''being home,'' that First Lutheran gave to them.

The feeling of ''being home'' extended to, as the First Lutheran Mission Statement reads, ''all people.'' While many churches around the nation fought against integration, First Lutheran embraced the call to treat all people as equals and it was in the 1940s and 1950s that the congregation began to integrate. Today, First Lutheran looks like America. It has acted and will continue to act as a refuge for all who come to worship together regardless of differences.

I am proud to be able to recognize First Lutheran for its 110 years of offering a place of solemn and joyous worship to the people of the San Gabriel Valley and I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the congregation for the years of remarkable achievement.

HONORING CONGREGATION B'NAI ZION

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a cornerstone of the religious community in South Florida, Key West's Congregation B'nai Zion. Founded in 1887, the B'nai Zion Synagogue has remained an integral part of the Key West community for over 115 years and is the oldest Jewish congregation in Key West, as well as one of the oldest in the state of Florida. I am saddened, however, to report that a fire nearly destroyed the synagogue of Congregation B'nai Zion in the early morning hours of April 16.

I come to the floor today to offer my deepest sympathies to the people of the Congregation. The synagogue, which serves as a sanctuary for 250 worshipers, also included a residence for Rabbi Joseph Hirsch. The fire destroyed the majority of its rooms, leaving Rabbi Hirsch without a home and a Congregation without a place of worship. Authorities determined that this tragedy was the work of arsonists.

The fire of April 16 may have damaged Congregation B'nai Zion's building, but I am pleased to report that it did not damage their spirits. People of all faiths in the Key West community have compassionately reached out to the Congregation and supported them in their time of need. Congregation B'nai Zion continues to have weekly worship services and Rabbi Hirsch has a roof over his head. The Congregation now has renovation plans in place, and Rabbi Hirsch and Congregation President Fred Covan are working hard to ensure B'nai Zion remains a fixture in the Key West community.

While the people of Key West have rallied behind their oldest synagogue, I am deeply troubled by the possibility that this incidence—which occurred on the eve of Israel's Independence Day—reflects the trend of anti-semitism we are witnessing on a global scale. Hate and prejudice rages against the Jewish people in the Middle East and Europe, and the United States must stand before the world as a people united, regardless of faith.

Mr. Speaker, Congregation B'nai Zion's synagogue has been destroyed, but the spirits of the people have endured. Today I wish to recognize the remarkable perseverance of Congregation B'nai Zion, and thank the national and local authorities and the people of Key West for their assistance in rectifying this terrible situation and ask for their continued support.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI AVIS MILLER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Rabbi Avis Dimond Miller in honor of her 18th anniversary as a Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation in Washington, DC.

I have known Rabbi Miller for many years. She is an accomplished Rabbi, a talented teacher, and a good friend. I have appreciated first-hand the power of her sermons, the impact of her activism, and the great admiration and respect she has earned from congregants, colleagues, and community members.

As the first woman to serve a major Conservative pulpit, and the first woman ever appointed to chair a national committee for the Rabbinical Assembly of the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, Rabbi Miller is an impressive role model and a pioneer in the Conservative Jewish movement. In her tenure at Adas Israel, she has been instrumental in developing programs for young adults and young families, and she has authored training manuals to help other synagogues encourage unaffiliated Jewish families to participate in their communities. In her role as chairwoman of the Rabbinical Assembly of the committee on outreach, she has played a tremendous role in helping countless Jewish Americans embrace their Jewish identity.

Rabbi Miller has also inspired the congregation to have an ambitious social action agenda, on issues ranging from the plight of Ethiopian Jewry to the blight of homelessness. She is credited with organizing the congregation's Bikkur Holim Committee, a program for visiting the sick, and publishing the first Jewish guide on the subject. She has lectured extensively on medical ethics issues regarding, genetic discrimination, and she will soon put forth an anthology of sermons she delivered during Adas Israel High Holiday services over the past 18 years.

In Hebrew, the number 18 is the numeric equivalent of the word chai—life, and Rabbi Miller has truly been a lifeline for the synagogue. Through her involvement in life cycle events, births, bar and bat mitzvah ceremonies, marriages, and deaths, she has been a pillar of strength and compassion.

We owe Rabbi Miller a debt of gratitude for her service to Adas Israel Synagogue and the greater Washington Jewish community. On June 2, 2002, when Adas Israel celebrates Rabbi Miler's special I8 year milestone, it will be my pleasure to join Rabbi Wohlberg, her family and friends, and the entire Adas Israel community in paying tribute to her achievements and wishing her continued success in all of her endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO FREEDOM

HON. MIKE ROSS

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 23, 2002

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, today, I have the honor of sharing with you a touching tribute to the victims of the September 11th attacks, to our Nation, and to our legacy of freedom.

I was visited recently by a gentleman from my hometown, Leo Smith. Leo is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and works as a safety manager at a plant in Hope, Arkansas. In his profession, he is concerned with protecting the lives of his coworkers, but after September 11th , he was concerned with the lives of many more.

We have all chosen our own method to deal with the tragedy of the attacks on our Nation. Leo chose to express his anger, helplessness, and also his pride through a poem entitled ''Let Freedom Ring.'' Leo thoughtfully presented me a copy of this poem, and I was very moved upon reading it.

In his poem, Leo recognizes that ''the land of the free will never be the same again, not for you or for me.'' The poem identifies the transformation of our country, the loss, but also the gain of something new. Leo knew that the attacks signified the start of a war to defend freedom, but the sudden display of patriotism, the tribute to those who have died throughout our nation's history to defend that nation, in his own words, ''Let me know the battle has already been won.''

It is with pride and gratitude that I share with you and submit to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Leo Smith's poetic eulogy to the victims of the attacks. His words lament the loss we all felt that day, but express the hope that soon followed. As he puts it,

What will happen next?
The answer to this only God knows.
But on that Tuesday, September 11th,
Was born a new breed of heroes.

LET FREEDOM RING

(By Leo Smith)

America the Beautiful, the land of the free, will never be the same again, Not for you or for me.

Tragedy struck quickly, It rocked the entire world, Changing many of today's families, To widows and little orphan boys and girls.

Pictures of blood shed and destruction, On television night after night, People filled with compassion, Hearts filled with fright.

What will happen next? The answer to this only, God knows, But on that Tuesday, September 11th, Was born a new breed of heroes.

Everyone who helped was a hero, Giving blood or looking through the rubble, Or just saying a prayer for the victims, Or just telling your someone that you lov'em.

Our nation, one people, all helping for the cause, Made tears come to my eyes, And me to take a long pause.

Red, white and blue forever, U.S. flags flying everywhere as far as the eye can see, Respecting the battles of our fore fathers, Who fought and died for us to be free.

All our people pulling together, Let me know the battle has already been won, All races uniting and bonding, We are all one nation, just one.