

the women who ensured that the communities were actually settled. They built homes, schools, and churches, worked farms and ran businesses.

Some moved West by choice, others by circumstance. They faced terrible hardships. They made great sacrifices. They struggled mightily. Many of these pioneers—women, men, and children alike—did not survive. But those who did passed along to us a rich American heritage—a heritage based on the values of courage, independence, strength, determination, and freedom.

In addition to the pioneer women whose accomplishments are commemorated by this monument, the statue in Lexington also pays tribute to leaders in our local community who were instrumental in our country's development during the covered wagon days.

As noted on the statue's pedestal, Lexington was settled in 1820 by pioneers moving west from Virginia and Kentucky. The town became an early terminal for river transportation and also served as the starting point on the Western Trail of the pack pony and ox cart. Traders and wagon outfitters in Lexington were some of our most prominent citizens—John, James, and Robert Aull, William Russell, Alexander Majors, and William Waddell.

These successful businessmen made their names not only by selling essential supplies to men and women traveling West, but also by running their own wagons into the frontier to supply settlers and U.S. soldiers in their outposts. Russell, Majors, and Waddell's later enterprise, the Pony Express, was extraordinary in its ambition and still today enjoys legendary status.

Our pioneer ancestors seized opportunities that were available to those willing to take risks and settle our young country's Western territories. But unlike Harry Truman, who likely did not foresee in 1928 the prominent role he would play on the world stage, the early pioneers of our country realized that they were making history. From contemporary letters and diaries, we know that they understood that their adventurous spirits and determination to begin anew would shape our new country.

Their motives were diverse. Some may have come West because they could own land. Others traveled to make fast fortunes—some succeeded, and some simply held on to the dream of "getting rich quick". But whether immigrating from overseas, leaving crowded cities in the east, or moving from Midwestern cities that at one time bordered the frontier, their optimism was reflected in the belief that westward expansion was our nation's manifest destiny.

After seventy-five years, the DAR's Pioneer Mother Monument, the Madonna of the Trail, remains a fitting reminder of those days. Seventy-five years since the initial dedication of this statue, we again recognize and pay tribute to those who made possible the permanent Westward expansion of the United States, as well as the twentieth century leaders who commissioned this monument and worked to ensure that we would never lose sight of the vital contributions of pioneer women in our nation's history.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY BORDERS AND TRADE ACT OF 2003

**HON. VERNON J. EHLERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today a bill to improve transportation

efficiency and to facilitate trade along our country's major international borders and trade corridors—the National Highway Borders and Trade Act of 2003.

Congress created two programs in the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century to assist the flow of people and goods through the United States-Canada and United States-Mexico borders and international trade corridors. Over the last 6 years, the funds provided through the borders and corridors programs have contributed to the critical improvement of the roads and bridges along these routes. However, despite this dedicated funding, our trade infrastructure is increasingly strained. Border crossing times are significantly delayed, interrupting the efficient flow of goods and disrupting the just-in-time delivery that is critical to our manufacturing and commercial sectors. Moreover, our highway system currently carries 70 percent of the total goods shipped in the United States, and freight traffic is expected to double in the next 20 years. This increased congestion will lead to lost productivity and have a negative impact on our economy. Changes to the borders and corridors programs are essential if we hope to address these increasingly growing concerns.

The National Highway Borders and Trade Act of 2003 will help reduce border crossing congestion and delays and will improve the highway corridors that carry international commerce by boosting funding for the borders and corridors programs to \$200 million for each program annually for the next 6 years.

Under the bill, the borders program is converted to a more predictable, formula-based program in order to stabilize funding levels for States' border projects. Under a common-sense formula that considers factors that are directly related to delays and the effect of trade on the economy, funding will be based on cargo weight, trade value, and the number of commercial and passenger vehicles passing over the border. Eligible uses for border program funds include improvements to infrastructure, construction of safety enforcement and inspection facilities, operational improvements such as ITS technology, and coordinated planning with Canadian and Mexican authorities.

The bill also makes improvements to the existing corridors program. The legislation focuses funding eligibility on roads that are one of the previously designated high priority corridors, as determined by Congress, and an intermodal road connector to an ocean or inland sea port that accepts a certain minimum amount of international commercial cargo. The corridors program is maintained as a discretionary program, and eligible uses include corridor planning and design activity, location and routing studies, multistate and intrastate coordination, environmental review, and construction costs.

Finally, the bill maintains fiscal responsibility and ensures State investment by mandating a 20-percent State or local share for projects carried out under either program.

This bill is similar to S. 1535, a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator LEVIN from my home State of Michigan. I look forward to working with Senator LEVIN toward passage of this important legislation.

TO PAY TRIBUTE TO TOMMY NUÑEZ FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION AND TO HIS COMMUNITY

**HON. ED PASTOR**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to a man who has served as not only a pioneer in his profession but as a shining role model to our community. I speak of none other than Mr. Tommy Nuñez, who recently retired as a referee from the National Basketball Association (NBA) after thirty years of service.

Considered one of the most respected and honored referees of the game, Tommy began his officiating career with the NBA in 1972 earning the distinction of being the first Latino to referee in any major sport. Throughout his thirty-year career, he has officiated 2,019 NBA games, 64 playoff games and the 1992 All-Star Game.

He began officiating basketball games in predominantly black and Hispanic leagues in his hometown of Phoenix, Arizona. Sharpening his skills he moved on to officiate high school and junior college games. His big break came when an NBA official happened to see him work an exhibition game with the Phoenix Suns and suggested he try out to become an NBA referee. He went on to become one of 16 out of 1000 applicants to join this elite group.

However, Tommy's accomplishments off the court far exceed what he has accomplished with the NBA. His dedication and service to his community have been widely recognized. He speaks and gives clinics for children throughout the country encouraging them to stay in school. His annual National Hispanic Basketball Classic for young Latinos raises money for youth activities. To add to this, he directs a summer work program designed to introduce young adults to the basic principals of employment and instill in them a sense of responsibility and pride.

Tommy's recognitions, to name a few, include being an honoree of the 1994 Hispanic Heritage Awards, inducted into the National Hispanic Sports Hall of Fame in 2001, and presented with the 1992 Roberto Clemente Award for excellence by the National Council of La Raza.

As you can clearly see he serves as an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Tommy Nuñez for his work and dedication to his community and to his sport; and best of wishes on his retirement.

#### RECOGNIZING THE PLIGHT OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE DURING THE RECENT CEASE-FIRE PERIOD IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**HON. J. RANDY FORBES**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 17, 2003*

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to an article written by Rabbi Israel

Zobennan. His article centers around a trip he recently made to Israel.

Rabbi Zoberman is spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. Born in Chu, Kazakhstan, in 1945, and raised in Haifa, Israel, he lived in Israel of 1949 to 1966.

In the midst of renewed cautious hope to overcome the deadly impasse between Palestinians and Israelis through implementation of the Roadmap, I had the opportunity to witness the resumption of the very lively Israeli way of life during this cease-fire (Hudna in Arabic) period accepted by the Palestinian terror organizations.

The solidarity mission sponsored by my Reform movement whose hallmark is prophetic values, focused on social justice issues in the Jewish state. We were exposed to inspiring efforts to make a difference on the internal front in spite of on-going security concerns. For that will ultimately determine the very quality of Israeli society and the meaning of a challenged yet enduring Zionist enterprise. Surely a nation's strength is a function of its social climate and democratic vitality even more so than its undergirding and reflective military might. But only peace allows for the essential societal flourishing which budded prior to the onset of the Second Intifada and the latter's back setting impact when Chairman Arafat chose the path of destruction over that of dialogue.

A major concern remains the welfare and integration of the 1,200,000 Israeli Arabs who live along five million Jews. While the Arab population in Israel proper has made progress, it still lags behind the Jewish majority socially, economically and educationally. The wide gap is bound to create understandable resentment and dangerous alienation with Israeli Arabs already undergoing troubling Palestinization and Muslim radicalization leading to terrorist acts which work against them, playing into the hands of those who claim they cannot be trusted. The state of war with Israel's Arab and Palestinian antagonists has exacerbated matters, though neglect will only fester a wound whose healing is essential for Israel's long-term well-being. Our group was addressed by volunteer Jewish members of "Sikkuy" (meaning a chance) which includes Arab counterparts and offers training to empower Arab municipalities as well as encourage their women to become leaders. We toured the Lower Galilee mountain range, discussing the disadvantaged Arab community in receiving state allocations, the attempt to improve the weak demographic Jewish presence, and the urgent need to improve communication between the two groups.

At the Wolfson Medical Center in Holon we visited the pediatric intensive care unit and saw children kept alive by the unique Israeli project Save A Child's Heart (SACH). It was founded in 1995 by the late American born legendary cardio-thoracic surgeon, Dr. Ami Cohen. A nurse on the hospital team was trained at our own King's Daughters in Norfolk. I was particularly moved by a Palestinian mother and her infant son from the Gaza Strip. The boy is among over 800 children from developing countries, a third from the Palestinian areas, who have benefited from the program which is supported by private funds, volunteer medical care and hostel service when necessary. There was no interruption of service to Palestinians when devastating suicide bombings took place in nearby Tel Aviv and Netanya, and space was needed for emergency treatment of victims. Imprisoned Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti on terrorism charges had a family baby treated there. Also a free clinic offered services to over 3,000 Palestinians. To save a life, any life, is a supreme sacred Jewish act practiced lovingly by Israelis.

In Jerusalem near the Machene Yehuda marketplace and its lingering memory of a suicide bombing, a community center embraces a most diverse neighborhood of religious and secular Jews, Arabs, Palestinians, foreign workers, haves and have nots. They benefit from a joint educational program where the children of all are attended to. We also lent moral support to demonstrating single parents, mostly women, encamped in tents outside the Knesset (Parliament). They are upset over their subsidies cut following an Israeli version of the "Wisconsin Plan," as Israel is moving more and more from a welfare state to a capitalistic one, leaving the weaker classes behind, thus creating a potential social explosion also in the Jewish majority.

In Haifa, where I grew up, I stunningly paused to offer a memorial prayer at the site of last March's terrorist attack claiming seventeen lives, at the bus stop I use to visit my aging parents. Guards are still posted at the entrance to public places, checking bags and reassuring people. Tears welled up in me upon hearing the breaking news that six elderly Iraqi Jews were brought home to Israel in a special operation representing practically the last survivors of a 2000 year old great exiled Jewry. What a reminder of what a resilient Israel is all about with the complexities and contradictions of a violated yet valiant land!

REMEMBERING STATE SENATOR  
AND COOK COUNTY JUDGE ROBERT J. EGAN

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of a respected and exceptional public servant for the people of Chicago, the Honorable Robert J. Egan, who passed away on September 15, 2003.

Robert Egan was born in Elmhurst in 1931. In 1958, he married his lovely wife Marie. Together they had five wonderful children, Beth, Margie, Sarah, Robert Jr., and Frank and four grandchildren, Tony, Meggy, Kaitlyn and Sarah.

Judge Egan served as a first lieutenant from 1954–1956 in the U.S. Army infantry in Korea. He then worked his way through law school at Loyola University and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1959. He later joined the Illinois Attorney General's Office, where he served as Chief Legislative Counsel and Chief Attorney in its antitrust division.

In 1970, Judge Egan was elected to the Illinois State Senate. Although defeated in 1972, he was subsequently reelected in 1974. He served in the Senate until 1984.

During his first year in the State Senate, Judge Egan sponsored seven anticrime measures that were enacted into law. He also was a leader in the movement to strengthen sentences for serious and repeat offenders.

Judge was his last title, gained when he was appointed to the Cook County Circuit Court in 1987. He retired from the bench in 1988.

From 1990–1999, he served on the review board of the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the people of the northwest side of the City of Chicago in recognizing the life of Robert Egan, and wish to ex-

press my deep sense of sorrow to Marie and the rest of Robert's loving family.

TO CONGRATULATE AND HONOR  
FELIX AND SOLEDAD CORONA  
FOR THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY  
AND CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO OUR COMMUNITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate a couple who will soon celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary and to honor their outstanding contributions to our community in Phoenix, Arizona.

Felix came to the United States as a migrant worker, toiling the fertile fields of California in the late 40's working for the Acosta Company. In 1950 he accepted a construction position refurbishing the Sacramento Fairgrounds. He worked very hard so that he could send money back home to his beloved family. Mexico was never far from his heart and he would visit when time allowed. On one of his trips back home in 1950 he met Soledad. He returned to California to continue to help support his brothers and sisters but his heart was in Autlan, Jalisco where he returned in 1952 to work and on September 29, 1953 Felix and Soledad were married in the company of friends and family. Felix worked for the Mexico Department of Geology and Minerals from 1952 to 1957. The young couple had their first son, Juan Manuel in 1956 followed by their first daughter Maria in 1957.

Felix and Soledad made the difficult decision of leaving loved ones and moving to the United States. They knew that their future and that of their children was in the North. They maintained a fierce loyalty to the family that they left behind and continued to help fund and educate their siblings while living in their new adopted home.

The Coronas first worked as laborers on the Dansie Farm in Northern California. They wanted to achieve the American dream for themselves and their children and in 1958 they developed a company that helped ranchers cultivate their crops.

During this time the young family grew to include six more children, all born in Marysville, California. They welcomed Armando in 1958, Teresa in 1959, Esperanza in 1961, Hector in 1962, Alex in 1964 and Beatrice in 1965.

In 1967, Felix started what has been a rich legacy of success, achievement and accomplishment when he formed a partnership with life long friends, Raul Ybarra, Albert Rodriguez and Francisco Mejia. They owned and operated Spanish Movie houses in Marysville, San Jose, San Bernardino and Orange County.

In 1970, Felix, Soledad and all eight children moved to Phoenix, Arizona to expand the business. They ran the Palace West Theater from 1970 to 1987. During that time, they saw the need for expanding the Hispanic family entertainment in Arizona and they met that need by opening the Cine Mexico in Chandler in 1979 and the Hayden West Plaza in 1980.

This was a busy time for the young and ambitious family, running a couple of restaurants such as the Courtroom Restaurant in downtown Phoenix as well as a record distribution