

President Viktor Yushchenko's priorities is to improve the healthcare system in Ukraine, and that she had established a foundation, known as Ukraine 3000, for the purpose of aiding hospitals in Ukraine by securing much needed medical equipment and medicines.

The delegation I led to Kiev in early December included Dr. Stephen Lipshultz, professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami School of Medicine, Dianne M. Kube, Chief Administrative Officer of the Community Oncology Alliance, Sylvia Irlondo, a respected Cuban-American leader and President of Mothers and Women Against Repression, and Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky, President and Chairman of the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund and Nadia Matkiwsky, a member of the Board of Directors. These two Ukrainian-Americans have spent the last 13 years tirelessly dedicated to helping the people of Ukraine.

As a result of our visits to various pediatric hospitals in Kiev and meetings with Ukrainian government officials, including President Viktor Yushchenko, and also Mrs. Yushchenko, we identified three initiatives that would be the focus of our work during the course of 2006, the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Tragedy. First, establishing a physician exchange program with the University of Miami's School of Medicine so that physicians in Ukraine could come to the United States to meet with their counterparts and establish links of communication on the latest medical techniques, procedures and medicines. This past January the first step was taken toward creating this exchange program; six of Ukraine's leading pediatric physicians attend a national pediatric conference in Miami hosted by the University of Miami's School of Medicine. Second, helping the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund, a highly respected humanitarian organization led by Dr. Zenon Matkiwsky and Nadia Matkiwsky, to secure medical equipment and medicines for the 20th Anniversary Airlift that the U.S. State Department is coordinating. Children of Chernobyl have an impressive reputation in working to obtain medical equipment and medicines for the neediest hospitals in Ukraine. And another initiative identified by the group, is to bring children from Ukraine who are ill to vacation at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida. The first Ukrainian child, thanks to the generosity of Mrs. Sylvia Irlondo, already spent five days visiting the "Magic Kingdom".

I commend the Children of Chernobyl Relief and Development Fund for their dedication over the years on behalf of the people of Ukraine, especially Dr. and Mrs. Matkiwsky who are the heart and soul of the organization. I am also truly optimistic regarding the relationship that has been forged between physicians at the University of Miami's School of Medicine and physicians from Ukraine, and I commend Dr. Stephen Lipshultz for spearheading this worthy endeavor. I also thank Dianne Kube for her sound guidance and the countless hours she has dedicated to work on these initiatives, and Sylvia Irlondo for her generosity and constant leadership.

Mr. Speaker, as we pass this resolution commemorating the 20th Anniversary of the Chernobyl tragedy, I am honored to say that the community I represent is committed to doing all it can to help the noble people of Ukraine as they move forward on their new democratic course.

TO NAME THE MANASSAS POST OFFICE IN HONOR OF THE LATE HONORABLE HARRY J. PARRISH

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the legacy of the Honorable Harry J. Parrish by introducing legislation which would name the Manassas Post Office at 8801 Sudley Road, Manassas, VA 20110 the "Harry J. Parrish Post Office Building." Mr. Parrish was a member of the Virginia General Assembly and decorated World War II pilot from Manassas, Virginia, who passed away on March 28 at the age of 84.

Harry Parrish served over 50 years in elected office, including 13 terms in the Virginia House of Delegates and chairman of the Finance Committee since 2000, Manassas council member and mayor. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest serving member of the House of Delegates. During his 12 years as town councilman and 18 years as mayor, Harry helped guide the transformation of Manassas from a small Virginia town to a thriving, lively suburb. As a member of the House of Delegates, he was known for conducting himself in a bipartisan manner, putting Virginia first. I was proud to call Harry my friend. He was a true Virginia gentleman.

As a decorated World War II pilot, Harry was part of the British Royal Air Force. He flew C-47s over the Himalayas delivering supplies, weapons and other cargo, from India to China. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his valiant efforts. He served as a reservist in the Korean and Vietnam wars before retiring as a colonel.

Naming the post office on Sudley Road in Manassas in his honor is an appropriate reminder to the people of Manassas of Harry's dedication to public service.

COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MR. AND MRS. CARL W. RAFOTH

HON. CHARLIE NORWOOD

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rafoth of Augusta, GA on the occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on April 21, 2006. Carl and Hylda Rafoth were married on April 21, 1936, in Youngstown, OH. Carl supported his family of four children by working at the Islay Dairy Company in Youngstown. Since then, their family has grown significantly in size, as they now have 11 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. Their family resides throughout the country in Georgia, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, where their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren hold fast to the work ethic and patriotism instilled in them by these two fine Americans.

Carl's and Hylda's many decades together exemplify our American values concerning the institution of marriage. They are committed citizens, and even in their golden years, they

have never waned in actively serving their family, their country and their community in Augusta. Their service and dedication are a model for all Americans, and I come before the House with the hopes that they had a most memorable 70th anniversary.

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 25, 2006

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom Hashoa, Holocaust Memorial Day.

Yom Hashoa is a day set aside on the Jewish calendar to recall with great reverence and respect the lives of the millions of victims of the Holocaust.

More than 60 years ago, a maniacal dictator rose to power in Europe, and darkness fell upon the earth. Through a doctrine of hatred and destruction, he slew blameless, pure and innocent, men, women and children. The Nazis were intent on performing a systematic annihilation of the Jewish people. Their brutal endeavor to commit genocide was no more evident than in their zeal for murdering children.

It is a heinous crime to destroy a people's past and to annihilate their future. One can only imagine the contributions to the world lost by this act of genocide, not only for our generation but for the future generations that will now never exist.

For the survivors, the Holocaust did not end with liberation. Like the marks on their arms, their lives were forever marked by this atrocity. Those who survived faced the enormous challenge of rebuilding their lives. Many succeeded, others did not, but all would remember the horror of the crimes that were perpetrated against them. Survivors who suffered this hell are a living testament to the depths of evil to which man can fall. We must never again allow such a monstrous crime by man to be committed again.

We read in Sefer Yeshayahu, the book of Isaiah:

In my house and within my walls, I shall give them a Yad Vashem—a monument and a name better than sons and daughters; an eternal, imperishable name will I give them.

On Thursday, in the United States Capitol Rotunda, we will observe Yom Hashoa. Through our observance, we create a human monument assuring that these innocent victims will not be forgotten. We here in the United States, the birthplace of Thomas Jefferson and Martin Luther King, are privileged to enjoy the greatest freedom known to man. We must never allow ourselves to take these freedoms for granted. We must never forget the genocide and human rights abuses that have occurred and, sadly, continue to occur around the world. We must not remain silent. We must dedicate ourselves to continuing to educate people around the globe about the horrors of the Holocaust. We must be eternally vigilant that such intolerance never happens again.

God full of mercy who dwells on high
Grant perfect rest on the wings of Your Divine Presence

In the lofty heights of the holy and pure who shine as the brightness of the heavens