

Prime Minister Sharon's recent proposal to withdraw Israeli troops and settlements from the Gaza Strip is quite significant. Until now, no Israeli Prime Minister was prepared to unilaterally evacuate settlements before Israel had been promised comprehensive peace as part of a final status agreement. And it is especially remarkable that the father of the settlement movement, Ariel Sharon, has led this initiative.

It is undeniable that Palestinians have suffered enormously. We must all have *rachmanus*—compassion—for innocent Palestinians, but Palestinians primarily suffer because of their own failed leadership. In order to achieve peace, the Palestinian Authority must be transformed. Arafat's dictatorship must end. Democracy and the rule of law must win out. Palestinian schools must cease their teaching of hatred and implement a curriculum of coexistence. Most importantly, a new vision of peace and prosperity must be broadcast throughout the Arab world, and the likes of Al Jazeera television and Arab newspapers must terminate their deranged glorification of martyrdom and Jihad.

Israel has responsibilities as well. Prime Minister Sharon must continue to construct the security barrier in a manner that minimizes the hardships of the Palestinian people and stop settlement expansion on the Palestinian side of the fence.

My friends, the largest challenges facing the Jewish people do not lie solely in Israel or the Middle East. We are witnessing a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic discourse, behavior and sentiment throughout the world—especially in Europe. Tomorrow I will join Secretary of State Powell and leaders from 55 nations at an international conference on European anti-Semitism in Berlin.

At this conference, I will continue to urge European governments to take decisive action against anti-Semitic hate crimes and impose stronger measures to punish perpetrators of these heinous acts. European leaders must acknowledge that anti-Semitism is not just a Jewish problem. It is a social disease that has plagued Europe throughout history. It is not a temporary or political phenomenon, and it must be met with a zero-tolerance policy, especially in European schools.

Fortunately, there is reason for hope as more European nations are finally confronting their complicity in the annihilation of European Jewry. Last week—while in Budapest—to mark 60 years since the deportation and killing of 600,000 Hungarian Jews, I was overtaken with emotion when told that the display of Israeli flags throughout the city marked the most prominent display of the Star of David since yellow stars were branded on the chests of Jews. Today, Europe has no choice but to face the evils of anti-Semitism, so we may fulfill the promise of "never again," in memory of those lost and as a promise to generations to come.

Last week, on Yom HaShoah we mourned for those who have passed, and today we do so again on Yom Ha'zikaron. It is not a coincidence, however, that tomorrow we will celebrate the continuity of life, the independence of Israel and the perseverance of the Jewish State. This should give us great hope. As Israel marks the beginning of its 56th year of independence, it is my most sincere wish that the vision of hope embodied in Israel's national anthem—*Hatikva*—may come to fruition

and that Israel may soon find a genuine peace that will last *m'dor v'dor*—from one generation to the next.

HONORING MR. ROSS P. ROGERS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ross P. Rogers as he concludes his many, dedicated years with the Merced Irrigation District and a 45 years career in which Ross has provided resources essential to life in the Central Valley: water to our farmers' fields and into our families' homes and schools as well as electricity to power our cities, businesses and neighborhoods.

Ross Rogers has long been a valued leader and a true public servant. He spent nearly his entire life honorably serving his country and his local community. Ross' introduction to public leadership and self sacrifice came as he served as the Battalion Sergeant Major of the United States Army's 57th Field Artillery, 7th Infantry Division in Korea from 1951 to 1954. He then used his leadership abilities and commitment to public service to lead to a long and distinguished career.

After leaving the service, Ross decided to use what he learned studying civil engineering at the University of Nevada and work for the State Department of Water Resources. He then joined the East Contra Cost Irrigation District as General Manager. In 1991, he joined the Merced Irrigation District, where he would make his lasting impression and finish his career.

In his relatively brief tenure here, Ross has created a legacy for the Merced Irrigation District by turning it into one of the most respected water agencies in the state of California. This was despite the fact that the district he inherited in 1991 had just suffered from the longest drought in recent history and was handicapped by internal struggles.

Ross has never been fearful of change or innovation in his work. The most notable example was in 1995, when Ross made the decision to create the Energy Resources Department. That decision dramatically changed the Merced Irrigation District for the better. His leadership moved the district squarely into the 21st century and has the potential to lead to an economic boon for our local communities.

Following his longstanding tradition of public service, Ross has been extremely active in his local community outside of his work with the water district. He has been an active member in the Brentwood Lions Club for twenty-five years, dutifully serving in all Lions Club offices and as President twice.

Ross has been married to his wife Adair for forty-seven years, and together they have two daughters and three grandchildren. I am proud to recognize all of Ross' numerous accomplishments and to call him my friend. Today I call upon my colleagues to help me thank Ross for his commitment and dedicated service to the Central Valley, and to wish him a very happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE JEAN
WOODWARD TURNER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Valerie Jean Woodward Turner. Valerie had the good fortune to travel throughout the world during her life. She used these diverse cultural experiences to educate those around her and cultivate a loving environment for those across the economic and social spectrum. It gives me no greater pleasure than to honor today this kind and gentle spirit.

Affectionately known as "Sister T," Valerie graduated from Cabrillo High School in Lompoc, California and went on to attend California State University, Sonoma, earning a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. In 1981, while attending Loveland Church, Valerie accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and made assurance of her eternal life secure. Her ability to see beauty in all things and desire to share her wealth of experiences made her a unique and beloved member of her community. Valerie's love of teaching and gifted ability in arts and crafts led to the opening of "Valerie's Gifts and Consignments." This was not only a store but also a forum to interact with the community around her, opening her home and her heart to those she cared about most.

In January 1991, Valerie joined her husband in the Temple Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as interim pastor and later elected senior pastor. Her move to Temple Missionary was accompanied by a leadership role in the Inland Empire.

Valerie had a love for education and children that was finally satisfied when she began teaching at Loveland Academy in Fontana, California in 1992. During her time there she co-founded the Temple Learning Center (TLC) where she served faithfully as principal. Her commitment to bettering the lives of others was further evident in her missionary work in American Samoa, Western Samoa, and Jamaica, and especially the children's missions in Ghana, Malawi, and Zambia.

I join today with family and friends in paying tribute to Valerie Turner, a dearly loved member of her family and community. She was a selfless role model and a generous teacher. Above all, Valerie was a supportive and dedicated wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her husband Pastor Raymond W. Turner and their six children. She will be deeply missed by all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleagues who stood to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 and in memory of those who died 89 years ago.

The Genocide of 1915–1923 was the culmination of decades of official Ottoman policies to stamp out Armenia—religiously, culturally, and ethnically. The "Armenian Question" posed a problem for many successive