

Mr. Speaker, I know that I join with all Americans in thanking Rabbi Simon for his service to Temple Beth El and the Knoxville community for the past thirteen years. I have included a copy of a story written in the Knoxville News-Sentinel honoring Rabbi Simon that I would like to call to the attention of my fellow members and other readers of the RECORD.

[From the Knoxville News-Sentinel, June 12, 1999]

TIME FOR NEW CHAPTER TO BEGIN—RABBI HOWARD SIMON LOOKS AHEAD TO RETIREMENT
(By Jeannine F. Hunter)

Rabbi Howard Alan Simon greets people as if they shared many moments of tears and cheers together.

He embraces one with a firm grip and an engaging smile. To him, they are family.

For 13 years, he served as spiritual leader at Temple Beth El, East Tennessee's oldest Jewish congregation. The Jewish Reform congregation was established in 1864 and became a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations 11 years later.

Members are like siblings, calling upon one another and adhering to Simon's open door policy.

"And people waltz in all the time, which is nice," he said, in his nearly empty office. "We've shared so much together."

Friday, June 25, marks the beginning of Simon's last weekend at the temple. He will retire from the temple, ending his 36-year rabbinic career.

During a recent visit, Simon and his wife, retired educator Rona Simon, discussed Simon's rabbinic, their philosophy on teaching and humanity, and their retirement plans.

As the pair talked about their time at Temple Beth El, they smiled frequently.

"The people have been so warm. We have a loving, warm congregation," Rona Simon said.

Howard Simon agreed.

Simon will be replaced by Rabbi Beth L. Schwartz, the temple's first woman rabbi.

Schwartz is a newly ordained graduate of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, where Simon also was ordained. Her work experience includes being an academic adviser at George Mason University; a senior analyst for the U.S. Department of Education; a senior business analyst for the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp. in McLean, Va., and a book buyer.

Schwartz assumes leadership of Temple Beth El on July 1. She is married to Larry Washington, and they have two adult children.

"I told the congregation I feel the best years at Temple Beth El are ahead of them," Simon said. "It's difficult to leave. It has been wonderful for us."

After 10 years as director of education at the temple, Rona Simon retired in 1998. In May, she retired from her private practice as an educational consultant, specializing in learning disabilities.

The temple's school grew from 36 to 120 children during their tenure.

"The focus of my attention the first few years of being here was our religious school, seeing it grow in numbers and enhancing its curriculum," he said.

Howard Simon said another goal of his administration was to create a familial atmosphere so that the membership interacted with each other in a variety of ways.

Outreach and adult education were also emphasized.

"We learned more and more people want the temple, and they want it to be a focal point of their lives," Simon said.

Simon, the only rabbi in his family, said his experiences at his home temple in Colorado and subsequent leadership roles at a youth camp influenced him.

"Teaching the kids Judaism, I loved the interaction we had with the children," he said, adding in college he initially wanted to study law.

Throughout his rabbinic he has met officials from former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He was among the first religious leaders to spearhead the creation of Knoxville's Interfaith Health Clinic in 1991. He has served as chairman of the clinic's board of directors.

He cited it as one of his most important endeavors.

"I am proud to have been a part of the group that brought this into being," he said.

When commenting about service, Simon used a Hebrew term which means "repair the world," a Judaic belief.

"We're supposed to, as individuals, try to make the world a better place," he said. "Part of my rabbinic is to be committed to the community we live in. We do not live in a vacuum. Fortunately I had a congregation that agreed with that and supported me."

Simon, a humanitarian and scholar, also is an author. He has a book of poetry, "Back from the Abyss: Thoughts on Life and Death" and looks forward to completing other works, one on his experiences as a rabbi in New Jersey, before and after gambling was legalized in Atlantic City.

One book may be about retirement: How to plan for it and how to respond to the emotions it may evoke.

"You need to be active," he said. "Also you need to have a realization that retirement is not a lowering of your self-esteem but an opening of a new chapter in your life."

Rona Simon added, "It's a new beginning."

In their new beginning, the Simons will reduce but not eliminate all of their civic commitments. They want to spend more time with each other, their children and three grandchildren.

A few of their road trips will be to away Lady Vols basketball games.

When the Lady Vols basketball team's schedule is released, the Simons, who are perennial ticket holders, have a planning meeting.

"She tells me to block those nights out so I try not to have meetings," says Simon. "At this point, the ideal job for me would be the team's chaplain."

He laughed.

"They have done so much for Knoxville and are excellent role models," Rona Simon said. "They are role models not because they win but because they inspire young people and are committed to various causes."

A special Shabbat service, prepared by Simon, on June 25 will be followed by a special oneg Shabbat to honor Simon at the temple. On Saturday, June 26, there will be a program beginning at 7:30 p.m. that will also celebrate the 80th birthday of temple member Millie Gelber.

At 6:30 p.m. Sunday, June 27, there will be a special dinner honoring Simon's 36 years of service to Reform Judaism and his 13 years at the temple. It will be at the Hyatt and will feature a toast and a roast of Simon by his relatives and friends.

AT A GLANCE: RABBI HOWARD SIMON

Born in Davenport, Iowa, and moved to Denver, Colo. He graduated from Colorado University in 1958.

Bachelor of Hebrew Letters degree from Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of

Religion in 1960; master of Hebrew Letters and rabbinic ordination both in 1963; and doctor of divinity in 1968.

Temple Beth El is Simon's fourth congregation. Also served as rabbi at Har Sinai Temple in Baltimore; Beth Israel Congregation in Atlantic City, N.J.; and K.K. Bene Israel Rockdale Temple in Cincinnati.

Samuel Neustadter Memorial Award for Service to the state of Israel, 1977.

Rabbinic Services Award from the Council of Jewish Federation, 1989.

Participated in study mission to Poland and to the Soviet Union.

Was scholar in residence at the Sam and Esther Rosen Institute in Knoxville; adjunct professor at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion from 1981-86; taught at Xavier College and Hiwassee College.

National affiliations: Union of American Hebrew Congregations' Committee on Judaism and Health and its Committee on Cults and Missionary Movements; National Rabbinic Cabinet of United Jewish Appeal.

Local affiliations: Board of directors for the Interfaith Health Clinic, the United Way, Leadership Knoxville; the Knox County Mental Health Association; executive committee of the Knoxville Jewish Federation.

In 1996, became a UT Chancellor's Associate, one of several Knoxville-area community leaders who advised Chancellor Bill Snyder and his staff on community issues.

Members of Knoxville Ministerial Alliance, the Knox County Steering Committee for the Tennessee Bicentennial Celebration, the Metropolitan Drug Commission's Faith Committee and the ministerial board for East Tennessee Children's Hospital.

Chair of Leadership Knoxville Class of 2000's selection committee.

Awards include National Conference of Christians and Jews, now known as the National Conference for Community and Justice and the American Organization for Rehabilitation through Training Federation based in Israel.

GRANT OF FEDERAL CHARTER TO THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE GEOLOGISTS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today I along with the gentleman from Nevada, JIM GIBBONS, are introducing a bill to grant a federal charter to the American Association of State Geologists. Indeed, the grant of a federal charter to this organization would have a direct correlation to the very first such charter ever granted by the Congress, in 1863 to the National Academy of Science. Both organizations are premised on serving the general public through scientific research and the advancement of knowledge.

The American Association of State Geologists was established in 1908 and today is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the science and practical application of geology and related earth sciences. Its membership is comprised to the heads of Geological Surveys in the various States, territories and commonwealths of the United States. In fact, the first State geological survey was established in 1823 in North Carolina and by the

time the U.S. Geological Survey was established in 1879, 35 State geological surveys already existed.

Over the past 91 years, the AASG has served the Nation and each and every State by bringing its unique and important state perspective to the deliberations of the federal government on issues related to or involving geology or geoscience. State geological surveys have generated and made publically available much of the geological and geoscience information and services that led to the growth of our Nation, its economic development, general prosperity, environmental quality and the quality of life we enjoy today. Their mission remains equally important to our Nation's future.

Every member of Congress and their staff have, at one time or another, consulted the State geological surveys concerning issues related to geology in their districts. State geological surveys are universally relied upon for their expertise and relevant, credible, and timely maps, information and services concerning energy, mineral, water, land, biological/ecological and environmental resources, as well as information relevant to avoid or mitigate natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides and the like.

There is no doubt that the AASG has earned a high reputation within the federal government for its expertise, credibility, candor and trust. It is frequently called upon by the executive, legislative, and judicial branches to bring the state perspective on geological issues to the attention and consideration of the federal government and especially Congress.

In my view, the nature, extent, magnitude, and high quality of the contributions of State geological surveys and AASG to our Nation fully merits recognition of their critical role through issuance of a federal charter. AASG is exactly the sort of organization that federal charters were intended to recognize.

Mr. Speaker, it would be completely fitting and proper for Congress to grant a federal charter to AASG and by doing so would return to the spirit of the first federal charter granted to the National Academy of Science in 1863 recognizing the importance of science to our Nation.

MANDATORY GUN SHOW
BACKGROUND CHECK ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes;

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the McCarthy provisions and against the Dingell provisions. I agree with Mr. Alvin Bell of Garland, Texas when we said:

The congressional measures passed at the stroke of midnight, by a Congress in the

grasp of the National Rifle Association and the religious right, are a sad commentary to how insulated the Capitol can become to the real needs of the American people. The very idea that the posting of the Ten Commandments in schools and the loosening of gun control measures can achieve less school violence is lunacy.

I would not be surprised if this Congress would soon legislate the passing out of crucifixes in schools, under the guise of warding off vampires.

June 18, 1999: Charlton Heston 2-The American people 0.

IN HONOR OF THE LATE J.B.
WHITTEMORE

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great deal of sadness that I wish to recognize the remarkable life and spirit of Mr. J.B. Whittemore of Pueblo, Colorado. With this, I would like to take a moment to pay tribute to Mr. Whittemore who embodied and exemplified hard work, dedication, and compassion. For more than half of a century, he dedicated his energy to ensuring the happiness of thousands of Pueblo children, never letting a lack of money keep children from enjoying a ride on the carousel.

J.B. Whittemore was born in Pueblo, Colorado in 1914, the same year in which the City Park carousel was manufactured. With nickels earned by milking cows, Mr. Whittemore escaped the world by riding the carousel.

On March 1, 1943, he joined the City Parks Department staff—a job which became a career spanning 33 years. While working for the City Parks Department, Mr. Whittemore also worked nights, Sundays and holidays as the maintenance man and operator of the City Park carousel. Just as Mr. Whittemore cared about the happiness of children, he also cared about his family. He loved and appreciated his family and shared his light with all.

Mr. Whittemore was a man of kindness and generosity. Through his involvement in the community, he touched the lives of many. His smile, his devotion, and his zest for life will long be remembered and admired. Those who have come to know J.B. Whittemore will miss him greatly. I am confident however, that in spite of this profound loss, the family and friends of Mr. Whittemore can take comfort in the knowledge that he made a significant impact on the quality of life of the citizens of Pueblo.

THE INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
ENFORCEMENT ACT AND
THE NEW YORK CONVENTION
COMPLIANCE ACT

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, the International Arbitration

Enforcement Act and the New York Convention Compliance Act, to protect American businesses from foreign backed companies who fail to act in good faith.

In 1991, Ross Manufacturing, a Florida company, filed a claim with the Stockholm Arbitration Institute against a Chinese state-owned corporation for defaulting on a contractual agreement. Even though the arbitration panel found in favor of Ross Manufacturing, the Chinese company refused to pay the settlement. Furthermore, the Chinese courts initially refused to accept the claim. By the time the claim was eventually accepted by the Chinese courts, the Chinese company had been liquidated and the Chinese offered no remedy to enforce the settlement. This was so even though the liquidated company was a state-run industry and it appears may have been liquidated as a pretense just to give cover to avoiding this debt.

There are companies throughout this country that have ventured into business relationships with China and been burned. That is why I am introducing two pieces of legislation to protect U.S. companies and make sure that foreign companies live up to pre-existing trade agreements.

The International Arbitration Enforcement Act, would create a civil remedy against foreign states that either ignore or prohibit arbitral awards entered in favor of United States persons. If the President certifies that a person has been injured and has exhausted every avenue of relief in pursuing enforcement of a foreign arbitral award then that person gets his or her day in Federal Court to pursue a civil action against the foreign state.

The New York Convention Compliance Act, would direct the President to withhold extension of the WTO Agreement to any country that is not in compliance with its obligations under the New York Convention. This would require foreign countries to meet their outstanding obligations before receiving full consideration for WTO ascension.

While I believe that American companies need to be prudent in their dealings with entities overseas, having a company fully backed by the Chinese government default on a legal and binding contract is unacceptable. I urge my colleagues to support this timely legislation.

ACTIVIST PHYSICIAN NAMED
"OUTSTANDING LEADER" BY
LEADERSHIP MONTGOMERY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 24, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate Dr. Horace W. (Bud) Bernton for receiving the Bell Atlantic Outstanding Leader Award at Leadership Montgomery's graduation ceremonies. Dr. Bernton graduated from Leadership Montgomery in 1994, and quickly thereafter began to recruit other community-mined individuals and organizations to join him in his life-long effort to make medicine more accessible to persons of limited income.