

well as in his service to temple community. He can frequently be seen with a screwdriver or a hammer or a tape measure in his "golden hands." But Charlie Mandel's fingerprints go far deeper. He has been affiliated with the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center since 1953. After officially joining the temple in 1955, he was appointed Gabbai, and continues in that position to this day as Senior Gabbai. He was elected to the Temple Board of Trustees in 1955, and continues to serve on the board where he has also held the posts of recording secretary and financial secretary. In recognition of his loyalty and commitment, he was granted honorary life membership to the Board of Trustees, a position held by only four other people.

Mr. Mandel has been active on the Religious Committee, House Committee, Bazaar Committee, and has had the unique experiences of serving on the Rabbinical Search Committees for both Rabbi Yakov Hilsenrath and Rabbi Eliot Malomet. In addition, he was Chairman of the "Special Fundraising Committee" for 40 years.

Charles Mandel was born in Jersey City, where he graduated from William L. Dickson High School in 1936. He then went on to Rutgers University and received a bachelor of science degree in ceramic engineering in 1938. He served as plant manager and ceramic engineer with the Willett Company for 42 years. Following his retirement, he is continuing in his professional capacity as a consulting engineer for New Jersey Porcelain Company and Lenape Products Company in Trenton, NJ.

Mr. Mandel is a member of the New Jersey Ceramic Association, the Highland Park Committee on Aging and the Rutgers Alumni Association. Married to the former Gussie Siegel for over 58 years, they are the proud parents of three children and four grandchildren. Dr. Matthew Mandel, an endodontist, is married to Lynn and the father of Alexander. Their daughter, Madeline Crass, a school teacher, is the mother of Scott. Robert Mandel, a businessman, married to Rayne, is the father of Levi and Benjamin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN N. HOSTETTLER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. HOSTETTLER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 50, I was on official Congressional business in Russia, and could not be present. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on this vote to pass H.R. 819.

SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAELI EMBASSY BOMBING IN ARGENTINA

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, few Americans would associate Latin America with Middle

East terrorism; however, the reality is that we do have Middle East terrorist activity in our very own backyard. Not long ago, I led a congressional delegation to South America, and many Members learned for the first time of Hizbollah's active presence developing funding support and other bases of operations for its international terrorist goals.

Sadly, today is the seventh anniversary of the 1992 terrorist bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina. That cowardly, deadly terrorist attack took 29 lives, and injured more than 200. It has been seven years since this savage and ruthless act of terror, directed against Jewish targets in Argentina, caused the murder of these innocent victims. It destroyed the diplomatic mission of the state of Israel, plunged the largest Jewish community in South America into perpetual fear, and threatened the civilized world. In fact, this horror was compounded two years later when the AMIA Jewish community center in Buenos Aires was destroyed by a terrorist car bomb.

Both of these brutal crimes have remained unsolved. After years of investigation, little substantive progress has been made in apprehending those responsible. Accordingly, I urge the Argentinean government to vigorously continue to pursue those investigations.

Relatives of the 29 victims of the Israeli Embassy bombing, including Ralph and Helen Goldman, American citizens in New York, who lost their son David Ben Rafael in the attack, will never reclaim their loved ones, or recover from this tragic loss. Our hearts are with the Goldmans and with the other families as we memorialize their children, mothers, fathers, sons and daughters, who were killed in these bombings. The entire civilized world has been brutalized. With each act of terror, freedom and liberty suffers defeat. With every act of terrorism left unsolved, democracy and justice are diminished.

The United States remains in the forefront in the war against terrorism. We implore the international community to join in this battle. We urge Argentina to uphold global standards against international terrorism and help solve these crimes which claimed the lives of so many in the Jewish community.

We pay tribute to the victims of the Israeli Embassy and AMIA bombings. They will not be forgotten. Together we can best honor their memory by solving the crimes which claimed their lives, bringing their murderers to justice, and creating an environment which assures that terror will not claim any additional victims. The U.S. has provided assistance and support to the government of Argentina in that effort.

A Jewish tradition states, "Justice, justice shalt thou pursue." This is an American ideal as well as a universal humanitarian imperative.

HONORING COLORADO GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL 2A CHAMPIONS—FOWLER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my heartiest congratulations to the

Fowler High School girls basketball team on their impressive Colorado State 2A Championship. The victory, a 57-43 win over Swink High School, was a superb contest between two talented and deserving teams. In championship competition, though, one team must emerge victorious, and Fowler proved themselves the best in their class—truly second to none.

The State 2A Championship is the highest achievement in high school basketball. This coveted trophy symbolizes more than just the team and its coach, Greg Fruhwirth, as it also represents the staunch support of the players' families, fellow students, school personnel, and the community. From now on, these people can point to the 1998-1999 girls basketball team with pride, and know they were part of a remarkable athletic endeavor. Indeed, visitors to this town and school will see a sign proclaiming the Girls State 2A Championship, and know something special had taken place there.

The Fowler basketball squad is a testament to the old adage that the team wins games, not individuals. The combined talents of these players coalesced into a dynamic and dominant basketball force. Each team member also deserves to be proud of her own role. These individuals are the kind of people who lead by example and serve as role-models. With the increasing popularity of sports among young people, local athletes are heroes to the youth in their home towns. I admire the discipline and dedication these high schoolers have shown in successfully pursuing their dream.

The memories of this storied year will last a lifetime. I encourage all involved, but especially the Fowler players, to build on this experience by dreaming bigger dreams and achieving greater successes. I offer my best wishes to this team as they move forward from their State 2A Championship to future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING MEHER CHEKERDEMIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 17, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Meher Chekerdemian on receiving the Third Annual Armenian Education Foundation's Educator of the Year Award. Mr. Chekerdemian has been an outstanding educator for many years.

The Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF) has a proud history of supporting educational causes. The AEF is on a journey to recognize the fine educators who have performed above and beyond the call of duty, and have contributed immensely to the betterment and quality of life for Armenian students. The role that an educator plays is of critical importance to the future.

Meher Chekerdemian has spent 32 years with Fresno Unified School District as a teacher, counselor, vice-principal, and principal. He holds a bachelor of arts degree in Social Studies, a master of arts degree in Education from California State University, Fresno (CSUF) and various credentials and certificates. Currently Meher is the Executive Director of the