A TRIBUTE TO MR. IRVING LITTMAN

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Irving Littman, who will celebrate his 80th birthday on July 27, 1999. Mr. Littman served with the First Field General Hospital in the invasion of North Africa in World War II. As a sergeant at that time, it was his duty to give anesthesia in the operating room to soldiers wounded in combat. Mr. Littman was awarded many citations and medals for his four years of gallant military service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Chuck Ebner on his continued commitment to his country and community. He has served in the Armed Forces, working as an anesthetist at Metropolitan General Hospital in New York. In 1980, he joined the Barberton All Sports Boosters—on which he served as an officer for ten years and as president for three. Chuck also served as president of the Barberton Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for five years and was the founder of the Barberton Sports Hall of Fame in 1979. Chuck was elected the first president of that organization and still serves in that position.

Chuck continues to serve the community in many ways. He is a member of the Barberton Heritage Foundation Board, served as president of the Barberton Chapter of the Jewish Community, and served as president for three years. Chuck also served as vice president of the Barberton Jaycees for his sports activities in the community. He continues his strong commitment to youth and sports by organizing the Barberton Reunion Basketball game to honor the Barberton State Champs of 1976. The sold-out game raised money for the Barberton Little League, Crippled Children’s Circus Fund, and the Barberton All Sports Boosters.

Chuck is now retired from Seiberling Rubber and his employment as the Outside Bailiff for the Barberton Municipal Court. But he is not retired from his community. Chuck continues to dedicate even more of his time and energy to promote sports among the youth of Barberton. Mr. Speaker, I commend Chuck Ebner.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting today for the RECORD the enclosed article written by Mr. Leonard Cole of Ridgewood, New Jersey. Mr. Cole, who serves as the distinguished chairman of the Communal Unity Committee of United Jewish Appeal Federation of Bergen County and North Hudson and as vice chair of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, recently returned from refugee camps in Tirana, Albania. In his article, Mr. Cole eloquently illustrates the remarkable humanitarian efforts being made by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, in association with the United Jewish Communities, to assist refugees displaced as a result of the conflict in Kosovo. I am confident that all of our colleagues will find much food for thought in this well-written article.

[From the Jewish Standard, May 14, 1999]

FINDING KINDNESS AMID CHAOS

(By Leonard A. Cole)

Nearly 15 years ago, on a two-day mission to Israel, I witnessed lines of bedraggled Ethiopian Jews emerge from an El Al airplane. They had suddenly been transported from a 14th-century existence in Ethiopia to a 20th-century life in Israel. Last week, during another two-day mission, I witnessed a sad odyssey. In the company of Israeli and American Jews, I visited refugees in a camp in Tirana, Albania, whose lives have been reduced to primitive survival. Among the 800,000 ethnic Albanians beleaguered out of Kosovo, 5,000 were crowded into this Tirana camp. Living eight and nine to a tent, able to bathe once a week, they are uncertain where or if they have a future. The only heartening similarity between the experiences of the Ethiopian Jews and Kosovar Muslims is the rapid humanitarian response by Jews and other caring people around the world. And none have shown more caring than the people of Israel.

For seven weeks, out of noble intention, Nato helicopters flew over Kosovar targets with bombs and missiles. The attacks were intended to stop Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic’s policy of murder and deportation. As a result, refugees from his country’s province of Kosovo. Milosevic’s penchant for “ethnic cleansing” is too remissent of Hitler’s war against the Jews for the Jews to ignore, but it is a policy of survival. But diplomatic and military mis-calculations have become painfully apparent: the failure of Nato’s firepower quickly to stop Milosevic’s actions; the depressing likelihood that the bombings and the Nato-led forces have acceler- ated the deportations; the destruction of unintended targets, including the Chinese embassy, a hospital complex, and convoys of refugees. The unanticipated calculus was underscored for me by the sight of scores of U.S. helicopters sitting idly in Albania’s major port. Although the Nato forces have been especially effective against ground targets, none has yet been used, apparently in fear that Ser- bian firepower was still too threatening to these low-flying craft. Exactly how the mili- tary and political issues will be resolved re- mains uncertain. What is clear, however, is that the victims of the conflict need imme- diate attention.

In the early hours of May 5, our plane, chartered by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), was preparing to take off from Ben- Gurion airport. We were beginning a two-day whirlwind of visits to Albania, Hungary, and back to Israel. We would be traveling through a thicket of suffering, but also witness to the efforts to alleviate it.

Under the auspices of the newly constituted United Jewish Communities (UJC), some two dozen representatives from North American federations had come to bear witness. Described by the UJC as a “rescue mission,” our venture really was more a search—a search for information, for meaning, and ultimately for ways to help.

“Leave the last 12 rows empty,” the stewar- dess instructed. Along with other blear- eyed passengers, I squeezed into the forward section of our own plane. Our weight was measured as a balance for the supplies that had been loaded into the rear cargo area. Like 23 previous flights from Israel, eight of them chartered by JAFI, the main purpose was to deliver sup- ples obtained from contributions by Israelis and Jews throughout the world.

At the refugee camp, we watched as cartoon after cartoon was unloaded from a plane flown by an Israeli with a badge saying “Medi- cal.” The contents were distributed by representatives of various humanitarian organizations, including JAFI, the American Jewish Joint Distribu- tion committee (JDC), and Latet, an Organiza- tion of Israeli volunteers.

And it is well to remember that JAFI, JDC, and other helping agencies, in associa- tion with the UJC, are truly the point organi- zations for the rest of us, the money and supplies have come from federations and from individual Jews around the world. Israeli citizens alone have contributed more than $1 million in food, blankets, towels, dyes- pers, soap, toys, and more. The Israelis built and staffed the first field hospital in a refu- gee camp.

Delivering supplies to the Albanian Mus- lims was only part of the humanitarian ef- fort we witnessed in that part of the world. We next flew to Hungary, where we met dozens of Jews from Serbia who fled the bomb- ings. Those who were now guests of the Hungarian Jewish community in Budapest. On the sec- ond day of the war. Ms. Zinger, head of the Jewish community in the Belgrade, Yugoslavia, boarded our plane and flew to her homeland. On her way, she stopped in Budapest and met with Rabbi Zoltai. When told of the distress among the 3,000 Jews of Serbia, Zoltai quickly arranged for his community to receive as many of them as possible. Both leaders, both in their 70’s, are Holocaust survivors. “For us,” said Zoltai, “it would be difficult to know of such
Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my congratulations to the Union Carbide Corporation Technical Center in South Charleston in celebration of its 50th Anniversary.

As an innovator for Union Carbide activities worldwide, the Technical Center was first occupied in April of 1949 in the Research Building. Occupants from the Union Carbide South Charleston Plant soon occupied the Technical Center.

Since that time 50 years ago, the site has grown to approximately 650 acres with approximately 125 acres developed. By offering support through research and development of technology used in the chemical industry and providing engineering for the construction of plant facilities and support to computer systems, the Technical Center offers worldwide assistance to Union Carbide manufacturing businesses.

Building upon its success as an innovator as a multinational petrochemical company, Union Carbide now provides 25 percent of the world's manufacture of polyethylene. It should come as no surprise that Union Carbide has garnered awards for three of its products and services which were primarily developed at the Technical Center, runr the JAPI and the JDC—that is, through resources provided by Jews everywhere.

In Israel, we visited with several of the hundreds of Kosovars and Serbs—Muslims and Jews—that the state is hosting. Each had his own sad story, though all expressed gratitude for the kindness extended by Israelis and other Jews. Perhaps the most memorable exchange occurred when a member of the UJC delegation asked a Jewish family to Kossovo what they had expected before arriving in Israel. Anita Conforti, 22, translated her mother's answer into English: "Warm deserts and cold people."

What did you find after you got here? "Paradise."

UNION CARBIDE CORPORATION TECHNICAL CENTER IN SOUTH CHARLESTON CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT E. WISE, JR.
OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in praise of an outstanding young adult from the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Ms. Amanda Iannuzzi, a Congressional Award medal recipient. Amanda's commitment to self-development and community involvement serves as an inspiration to people of all ages, and illustrates the accomplishments that come with hard work and determination.

Without motivation, however, hard work and determination are destined to remain unfilled ideals. Amanda's motivation breathed life into innumerable commendable acts. Not only did Amanda involve herself in volunteer work, but invested time in broadening her artistic and physical skills. While much of what is directed towards young people is prescriptive in nature, it is important to note that these acts were of Amanda's own design and were completed with her own resolve.

Upon review of Amanda's achievements, one is particularly struck by the considerable amount of time that was devoted to obtaining this award. Hundreds of hours over the course of months were invested. Clearly, Amanda recognizes the immense value of giving one's time to help others. It is my hope that your actions foreshadow a life distinguished by the pursuit of new challenges.

Congratulations Amanda! Best wishes to you for continued success.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SHEL SILVERSTEIN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the life of Shel Silverstein, acclaimed children's author. I am deeply saddened that Shel Silverstein passed away at the age of 66 in Key West, Florida, on May 10, 1999. We mourn the loss of a man whose legacy will be remembered for years to come.

Mr. Silverstein is best known for his children's poetry, but I think it is safe to say that his poetry is enjoyable to adults as well. I, myself, am quite familiar with his works, as my daughter Danielle is a big fan of his poetry. Indeed, I can assure that many of my colleagues would recognize his work which includes Falling Up, A Light in the Attic, and Where the Sidewalk Ends.

Over the course of his career, Shel Silverstein won numerous awards for his work, including the Michigan Young Readers Award for Where the Sidewalk Ends. His books, which Shel illustrated himself, are packed with humor and colorful characters, and sold over 14 million copies throughout the course of his life. This is truly a testament to the widespread appeal of his work.

Though books such as the Giving Tree were the catalyst which led to Shel Silverstein's international acclaim, few people realize that Shel began his career in the 1950s while serving with the United States armed forces in Japan and Korea. While stationed overseas, Mr. Silverstein began drawing cartoons for "Stars and Stripes," the American military publication.

Apart from his success as a writer of poetry, Shel Silverstein was also successful in his attempts to write country-western music. In 1969, Johnny Cash made the Silverstein-penned tune "A Boy Named Sue" into a bonafide hit. Loreta Lynn made Shel's song "Ones on the Way" famous as well. In 1980, Shel even recorded an album of his own called "The Great Conch Train Robbery." This title clearly shows Shel's fondness for his home in Key West, as the title references the car of his friend Buddy Owen, owner of B.O.'s Fish Wagon, one of Shel's favorite places to eat.

Mr. Speaker, while Shel Silverstein's passing is a tremendous loss for our nation and the world, I can say without hesitation that his kindness and generosity will be missed especially by the Key West community. He was an extraordinary human being, but we are lucky to have so many wonderful memories of his life and work.

HONORING SISTER BRIGID DRISCOLL

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join in honoring sister Brigid Driscoll, President of Marymount College, who, as a prominent figure from my district, has been a role model for the espousal of women's education for the last forty years. Sister Brigid, who will be retiring from her position in June, has devoted her life to Marymount College, establishing its solid foundation within the educational arena and the greater Tarrytown, New York community.

For more than twenty years as its president, and before that as an administrator and faculty member, Sister Brigid's visionary leadership has overseen Marymount's transformation from a homogeneous liberal arts college exclusively for women, to an institution that maintains a strong focus on women, while