

MRS. DOROTHY M. MOODY SELECTED AS WOMAN OF THE YEAR FOR THE BOWDEN CHAPTER OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Ms. Dorothy M. Moody, who recently received the Woman of the Year award from the Bowden Chapter of Business and Professional Women. Her service to the community and dedication makes this award appropriate. Ms. Moody attended St. Phillips College, a Historically Black College, where she studied business and secretarial applications. These skills led to a diverse range of jobs, from secretary for the Afro-American Insurance Company to secretary for the San Antonio Independent School District, and today she is currently employed at the Emmanuel Baptist Church. Ms. Moody has exhibited leadership and faithfulness in personal development through the college Bible courses she teaches at the church.

In her position as chair of the Annual Woman's Day Observance, Ms. Moody exceeded her financial goals and suggested that the surplus be donated to the BBJ Memorial Foundation Inc. Compassion, goal-oriented and generous are standards that Ms. Moody sets for anyone to follow. With the gifts that she has received, she continues to dedicate a part of her life to education by helping a student attend St. Phillips College. Through hard work and dedication she strives to help others reach their dreams of a college education.

I join the members of the Bowden Chapter of Business and Professional Women in recognizing Ms. Moody as Woman of the Year.

ERIC KARLAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO DANISH HOLOCAUST RESCUERS FOR HIS BAR MITZVAH

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, October 12, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of our colleagues an outstanding young man—14 year old Eric Karlan, who in his short life has already made important decisions that can serve as a model for others to follow. His outstanding academic record, his musical gifts, his athletic prowess, his social activism, and the leadership roles he fulfills are by themselves exceptional achievements for a 14 year old.

But what impresses me most about Eric, Mr. Speaker, is his willingness to acknowledge and honor what is best in the history of humanity and to demonstrate his appreciation for what is a truly heroic legacy. I am referring to Eric's decision to celebrate his coming to manhood through the Bar Mitzvah ritual by going to Denmark to visit important historic sites as an expression of his gratitude to the Danish people for rescuing almost the entire Jewish community of Denmark from extermination by the Nazis during World War Two.

Mr. Speaker, Bar Mitzvah celebrations have too often become showpieces of affluence,

more extravagant than meaningful. Eric's decision to honor this occasion with simple dignity, remembering the suffering and hardships of his own people and paying respect to those Danes who came to their rescue in a time of greatest need, was indeed a wise and noble choice, and it demonstrates extraordinary character and maturity in one so young.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Eric for the intelligent choices he has already made in his life, for his dedication to genuine values, for his wisdom in following in the footsteps of those who light a candle in the darkness of the world, and for his understanding and appreciation of true heroism. Mr. Speaker, I ask that excerpts of Eric's moving description of his journey of discovery in the footsteps of Danish heroes be placed in the RECORD.

MY BAR MITZVAH IN DENMARK

(By Eric Karlan)

My family has always had a reputation for doing unconventional things. When I received my Bar Mitzvah date at the age of 11, I was told that I wouldn't be getting a big party or presents like everyone else. My parents said I would be able to pick a meaningful place to visit, and select a charity for any Bar Mitzvah money I might receive. I wanted to choose a place that would give me a unique Bar Mitzvah experience.

I read a book called *Number the Stars*, by Lois Lowry. I learned that the Danish people saved all but 116 of the approximately 8,000 Jews in Denmark by helping them escape to neutral Sweden during the Holocaust. This book was instantly a favorite of mine. It was then that I decided for my Bar Mitzvah I was going to research this story, and Denmark would be the destination for my trip.

My parents gave me the opportunity to work with a modern orthodox Rabbi, David Kalb. Instead of studying the Torah portion that was near my birthday date, Rabbi Kalb helped me select a portion that was related to my trip. For our explanatory style service, I chose Beshallah, the story of the Parting of the Red Sea. We picked this story because it was uplifting, involved hope, and most importantly dealt with the liberation and freedom of the Jewish people. I connected this to the story of the Danish Resistance and how they brought the Jews from the clutches of the Nazis into freedom. Both of those stories shared positive and miraculous attributes. And both stories shared the water as the avenue to freedom. In the Midrash, Shemot Rabah, there is a story about how the Red Sea did not part until Nachshon Ben Aminadav, walked neck deep into the water. This makes a major statement that no one can expect miracles to happen unless someone takes the first step. The Danish people took the first step and a miracle occurred; all the Danish Jews were transported to Sweden secretly within a matter of days. In fact, there is a Disney movie called "Miracle at Midnight" that tells the story.

Together, the Rabbi and I retraced the Rescue Route and learned more and more about the Exodus of the Danish Jews going to Sweden and what risks were taken. We also learned how leadership can have such a huge impact on the people. King Christian X and the Danish Bishop played an important role, setting a superb example for the Danes and leading them to do the right thing when they were surrounded by evil.

We arrived early on a Wednesday morning in Denmark and immediately started to learn new things about the Danish experience during the Holocaust. As we were telling the driver on our way to the hotel about what we were doing in Denmark, he told us

another very powerful story about Denmark's leadership. One day, a Nazi officer came to King Christian X and told him that if any soldier were to put up the Danish flag the next morning, he would be shot on the spot. The King replied that he would be that soldier, and from that day on, the flag of Denmark flew every day for the rest of the war.

We visited the Bispebjerg Hospital, where over 2,000 Jews passed en route to Sweden. The head nurse told us that to hold the Jews in the hospital secretly was tough. To start, they had to register the Jews under Christian names. Next, they would make them look pale by putting powder on their faces and make them sick by drugging them. She told us that doctors found out that there was an informer, so they locked him up in the psychiatric ward. After the meeting we toured the hospital and the meaningful places there.

As we reached one of the doors, the nurse told us a fascinating, scary story. Every door with a lock had 16 square panes of glass on it. On each of the doors, one of the panes of glass was different because when the Nazis broke into the hospital, they punched through the glass so they could stick their hand through and unlock the door.

Finally, we reached an office where the chief surgeon used to work. The office was on the third floor of the building where we were told that when one of the doctors tried to escape out the window, he was shot and fell to his death. After thanking the nurse, we asked where we could find out even more information and we were directed straight to the hospital chapel.

At the chapel, we met with one of the people who worked there. He told us how Jews escaped out of the hospital and on to the next part of the Rescue Route. He said they would have fake funeral processions and Jews were transported out of the chapel right under the Nazis' noses. Before leaving the hospital's premises, we learned about some underground tunnels that the doctors now use for work. During the war though they made great hiding places.

After this, we went to the Grundtvig Church of the Lutheran Church of Denmark. When the Jews were in need, Grundtvig Church played a key role in helping them. When the Nazis declared martial law, the bishop of the church explained the situation, almost all Christians agreed to help the Jews. They helped hide the Jews in their homes and the church, and during the two-year period in which the Jews were in Sweden, Grundtvig Church hid Torah scrolls and other Jewish family valuables. After leaving the Grundtvig Church, we made our way to the beautiful Church of Denmark. This church also played a key role in helping the Jewish people. During the occupation, this church's bishop played Hatikvah, now known as Israel's national anthem, on the church bells. Like Grundtvig, the Church of Denmark hid Jews, Torah scrolls and other Jewish valuables.

We had to start early Thursday morning for the long 30-mile car ride up the coast to visit all the fishing ports where the Jews escaped. The first fishing port we came to was Niva, a port where a large number of Jews were sent. To get to Niva, the Jews had to take trains where they had to sit in the same cars as Nazis without them knowing. When they reached the port, they were held in a large tile factory where they were hidden or acted as workers. At night, there was, and still is, a tile path that leads from the factory to the port itself that the Jews followed to get to the boats safely.

Next up the coast was Sletten, where Sweden is never farther than two to four miles away. After that was Snekkersten, a port