

hosted a gang awareness seminar with Pennsylvania Senator John Yudichak. We were privileged to welcome D. Darell Dones, supervisory special agent of the Behavioral Science Unit of the FBI, to the area. Agent Dones presented startling information about gangs and led a panel of experts who provided a frank assessment of local gang problems and potential gang solutions. Agent Dones noted that this cooperative effort—co-hosted by a Democratic state senator and a Republican congressman—was unlike any he'd seen in the country.

But the most special moment for me was when I helped present a veteran with medals he earned more than 65 years ago. Hazleton resident George Puhak helped liberate the Philippines during World War II, but for some reason, this Army veteran never received all of the medals he was entitled to. Representatives from the Embassy of the Philippines made the trip from Washington to Hazleton to present Mr. Puhak with the medals he earned all those decades ago. It was an honor for me to participate in the presentation, which took place in front of some of Mr. Puhak's children and grandchildren. Mr. Puhak's courage—and the commitment and dedication shown by his fellow members of The Greatest Generation—should stand as a shining example for today's youth, for whom we are working so hard here in Washington.

NAAMA SHAFIR: RELIGIOUS
DISCRIMINATION LIVES ON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, during World War II, Jews were forced to wear the yellow star of David as a symbol of hatred and scorn.

The Jewish people experienced hatred in many forms during the Holocaust, most notably the murder of 4.9 to 6.0 million citizens.

Have we moved past this backward way of thinking? No!

Twenty-one-year-old Naama Shafir is a junior guard for the woman's basketball team at the University of Toledo. This April, she led her team to victory in the Women's National Invitation Tournament championship with a career-high 40 points and was named tournament MVP.

She continues to excel, and has qualified to compete in the European championship as part of the Israeli women's national basketball team.

However, because Naama wears a t-shirt under her jersey in order to comply with the modesty standards expected of Orthodox Jews, she will not be allowed to compete in the European championship.

Tens of thousands of soldiers died during World War II trying to overcome this terrible prejudice, yet Naama still endures that same prejudice that her ancestors were faced with during the war.

And that's just the way it is.

SALUTING SERVICE ACADEMY
STUDENTS—RYAN MARTINEZ

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary group of young men and women who have been chosen as future leaders in our armed forces by the prestigious United States service academies. It is a privilege to send such a fine group from the third district of Texas to pursue a world-class education and serve our nation.

As we keep them and their families in our prayers, may we never forget the sacrifices they are preparing to make while defending our freedoms all across the globe. I am so proud of each one. God bless them and God bless America.

Today I salute Ryan Martinez, a United States Naval Academy Appointee. Ryan is a graduate of Cistercian Preparatory School where he played football as a wide receiver and a free safety, ran cross country, participated in track, and played soccer earning a total of nine letters during his high school career. Ryan was actively involved in Student Council as the vice president, a member of the Third District Congressional Youth Advisory Council, earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and worked as a sports writer for his school's newspaper. He was selected to attend the U.S. Naval Academy Summer Leadership Seminar. Ryan realized there was no other university he would rather attend, and by attending a service academy he would not only be pushing his talents to their fullest potential, but he would also be using them for his ultimate goal of servicing others, and especially his remarkable country.

STATEMENT RECOGNIZING NA-
TIONAL SUMMER LEARNING DAY

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize June 21 as National Summer Learning Day and draw attention to the importance of high-quality summer learning opportunities in the lives of young people. This day is an opportunity for schools, nonprofit organizations, public agencies, resident camps, sports clubs, businesses, museums and libraries to showcase the contributions they make to the lives of young people during the summer.

The effort to keep kids learning during summer is based on research that shows that without effective summer learning opportunities: most students fall more than two months behind in math over the summer; low-income children fall behind two to three months in reading each summer, while their middle and upper-income peers make slight gains; and by the end of fifth grade, lower-income children can be nearly three years behind their higher-income peers in reading.

Last year, nearly 500 events were held nationwide that highlighted how summer learning programs advance academic growth, support working families, keep children safe and send students back to school ready to learn.

I am proud to recognize National Summer Learning Day and encourage communities across the country to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of providing all young people with high-quality learning opportunities during the summer months.

REMEMBERING REVEREND L.E.
LAWSON AND MONSIGNOR
CHARLES KING

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of two of Denton County's most esteemed spiritual leaders, Reverend L.E. Lawson and Monsignor Charles King. Both Reverend Lawson and Monsignor King devoted their lives to serving their respective congregations and compassionately working to improve the lives of the less fortunate in the Denton community.

Reverend Lawson, who passed away May 22nd, spent the last 26 of his 52 years in the ministry as pastor of Denton's Mount Cavalry Baptist Church, during which time he baptized, married, and performed the burials of generations of church members. Reverend Lawson loyally tended to the spiritual needs of the community in which he immersed himself.

Monsignor King, who passed away June 1st and just a week after the Reverend Lawson, served 10 of his 54 ministry years at Denton's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, but left an equally lasting mark of leadership and compassion on his congregation and his community.

The two men's spiritual work represented different branches of Christianity. Monsignor King's Catholic Church is a centuries-old world religion of grandeur while Reverend Lawson hailed from the much humbler African-American Baptist church. In the end, however, their paths ultimately led to interchangeable legacies that reflect both men's never-ceasing dedication to the Christian faith and the Denton community. Comments from members of both congregations in Reverend Lawson's and Monsignor King's obituaries could be applied to either man.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the exemplary lives of Reverend L.E. Lawson and Monsignor Charles King. With the passing of these men, Denton has lost more than a century of spiritual direction and service. Their passion and enthusiasm for their faith and their fellow man, however, will always be remembered.

HONORING GRADUATES OF RUT-
GERS LAW SCHOOL CLASS OF
2011 AND PROFESSOR JOHN
BECKERMAN

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today offering my sincere congratulations to the Rutgers Law School Class of 2011. I additionally would like to recognize Rutgers-Camden Professor John Beckerman. Professor Beckerman