

admiration we have for our nation's soldiers who risk their life to defend our country.

RECOGNIZING A STATEMENT BY
RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN, SPIRITUAL
LEADER OF CONGREGATION BETH
CHAVERIM IN VIRGINIA BEACH

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a statement by Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, Virginia in recognition of the hope of peace created by recent Middle East developments.

Israel's historic disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank has begun on August 15, 2005. These unilateral acts by a democratic Israel, though coordinated with the Palestinian Authority, approved by its government and Knesset, and commanding a majority in the Israeli public, are nonetheless painful and controversial in uprooting thousands of Israeli settlers from areas associated with Biblical Israel gained following the 1967 Six-Day War.

Paradoxically, that miraculous victory by a gravely threatened Israel facilitated through a pre-emptive strike by the superb Israeli Air Force that destroyed the Egyptian planes still on the ground, saddled Israel with two challenging dilemmas; a recalcitrant, fast growing Palestinian population with its own national aspirations and a rising messianic Judaism mesmerized by a universal redemptive vision rooted in the stunning return to the ancient inheritance with every inch of it consequential, flying in the face of classical Zionism's operative principle of compromise with the Arabs.

I surely sympathize with fellow Jews who accomplished much and whose lives are now dramatically impacted with their realities and dreams undergoing demanding change. We also recognize that both Likud and Labor-led governments encouraged the settlement enterprise as a patriotic act. How ironic and symbol-laden that Prime Minister Sharon is the one presiding over the transfer of territory that he was the grand architect of settling, stamped by his unique style of charismatic leadership and pioneering zeal. I personally witnessed during earlier missions to Israel the enthusiastic use of dotted maps by the once hero of the settlers' movement and the political Right who has turned into their maligned figure, making him into the most guarded man on earth.

How history repeats itself with altered twists. It was Sharon who as Defense Minister ordered the destruction of Yamit in 1982 in the wake of the 1979 peace treaty with Egypt which included the Sinai Peninsula's loss. It is this courageously transformed Prime Minister Sharon who, following the bloody Second Intifada of barbaric suicide bombings against Israel's civilian population, the death of his longstanding nemesis Chairman Arafat and the yet unsettling murder of Prime Minister Rabin by a fanatic Jew, has finally decided to act.

He thus offsets world pressure and begins to draw, with the Road Map's backdrop,

Israel's future boundaries sans the Palestinian demographic trap, signaling with sacrificial acts to the Palestinian Authority Israel's abiding interest in reaching a peace agreement and its commitment to establishing a Palestinian state. The Israeli military is also freed from the cumbersome and expensive yoke of guarding the Gaza settlers, attempting to preserve the genuinely Biblically connected major blocks of West Bank settlements, assuring greater Jerusalem's Jewish destiny.

This realistic Zionist vision comes with the heavy and traumatic price of relocating Israelis whose majority peacefully complies albeit with some understandable legal demonstration. However, a hard core minority with outside agitators seems bent on resisting the order to evacuate in spite of offered compensation, even as we pray that in the moment of truth the tragically unacceptable scenario of Jew fighting Jew will be averted. To be sure, the state's authority properly carried out should prevail to safeguard its very foundation.

What is described as Israel's most fateful internal test since 1948, will hopefully prove a rallying point for reordering the only Jewish state's priorities toward applying its limited resources to pressing economic, social and educational needs along with focusing on the holy as well southern Negev and northern Galilee, without which an enduring Israel is truly at risk, quality-wise and physically.

The Palestinian Authority has a golden opportunity and responsibility, not to be missed, assuring that violence from its midst will not interfere with Israel's forthcoming move which benefits both sides to this far too long and costly entanglement. Indeed, the challenge for President Abbas remains to put an end to Palestinian terrorism and competing organizations such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, undermining both Israel's and his own dreams for his people. How his leadership will run the evacuated territory will be indicative of what's in store for a future Palestine state. Active American involvement and essential support remain key for the prospect of peace and prosperity to the entire turbulent region bearing upon the world at large these eventful times.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman is the spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach. He grew up in Haifa, Israel.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREATER MIAMI CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INC.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Greater Miami Chapter of The Links, Inc., on their 50th year of outstanding commitment to community service. The ceremony recognizing this important milestone will be held on Sunday, October 16, 2005, at Florida Memorial University, Miami, Florida.

The Greater Miami Chapter was chartered on Saturday, November 5, 1955, when founding members Maude K. Reid, Mayme E. Williams, and Susie W. Francis brought together 15 other charter members for an installation ceremony at the Carver Hotel in Overtown.

During its 50th anniversary celebration, the chapter will honor 7 honorees: charter member Susie W. Francis, Frances J. Chambers, Gwendolyn H. Welters, Dorothy J. Fields, Ph.D.; Castell V. Bryant, Ed.D., Regina J. Frazier, and Senator Frederica S. Wilson.

The Greater Miami Chapter lists among its many accomplishments programs that bolster the arts, promote awareness of international issues and multicultural events, and assist young people in reaching their full potential.

Nationally, The Links, Inc. has grown to 274 chapters and approximately 11,000 members who reside in 42 states, the District of Columbia, the Bahamas, Germany and South Africa.

Mr. Speaker, 50 years after their founding, the members of the Greater Miami Chapter of The Links, Inc. are a powerful force for change in the South Florida Community. I thank them for all of their efforts, and wish them another successful 50 years of making a positive impact in the lives of others.

DAYS OF AWE: FORGIVENESS,
ATONEMENT AND PEACE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to wish L'Shanah Tova "Good Year" to my Jewish friends in Congress and to Jewish people around the world as they begin the celebration of the Days of Awe: the sacred Holy Days beginning with Rosh Hashanah continuing to the holiest day Yom Kippur, which falls on October 13, 2005. To those Jews who must feel the most forgotten and alone whether in Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and the remnants still living in poverty in Poland, Russia and other parts of Eastern Europe who can only celebrate these Holy Days in their hearts, I rise to say you are not forgotten.

For Jewish people Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur as well as the days between are the most solemn of all the Jewish Holidays and for some the most important. These ten days are sometimes known as the Days of Remembrance, the Days of Repentance and the Days of Awe. Unlike other Jewish holidays and festivals which are closely tied to harvests and changes of seasons, the High Holy Days are spiritual days of soul-searching and prayer.

Rosh Hashanah is a beginning of a spiritual new year, when each Jew can ask forgiveness for sin of conduct and of the heart, atone for those sins and begin again asking God to inscribe him or her in the "Book of Life." On Rosh Hashanah the Book is opened. The Shofar, the curled ram's horn, calls the Jewish people to gather together to pray on Rosh Hashanah as the Book of Life is opened, just as it has for the last 3000 years.

The Jewish liturgy or prayers said during this holiday not only ask for forgiveness from God for sins against both of conduct and of the heart, the prayers remind the people that they cannot be forgiven by God for sins committed against their fellow man. For forgiveness from others, they must atone by seeking it from the people they have hurt and doing charity. The liturgy, both the ancient derived from many beloved psalms as well as newer liturgy, which recognizes political realities of