

June 6, 2000

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FOSTER,
CLIFTON OPTIMIST YEAR 2000
FRIEND OF YOUTH AWARD

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a remarkable person from my district, Robert Foster of Clifton, New Jersey, who was recognized on Friday, May 12, 2000 at the Optimist Dinner because of his many years of service and leadership. The Clifton Optimist Year 2000 Friend of Youth Award was conferred upon him at a dinner held at the Clifton Boys and Girls Club. It is only fitting that he is honored, for he has a long history of caring, generosity and commitment to others.

Robert was recognized for his many years of leadership in Clifton, which I have been honored to represent in Congress since 1997, and so it is only fitting that these words are immortalized in the annals of this greatest of all freely elected bodies.

Each year the Clifton Optimist Club recognizes a special person for his work with youth. This year the award is bestowed upon Robert, Director of the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton. He is an excellent choice for this honor because he embodies the theme "Friend of Youth" with his dedicated service and affiliations involving the children of the City of Clifton.

Robert is a graduate of Springfield College in Springfield, Massachusetts. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Recreation and Leisure Services from the school in 1980.

From the time of his graduation, twenty years ago, until the present day, Robert has worked at the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton, Inc. improving the lives of young people. He began his career as the Teens/Social Recreation Director of the club. In January of 1986 he became the program director for the organization. This change brought him a greater range of responsibility. The time spent working as the Teen/Social Recreation Director instilled in Robert the attributes necessary for him to become a stellar force in the community. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him a role model to the youths that he now serves.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Robert was promoted to his current position of Director of Operations in September of 1991. He is responsible for the daily operations of the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton. The club currently serves 2,200 youths from the ages of two and a half to seventeen.

Robert continually touches the lives of the people around him. This is exemplified by his club affiliations. He is a member of the Clifton Optimist Club and is a Clifton Stallions Soccer Club Trustee. In addition, he is a member of the Clifton Board of Recreation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Robert's family and friends, the Boys and Girls Club of Clifton, the City of Clifton and me in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Robert Foster.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE STRAFACE—
FORMER DISTRICT 51 SUPER-
INTENDENT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to thank George Straface for the time he spent as Superintendent of District 51 in western Colorado. George Straface truly had a passion for education and it was evident in the effort he put forth. George dedicated nearly 20 years of his life to District 51, six of them acting as Superintendent. His presence will surely be missed.

George brought to the District an ability to balance all of the difficult tasks that are required of a superintendent. He did his job to the best of his ability and influenced all of the educators around him. His abilities to listen to and motivate people distinguished him in his leadership role. Not only was George able to accommodate the many needs of parents, teachers, and students, but also George's strong vision helped make the District a reputable model for others around the state.

Mr. Straface will continue his pursuit of furthering education as he has agreed to take the position of Head of Schools in Westminster, Colorado. I am sure that he will continue to put education as the first priority on his agenda and continue to encourage educators to assist students in furthering their learning endeavors. I wish him the best of luck and thank him for his dedicated effort.

REMARKS OF RABBI IRVING
GREENBERG AT THE DAYS OF
REMEMBRANCE COMMEMORATION

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 4, Members of Congress joined with representatives of the diplomatic corps, executive and judicial branch officials and hundreds of Holocaust survivors and their families to commemorate the Days of Remembrance in the Great Rotunda of the United States Capitol. The theme of this year's commemoration was "The Holocaust and the New Century: The Imperative to Remember."

Even after more than half a century, Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that we continue to commemorate the horrors of the Holocaust in order to honor the memory of those victims of Hitler's twisted tyranny. We must also mark this catastrophe because mankind still has not learned the lessons of this horror, as evidenced most recently by the mass killings in Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Irving Greenberg, the newly designated Chairman of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council, delivered a moving address at this year's Day of Remembrance ceremony. Rabbi Greenberg was appointed Chair of the Holocaust Council on

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February 15 of this year. He previously served as a member of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council's founding board from 1980 to 1988 and again as a member of the board since 1997. He is a pioneer of Holocaust remembrance and education in the United States and in the Jewish-Christian dialogue that has sought to revise theology in light of the Holocaust. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University, he is the President of the Jewish Life Network in New York, and from 1974 to 1997 he served as the founding President of the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership. He also was executive director of President Jimmy Carter's Commission on the Holocaust. He and his wife, Blu Grenauer Greenberg, have five children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Rabbi Greenberg's excellent remarks at the Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Capitol be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to give them thoughtful consideration.

RABBI IRVING GREENBERG'S REMARKS: DAYS
OF REMEMBRANCE—MAY 4, 2000

"Behold I place before you today [for your choice] life and good, death and evil" (Deuteronomy 30:15)

And again: "I call heaven and earth to witness to you: [the choice of] life and death I have placed before you, the blessing and the curse; choose life so that you and your children may live." (Deuteronomy 30:19)

These biblical words are more than sacred scripture. They are the wisdom of living.

Every moment of living is a moment of choice. From the time we are born, we start to die. Unless we choose to live, unless we choose to love, to create children, to build society, then death will win out finally. No action is neutral. The next food we choose to eat is a choice of health and life or it is harmful and a choice of death. The next word we speak is a word of love, of healing, of encouragement and hope, or it is a word of stereotyping and degradation, of dismissal and death of the soul. The next act we do builds society and repairs the world; or, it is an act of vandalism, of environmental degradation, of breaking down the world and death.

As it is with individuals so it is with societies and nations. There are forces that can be deployed for human dignity and freedom and life or these same forces can be deployed to degrade and enslave, that is in the service of death.

Sixty to seventy years ago, in a tragic process we now call the Holocaust, nations and individuals made a series of decisions that in sum added up to the choice of death for millions and millions.

Panicked by economic depression and fear of social instability, millions of German voters chose to undermine democracy. They voted for a politician promising to restore them by removing the conflicts and risky choices of modern society, by concentrating power and by excluding foreigners and strangers and Jews. Thereby they unleashed a force of death. Fearful of making hard choices and of confronting an extremist, political leaders chose to make a pact with the devil and brought Adolf Hitler to power. Then legislators elected to go along with concentrating that power. Then the Nazis chose to suppress democracy, to crush the unions and the socialists and to exclude and isolate the Jews. Then jurists opted to go along with perverted justice and bureaucrats decided to classify and discriminate. These were all choices that brought death to power. These were the choices of death.