

students and their needs. As the college has grown, it has remained motivated by the perspective of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who have given much to our Nation through their devotion to people and to their faith.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and the entire Marywood College family as we observe these landmark anniversaries.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOUNG  
ISRAEL OF SHARON, MA

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that on Saturday, March 25, I will have the honor of attending the 1995 dinner of the Young Israel of Sharon Synagogue. The theme of this dinner, acknowledging 23 years of the synagogue's existence, is community service and leadership. Since that is the theme that many of us in Washington are trying to stress, I am especially pleased to attend an event in which people have been exemplifying this spirit in their own community.

The dinner will honor Eleanor Herburger, a vital and important citizen of Sharon who will be presented with a Shachain Tov—Good Neighbor—Award for her varied and valued community service. Rabbi Meir Sender and his congregation have a great deal of which to be proud. I am pleased to be able to call attention here to their excellent work, and the model they present to so many others, and I am honored that I will have a chance to be with them to mark this great occasion.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI EPHRAIM H.  
STURM

**HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this legislative body is the opportunity we occasionally get to acknowledge publicly outstanding citizens of our Nation. I rise today to honor Rabbi Ephraim H. Sturm, a truly remarkable individual.

In 1948, he joined the staff of the National Council of Young Israel, a modern Orthodox synagogue group with branches across the United States. In his over 40 years with Young Israel, he was directly or indirectly involved in the expansion of the movement from 31 synagogues to almost 200, with an additional 50 synagogues in the State of Israel, 4 in Canada, and 1 in Holland.

On a nonsectarian level, he was project director for 22 years as an on-the-job training program of the U.S. Department of Labor. As project director he negotiated and executed over \$10 million in Government contracts in New York City and across America. His record of achievement and fiscal responsibility stands as an inspiration to us all.

Rabbi Sturm has served as a trustee and member of the executive board of the Memo-

rial Conference and Jewish culture representing Young Israel at the various meetings and conferences in Europe. In Israel he was one of the founders of the World Conference of Orthodox Jewish Synagogues and Kehilot which then became a member in the World Zionist Organization. At the last Zionist Congress in Jerusalem he had the prestigious position of chairing the plenary session on demography.

Apart from serving for over 15 years as chaplain in the New York State Guard, he served on the New York City Manpower Commission, the New York State Advisory Council on Human Rights, the New York State Advisory Council on Kosher Law Enforcement, the New York State Advisory Council on Consumer Protection, and the New York State Task Force on Problems of the Hasidic Community. Recently, he was appointed to the New York State Advisory Board on Government Contracts to Nonprofit Agencies.

Upon retirement after 50 years of service to the community, this indomitable personality embarked upon a new career of lecturer and chaplain at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, consultant to a health care facility and assistant to the president in a venture involving labor unions and health care.

Rabbi Sturm received over 40 awards and citations from various national and international organizations as well as Government agencies. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in commending Rabbi Sturm for his tireless work.

THE HEBREW ISRAELITE  
COMMUNITY IN ISRAEL

**HON. LEE H. HAMILTON**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, for 25 years, the Hebrew Israelite Community, a group of about 1,500 African-Americans, has lived in the Israeli desert cities of Dimona and Arad. Despite racial, linguistic, religious, and cultural differences from Israeli society, the Hebrew Israelite Community has successfully adapted to their desert environment, developing innovative approaches to agriculture, community industries, and health care. The leaders of the community feel that some of their innovative approaches to agriculture and community industries have broader application potential in the developing world, especially Africa.

Initially skeptical or hostile, Israelis in Dimona and Arad have come to view the Hebrew Israelites as part of their society. Last year, the Israeli Government granted the members of the Hebrew Israelite Community permanent resident status.

In recognition of the successful efforts by both the Hebrew Israelite Community and the Israeli Government to resolve their differences, I would like to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the following brief article from the Chicago Sun-Times of December 12, 1994.

BLACK HEBREWS AT HOME IN ISRAEL

(By Jay Bushinsky)

DIMONA, ISRAEL.—By clinging to this dry desert landscape and blending their authentic American folklore with Israel's biblical heritage, the black Hebrews have become an

integral part of this country's human landscape.

More than two decades have elapsed since their latter-day equivalent of Joshua, charismatic Ben-Ami Carter, arrived in Israel by way of Liberia with the Hebrew Israelite Community's advance party.

Now its adherents are centered in Dimona and have fellow believers in nearby Arad and Mitzpe Ramon, two smaller development towns in the Negev desert. There is no comparing the controversy and tension generated by Carter's outspoken debut in Israel.

He declared at the time that his followers were the real descendants of the ancient Hebrews and termed the predominant Ashkenazic Jews imposters.

But the polemical phase of the black Hebrew saga is far behind the sedate, self-confident residents of this neat corner of largely North African city just up the road from the top-secret nuclear reactor which has become an international synonym for Dimona.

Carter made his peace with Israeli officialdom, placed his followers under its legal jurisdiction, put his educational facilities under government supervision and fostered cultural contact with the Israeli public through music, sports and the mass media.

The latest evidence that his policy gets the right results came when Israel's equivalent of social security, the National Security Institute, extended its coverage to his flock.

This means that the black Hebrews who live and work in Israel will be eligible for old-age pensions, disability compensation, childbirth subsidies and cash allowances for large families.

Last year, the ministry of the interior, which had refused to recognize the Hebrew Israelite Community's members as bonafide immigrants under the Law of the Return, granted them temporary residence permits and dropped its charges that they were illegal immigrants who had overstayed their entry visas and were candidates for deportation to the United States.

This move coincided with a U.S. grant of \$700,000 for the construction of a comprehensive public high school.

The new educational facility's classrooms are packed with students, all garbed in the navy blue uniforms ordained by their teachers, who insist on high standards of personal hygiene as well as immaculate dress.

Although the Hebrew language is taught and virtually all of the black Hebrews who were born here or are veteran residents can speak and understand, English remains the prevailing tongue.

One of the most impressive examples of linguistic adaptation was audible when a cluster of second-graders ambled along singing a popular Israeli folk song with the same glee as their contemporaries in Tel Aviv.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

**HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the men and women of this country who work the land, process and refine our agricultural commodities, and engage in the research that keeps American farmers and ranchers the most efficient in the world. I rise to pay tribute to the U.S. agricultural community.

As we all know, 1995 is a year in which American agriculture and our national farm policy will be in the spotlight. With severe

budget constraints and political pressure to rethink and reshape our agriculture policy, the farm bill will undoubtedly stimulate passionate discussion about the future of American agriculture.

This year, Congress will have the important task of steering American agricultural policy into the 21st century. We will examine and debate issues ranging from how we direct Federal farm programs to new uses—ethanol and biodiesel—to trade and new markets to environmental and conservation concerns. I am pleased to note that President Clinton will convene a national rural conference in Iowa on April 25 to discuss these important issues as well as the future of rural America. I am honored to have the opportunity to host one of the sessions leading up to the national conference in Illinois.

However, before we proceed with debate on the reauthorization of farm programs, we should pause to say thank you to the men and women who work the land on America's 1.9 million farms and to the more than 21 million people working in agriculture—from growing to transporting to processing to marketing and selling to conducting the research.

It may surprise many of my colleagues to learn that today's farm population is only 1.9 percent of the total U.S. population. More importantly, today one farmer, on average, feeds 129 people. Forty-five years ago, farmers comprised over 12 percent of our population and one farmer fed only 15 people. The world's most productive and efficient farmers live and work here in the United States, including on Illinois' more than 77,000 farms.

Mr. Speaker, American farmers are the most efficient producers of food and fiber in the world. We, as Americans, are blessed to have the natural resources and farming expertise that help guarantee consumers a safe and abundant food supply. The food and fiber system in this country now generates more than \$900 billion a year in economic activity—about 14 percent of our gross domestic product. Clearly, American agriculture has a good story to tell.

Mr. Speaker, we need to take time to recognize the significant contributions that agriculture makes to our everyday lives. From production agriculture to research, it is easy to see that the diversity of American agriculture touches almost every aspect of our lives.

CLINTON'S BLIND EYE TOWARD  
CHECHNYA

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to draw attention to the ongoing crisis in Chechnya, which began exactly 100 days ago today, when the Kremlin launched a massive military offensive in the region. In an ironic twist, details of this tragedy have been largely overshadowed by yesterday's announcement that President Clinton will travel to Moscow in early May to meet with President Yeltsin. He is proceeding despite the urgings of Congress and, apparently, officials within his own administration that he stay home. The Clinton administration has mishandled this crisis from the outset and, with yesterday's announce-

ment, has proven that it has lost touch with reality where Yeltsin is involved.

The administration should have taken advantage of Moscow's strong desire to secure United States participation in ceremonies commemorating the end of World War II, and pressured Moscow to agree to an immediate, unconditional cease-fire, and the deployment of a long-term OSCE mission in Chechnya. Again, the administration acquiesced, after Yeltsin made a concession about the planned military parade. But that parade is in May—Russia is committing atrocities right now.

One hundred days ago, Mr. Speaker, our administration characterized this crisis as an internal affair, better left to the Russians to handle. But the crisis, which many in Moscow and in Washington had hoped would go away, has not. About 24,000 individuals have been killed and hundreds of thousands have been driven from their homes. Gross human rights violations and atrocities have gone unchecked, as the humanitarian nightmare in Chechnya continues. The Russian campaign in the region constitutes a gross violation OSCE principles.

Nearly 2 months after the OSCE Permanent Council's decision of February 3, most of the problems raised at the time—for example, disproportionate use of force, gross human rights violations, unhindered delivery of humanitarian assistance, access to detainees—persist and have not been addressed in a meaningful manner, if at all.

During the Helsinki Commission's hearing in January, human rights champion Dr. Elena Bonner implored us, "[F]rom outside Russia, the stable democratic societies of the West must employ all diplomatic means to pressure Mr. Yeltsin to call off his assault and negotiate with the Chechen leaders."

As chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have closely followed these troubling developments. I have repeatedly spoken out against Russian actions in Chechnya and the disappointingly muted response by our own leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Secretary Christopher to press Foreign Minister Kozyrev to abide by the OSCE decisions, to agree to an unconditional cease-fire, and to accept a long-term OSCE monitoring mission, when they meet later this week in Geneva. The Russians continue to stall on all three points.

While they have hinted that they could accept an OSCE mission in principle, they appear to be stonewalling. If the Russians finally agree to accept such a mission, painstaking care must be taken in the elaboration of its mandate. Russian good will alone will not be enough.

The last thing we need is an OSCE mission which can be manipulated into a kind of Potemkin village to lend legitimacy to Russian policies in Chechnya.

Mr. Speaker, I regret the fact that the President has agreed to go to Moscow while Yeltsin continues his campaign of death and destruction in Chechnya. It is high time that President Clinton stop turning a blind eye toward the Chechen crisis and starts pressing Boris Yeltsin to end the senseless slaughter.

JOHN SCHROER NAMED REFUGE  
MANAGER OF THE YEAR

**HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 21, 1995*

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate John Schroer, refuge manager of the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, as the recipient of the Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year Award.

Each year the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Audubon Society present the Paul Kroegel Award to a national wildlife refuge manager who has shown "a commitment to the conservation of our natural resources, superior management skills, innovative actions to deal with complex issues, effective public outreach programs, and a background that has advanced the cause of wildlife conservation and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System." John has certainly shown these qualities since coming to Chincoteague.

By the time John arrived in 1989, a series of public use controversies and an aborted management planning process had left relations between the local citizens, environmental groups, and the refuge badly frayed. It was clear, however, that a master plan was sorely needed to let all interested groups know the long- and short-term parameters for public access and wildlife protection. Without such a plan, every action taken on the refuge would prove controversial, and energy and resources that would be better spent improving public access and wildlife protection would continue to be wasted on endless administrative reviews.

John proved more than equal to the task. He put together a group of representatives from the local community and from national and regional environmental organizations. These groups held numerous meetings and, after considerable debate, a refuge management plan was adopted in December 1992. This plan contains a long-term plan for the refuge, and lets all interested parties know how public access and wildlife protection issues will be handled. As other refuges undertake planning efforts, this plan should be held up as an example of both a good substantive plan, and an example of a good planning process where all interested parties had their say.

I hope that the planning efforts now underway in other refuges around the country are as successful as the one at Chincoteague. If those plans are successful, more time can be spent in the future on the real work of the refuge system rather than on constant public relations battles. This will be good news for the refuge managers, the public who visit refuges, and the wildlife that the refuges are designed to protect.

John deserves a great deal of the credit for the Chincoteague plan's success in resolving longstanding controversial issues in realistic ways, and for the success of the plan-writing process itself. For proof of that, we need to look no farther than the nominations he received for this award. Seven years ago, no one would have believed that the northeast region, prominent local citizens, land the leader of a Chincoteague-focused environmental group would nominate the same person for this award in 1995. This demonstrates that