

girl of 5 or 6, looked up from the street where Shapell had set her and said, "Where shall I go?" He answered, "Child, I don't know. Run, run." As he tried to talk about that moment recently, Shapell broke down, unable to finish.

In a week of arm bands and soup pots, Shapell did not manage to rescue his mother. He finally succeeded, though, on a chaotic day in which the Germans encircled all of Targowa's Jews with a gigantic noose of rope and prepared to load them up for transport. Shapell's mother escaped because Nathan, talking his way into Targowa, found her and made her lie down on a pile of dead bodies. He then contrived to get the job of removing the bodies for disposal and got his mother to safety.

By the summer of 1943, though, the Nazis' vicious campaign to make Europe Judenrein—free of Jews—had wrenched the family apart and sent each of its members to a work camp or a concentration camp. The hellhole of Auschwitz-Birkenau was Nathan's lot, but there his youth and relative vigor got him thumbed into line of people to work, not die. He was then tattooed with the number he still wears: 134138.

In the nearly two years of captivity, hunger, and oppression that followed, he continued to be sustained by wits, guts, and a steely resolve to survive. He smuggled food out of kitchens, hid when exposure would have meant death, and got himself classified as a carpenter though he could barely drive a nail. But there was a moment near war's end, at a work site called Gintergruber, when nothing else counted but luck. One day a prisoner in his work crew escaped. When none of the other prisoners would admit to knowledge of how he'd gotten out, SS troops lined them up—some 200 men, in ranks four deep. Shapell was in the front row. The SS counted down it, ordering the fifth man to step forward, and then the next fifth man, until ten prisoners were lined up for all to see. The ten were then shot. Shapell, in the 80% of the front line that survived, went back to work.

Shapell was later moved in a forced march to a camp called Waldenburg. Freedom arrived there on May 8, 1945. No German guards came that morning to make their daily head count, and in the afternoon the camp's commandant drove out for the last time, his eyes venomous as he looked back at the prisoners watching in disbelief. The Jews then swarmed out of the camp to scavenge for food, on the way encountering Russian soldiers who were still at war, even though Germany had surrendered the day before.

The world called them "displaced persons," and in the next six years Shapell, 23 at the end of the war, became a leader in aiding homeless Jews who bore the label. His place of work was a small Bavarian town named Munchberg, where he established a model DP community. He oversaw the construction of houses and even set up a large home that took in Jewish children with no place to go. Wrote an American officer who had authority over Munchberg and knew himself fortunate to have crossed paths with this young refugee: "I heartily endorse Mr. Schapelski as an energetic, efficient, trustworthy, and most capable man."

For Nathan, Munchberg meant more than work well done. He was married there (to a Holocaust survivor) and was joined in the town by two siblings who turned out to have survived the war, Sala and David. (The remaining four members of Shapell's family are either known, or believed, to have died.) Eventually Nathan, David, and an Auschwitz friend of Nathan's who Sala married, Max Weisbrot, secured a permit to start a textile manufacturing and wholesaling business, and it did well.

So it was that when the three men make it to the U.S. in the early 1950s, they had some money. They went first to Detroit because a relative lived there. But Nathan didn't like Detroit, and they traveled in search of another landing spot, thinking that either supermarkets or homebuilding might be their future. They hit California, and for Nathan it was love at first sight. "Just the trees," he says today, "just the smell from the oranges and lemons. It was unbelievable, beautiful."

Through a Detroit connection, they met one night with a young building contractor in Los Angeles, Morley Benjamin. Knowing their English to be inadequate, the three visitors brought with them a taxi driver hired to be a translator—but he kept falling asleep. The meeting came to nothing.

Some months later, though, having picked up more English, the three went back to Benjamin, and this time they struck a deal to build houses together. The Shapell group put in \$600,000, and Morely Benjamin and a partner contributed expertise. In two suburbs of Los Angeles, Norwalk and Whittier, they built some 2,400 houses and sold them to veterans for \$10,990 each, no money down. Nathan, the leader of this band, badgered the young builder he always called "Mr. Benjamin" to teach him everything he knew about the business. Remembers Benjamin: "Nathan was constantly in my office, constantly wanting to know. Once I said to him, 'Nathan, do not come back for at least an hour.'" But Benjamin says Shapell never asked the same question twice. He was, besides, a whiz with figures.

In 1955 the parties split up, amiably. Shapell, with his relatives, formed S&S Construction and proceeded to build anew in Norwalk. He has always had a belief, he says today, that a prudent man should keep one-third of his money in cash and another one-third in good "stuff," and then if he wishes, put the other one-third at risk. But in 1955 he felt the Norwalk project required the commitment of everything he had. Out of it, though, came a small profit, enough to send S&S Construction on its way.

Since then the company now called Shapell Industries has built 64,000 houses and spread well beyond Lost Angeles. The company is known for high-quality building, for astute purchases of land, and for conservative financial behavior in an industry that tends to binge on leverage. Shapell himself dresses down from the elegant suits he wears in his office and "walks" his sites, doing hands-on quality control. He is not apt to stop those inspections soon: For three years a widower, he usually works at least six days a week and has no plans to retire.

In his business history, there is a period that caused him anguish. In 1969, when his company was doing about \$30 million in sales and \$3 million in profits, he took it public and was immediately sorry. Impatient by nature—"he has the attention span of a gnat," says an acquaintance—he could not abide dealing with securities analysts. He feels, moreover, that the homebuilding business, with its cycles, weather delays, and general ups and downs, is not well suited to a public market that craves consistency. "If you are honest and reporting exactly what happens," Shapell says, "Wall Street tells you goodbye." His company was itself a case history in volatility. In 1981, when interest rates skyrocketed, it lost nearly \$10 million on revenues that exceeded \$300 million—another period of acute anguish for Shapell. By 1983, through, the company was making \$15 million on revenues cut by a third.

So in 1984, Shapell took his creation private, buying in the 28% of the company that the public owned for \$33 million. Best money he ever spent, says Shapell: "when we'd done the deal, I felt like a million pounds had

been taken off me." It hardly ranks with the first, of course, but he calls that day his "second liberation."

EARTH DAY, 1998

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day helps us to remember that environmental issues know no political bounds and affect all of the people, plants, and animals of the world community. It is essential that the policies our Government enacts, and the personal activities we undertake reflect our profound concern for safeguarding the Earth.

From combating global climate change to protecting threatened species to maintaining clean air and pure water standards, we have a duty to act locally and globally to protect the environment for present and our future generations.

Saving the planet may seem to be an insurmountable task, but in order for our children to have a brighter future we must commit ourselves to an environmental policy which seeks to establish a clean, safe, and productive environment.

We must not forget the air we breathe, our most precious resource. Americans can clearly see, smell, and feel the difference that pollution has made in their lives. As a strong supporter of the Clean Air Act, I understand the need for clean air standards. So too, we must not neglect our efforts to purify our water. By encouraging innovation, cooperation, and the development of new technologies for pollution reduction, these standards build upon the spirit of ingenuity that is the foundation of America's leadership in the world.

Moreover, the issue of global warming is one that affects us all. Without our intervention, global warming will find sea levels continuing to rise, an increase in heat-related deaths, increased allergic disorders, and other serious air quality programs.

By burning oil, coal, and natural gas to power our cars, heat our homes, light our cities, and through deforestation and clearing of land for agriculture, we are releasing greenhouse gases to the atmosphere more quickly than we can remove them.

Over the last century atmospheric levels of these gases have steadily climbed and are predicted to increase as global economies grow. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) estimates that global surface air temperature will increase approximately another 5 degrees in the next 100 years. The IPCC also predicts that "the balance of evidence suggest that there is a discernible human influence on global climate." With this in mind, we need to act now to protect our planet.

I invite my colleagues to join with Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, in her pledge to announce "A full court press to encourage meaningful developing country participation in the effort to combat global climate change".

As chairman of the International Relations Committee, I understand the importance of using our leadership in the United States to assist other countries in developing and maintaining successful environmental programs. I

personally have led efforts to protect whales from commercial hunting and to protect African elephants from the deadly effect of the international ivory trade. I have also been in the forefront in bringing greater awareness to the linkages between refugees, world hunger, and national security to environmental degradation. In addition, if we do not assist in the survival of indigenous and tribal people, their wealth of traditional knowledge and their important habitats will no longer be available for the rest of mankind.

Earth Day is a successful incentive for ongoing environmental education, action, and change. Earth Day activities address worldwide environmental concerns and offer opportunities for individuals and communities to focus on their local environmental problems. As you may know, along with several of my colleagues, I introduced H.R. 1256, which was approved by Congress to authorize the purchase of Sterling Forest. Added to existing parks, this purchase created a 15,000 acre area of greenery just 40 miles north of New York City. I am pleased to state that we have also received an additional \$8.5 million funding for this important project. Along with Rep. Sue Kelly, I have requested funding for the Hudson Valley national heritage area, which would help preserve the history, culture, and traditions of our beautiful region. I am also proud to note that my 20th district of New York is home to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the country's leading climate study institutions.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for people to make a difference toward a clean, healthy, prosperous future. We must not continue with the lax attitude that someone else will clean up after us. We need to take care of our world today. I cannot think of a better day to commit to this than today, on Earth Day. Let us salute all of the people who observe Earth Day, in all ways, large or small.

REMARKS ON THE .08 BAC STANDARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an excerpt from the newsletter of the Conneaut Cellars Winery in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania. It was written by Mr. Joal Wolf, who is the proprietor of the winery. I believe this text eloquently articulates the arguments against the national .08 standard.

Recently neo-prohibitionists, social Dogooders, and short-sighted legislators (all in the business to scare you and make numbers look the worst possible) started their propaganda with nastier attacks due to the lack of attention in public. These attacks are direct at drinkers in general and unfortunately not at abusers and drunk drivers. They would like to duck the new reality, punish responsible drinkers, and blackmail states and local jurisdictions by withholding state highway funds (ISTEA) for not accepting a Blood Alcohol (BAC) level of 0.8%.

Decades of government data show that the number one cause of drunk driving incidents is the alcohol abuser who drinks excessively and then drives. Yet the proposed legislation inexplicably ignores this reckless menace

and instead calls for laws that would make it illegal for a 120 lb. woman to drive after drinking two glasses of wine within two hours. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the average BAC among fatally injured drunk drivers is 0.18%, and more than 80% of these drivers have at least 0.14% BAC. Federal government statistics show a very small percentage, not enough for casual effects, of accidents are caused by people with between 0.08 to 0.10% BAC. Fewer than 1.0% of fatalities involve drinking drivers (not drunks) with BAC under 0.10%.

Drunk driving versus drinking and driving—why bother with semantics when highway carnage is at stake? The real problem is the act of driving drunk. The crime should be when your ability is truly impaired, whether it is alcohol, lack of sleep, anxiety, anger, illegal drugs, and so forth.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE JAMES R. STRONG

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to speak about a man of distinguished civil service and professional integrity. The Honorable James R. "Jim" Strong, former Missouri State Representative and State Senator, recently passed away at the age of 77.

A native of Marshfield, MO, and a lifelong resident of the Jefferson City, MO, area, Strong graduated from Jefferson City High School in 1939. After studying at Jefferson City Junior College, Strong served in the United States Navy and was aboard the USS Phoenix at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He served in the South Pacific for the remainder of World War II.

After the war, Jim Strong became the co-founder of Strong Brothers Millwork and Lumber Company, and later co-owned other lumber companies. He also was involved in office and commercial real estate rental and was a cattle farmer for many years. He served on the Jefferson City Council from 1969 to 1972, and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1973. In 1982, Strong was elected to the Missouri Senate, and he was re-elected in 1986. He retired from public service in 1990.

In addition to his contributions as a public servant, Jim Strong participated in many community activities. He was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church and also held memberships or offices in the VFW Post 1003, American Legion Post 5, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Cole County Fair Association, Cole County Fair and Horse Show, Salvation Army Advisory Board, Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson City Jay Booster Club, Cole County Historical Society, Capital City Council of the Arts, Memorial Community Hospital Board of Governors, St. Mary's Health Center Advisory Board, Cole County Republican Club, Pachyderm Club, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Cole County Association for Mental Health, Cole County Volunteer Fire Department, Jefferson City United Way, Cole County Extension Service, Lions Club, Jefferson City Rotary Club, Jefferson City Jaycees, Jaycee Cole County Fair Association, Mayor's Bond Issue Advisory

Board, and Jefferson City Planning and Zoning Committee.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sue, one son, two daughters, two sisters, one brother, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Strong was a true gentleman, and he displayed honesty and integrity throughout his public service career. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the fine Missouri legislator.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT JOHNSON, MICHAEL WALSH, LINDA COLEMAN, MATTHEW ETHEN, AND DIANE JACKSON

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scott Johnson, Michael Walsh, Linda Coleman, Matthew Ethen, and Diane Jackson for being honored with the 1998 Excellence In Teaching Awards. These exceptional educators were honored for their unique contributions to the betterment of education.

Scott Johnson is a third grade teacher at Fresno Unified School District's Aynesworth Elementary School. He has been teaching for eighteen years. He has also taught fourth, sixth, and second grade classes. Scott has been in charge of the reading lab, E.S.L. teaching lab, and was a resource teacher for 6 years. As a member of the Fresno Zoological Society, he has volunteered for the past eight years in various fund-raising events. He has performed with the Fresno Children's Playhouse, bringing live theater to Fresno students. He has actively worked with his church's Children's Ministry and has been listed in the California State Department of Education's List of Exemplary Language Arts Teachers.

Michael Walsh is currently a sixth grade teacher at Fresno Unified School District's Roeding Elementary School. During his career, Michael Walsh has been a teacher at Rowell Elementary School, Slater Elementary School, and on special assignment at the Discovery Center. He has also served as a Teacher/Energy Coordinator at Easterby Elementary School, Elementary Science Specialist For the Fresno Unified School District, and Assistant Energy Coordinator for the Fresno Unified School District. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona State University and has studied at California State University, Fresno, the University of California at Berkeley and Fresno Pacific College. Michael Walsh is also the author of the work titled "Science Education."

Linda Coleman is currently teaching at Fresno Unified School District's Yosemite Middle School. During her 25 years of teaching, Linda Coleman has served as a writing consultant, a teacher of physical education, and a teacher of language arts & science. Additionally, she is a coach for both volleyball and track and field at Yosemite Middle School. She received both her Bachelor of Science degree and teaching credential from California State University, Fresno and is an active volunteer in the community. Her volunteer activities include authoring Yosemite's first technology plan, member