

May 11, 1999

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Gordon Murchie, Virginia Wine Industry Person of the Year. I applaud the invaluable contributions he has made to the American wine industry. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Gordon Murchie many more years of success.

TRIBUTE TO STEVEN JAY FOGEL

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Steven J. Fogel, for his contributions to the Jewish community.

The Talmud states, "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." Stephen S. Wise Temple has recognized Steven for his many accomplishments in the Jewish community. I commend Steven for selflessly devoting his time and his efforts. He helps enrich us with his zeal for life and his determination to better our community.

Aside from his achievements as president of Stephen S. Wise, Steven has made his mark in other aspects. He worked his way through college as a professional photographer, first at USC and then as a graduate student at the Anderson School of Business at UCLA.

In 1967, he co-founded Westwood Financial Corp., which owns and operates over 125 shopping centers. In addition to writing three published books, Steven is a self-taught artist, with over fifty portraits in private collections.

Along with his devoted service to the community, Steven and his wife, Darlene, have maintained an unwavering commitment to their family. They have raised their four children in a Jewish home which is compassionate, accepting, moral and intellectually alive.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring Steven J. Fogel for his past, present, and future achievements for both the Jewish community and the community at large.

KOSOVO AND SOUTHWEST ASIA
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. RONNIE SHOWS

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1664) making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Chairman, today I stand before my colleagues and the American people to discuss the American Farmer. I stand before you to urge quick and complete pas-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

sage of the emergency supplemental bill for America's farm families.

My district, in Mississippi, is largely supported by agriculture. Family farmers, and might I add I was once a farmer, are our neighbors, friends, and community leaders. They provide a foundation of sound American values and a strong work ethic to communities all across our nation. When you get right down to it, they are good people who work real hard to make a living and raise their families.

There's more, much more, to say about our farmers, though. The American family farmer is the most successful and efficient farmer in the world. Our agricultural industry feeds and clothes more people than any other system of agriculture on the planet. The American farmer is one of America's greatest success stories. They have excelled through the best and worst of times.

Our farmers fed a hungry nation during the Great Depression, sustained our great army during World War II. And, when the soldiers came home, our farmers went to work with new and dynamic technologies and machinery. They have helped feed, clothe, fuel, and grow our economy without ever looking back.

We can not turn our backs on our farmers when they need our help. We can not afford to.

Our farmers and ranchers are feeling financial and emotional stress. Prices of commodities have been spiraling downward over the past year. Many of our farm families have seen prices for their hard work hit decade lows over the recent months. We must act now to support our American farm families. And, we can not allow nonfarm related issues cloud the language of the serious request.

It has been 2 months since the supplemental spending request was submitted to Congress seeking emergency assistance to our farmers. Two months . . . It is now time for farmers to plant their crops and no action has been taken to get this crucial money to the farm community. The money is sorely needed. USDA loan funds are running dry as the farm crisis has created four times the normal demand for farm loan programs.

I can not attempt to describe how important this money is to farm families across Mississippi and, indeed, across America.

Since this supplemental spending request was made, over 8,000 applications for loans from farmers have been received. The American people must understand how important . . . how crucial the need is out there for our farmers. This isn't play money. Farmers need money to farm.

Let's pass this legislation and support our farm families today. Let's support our farmers because they support us everyday.

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ADDRESS OF LENNY BEN-DAVID,
DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION AT
THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL, AT
THE NATIONAL CIVIC COMMEMORATION
OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 11, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, April 13, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials, and Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol.

The ceremony coincided with the 60th anniversary of the voyage of the SS *St. Louis*, which set sail from Germany in April 1939, carrying more than 900 Jews away from Nazi terror. Denied entry to both Cuba and the United States, the *St. Louis* was forced to send its frightened passengers back to Europe just months before the onset of World War II. Many of them were eventually murdered in Auschwitz, Treblinka, and other death camps of Hitler's Holocaust.

While we cannot rectify the wrongs of generations ago, we can apply the lesson of the *St. Louis* to the crises of today. In the Europe of 1999, innocent civilians are once again being deported, abused, raped and murdered. While the scale of Serbian atrocities in Kosovo does not approach the enormity of the Holocaust, the precedent that would be set by ignoring this ethnic cleansing cannot be tolerated.

Lenny Ben-David, the Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Israel, reminded us of our moral responsibility at the Days of Remembrance ceremony. He quoted the sage advice of the late Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik: "The function of the halachic (righteous) man is to redress the grievances of those who are abandoned and alone, to protect the dignity of the poor and to save the oppressed from his oppressor." Mr. Speaker, this is true now more than ever.

Lenny Ben-David was appointed Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Israel by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1997. Prior to this appointment, Mr. Ben-David served as an independent consultant on public and political affairs. He held senior posts in the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) for 25 years, opening and directing AIPAC's office in Israel for almost 15 years. Mr. Ben-David is a graduate of Yeshiva University in New York. He received a Masters degree in Political Science from the American University in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Rochelle Black, have six children.

Mr. Speaker, I submit the full text of Mr. Ben-David's address at the Days of Remembrance ceremony to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE PROGRAM, U.S.

CAPITOL ROTUNDA, APRIL 13, 1999

(Remarks by Lenny Ben-David, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Israel)

Ever since I heard of today's theme (The S.S. *St. Louis*), I have been obsessed with the thoughts of ships.