

TRIBUTE TO RABBI YISOCHER DOV
ROKEACH, THE BELZER REBBE,
UPON HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Yisocher Dov Rokeach, known as the Belzer Rebbe, who will be visiting next week from Jerusalem. The Belzer Rebbe is the leader of a prominent Chassidic community whose core is based in my district in Boro Park and in Israel where Rabbi Rokeach resides. He stands out as an individual who has maintained the vibrancy and cohesion of a community, with followers who number in the thousands and reside around the world.

The Belzer Chassidic community was founded in Galicia, toward the end of the 18th century. It was well known for the wisdom of its literature and the religious dedication of its leaders. During the Second World War, Nazi terror devastated the Belzer European community and the surviving Belzer Chassidim left Europe to try to revitalize their movement in Israel. Under the direction of the fourth Belzer Rebbe, they began a program of community building, developing schools for child and adult education, and creating supportive economic institutions for the multitudes who had been impoverished by an oppressive war.

In 1966, Rabbi Rokeach took over these efforts. He has since realized the post-war vision of Belzer revitalization and has infused new life into the Belzer community. The community presently sponsors numerous self-help organizations including one of the world's largest patients advocate organizations of its kind, a center for free medical counseling, and a clinic providing affordable medical treatment. In addition, the Belzer community prides itself upon the recent growth of its numerous yeshivot—academies for talmudic scholarship.

Hillel the Elder stated, "If I am not for myself then who will be for me? But if I am only for myself, then what am I?" The Belzer Chassidim reflect this message. Under the leadership of the Belzer Rebbe, this community has truly succeeded in forging the ethnic of self-help together with an awareness of social responsibility. The modern-day Belzer Rebbe has created a vibrant, exciting community that would make each of his predecessors proud.

GERMANTOWN HIGH SCHOOL TEAM
WINS TENNESSEE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ED BRYANT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advise this body that my own 7th District of Tennessee is the home of the best high school baseball team in the United States.

Germantown High School achieved perfection this year, compiling a record of 38–0, winning not only the Tennessee State Championship, but also national honors, being selected as the No. 1 team in America following their most successful season.

Coaches Phil Clark, Robert Armbruster, and John Perkins knew they had the makings of an outstanding team when, at the beginning of the year, their team won the Upper Deck baseball tournament in California. This tournament featured some of the very best high school teams from across the country.

As all of you can imagine, Germantown's team was a talented group of individuals. But they were a team in the true sense of the word. Not relying on a sole super star player, each member worked toward the common goal of winning, contributing a part to each victory. When one was not having a good day, others carried the team forward. Every day, some combination of pitching, hitting, running, defense, and strategy prevailed. Not once a let-down. This was an amazing accomplishment for a group of 15- 18-year-old young men. Their committed effort dispels any current thought that our American youth lack focus or work ethic. If any of you doubt me, you should come to Germantown, TN and see for yourselves.

The players include some who have signed college scholarships, as well as several underclassmen who will return next year. Jay Hood has been drafted by the Minnesota Twins and also, has signed with Georgia Tech. Chris Lotterhos will go to Ole Miss, where his father played football a few years ago. Other members of this team are Ricky Brillard, Daniel Brown, Andy Brunetz, Michael Cobb, Phillip Cobb, Matt Hale, Tom Hilderbrand, Darrin Hope, Brian Kincheloe, Jeff Flein, Blaine Lester, Chad Moore, Brandon Morrison, Brent Reid, Cory Sumner, Jeremy Wade, Chris Winsett, Johnathan Winterowd, Paul Wood, and Chris Hackett. Many of the boys have played baseball together for years previous. All now share a unique bond, an experience that none will soon forget, and that no one can take from them.

Any acknowledgment such as this would not be complete without pointing out the efforts, out front and behind the scenes, of the Germantown High School administration, coaches, loyal fans and especially, the wonderful parents and families who provided immeasurable support.

Again, congratulations to Germantown High School. You certainly have set the standard in high school baseball for years to come.

TRIBUTE FOR GEN. JOHN M. LOH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 20, 1995

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Gen. John Michael Loh who is retiring after 35 years of faithful and distinguished military service to our Nation.

As one of our Air Force's most senior leaders, General Loh directly contributed to the revolutionary changes in the application of aerospace power that have resulted in dramatic improvements in our Nation's ability to achieve our security goals. General Loh's dedicated service and exceptional leadership helped ensure the U.S. Air Force excelled in the technologically demanding latter half of the cold war, in the crucible of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in the economic turbulence and changing geopolitical landscape of the 1990's.

General Loh's drive, vision, and extraordinary leadership skills set him apart from his peers and brought him varied, demanding assignments in which he always excelled. He was graduated eighth in the second class produced by the U.S. Air Force Academy. As a young pilot, he flew over 200 combat missions in the F-4 as a member of the 389th and 366th Tactical Fighter Squadrons at Da Nang Air Base, Republic of South Vietnam. On returning, he served as an engineer and test pilot, helping to usher in many of the technological innovations in today's fighter aircraft. He accumulated more than 5,000 hours as a command pilot in the F-4, F-104, A-7, F-16, and dozens of other aircraft. He capped his career by becoming one of the first to fly the Nation's most sophisticated combat aircraft—the B-2 bomber.

The general's contributions to the acquisition community began very early in his career. As a junior officer, he worked on the prototype of a highly capable yet low-cost fighter. It became the F-16. He won the Air Force Association's Daedalian Fellowship for his work and applied it to a graduate engineering program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon completion of the degree, he continued his work in fighter aircraft acquisition. His technical expertise and leadership resulted in the F-16 exceeding its program goals and going on to become one of the Nation's most successful fighter programs. Today, the F-16 comprises 53 percent of the Air Force's fighter and ground attack force, and it is the most successful foreign military sales program. General Loh also helped lay the groundwork for the F-22 fighter, B-2 bomber, and, as a former commander of the Air Force's agency for aircraft acquisition, he influenced every substantive program within the service.

Shortly after he became the Air Force's Vice Chief of Staff, Iraq invaded Kuwait. General Loh served as the acting Chief of Staff for the majority of Operation Desert Storm and played a key role in preparing the plan for the air campaign. His ability to work quietly behind the scenes to guide the implementation of innovative policies and lightning-quick acquisition and deployment of weapons played a significant part in the success of the Nation's war effort.

As the Soviet Union began to collapse, Air Force leadership decided to radically restructure the entire service. As the first commander of Air Combat Command, General Loh became the linchpin of this effort. He restructured the Air Force's combat forces, using the remnants of the inactivated Strategic Air Command, Tactical Air Command, and Military Airlift Command to build a more dynamic, fleet-footed, conventionally-oriented combat force. Within this new entity of more than 30 wings, 3,400 aircraft, and 250,000 active duty, Guard, Reserve, and civil service people, he engineered a new leadership style. He replaced the authoritarian style of ACC's predecessors with a people-oriented style based on trust, teamwork, and a mutual quest for continuous improvement. His success in bringing this leadership style into use resulted in the implementation of better practices and processes in every facet of the command's operations, leading to an outstanding response to contingencies in Southwest Asia, the former Yugoslavia, and Haiti to name just a few. His leadership style also saved the Air Force millions