

and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association commemorating the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America and proclaiming the period from September 2004 to September 2005 "to be one of special thanksgiving, prayer, study, reflection and celebration."

The resolution follows.

CELEBRATE 350—JEWISH LIFE IN AMERICA,
1654–2004

Let it be known that in Elul 5764 (September 2004) the Jewish community of the United States began a year long commemoration marking the 350th Anniversary of Jewish settlement in this country.

With the help of God and under the protection of the Constitution of the United States, we have lived and prospered in this land. We have been an integral part of American life. We have worked with all other Americans in the never-ending effort to keep secure the democratic way of life. Our ancient prophetic ideals and the teachings of our sages serve as cornerstones of this nation's values. Our work, our hopes, and above all, our living religion have been among our proudest offerings to the American community.

In some lands across the seas the Jewish people have felt the searing flame of prejudice, persecution and death. The American Jew has had the sad yet inspiring opportunity to bring comfort to the oppressed, the joyous opportunity to participate in the reconstitution of the Jewish state on the ancient soil of Israel, and the inescapable and ennobling responsibility to mend the broken places in our world.

Even as we have worked for the well-being of our people abroad, the Jewish people in America have struggled to preserve our noble heritage, our historic traditions, our ancient teachings, our ethics, and our spiritual ideals in the free climate of our nation.

Mindful of our manifold blessings and with deep gratitude in our hearts to the God of Israel, Who, in 1954, led our forebears to the shores of this great new land,

We have proclaimed the period from Elul 5764 (September 2004) through Elul 5765 (September 2005) to be one of special thanksgiving, prayer, study, reflection and celebration to mark the 350th Anniversary of Jewish Communal Life in America.

We call on all American Jewry to participate in the observance of this anniversary; to thank God for the bountiful blessings that have been bestowed on us in this remarkable land. Let us express our collective hope that peace, security, and prosperity will reign in our nation for all. May the principles of freedom and liberty that have been the lodestar values of this great Republic continue to radiate their blessings on our nation.

RABBI HARRY DANZIGER,
*President, Central
Conference of American
Rabbis.*

RABBI PERRY RAPHAEL
RANK,
*President, Rabbinical
Assembly.*

RABBI DALE POLAKOFF,
*President, Rabbinical
Council of America.*

RABBI BRANT ROSEN,
*President, Reconstructionist
Rabbinical
Association.*

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, for more than a week we have all watched television coverage of Hurricane Katrina, transfixed by the devastating impact of the storm on the Gulf Coast, especially in and around New Orleans. Although the full extent of the damage is not yet known, it is clear that thousands of Americans have died, and many more have been injured, shaken and displaced. The wind, rain and flooding has destroyed homes, businesses, farms and crops, causing immeasurable suffering.

The destruction has significantly scarred the people and the economy of the region and even beyond. Rebuilding the area's infrastructure will probably take years. Rebuilding the lives of our fellow Americans will also take time and require assistance.

Many people in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama lack basics such as food, water, clothing, sleeping materials, medicine and first aid. We must help provide for their critical immediate needs so they can survive.

I am heartened that my constituents in the Inland Empire of California have heeded the call to help. I am not surprised by our response; however, because I already know that our communities are generous. We have shown great compassion responding to those in need, as we did following September 11th and other tragedies affecting people thousands of miles away. And we must do so again when so many Americans are suffering.

My immediate concern has been the effort to rescue and assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina, making sure that we do all we can to help those in need.

Congress is taking a first step by approving more than \$10 billion of funding for emergency assistance to help. We all recognize that the costs of rescue, recovery and rebuilding will be substantially higher, and I am confident that Congress, and the American people, will support additional funding.

However, we in Congress must also focus on determining what needs to be done to minimize devastation from future natural disasters or other emergencies. So we must ask difficult questions about the Federal Government's preparation and planning prior to the storm and the response following it.

One of the fundamental responsibilities of government is to protect our citizens. So we must investigate fully whether the Administration did all it could have, and should have, to protect Americans.

Katrina was a powerful and deadly natural disaster, but we must ask whether hundreds, maybe even thousands of Americans, died because of the failure of officials to prepare and respond effectively.

IN HONOR OF RECORDING ARTS
DAY

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay special recognition to the first ever Recording Arts Day on Capitol Hill.

The Recording Arts and Sciences Congressional Caucus, working with The Recording Academy®, has sought to include the voice of artists and other professionals in policymaking decisions. Over the course of the year, Members of Congress have reached out to members of the recording arts community in hopes of working together on many critical issues facing this industry. Today, musicians, songwriters, singers, producers and other key members of The Recording Academy® will visit Members of Congress on the Hill to share their experiences and raise awareness on matters of importance to them.

Those participating in Recording Arts Day will focus on a variety of issues, including protecting intellectual property rights, bolstering music education and emphasizing the importance of music preservation. It is through the private and public sectors working together on these causes that we can nurture future artists and support music, one of this county's greatest and largest exports.

Under the leadership of Recording Academy® President Neil Portnow, The Recording Academy® has greatly increased its presence on Capitol Hill. Mr. Portnow realizes how critical it is for artists to engage in policymaking and sees it as the responsibility of artists and others to educate and influence actions affecting them.

I would also like to commend the Recording Academy's Daryl Friedman, Vice President of Advocacy and Government Affairs, for helping to organize Recording Arts Day. Thanks to his efforts, this promises to be a very successful and informative day.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to recognize Recording Arts Day and hope this inaugural event becomes an annual tradition.

IN MEMORY OF SPECIALIST
ERNEST DALLAS, JR.

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., from the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for serving our country during Iraqi Freedom. SPC Dallas died July 24, 2005 with three other soldiers when a roadside bomb exploded next to their Bradley Fighting Vehicle. SPC Dallas was assigned as a scout in the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Baghdad. He was 21 years old.

I would like to recognize and celebrate Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr.'s life today. SPC Dallas, a Fred Moore High School graduate, enlisted for a three-year hitch in November 2003, because he wanted to serve his country and felt he needed the training to meet his future goals. A loving family member, Specialist

Dallas took time to phone home to get caught up with his family and hear news from Texas.

He was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. Sergeant Frederick Wysingle, who recruited SPC Dallas in July 2003, said he was the perfect soldier. He was proud of the work he was doing and had just relayed to his family news that his platoon had recently curbed insurgent activity in Iraq. Promoted two months prior to his death from private first class, his promotion was made official two days after he died.

Just a few weeks prior to his death, Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr. sent an engagement ring to his girlfriend. He was truly a soldier who understood his duty, and planned for a future beyond his service to his country.

It was my honor to represent Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

RECOGNIZING BRANDON JAMES MYNATT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James Mynatt of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Brandon will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Brandon has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James Mynatt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Mynatt in the United States Congress.

CONGRATULATING THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Lawrence County Builders Association (LCBA), on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 25 years the LCBA has worked diligently to provide support services to its builder and associate members. This nonprofit trade association has also worked tirelessly with the National Association of Home Builders and Pennsylvania Builders Association to create a positive regulatory and legislative environment to keep housing and

general construction affordable. I recognize the LCBA for all of their hard work and dedication to education and professional development for all of its members.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of the LCBA. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Lawrence County Builders Association.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PFC RAMON A. VILLATORO, JR.

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Private First Class Ramon A. Villatoro, Jr., who lost his life supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Villatoro, 19, joined the United States Army on July 24, 2004. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Shortly thereafter, he reported to his first assignment at the Replacement Detachment. Within a few days, Mr. Villatoro's leadership and dedication was recognized and he was assigned to the K Troop, 3rd Squadron, and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment on January 7, 2005. Mr. Villatoro was committed to his role in his Primary Military Occupational Specialty, as a 19D, Cavalry Scout.

Mr. Villatoro was deployed to protect our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 3, 2005. Prior to leaving on his envoy to Iraq, Mr. Villatoro was promoted to Private First Class (PFC). Unfortunately, Mr. Villatoro's tour in Iraq ended when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle on July 24, 2005.

Mr. Villatoro's strength of character and valor earned him well-deserved recognition, including: Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous); National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon, Combat Action Badge (Posthumous). He also received the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous); and the Weapons Qualification Badge, which certified him as an expert in certain rifle weaponry. Finally, Mr. Villatoro was awarded a Purple Heart, currently the oldest military decoration in the world, awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded or killed in the line of action.

Surviving Mr. Villatoro is his wife of eight months, Amanda Villatoro. Mrs. Villatoro is expecting their first child in three months. Also surviving Mr. Villatoro is his family, all of whom reside in Bakersfield, CA.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences, to Mr. Villatoro's family, for the loss of his life. His loss symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His service represented his commitment to protect his family, community, and our Nation. Mr. Villatoro's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

COMMENDING THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE STEERING COMMITTEE

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to extend my thanks towards the committee, for inviting me to partake in today's celebration.

Since its inception, The Puerto Rican Day Parade of WNY, Inc, has brought the history and heritage of Hispanics to the forefront of this areas long standing cultural legacy. The Puerto Rican Day Parade allows people from all over western New York to come and enjoy themselves as they preserve a part of there culture.

This parade does not only supply this community with a day long celebration of beauty and pride, but empowers the community by celebrating the history of Puerto Rico.

And lastly the parade supplies a positive outlook for this community. This parade is a example of how prosperous a future the Hispanic community has, and its prominent role in the direction of western New York.

Thanks to the selfless and tireless efforts of this committee, for the last 3 years the Puerto Rican community has had the ability to collectively share and embrace there heritage right here in Buffalo.

I, Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, on behalf of the 27th Congressional District, would like to show my gratitude towards the committee.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific (rollcall vote 454); and on the motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, S.J. Res. 19, Calling on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (rollcall vote 455). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

IN MEMORY OF THOMAS HERRION

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Thomas Herrion, from Fort Worth, Texas, and his passion for life. He died at the tender age of 23 after collapsing in the San Francisco 49ers locker room following a National Football League exhibition game.

Thomas was one of seven children growing up in south Fort Worth. He often played the drums at church where his father was the minister. While attending Polytechnic High School,