

April 27, 2001

CONGRATULATING THE JEWISH
JOURNAL/NORTH OF BOSTON ON
ITS 25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2001

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Speaker, on May 6, 2001, the Jewish Journal/North of Boston will celebrate its 25th year of publication. For a quarter century, the Jewish Journal has been the principal source of community news and information for the Jewish population of the communities that lie between Boston on the New Hampshire border, most of which are within the Sixth Congressional District.

As a community-sponsored publication, managed by a Board of Overseers representing the diverse points of view of the entire community, the Jewish Journal keeps its readers well informed of Jewish concerns—local, national and international—while offering a forum for a lively exchange of ideas. The newspaper's independence from any chain or large corporate entity ensures its journalistic integrity and guarantees that its readers receive unbiased consideration of all the issues.

I want to add my congratulations and best wishes to the management and staff of the Jewish Journal/North of Boston on reaching this important milestone and commend them for the invaluable service they provide for thousands of Jewish families in our area.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

15TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR DISASTER

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2001

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 15th anniversary of one of the most terrible nuclear disasters in world history: the Chernobyl nuclear power plant explosion.

On April 26, 1986, Reactor Number Four at the Soviet-designed Chernobyl nuclear facility exploded, releasing more than 100 tons of lethally radioactive material into the environment. At the time, the only response available to Ukraine was to create an Exclusion Zone covering over 1000 square miles immediately surrounding the nuclear plant, and to quarantine an area downwind of the plant covering over 20,000 square miles. We may never know how many lost lives can be directly attributed to Chernobyl, but the death toll can be measured in the thousands. Hundreds of thousands more were subjected to radiation poisoning.

Today, 15 years later, the consequences of this tragedy continue to be felt. Cancer rates among the survivors have skyrocketed. Contaminants in the groundwater sicken those in the quarantined area and threaten even greater numbers of people as the water travels downstream to urban areas. The loss of Chernobyl's generating power has caused the loss of jobs and has spurred a crippling energy shortage. By some estimates, the total direct cost to Ukraine has exceeded \$100 billion over the past 15 years.

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On December 15, 2000, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant was shut down for good, ending a tragic chapter in Ukraine's history and beginning a new one. Clearly, the heavy burden for the people of Ukraine does not end with the shutdown, and the international community must do more to help remediate the damage. The U.S. has joined international experts in proposing ways to accelerate decontamination of the area and make the land economically viable, at the same time addressing Ukraine's energy needs. Congress needs to work with the new Administration to build upon the progress that was made with the previous Administration.

Mr. Speaker, I call on every member of the House to join me in remembering the victims of this tragedy. Let us resolve to do our part to help Ukraine build a brighter future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2001

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on April 26, I inadvertently voted "yes" on final passage of H.R. 503, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act, when it was my strong intent to vote "no" on the bill. I feel that the best way to protect the fetus is to better protect the woman, and because this legislation fails to address the need for legislation to prevent and punish violence against women, I would not support this or any similar bill.