

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES ON MEMORIAL DAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember the millions of women and men who have given their lives to serve in our Nation's Armed Forces. Their courageous efforts have been honored at this time of year since the fighting of the Civil War. During the Civil War numerous families began their heartfelt commemorative efforts and since then the countless events which followed have generated an uncompromising level of respect and reverence for our beloved soldiers.

Yet we must not forget the reasons for which our Armed Forces have fought for our Nation: to preserve and protect the blanket of freedom under which we have rested with security for over 200 years. Since the end of the Civil War so much has changed, and yet so much in our society remains the same. Those Soldiers fought to protect our inalienable rights as humans and have continued to do so from that day to this.

Even today our men and women sacrifice their lives to protect our interests overseas. We must remember them in these times of conflict. Our sentiments go out not only to the soldiers who have fought in our conflicts of yesteryear. We must include today's Armed Forces in our thoughts and our prayers for they continue to struggle and rightfully defend our beliefs in life, liberty, and freedom in Europe and around the world.

Entering into the 21st century we look forward to a time of peace in which our decisions to take direction are reserved for reflection. I remind you Mr. Speaker that we do not remember in joy, but in sorrow. We do not reflect with happiness, we reflect in pain. The millions of men and women dedicated their lives to fight so that we can look forward to a time in which we shall fight no more and we must never forget them.

Since the first official commemoration of our soldiers of war on May 30, 1868, as Decoration Day, our Country has devoted a continuous and conscious effort to support our troops and the battles they have fought. In 1971, to recognize the weight of their importance, Congress declared Memorial Day a National holiday.

Mr. Speaker, to continue our recognition of our soldiers' tireless efforts, I am currently introducing a bill to grant the Korean Veterans Association a Federal Charter. Granting this Federal Charter is a small expression of appreciation that, we as a Nation, can offer to these men and women to show our continued support, one which will enable them to work as a unified front to ensure that the "Forgotten War" is forgotten no more.

Please join with me in expressing full recognition and thanks to those who have served our Nation and its Armed Forces on this Memorial Day. The respect and debt of gratitude we owe these honorable men and women for preserving our Nation and our freedom is immeasurable.

TRIBUTE TO DR. AARON S. GOLD:
RABBI, TEACHER, SCHOLAR,
SPIRITUAL LEADER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to congratulate Rabbi Dr. Aaron S. Gold on his retirement after serving the Rabbinic for 50 years, and for his dedication and service to the San Diego community. Rabbi Gold has been a spiritual and community leader to many individuals in San Diego—and I would like to take a moment to honor him and his accomplishments.

Rabbi Gold was born in Poland and came to America during the depression years, prior to World War II. He graduated from Wisconsin State College with Highest Honors in the English and Speech Departments. He later received his M.A. from Columbia University where he studied Education for Marriage and Family Life, and later completed his Ph.D in Family Education.

Rabbi Gold came to San Diego in 1974, and immediately became an active community leader. He was invited to join the boards of the United Jewish Federation, Jewish Community Relations Council and the Bureau of Jewish Education. He is particularly known for his work in promoting spiritual harmony and understanding among all religions, and has been active with the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Ecumenical Council. He has also appeared on a number of radio and television shows to promote interfaith activities.

His initiation of a joint Thanksgiving Service with the San Carlos United Methodist Church was so successful that it became the annual Thanksgiving service for the Tifereth and many churches of the Navajo Interfaith Association—he is lovingly called "our Rabbi" by the members of the San Carlos United Methodist Church. His ecumenical efforts have been recognized with a number of plaques and citations.

Rabbi Gold has also reached out to the youth in our community by helping establish the Coalition for the Jewish Youth for San Diego, San Diego Jewish Academy and the Community High School of Jewish Studies.

He also served as the President of the San Diego Rabbinical Association for two years, and he and his wife Jeanne were Rabbinic

Couple for Jewish Encounter weekend in the San Diego area, where they helped 1,000 couples enhance theirs and their children's lives.

In addition to his many contributions to the San Diego community, he has served our country as the Chaplain for Suffolk County Air Force Base in Long Island; Cancer patients in Long Island; the Boy Scouts Councils in Wisconsin, Long Island, Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania; and Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

Rabbi Gold has had an amazing life and an incredible career. He has touched the lives of many people and has served our country well. I congratulate Rabbi Gold on all of his accomplishments and wish him the best in his retirement.

CHELTHENHAM ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL, MCKINLEY ELEMEN-
TARY SCHOOL, AND THOMAS
FITZWATER ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL ARE WINNERS OF THE
BLUE RIBBON SCHOOLS AWARD

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 27, 1999

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding efforts of three elementary schools in Pennsylvania's Thirteenth Congressional District, which I am proud to represent.

On behalf of the entire Montgomery County community, I congratulate these schools for winning a national competition to earn recognition as Blue Ribbon Schools of excellence. The U.S. Department of Education recently named Cheltenham Elementary School in Cheltenham, Pennsylvania; McKinley Elementary School in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania; and Thomas Fitzwater Elementary School of Willow Grove, Pennsylvania as 1998-1999 winners of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Schools Award.

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program was established by the U.S. Secretary of Education in 1982 with three goals in mind: identify and recognize outstanding public and private schools across the United States, offer a comprehensive framework of key criteria for school effectiveness, and facilitate the sharing of best practices among schools. Over the years, the program has developed a reputation of offering a powerful tool for school improvement in addition to providing recognition.

Before winning the national Blue Ribbon Schools Award, Cheltenham, McKinley, and Thomas Fitzwater Elementary Schools all were named as Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon schools and were nominated for national recognition by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Each school had to work very hard to earn the Blue Ribbon status, going through

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