

Madam Speaker, it is apparent that Russia deliberately sought to cripple Georgia's economy, wreaking economic hardship and perhaps seeking to foment upheaval. In the process, Russia has sought to degrade key economic and commercial zones in the region, and I'm concerned that the most serious long-term damage could be the loss of confidence in Georgia as a reliable transit point for oil and gas pipelines—currently the only transit point for oil to Europe from central Asia and the Caucasus that does not go through Russia.

This legislation, while it cannot undo all of the damage done to Georgia's economy and infrastructure, will go far in helping Georgia, a strategic U.S. partner, begin to rebuild its economy and critical infrastructure while helping to create new trade, business, and economic opportunities among key countries in the region.

I welcome the administration's announcement of a package of U.S. emergency assistance to be provided to Georgia. My legislation seeks to complement these preliminary efforts with the aim of ensuring the kind of sustained assistance the people of Georgia will need in the coming months to rebuild their lives and country.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation and ensure its timely passage.

RABBI STANLEY HALPERN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure and admiration that I congratulate Rabbi Stanley Halpern as he celebrates a milestone, his 20th anniversary as Rabbi at Temple Israel in Gary, IN. Throughout his years of service at Temple Israel, Rabbi Halpern has been one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated and distinguished citizens. The people of northwest Indiana have certainly been rewarded by the service and uncompromising loyalty he has displayed to the parish and the entire community, and for his outstanding efforts, he was recognized at a dinner in his honor at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, IN, on September 6, 2008. As part of the celebration, a very special Shabbat service also took place the previous night.

Stanley Halpern was born and raised in Spokane, WA, where he received an intensive Jewish education at Keneseth Israel Synagogue. Following his graduation from Lewis & Clark High School, he went on to receive his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from the University of Washington, where his studies were focused on Philosophy and Near Eastern Languages and Literature. He also served as Scholar in Residence at Dropsie College in Philadelphia, PA. Following his ordination, Rabbi Halpern spent the next ten years focusing on fundraising and Jewish educational work as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Sacramento. Finally, in 1988, Rabbi Halpern settled into his first pulpit, Temple Israel in Gary, IN, where he has served since 1988.

Temple Israel's long tradition of dedication to social justice and active involvement in the life of northwest Indiana was a perfect fit for

Rabbi Halpern's commitment to Tikkun Olan, the obligation in Judaism of each individual to do all they can for the healing of the world.

Under Rabbi Halpern's leadership, the people of Temple Israel have involved themselves in a myriad of social and community projects, including: the Open Housing Center of Northwest Indiana, the Interfaith Clergy Council of Gary, and Muslim/Jewish Dialogue—Breaking Down Barriers by Breaking Bread Together. Temple Israel has also played a major role in assisting local veterans by teaching skills to prepare them for re-entry into the workforce. Through Rabbi Halpern's involvement with Hospice, the Bio-Ethics Committee of Community Hospital, and AIDS awareness, they have also been very active in Northwest Indiana's health care community, and they have been outstanding advocates in the fight against domestic abuse through their efforts with the Domestic Relations Counseling Bureau of Lake County. With a focus on doing what is right, Rabbi Halpern and Temple Israel have remained active in these causes, all while continuing to prosper in the building of a vibrant Jewish community in northwest Indiana.

Rabbi Halpern and his wife, Carol, reside in Portage, IN. They are the proud parents of one daughter, who also resides in Portage, and Carol's son, who resides in the Boston, MA, area.

Madam Speaker, northwest Indiana is a better place because of the tireless service of people like Rabbi Halpern. He is a man who has dedicated himself to serving others. I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Rabbi Halpern for his many years of enduring service and the unforgettable effect he has had on the people of Temple Israel, as well as the entire northwest Indiana community, and I ask that you join me in congratulating him on this impressive milestone.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
CHARLES JOSEPH POLLMAN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and the State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Charles Joseph Pollman and pay tribute to his memory.

A lifelong resident of Mobile, Charles graduated from McGill Institute and Spring Hill College. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corps, Second Air Division, in Norwich, England, during World War II.

After his service in the war, he used his veteran benefits to attend the Dunwoody Institute in Minneapolis, MN, where he studied baking. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Fred Pollman Sr., and became owner and operator of his parents' bakery, Pollman's Bake Shop. He started working in the family bakery when he was just 12 years old, and at the age of 88, he was still going to the bakery several days a week.

Three generations of the Pollman family have been baking in Mobile since 1918, and his passing is a tremendous loss to the city. Every Mobilian cherishes Pollman brownies, and many a schoolchild in Mobile County has

carried a Pollman po'boy in their lunch box. From ham biscuits to king cakes—Pollman's is the place to go downtown or in west Mobile. It is not an overstatement to say that thousands of wedding cakes have had the Pollman touch.

Charles Pollman also devoted much of his time to his community. He was a member of St. Pius X Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus Council No. 666.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader, a friend to many throughout southwest Alabama, as well as a wonderful husband and devoted father. Charles Pollman will be dearly missed by his family—his wife, Beverly Pollman; their six children, Chase J. Pollman, Mary Corinne Pollman, Thomas L. Pollman, Leannah P. Duncan, Frederick J. Pollman, III, and Page H. Pollman; his sister, Mary Pollman Bender; his seven grandchildren, Zachary J. Pollman, Fred J. Pollman, IV, Michelle C. Pollman, Charles B. Duncan, Adrienne D. Duncan, Blake H. Pollman, and T. Bender Pollman—as well as the many countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all during this difficult time.

RECOGNITION OF THE NORTH  
CAROLINA AZALEA FESTIVAL

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 9, 2008*

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to ask you to join me in recognizing the long and important tradition of the North Carolina Azalea Festival, held each year in Wilmington, NC. The North Carolina Azalea Festival's rich history reminds us of its rightful place among our nationally-recognized festivals.

Founded in 1948 as the Wilmington Azalea Festival, the festival has since grown and is now recognized at the North Carolina Azalea Festival. Now, preparing for its 62nd year, this festival deserves to be nationally recognized as a valuable tradition. It is a unique showcase for our community's rich array of artwork, gardens, history and culture through recreational, educational and family-oriented events. Furthermore, the Festival encourages volunteerism and civic participation as it contributes to the region's economy and promotes the rare qualities of Wilmington's river-to-the-sea community.

Throughout the last 62 years the North Carolina Azalea Festival has brought numerous entertainers and celebrities to the port city, including Frankie Avalon, Cab Calloway, Dionne Warwick, Bob Hope, Barbara Mandrell, Marie Osmond, Tom Jones, the Judds, Frank Sinatra, Ronald Reagan, the Beach Boys, Tim McGraw, Jessica Simpson, and Carrie Underwood. Also, it is attended each year by local, State and nationally-elected officials. The 3-day Street Fair along the Cape Fear Riverwalk brings hundreds of thousands of people out to see the local entertainers, arts, crafts, and food booths, multicultural stage performances, fireworks show, and of course the annual North Carolina Azalea Festival Parade. A Coin Show, Horse Show, Boxing Event, Circus,