

Sadly, their story echoes the events of the 1911 fire that occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York City where 146 young garment workers were killed.

The women traveled to the United States to tell their compelling story of the dangerous working conditions under which they are forced to work. Fifty-one of their co-workers were killed in the fire that blazed through the factory. Many of the workers were electrocuted, suffocated, or trampled to death, due to the doors of the factory being locked that evening by the owners to keep union organizers out. Through timid voices they explained that they are forced to work long hours, and had not received a raise in two years. They spoke of their fear for their jobs when they returned home because of their trip to the United States. However, they stated that they traveled to the United States to tell their story in hope of making a difference for the workers in the Chowdhury factory in Bangladesh and workers around the world.

In Bangladesh nearly 80% of garment workers do not earn the legal monthly minimum wage of \$17. The average workday is 12–14 hours, many times for as little as 5 cents an hour. The workers are denied the right to organize and are subjected to deplorable working conditions. “Ms. A” and “Ms. B” sew for first-world clients at the Chowdhury Knitwear Factory. The factory produces towels and bedding products that are shipped to the European Union. However, the owner of the factory owns and operates another factory across the street that makes products that are shipped to the United States.

Unfortunately, there are many factory workers who can tell stories such as “Ms. A” and “Ms. B’s”. There are factories like the Chowdhury Knitwear factory in Bangladesh all over the world. In the past decade hundreds of workers have been killed in factory fires throughout Asia, in Thailand, and in China. We have a responsibility to impel companies in countries such as Bangladesh to provide their workers with safe conditions and the right to organize, and collectively bargain. America should not allow the import of goods from nations that allow the exploitation of their own workers.

As a member of the International Workers Right Caucus, I strongly urge the United States Congress, and all nations to ratify the International Labor Organization Standards providing individuals abroad basic worker rights.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to the record the story of these women and their associates because I am their voice, the voice that can be heard by the American public, and by the U.S. government.

It is because of the conditions that exist at the Chowdhury Knitwear factory in Bangladesh that I will continue to fight for labor rights both home and abroad.

MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO'S MARKETPLACE WINS PEABODY AWARD

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of, and to honor Minnesota Public Radio's highly regarded business and financial news program Marketplace™, for their receipt of a prestigious Peabody Award for 2000. The George Foster Peabody Awards were established in 1940 to recognize distinguished achievement and meritorious service by radio and television networks, stations, producing organizations, cable television organizations and individuals. Marketplace will be honored during a May 21st awards ceremony in New York to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the George Foster Peabody Awards.

Marketplace is public radio's only national program about business, the global economy and finance. It was the first, and is still the only, daily national business show originating from the West Coast. Its location in Los Angeles has provided Marketplace easier access to the Pacific Rim and has encouraged the staff to develop their own voice, one not overwhelmed by the traditionally Eastern-dominated media. With eight domestic bureaus (Boston, Ann Arbor/Detroit, Cleveland, New York, Philadelphia, Portland, San Francisco and Washington, DC) and two international bureaus (London and Tokyo), Marketplace is a truly global program using business and economics as its twin lenses to better view and understand the world. It distinguishes itself from general news programming by taking a broader view of business and exploring business and finance issues on a deeper more human, more engaging level.

The program premiered in January 1989 from Long Beach, California. Over the years, it has been described as well informed, hip, irreverent, and the business show for the rest of us. Last year, Minnesota Public Radio, which is based in my home district of Saint Paul, Minnesota, acquired Marketplace from the University of Southern California. This added one more strong program to Minnesota Public Radio's already impressive resume of celebrated shows including A Prairie Home Companion and Saint Paul Sunday. Marketplace's future looks as bright as its past with Minnesota Public Radio building a state-of-the-art digital production center in downtown Los Angeles that will serve at the program's newest home.

Marketplace was created by Jim Russell, an award-winning journalist and a former executive producer of All Things Considered, who has more than thirty years of broadcasting experience under his belt. In 1988, he envisioned a public radio business program that sounded smart, literate and witty; one that could appeal to an audience of non business types. Today, Marketplace is heard on more than 300 public radio stations across the United States with a national audience of nearly 4 million weekly listeners.

The executive producer of Marketplace is J.J. Yore, who has been a reporter, editor and

broadcast producer for nearly twenty years. As executive producer, he is the one responsible for setting the program's overall editorial direction and tone, which the Peabody Awards Committee described as, “sophisticated, creative and accessible.”

David Brancaccio has been the show's senior host since 1993. He is a former foreign correspondent and broadcast reporter with a knack for telling a good story. His style has been described as lively and engaging. Before taking his current position with Marketplace, he served as the show's London bureau chief for three years. His international reporting experience and considerable travel overseas add to Marketplace's global perspective on business-related news.

Praise for Marketplace abounds. Early in its history, it was named “best business program” in the U.S. by the prestigious Columbia Journalism Review. More recently, Marketplace received the 1997 Loeb Award in the radio category, the 1997 Clarion Award for “Regular News” and in January 1998, the highly coveted duPont-Columbia Award for “Excellence in Overall Show.” In 2000, Marketplace's Japan Bureau won the Overseas Press Club's Best Business Reporting in Broadcast Media Award. According to Washingtonian Magazine, Marketplace is in the top four most-listened-to programs by business leaders. The Station Resource Group reported that, according to industry leaders, Marketplace is one of five “must-have” programs for public radio stations.

Marketplace's most recent honor, the Peabody Award, is one of the most competitive in the fields of broadcasting and cable. For the year 2000, Marketplace was one of only 34 award winners chosen from nearly 1,100 entries. The Peabody Award differs from other broadcast and cable awards because it is given solely on the basis of merit, rather than within designated categories. Judging is done by a fifteen-person national advisory board whose members include TV critics, broadcast and cable industry executives, scholars, and experts in culture and fine arts. Dr. Louise Benjamin, Interim Director of the Peabody Awards, said, “The Peabody Board chose Marketplace because the program offers listeners a refreshing, perceptive account of the day's international economic news. It also gives its audience insight into how the global economy affects their communities and their lives.”

I congratulate Marketplace on their notable achievement as a 2000 recipient of the George Foster Peabody Award. The Peabody and Minnesota Public Radio's Marketplace belong together as they both represent the qualities we, here in the U.S. House of Representatives, applaud: excellence, distinguished achievement, and service.

HONORING DR. MICHAEL B. HARRIS

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who has distinguished

himself not just for his contributions to the medical field, but for his charity and selfless devotion to others. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Michael B. Harris of Englewood, New Jersey, this year's winner of the Anti-Defamation League's Maimonides Award.

Maimonides was one of the great Jewish scholars. In addition to being the first person to write a systematic code of all Jewish law, the Mishneh Torah, he was also an expert on medicine, and one of his most notable sayings is, "The well-being to the soul can be obtained only after that of the body has been secured."

The list of Dr. Harris' accomplishments is long and distinguished. He currently serves as Director of the Tomorrow's Children's Institute, Chief of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology at the Hackensack University Medical Center, and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey Medical School, as well as having authored or co-authored more than 50 articles and 50 abstracts in the field of pediatric hematology/oncology.

While that sounds like it would be enough work for two people, he still finds time to donate his expertise and give of himself to the community. He is the Chair of the Medical Advisory Board of the Israeli Children's Cancer Foundation and was recently asked to serve as Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee of Gilda's Club of Northern New Jersey. And he has been a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Ahavath Torah in Englewood for many years.

People who give so much of themselves as Dr. Michael Harris do not do so for the recognition. However, he certainly deserves to receive it.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate Dr. Michael Harris, as well as his wife Frieda, and his children Miera, Aimee, Jonathan and Aaron on the occasion of this well deserved tribute from the Anti-Defamation League, and wish them health and happiness in the years to come.

OPERATION DESERT STORM AND
THE 926TH FIGHTER WING

HON. RICHARD H. BAKER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Mr. BAKER. Mr. Speaker, in early August 1990, Iraqi military forces illegally invaded Kuwait, a neighboring sovereign state. Immediately, American military forces began deploying to the area to deter the Iraqis from further aggression. During Operation Desert Shield, the build-up phase for the later operation, Desert Storm, troops and supplies were put into motion and decisions were made about who, when, where, and how for the possible coming conflict should diplomatic efforts prove unfruitful. During this buildup period, it was decided there would be participation in this campaign by the reserve forces of the United States military; and the unit to represent the United States Air Force Reserve would be the 706th Fighter Squadron, along with supporting personnel, of the 926th Fighter Wing from New Orleans, Louisiana.

Approximately 500 members of the 926th Fighter Wing were recalled to active duty and

placed on military orders on Dec. 29, 1990. (Personnel of the 926th Security Forces Squadron had already served a tour of duty in Saudi Arabia in the fall of 1990 during the build-up phase of Operation Desert Shield.) On the evening of Jan. 1, 1991, the University of Tennessee was participating in the Sugar Bowl at the Superdome in New Orleans as 18 combat-loaded A-10s took off from the Naval Air Station at Belle Chasse, Louisiana, and turned eastward toward Saudi Arabia. By Jan. 6, the 18 A-10s and the approximately 500 maintenance and support personnel would arrive at King Fahd International Airport to support the military operation. This was the first U.S. Air Force Reserve fighter unit to be activated by a presidential recall and then sent to serve in a combat military operation.

The members of the 926th Fighter Wing were in country less than two weeks when, early in the morning, on Jan. 17, the first combat sorties were launched to strike military targets in Iraq and Kuwait. The war had begun. The early intent was to take down the enemy's communication ability, followed closely by removing their artillery assets, and demoralizing the "elite" Republican Guard. The air campaign that ensued was a complete success, resulting in a swift four-day ground war and a victory by allied forces. On Feb. 28, 1991, the war was over.

Amid the joy of victory work continued, and preparations began for the demobilization of deployed American forces, including the return of the members of the 926th Fighter Wing who distinguished themselves in combat and served with honor alongside their active-duty counterparts. On May 17th, the last of the 18 A-10s and 500 people originally deployed to the region, returned safely to Naval Air Station, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mission Accomplished! All personnel and all aircraft deployed returned safely to home station.

Since that time, members and aircraft of the 926th Fighter Wing have continued to answer the call to duty whenever and wherever needed. In 1995, approximately 300 members deployed to Aviano Air Base, Italy, in support of Operation Deny Flight. Members have also deployed in support of humanitarian missions in the Americas. Again, in 1998 members of the unit deployed to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in support of Operation Southern Watch to support and help enforce the no-fly zone over Iraq instituted after Operation Desert Storm. In September and October 1999, A-10s and personnel from the wing returned to Kuwait to participate in Aerospace Expeditionary Force (AEF) 1.

This tradition of service and sacrifice continues into the 21st century as in mid-January, 2001, members of the 926th Fighter Wing began deploying to Southwest Asia for the wing's second rotation on the AEF. Their mission this time being combat search and rescue for Operation Northern Watch.

The successes of the 926th Fighter Wing during combat operations in Operation Desert Storm, and throughout all of the on-going missions since then, are due to the outstanding leadership, devotion to duty, and sacrifice of the men and women of the unit; and, the valuable support of their families. As a nation, we give thanks to the members of the 926th Fighter Wing, New Orleans, Louisiana, and

their families, as we salute and honor them, during this 10-year anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, for their service to our country in the cause of freedom.

HOLOCAUST DAYS OF
REMEMBRANCE 2001

HON. LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, this past week we observed the Holocaust Days of Remembrance and our nation's annual commemoration in the Capitol Rotunda of the victims of the Holocaust. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide of the European Jews.

This year's theme, "Remembering the Past for the Sake of the Future," is part of a vow that we have taken never to forget the Holocaust, lest history repeat itself. This message must resonate through the years. Our children and our children's children must learn of the Holocaust to ensure that it will never happen again.

We must also not forget that Holocaust survivors continue to wait for the reparations they deserve for the physical pain and mental suffering they endured so many years ago. Time is running out for Germany to provide a measure of justice to the survivors of the Holocaust, most of whom are now in their 70's or 80's.

I have stood with Holocaust survivors in the Capitol Rotunda filled with the saddest and most tragic of memories from their lives, lives like that of my constituent, Mr. Alec Mutz. Two years ago, I was privileged to light a memorial candle with Mr. Mutz, who survived three ghettos and five concentration camps. Mr. Mutz is just one of an estimated 50,000 Jewish survivors in North America who were Nazi-era slave laborers.

During the last Congress, I introduced H.R. 271, the Justice for Holocaust Survivors Act, a bill to allow survivors like Mr. Mutz to pursue just reparations from Germany for the unspeakable suffering they endured during the Holocaust. H.R. 271, which garnered the support of 96 bipartisan co-sponsors, would have enabled Holocaust survivors who have been denied reparations by the German government to sue the German government in United States federal courts to claim restitution.

On March 30, 2000, I was informed by the Administration that the German government had agreed to double its compensation package to the victims of slave labor camps from 5 billion to 10 billion Deutsche marks (DM), or the equivalent of 5 billion U.S. dollars. I was also informed that H.R. 271 served as a catalyst in the talks between the U.S. and Germany to reach a compensation agreement.

On July 17, 2000, the United States and Germany signed an agreement to establish a German Foundation, "Remembrance, Responsibility, and the Future," to be the exclusive forum for the resolution of all Holocaust-era personal injury, property loss, and damage claims against German banks, insurers, and companies. In return, the U.S. government promised that the Department of Justice would