-Locka is a contraction of the Native American name for the area, ``Opa-tisha-woka-locka'', meaning a dry place in the swamp with trees. The area was developed in the early 1920s by aviation pioneer Glenn Curtiss and was based on the Arabian Nights theme with streets that have names like Sultan Avenue, Ali Baba Avenue, and Sesame Street. The Arabian Nights style is also reflected in the city's architecture, which features 105 original buildings with an array of domes, elaborate minarets and outside staircases in brightly painted colors built between 1925-28 during Florida's land boom. Officially incorporated in 1926, Opa-Locka today maintains the largest collection of Moorish architecture in the Western hemisphere and 20 sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Opa-Locka Airport also has a long and colorful history. In 1918, the Navy relocated a blimp hangar to Opa-Locka from Key West. In the early 1930s, a Naval Reserve Training Base was established here. Commissioned NAS Miami in August 1940, training in fighter, dive-bombing and torpedo bombing skills took place at various times during the history of the base. In addition to serving as headquarters for the 7th Naval District, the station supported a naval air gunnery school, a Marine Corps Air Station, a Coast Guard Station, and a small craft-training center. The peak complement, reached in 1945, consisted of 7,200 officers and men and 3,100 civilians. During the early days of World War II, Opa-Locka's pivotal role in training pilots resulting in the airport having the unique distinction of supporting more takeoffs and landings than any other airport in the world.

Opa-Locka today is a working community that is looking to the future and working hard to revitalize its economic and cultural base while maintaining its small town, close knit sense of community. City Hall, the old Opa-Locka Hotel and the original Opa-Locka Train Station have recently been renovated. Additionally, a new State of Florida Services Building and a variety of new business have located in the City in recent years, and recent interest in Opa-Locka airport holds promise for the future.

As the city begins its ninth decade, I congratulate its leaders and citizens and look forward to working with the government, businesses and people of Opa-Locka in building an even stronger, more vibrant community in the coming years.

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December 17, 2005 - Issue: Vol. 151, No. 163 — Daily Edition

109th Congress (2005 - 2006) - 1st Session

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ON RECENT COMMENTS OF THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT, MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD; Congressional Record Vol. 151, No. 163 (Extensions of Remarks - December 17, 2005)

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ON RECENT COMMENTS OF THE IRANIAN PRESIDENT, MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

of iowa

in the house of representatives

Friday, December 16, 2005

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, every society has a historian who suggests

that failure to study history is an invitation to repeat its mistakes. With his recent utterances, the newly elected president of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, may be presenting the world with a more dangerous conundrum. He has apparently looked at history and denied it, which requires each of us to come to grips with preposterousness as an international reality. To refuse to study history may invite repetition; but to deny it, particularly when it involves the greatest crime in human history, is an assault on civilized values and portends an attack on civilization itself.

Last week, President Ahmadinejad suggested that the murder of six million European Jews by the Nazis did not occur and called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." This week, after time to reconsider, he made it perfectly clear that he did not flippantly, accidentally or remorsefully express a misunderstanding. He again publicly denied the Holocaust, calling it a "myth" designed to be "above God, religion and the prophets."

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Condemning such vitriol is important, but insufficient. Anti-semitism demands rebuttal; but the stakes here are not just one man's prejudice. At issue is the legitimacy and viability of the Israeli state. The United States in this circumstance has no moral option except to make unequivocally clear that Israel's survival is a bedrock American commitment.

There can and should be a role and place for a Palestinian state in the Middle East. But there never should be a question about the legitimacy of Israel. Peaceful coexistence is impossible if irrational aspirations such as those flaunted by President Ahmadinejad are perceived as realistic options.

It is false and counter-productive to think that Jewish-Muslim history begins after the Holocaust or that the rationale for a Jewish state comes exclusively from the Shoah. While the holocaust stamps a moral imprimatur on modern Israel, the cause of Israel's statehood predates the world's most capricious act of inhumanity.

The conflict that has emerged around the establishment of an Israeli state involves a multicentury exodus of a people from their homeland. But while the Bible is punctuated with wars and traumas, it is impressive how doing most of the last several millennia, Jews and Muslims have faced less hostility than Jews living in predominantly Christian countries.

Since biblical times, Jewish communities have thrived without interruption in Arab lands, in Persia and in historical Palestine. When Islam arrived in the Middle East in 633 A.D., intermarriage and even conversion were not uncommon. In fact, throughout the Middle East Jews experienced less Persecution and discrimination than they did in Europe. In Palestine, for instance, Muslims repeatedly protected their Jewish neighbors from European crusaders; in one instance at least, Jews fought alongside Muslims to prevent crusaders from landing in Haifa; and Saladin, after re-conquering Jerusalem from the crusaders, invited Jews back into the city.

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The Jews in Spain under Moorish rule flourished and experienced a renaissance mirroring that of the great Islamic civilization and culture at the time. As Christianity spread from the north of Spain, Jews were again protected by Muslim rulers until the fall of Granada--the last Moorish kingdom to pass into Christian hands--when both Jews and Muslims were expelled at the end of the 15th century. Most of the Jews from the Iberian peninsula settled in North Africa and the lands under Ottoman rule and continued their largely peaceful co-existence with Muslims in those countries.

What should be taken from this history is not that there is no case for an Israeli state in the Holy Land, but that individuals of the Jewish and Muslim faiths have a long record of successfully living together respecting each other's beliefs and culture. Yes, President Ahmadinejad, there is a Western responsibility to help and defend Israel. But there is an Eastern imperative to enhance the prospect of a more dignified life for all people in the region.

What should also be taken from the history of the last two millennia is that the Jewish people generally found themselves in a position of vulnerability precisely because they lacked a state of their own. Relations within the Muslim world were usually better than within most parts of the Christian world, but dependency and the potential of violence characterized inter-faith power relationships. Security was always in doubt.

In this historical context, the case for a Jewish state is profound. The only thing that comes from statements like those of President Ahmadinejad is less respect for Iranian leadership, more distrust between peoples, and abundant concerns that violence will accelerate.

History is an accumulated product to which each generation adds. If any generation allows acts of hatred to become the dominant theme of interpersonal relations, it is harder for the next to break out of an angry memory cycle. Thus the challenge in the Middle East today is to give harmony a chance, recognizing that current Jewish-Muslim tension is an aberration. Peace is the historical norm.

Because the past is often more controversial and volatile than current events, it is essential that we study history both from our own perspective and that of others. Denial is not simply obtuse; it is hate inspiring. Iran and the world, deserve better.

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following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 256

Whereas from September 15, 2017, through October 15, 2017, the United States celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census estimates the Hispanic population living in the continental United States at over 57,000,000, plus an additional 3,500,000 living in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, making Hispanic Americans almost 18 percent of the total population of the United States and the largest racial or ethnic minority group in the United States;

Whereas, in 2016, there were close to 1,000,000 or more Latino residents in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and in each of the States of Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington;

Whereas, between July 1, 2015, and July 1, 2016, Latinos grew the United States population by approximately 1,131,766 individuals, accounting for ½ of the total population growth during that period;

Whereas, by 2060, the Latino population in the United States is projected to grow to 119,000,000, and the Latino population will comprise more than 28.6 percent of the total United States population;

Whereas the Latino population in the United States is currently the third largest worldwide, exceeding the size of the population in every Latin American and Caribbean country except Mexico and Brazil;

Whereas, in 2016, there were more than 18,345,742 Latino children under the age of 18 in the United States, which represents approximately ⅓ of the total Latino population in the United States;

Whereas more than 1 in 4 public school students in the United States are Latino, and the ratio of Latino students is expected to rise to nearly 30 percent by 2027;

Whereas 19 percent of all college students between the ages of 18 and 24 are Latino, making Latinos the largest racial or ethnic minority group on college campuses in the United States, including 2-year community colleges and 4-year colleges and universities;

Whereas a record 12,700,000 Latinos voted in the 2016 Presidential election, representing a record 9.2 percent of the electorate in the United States;

Whereas the number of eligible Latino voters is expected to rise to 40,000,000 by 2030, accounting for 40 percent of the growth in the eligible electorate in the United States by 2032;

Whereas each year approximately 800,000 Latino citizens turn 18 years old and become eligible to vote, a number that could grow to 1,000,000 by 2030, adding a potential 18 million new Latino voters by 2032;

Whereas, in 2016, the annual purchasing power of Hispanic Americans was an estimated \$1,400,000,000,000, which is an amount greater than the economy of all except 17 countries in the world;

Whereas there are more than 4,700,000 Hispanic-owned firms in the United States, supporting millions of employees nationwide and contributing more than \$600,000,000,000 in revenue to the economy of the United States;

Whereas Hispanic-owned businesses represent the fastest-growing segment of small businesses in the United States, with Latino-owned businesses growing at more than 15 times the national rate;

Whereas, as of August 2017, more than 27,000,000 Latino workers represented 17 percent of the total civilian labor force of the United States, and the rate of Latino labor force participation is expected to grow to 28

percent by 2024, accounting for approximately 48 percent of the total labor force increase in the United States by that year;

Whereas, with 65.8 percent labor force participation, Latinos have the highest labor force participation rate of any racial or ethnic group, as compared to 62.9 percent labor force participation overall;

Whereas, as of 2016, there were 312,228 Latino elementary and middle school teachers, 92,344 Latino chief executives of businesses, 63,448 Latino lawyers, 62,599 Latino physicians and surgeons, and 11,109 Latino psychologists, who contribute to the United States through their professions;

Whereas Hispanic Americans serve in all branches of the Armed Forces and have fought bravely in every war in the history of the United States;

Whereas, as of July 31, 2016, more than 164,000 Hispanic active duty service members served with distinction in the Armed Forces;

Whereas, as of August 31, 2016, more than 284,000 Latinos have served in post-September 11, 2001, overseas contingency operations, including more than 8,500 Latinos serving as of September 2017 in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan;

Whereas, as of September 2015, at least 675 United States military fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan were Hispanic;

Whereas an estimated 200,000 Hispanics were mobilized for World War I, and approximately 500,000 Hispanics served in World War II;

Whereas more than 80,000 Hispanics served in the Vietnam War, representing 5.5 percent of individuals who made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States in the conflict, even though Hispanics comprised only 4.5 percent of the population of the United States during the Vietnam War;

Whereas approximately 148,000 Hispanic soldiers served in the Korean War, including the 65th Infantry Regiment of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, known as the "Borinqueneers", the only active duty, segregated Latino military unit in United States history;

Whereas, as of 2015, there were more than 1,200,200 living Hispanic veterans of the Armed Forces, including 136,000 Latinas;

Whereas 61 Hispanic Americans have received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest award for valor in action against an enemy force bestowed on an individual serving in the Armed Forces;

Whereas Hispanic Americans are dedicated public servants, holding posts at the highest levels of the Government of the United States, including 1 seat on the Supreme Court of the United States, 4 seats in the Senate, 34 seats in the House of Representatives, and 1 seat in the Cabinet; and

Whereas Hispanic Americans harbor a deep commitment to family and community, an enduring work ethic, and a perseverance to succeed and contribute to society; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15, 2017, through October 15, 2017;

(2) esteems the integral role of Latinos and the manifold heritage of Latinos in the economy, culture, and identity of the United States; and

(3) urges the people of the United States to observe Hispanic Heritage Month with appropriate programs and activities that celebrate the contributions of Latinos to the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 257—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 16, 2017, AS "ISAAC M. WISE TEMPLE DAY"

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 257

Whereas 2017 marks the 175th anniversary of the incorporation of the congregation of the Isaac M. Wise Temple in Cincinnati, Ohio;

Whereas 2017 marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the current site for the Isaac M. Wise Temple, also known as the "Plum Street Temple";

Whereas Rabbi Isaac M. Wise led that congregation for nearly a half century, establishing the congregation as the cradle of American Reform Judaism and helping to make Cincinnati a center of Jewish life in the United States;

Whereas Rabbi Isaac M. Wise founded the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (now known as the "Union for Reform Judaism") in 1873 and the Central Conference of Reform Rabbis in 1889 to help lead the United States Jewish Reform movement;

Whereas Rabbi Isaac M. Wise founded the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1875, now the oldest rabbinical school in continuous existence in the United States; and

Whereas the Isaac M. Wise Plum Street Temple is listed on the National Register of Historic Places for the significant role that the Temple played in the history of Reform Judaism and for the unique Moorish architectural style of the Temple: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 16, 2017, as "Isaac M. Wise Temple Day"; and

(2) recognizes the importance of the Isaac M. Wise Temple in—

(A) United States Jewish history;

(B) establishing Cincinnati, Ohio, as a great center of Jewish life; and

(C) contributing to religious life in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 258—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10, 2017, AS "NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK"

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. KING, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 258

Whereas direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential support to help keep individuals with disabilities connected to their families, friends, and communities so as to avoid more costly institutional care;

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities by helping those individuals make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;

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U.S.-MOROCCO PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY; Congressional Record Vol. 158, No. 115

(Senate - July 31, 2012)

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U.S.-MOROCCO PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP TREATY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President: I would like to take this occasion to extend congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the people of Morocco on the 225th anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship between the United States and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Negotiations for this treaty began in 1783 and the draft was signed in 1786. Future Presidents John Adams and Thomas Jefferson were the American signatories. The treaty was then presented to the Senate, which ratified it on July 18, 1787, making it the first treaty to receive U.S. Senate ratification.

The treaty represented the second time that Morocco and the United States affirmed diplomatic relations between the two countries. It is also worthy of mention that that Sultan, Mohammed III, was the first head of state, and Morocco the first country, to recognize the new



reassuring President Eisenhower that Morocco would be a staunch ally in the fight against the proliferation of communism in the region.

The United States Agency for International Development, USAID, and its predecessor agencies, as well as the Peace Corps, have been active in Morocco since 1953. Currently, there are more than 200 volunteers in Morocco working in the areas of health, youth development, small business and the environment.

Following the September 11, 2001 attacks, Morocco was one of the first nations to express its solidarity with the United States and immediately renewed its commitment as a strong ally to combat terrorism. Cooperation between the United States and Morocco on these issues includes data sharing, law enforcement partnerships, improved capabilities to oversee strategic checkpoints, and joint efforts to terminate terrorist organization financing.

It is important to extend our warm congratulations to His Majesty King Mohammed VI as well as to the people of Morocco on the anniversary of the Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which set the stage for continued and sustained engagement between our two countries.

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United States as an independent country in 1777.

The Treaty of Peace and Friendship, whose anniversary we commemorate this month, provided for the United States' diplomatic representation in Morocco and open commerce at any Moroccan port on the basis of ``most favored nation.'' It also established the principle of non-hostility when either country was engaged in war with any other nation.

Most importantly, the treaty provided for the protection of U.S. shipping vessels at a time when American merchant ships were at risk of harassment by various European warships. The treaty specifically stated:

If any Vessel belonging to the United States shall be in any of the Ports of His Majesty's Dominions, or within Gunshot of his Forts, she shall be protected as much as possible and no Vessel whatever belonging either to Moorish or Christian Powers with whom the United States may be at War, shall be permitted to follow or engage her, as we now deem the Citizens of America our good Friends.

A further indication of the early and close relationship between the United States and Morocco can be seen in a letter President George Washington wrote to Sultan Mohammed III on December 1, 1789. President Washington wrote:

It gives me pleasure to have this opportunity of assuring your majesty that I shall not cease to promote every measure that may conduce to the friendship and harmony which so happily subsist between your empire and these . . . This young nation, just recovering from the waste and desolation of long war, has not, as yet, had time to acquire riches by agriculture or commerce. But our soil is beautiful, and our people industrious and we have reason to flatter ourselves that we shall gradually become useful to our friends.

United States relations with Morocco have strengthened in the decades and centuries following the historic treaty. For example, during World War I, Morocco was aligned with the Allied forces, and in 1917 and 1918, Moroccan soldiers fought valiantly alongside United States Marines at Chateau Thierry, Mont Blanc, and Soissons.

During World War II, Moroccan national defense forces aided American and British forces in the region. Morocco hosted one of the most pivotal meetings of the Allied leaders in World War II. In January 1943, United States President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Free French commander Charles De Gaulle met for 4 days in the Casablanca neighborhood of Anfa to discuss strategy against the Axis powers. It was during this series of meetings that the Allies agreed to launch their continental counter push against Axis aggression through a beach head landing on the French Atlantic coast.

Following Morocco's independence in 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower communicated to King Mohammed V that ``my government renews its wishes for the peace and prosperity of Morocco.'' The King responded by

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