

exhibited during his time with the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division. Then-Lieutenant Urban, despite a broken leg suffered during his landing on Omaha Beach, led an attack on German positions from the top of a tank, which not only saved his men trapped on the beach, but also drove the enemy off their positions and off the beach.

Lt. Col. Matt Urban, an American hero, passed away on March 20, 1995, as a result of complications from a collapsed lung brought on by one of his seven war wounds. He was laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery, a hero's honor, well-deserved.

Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 31, 2001, the man once dubbed "The Hero We Nearly Forgot" will be remembered by his hometown of Buffalo, New York, when the Lt. Col. Matt Urban Monument Fund presents a day of activities to honor and remember his bravery, valor and service; and I ask that this Congress, while pausing in memory of all those who have fallen in defense of freedom and liberty, join me in a special salute to our nation's most decorated combat veteran, Lt. Col. Matt Urban.

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CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

**HON. SUSAN DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, as we all reflect on the grave situation in the Middle East, I commend to all my colleagues the following OpEd piece published in the May 18, 2001 San Diego Union Tribune.

NEGOTIATIONS CAN STOP BLOODSHED

(By Yuval Rotem)

Since the days of Sir Isaac Newton school-children have been taught that for every action there is a reaction, and that there is an axiomatic distinction between cause and effect. This truth applies both to the world of physics and to today's conflict in the Middle East.

For over eight months, the citizens of Israel have been confronted with a virulent campaign of violence and terror. Israel, like any other nation, has a right and obligation to react in order to protect the lives of its citizens. The legitimacy of self-defense is a foundation of international law and of the United Nations Charter.

That both Israelis and Palestinians have suffered due to the current uprising, there can be no doubt. Yet while it may be easy to assign equal blame to the two sides, there is in truth no equivalence between the actions of Palestinian terrorists and the reaction of the Israelis whom they target.

If Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders were to call for a cessation of shootings and bombings, an end to the violence would be well within reach. No such calls have been issued, and the Palestinians continue to shoot, and Israel is compelled to react. That anyone is killed is unjustifiable, but sometimes it is forgotten who exactly started the shooting, and who continues to deem indiscriminate killing as a legitimate bargaining chip.

Israel cannot sit idly on the sidelines while its people pay the ultimate price for the Palestinian leadership's opting for confronta-

tion over reconciliation. Palestinian leaders and militias consider violence to be an effective tool in promoting a unilateral solution to a conflict which Israel believes can only be addressed via bilateral negotiation.

Palestinian gunmen purposely select targets with the intention of maximizing carnage and shock value. Suicide bombers and explosive devices containing nails and shrapnel are employed in densely populated civilian areas. Israeli children and adults are maimed and murdered while shopping at the mall or riding on the bus.

Israel, forced to defend itself, undertakes operations designed to hamper further terror, striking only against those actively involved in violence. For the most part, Israeli reprisals against those initiating terror strikes are extremely accurate. However, sometimes unintended consequences have regrettably occurred.

There have even been instances when children have been injured. In the vast majority of cases, this takes place when Palestinian children are intentionally used as human shields serving as buffers for gunmen firing upon Israeli targets. Remember that the Israeli army is no longer deployed in Palestinian populated areas. In order for stonethrowing children to be within close proximity to Israeli forces, they have to be consciously transported to such locations by their elders.

Despite this brutal tactic, Israeli forces do their utmost to prevent casualties. Tragically, a totally innocent child, five-month-old Iman Haju, fell victim last week. She was unintentionally killed in Israeli return fire, which was directed at positions used by a Palestinian mortar crew to bombard an Israeli community just minutes earlier.

The fact is that terrorists have been consistently launching mortars from civilian sites such as school yards and apartment buildings. By contrast, Palestinian militants have routinely and specifically targeted Israeli children. Shalhevet Pass, a 10-month-old Israeli girl, was spotted, fixed and then shot in the head by a Palestinian sniper in March. In the past week, two 13-year-old Israeli boys were brutally stoned to death, and their bodies mutilated by terrorists while hiking in a riverbed close to their homes.

These are not cases of unintentional civilian casualties. These and other Israeli children were slain because their Palestinian executioners found them to be useful targets. Such heinous actions do not arise in a vacuum.

Since the Palestinian rejection of the proposals offered by former Prime Minister Barak and President Clinton, the Palestinian Authority has carefully orchestrated a campaign of hatred and incitement through its official newspapers, television and radio stations, its schools and religious institutions.

Palestinian Authority spokesmen have praised violence and suicide bombings. The Palestinian Authority has freed known terrorists from prison, and official Palestinian police and security forces have joined in attacks upon Israeli civilians with impunity. Palestinians have employed illegal mortars and anti-tank weapons against Israeli communities, and heavy arms such as Katyusha artillery rockets and shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles are now being smuggled into Palestinian territory.

The Palestinian leadership is doing nothing to prevent further escalation of violence, and the people of Israel are wondering just exactly what the Palestinians are trying to achieve.

An end to the occupation? Some 98 percent of Palestinians already live under Palestinian control. Statehood and independence? It was offered and rejected. An end to check points? More territory? It was offered and rejected. Not only were all attempts to genuinely settle the conflict rejected out of hand, but the Palestinians responded to them—in- stead of with counter-proposals for peace—with intifada, jihad and terror.

The current confrontation is one which Israel neither sought nor initiated, and still, there is no desire for punishment and revenge. There is no wish to suppress or repress anyone. What point does it serve?

Negotiation and education for peace are the only means forward, and hopefully a meaningful resumption of dialogue can begin again soon. In the meantime, the Palestinian leadership must be made to understand that terrorism and bloodshed cannot exist side by side with diplomacy.

The path of violence was supposed to have been forever abandoned on Sept. 13, 1993, when Chairman Arafat shook the hand of Israel's late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and pledged in word and in writing to forswear achieving his goals by the sword. Though that day over seven years ago seems so remote, it must continue to guide all sides even now.

Terror will not bring the Palestinian people what they desire. They will not be able to gain through violence what they could not gain through negotiation. Only a return to talks and moderation can bring a mutually acceptable settlement for both sides.

Rotem is consul general of Israel to the southwestern United States.

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HONORING REVEREND DR. J. ALFRED SMITH, JR.

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr. for his many years of service to Allen Temple Baptist Church and the City of Oakland.

As the Co-Pastor of Allen Temple Baptist Church, Reverend Smith Jr. helped lead the Allen Temple Family to new heights with its spiritual, social and economic justice agenda. He has exemplified, in a magnificent way, steady, enlightened and inspirational leadership.

Reverend Smith Jr. has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Services and African American Studies from Antioch University. He has also earned his Master in Divinity from the Graduate Theological University and a Doctor of Ministry from San Francisco Theological Seminary.

While pursuing his graduate degrees, he was an instructor at San Francisco State University, U.C. Berkeley, the Pacific School of Religion, and the Allen Temple Leadership Institute. Reverend Smith, Jr. has educated students about Black Religion, Black Philosophy, African American Children and Their Families, the Mission of the Church and Church Administration of Social Justice.

Aside from his role as an educator, he has played a pivotal role in contributing to the betterment of the City of Oakland. He has served

as an Urban Employment Analyst in the Office of Economic Development and Employment; he has worked with the Oakland Crime Prevention Unit; he has served on the advisory board for fair housing; and he has been an advocate for the homeless.

Reverend Smith Jr.'s activism is not bounded by the City of Oakland. He has led a study tour and has participated in peace discussions in Israel and Palestine. He has traveled to London to be a keynote speaker for the Progressive Baptist Churches of the United Kingdom. He has traveled to Western Africa and China on a cultural exchange mission.

Reverend Smith Jr. has received numerous awards and has received worldwide recognition for his advocacy for social, political and economic justice. He has often been quoted by the media for his wisdom on particular issues.

On a personal level, I have relied on Reverend Smith, Jr.'s insights on the major issues confronting the human family for several decades. His clarity, his wisdom and his vision have meant so much to me and my predecessor, Congressman Ronald V. Dellums. It is with a deep sense of gratitude and a profound sense of love and affection for Reverend Smith, Jr., his wife, Mrs. Elaine Smith, and his entire family that I wish him well, good luck and God's blessings as he embarks upon the next chapter of his life.

I proudly join Reverend Smith's family, friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting him for his years of service and commitment to improving the human condition.

Thank you Reverend Dr. J. Alfred Smith, Jr.!

HONORING ROGER P. PETERS

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to pay respects to a long time professor at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. Roger Peters passed away on May 13, 2001 from a battle with cancer. Family, friends, students and faculty will truly miss one of Ft. Lewis College's best professors.

Roger was born on October 29, 1943, in Washington, DC. He graduated from the University of Chicago in 1965 with a bachelor's degree in political science. After graduation, he volunteered for the Peace Corps and served as a science teacher in Liberia. "He loved his life. He was a really happy person," said Arden Peters, his daughter. "He taught everyone he knew so much. He was a remarkable friend and the best father."

For more than a quarter of a century Roger was a psychology professor at Ft. Lewis College. Roger was an enthusiastic teacher who would light his students up with excitement "Students would be infected with his enthusiasm," said Alane Brown, and associate professor of psychology. According to Byron Dare, a friend and fellow professor, Roger was the epitome of a professional and was a multi-dimensional person with numerous interests.

Roger Peters will be missed by everyone that knew him. He made an impact on his

family, friends, and his students. Mr. Speaker, I would like Congress to join me honoring Roger for all he has done for students at Fort Lewis College and his family.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ACT TO  
LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to submit to my colleagues in the House the Act to Leave No Child Behind. Today I am joined by the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, and the gentleman from California, Mr. STARK, in announcing its introduction.

An Act to Leave No Child Behind has ambitious but achievable goals: to eliminate child poverty, end child hunger, prepare children to enter school ready to learn, and provide children with health insurance and other vital services necessary for the successful development of America's children. Our bill is a road map for the safe and healthy development of America's children.

America must make a choice when it comes to the future of our neediest children. We must choose whether we will invest in the healthy development of our children or in the richest one percent of taxpayers in this country. We cannot do both. This bill represents a vision and a commitment toward a future where all children have a chance to succeed.

An Act to Leave No Child Behind, combines several pieces of legislation that could be acted upon separately at the appropriate time. Taken together, however, this bill moves us forward on the path where all children have quality health care, educational opportunity, quality child care and safe communities. This legislation provides every child and their parents with health insurance, lifts every child from poverty through tax credits, work supports, and a new minimum wage, and ends child hunger through the expansion of food programs. This bill makes sure every child is ready for school by fully funding quality early learning programs, and offers significant reforms for our system of public education that increases accountability, reduces classroom size, and guarantees that all children will be taught by qualified teachers in modern and safe classrooms. This legislation also addresses the issue of affordable housing and safe communities through sensible environmental protections, gun safety laws, and programs to reduce children's exposure to neglect, abuse, and violence.

I am so proud to have working with me on this legislation, my friend Senator CHRISTOPHER DODD (D-CT) and the Children's Defense Fund. Despite President Bush's use of the term, it was in fact the Children's Defense Fund that trademarked the phrase "Leave No Child Behind" in 1994. And it has been justified in using it ever since as it has waged a relentless battle to knock America's political establishment to its senses on behalf of our neediest children. This bill is the real deal—it is the real Act to Leave No Child Behind. It

addresses the most important issue facing our country—the children who have been and continue to be left behind. We understand that our bill is asking for a significant commitment in federal resources to help children. But we think that is the right direction for us to take. We also strongly believe that we have the resources for this effort. And, perhaps most important, we understand that the continued neglect of the real needs of children has come at a great price and will continue to cost our society—and these children—dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Act to Leave No Child Behind.

HONORING FORMER  
CONGRESSMAN PAUL G. ROGERS

**HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 24, 2001*

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize former Congressman Paul G. Rogers who will be honored on June 12th by the dedication of the Paul G. Rogers Plaza at the National Institutes of Health. This occasion is a tribute to Paul's accomplishments in the fields of health and the environment.

Paul G. Rogers was elected to Congress in 1954 where he represented South Floridians living in Palm Beach and Broward Counties for twenty-four years. Paul was a well-respected Member of Congress who was known as a man of integrity. He is recognized and has been widely honored for his sponsorship of numerous pieces of legislation in the areas of health and the environment including the National Cancer Acts of 1971 and 1977 and the Clean Air and Water Act. This legislation has saved the lives of countless Americans and improved the quality of life for all Americans.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Health and the Environment, Paul used his broad knowledge and deep understanding of health and environmental issues to build a consensus of opinion in favor of Congressional action in these areas. In fact, he is often referred to as "Mr. Health." Paul was always more interested in results than in partisan politics and therefore was able to move widely supported bipartisan legislation. His accomplishments are a legacy that demonstrates what can be done in Congress if we work together for the public good. Today I have the privilege of representing parts of Paul's district and am trying to follow the trail that he blazed in these important areas.

The Paul G. Rogers Plaza at the National Institutes of Health honors this outstanding American, and my friend, Paul Rogers. I hope that the work done at this Plaza will be worthy of the name it has been given.