

Community Center will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a gala dinner dance at the Martinsville Inn in Martinsville, New Jersey.

Over the past 50 years, the community center has inspired, educated, counseled, and guided countless numbers of the Jewish faithful. While the dinner will recognize the 50 years that center has been located at its present location in Flemington, it is important to note that the group itself was in existence for many years before gathering throughout the community. This year also marks a significant time for the entire Jewish community, as it marks the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel.

The celebration will also recognize another notable occurrence. It was over 10 years ago that Rabbi Evan Jaffe, a native of Denver, was chosen as the spiritual leader of the Flemington Jewish Community Center. During the decade that he has spent in New Jersey, the rabbi has become an instrumental and active leader in the Jewish community throughout the State.

Aside from the spiritual leadership he has demonstrated throughout his years at the synagogue, he has distinguished himself by service to the community by serving the elder members of the faith at the Edison State Nursing Home and the Greenbrook Regional Center. Additionally, he serves as the Jewish chaplain to Jewish inmates in Hunterdon and Somerset Counties. He is also the vice president of the Jewish Family Service of Somerset, Hunterdon, and Warren Counties and serves as chaplain at both the Hunterdon Medical Center and the Hagedorn Geriatric Center.

Beyond the celebration of High Holy Days and weekly services, the center has truly become a center for the faithful of the community to gather for cultural, social, and educational purposes. The tremendous amount of work, planning, and dedication of those who persevered to establish the center so many years ago lives on today. What began with a few families, business people, and farmers has evolved into a comprehensive center which continues to grow each year. Today, this facility serves over 230 families throughout Hunterdon County and the surrounding areas, and each year that number continues to grow.

Throughout the years, the Community Center and Rabbi Jaffe in particular have proved to be a place of comfort for those in times of sorrow and have been an instrumental part of the joy and happiness of many families and individuals. Whether it was the newfound joy of a child or the sorrow experienced while grieving the death of a loved one, the spirit, support, and faith he provides and they provide to congregants is invaluable.

The center is a place where both young and old can learn about the history of the Jewish faith, its traditions and customs. It is a place of learning and enrichment and serves as a focal

point for young people to gather the knowledge and maintain the traditions that have been handed down to them.

Not too long ago, I was fortunate enough to have been invited to a special service at the Flemington Jewish Center. It was a moving celebration of the bar and bat mitzvahs of a number of severely disabled community residents. Many of the young people being honored were unable to speak, see, or to stand. Yet, the joy and meaning of the event was clearly understood by each and every one of them, their families, and all who participated that day.

It was the commitment of Rabbi Jaffe who made the effort to visit these individuals weekly, often in institutional settings, to help them to learn the portion of the Torah which they were to share with the congregation. The outpouring of love and pride that day is something I will not soon forget.

Recently, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Israel. The Jewish federations of the five counties in my district made this possible, including many of the members of the Flemington Jewish Center. While I have always been a staunch supporter of Israel, I came away even clearer about the needs of the region, the tenuous balance the Israeli people are trying to maintain, and the absolute need for a lasting peace.

The United States must remain strong in its resolve to support the efforts of the Israeli people. They have succeeded through determination, resolve, hard work, and know-how to facilitate an independent and flourishing nation and to remain connected to the Jewish people throughout our country and countries around the world.

So, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to joining with the friends, families, and members of the Flemington Jewish Community Center as they celebrate their faith, history, stories, traditions, and values. This upcoming 50th anniversary dinner will allow us the opportunity to fondly recall the past, celebrate all that has been accomplished, and continue to look ahead to the future.

For the last 50 years, the Flemington Jewish Community Center has served the faithful and the community at large very well. If the spirit, dedication, and faith of those who founded and continue to be a part of the center are any indication of what the future holds, this community can only grow stronger. So today, I would like to wish the Flemington Jewish Community Center and Rabbi Jaffe a hearty mazel-tov.

□ 2015

NO MORE COMPLACENCY:  
RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IS REAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. BRADY]. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. MORAN] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, with Thanksgiving around the corner

and this session hopefully coming soon to an end, it is probably useful to remind ourselves that unfortunately we often take the freedoms we have been granted and enjoy in this country for granted. In the United States we do not have to worry about being arrested just for going to church. No one tries to stop us from praying in our own homes. In this country you might get into an argument with your neighbor over the relationship between church and State, but he or she does not kidnap your children, brainwash them and sell them into slavery just to punish you for your faith.

But that is a scenario that is not alien to Christians in the Sudan, where in the course of civil war and a campaign of terror millions of Sudanese Christians have been killed or displaced, and they are not alone. It has been estimated that more Christians have died for their faith in the 20th century than in the previous 19 centuries combined. The Roman emperors at their worst could not have imagined the magnitude of persecution that goes on today. That is not to say that Christians are the only victims of religious persecution in today's world. Far from it. But what I find disturbing is the complacent and even dismissive reaction that many Americans have to the plight of those persecuted because of their Christian faith. It is as if we believe Christianity enjoys a comfortable station over the world, that it is universally embraced by the establishment, but Christianity is a threat to the status quo.

In the Sudan, China, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and many other countries, the establishment knows that. In those countries, the establishment does not embrace Christianity, it intends to crush it. Whether targeting individual Christians or enforcing sweeping laws banning all forms of Christian expression, these regimes share a common goal and a common crime, the violation of a fundamental, God-given human right.

In Saudi Arabia it is illegal to wear a cross or even to pray privately in homes. Preaching the gospel to Muslims in Iran is punishable by death, and so is the act of conversion. In China, where Protestants and Catholics have been named principal threats to stability, earlier this year 100 church leaders were arrested in just 3 months.

In Cuba, the arrest of a Pentecostal pastor last year led to Castro's government ordering the closing of all of the country's home churches, estimated at as many as 10,000. In Pakistan, Christians can be accused of blasphemy, a capital offense. In Uzbekistan, Christians have been warned that they will forfeit their registration if they evangelize.

In Vietnam, where many restrictions on Christians were lifted earlier this decade, the Communist Party government has slid backward to repressive policies, including arrest, imprisonment and so-called reeducation.

No matter how thankful we may be for our freedoms, we must not be lulled into complacency about the situation faced by so many Christians and others persecuted for their religious practices and convictions. As a nation that has become powerful in large part because we jealously guard our individual freedoms, we have a responsibility to project the ideals of freedom around the globe. The responsibility belongs to individuals and advocacy groups, to businesses and to churches, but it also belongs to this our Government.

While we have taken steps to recognize all religious persecution as a serious problem and to monitor its prevalence, we need to take the next step and develop clear-cut, specific responses to persecution once it is identified. The solution may not be readily apparent but the crisis demands our full attention.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. SANFORD] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. SANFORD addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### FAST TRACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. HUNTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, as we stand on the eve of the debate on fast track that is the giving of a major part of our constitutional power to the President and the Vice President and his negotiating team to negotiate trade arrangements with other nations, I think it is important for us to look at what the Founding Fathers said about the unfettered use of so-called free trade. In short, Mr. Speaker, they were not for it.

I want to start with James Madison. James Madison said it should never be forgotten that the great object of the Convention was to provide by a new Constitution a remedy for the defects of the existing one and that among these defects was out of a power to regulate foreign commerce, that in all nations this regulating power embraced the protection of domestic manufacturers by duties and restrictions on imports. That means that James Madison believed that it was important for a nation, particularly the United States, to have the right to regulate goods coming into the United States and to establish tariffs so that American companies and American workers would not be hurt. Thomas Jefferson, who was a free trader before 1812, after he became a President became a pragmatist, and he said, "The prohibiting duties we lay on all articles of foreign manufacture which prudence requires us to establish at home, with a patriotic determination to use no foreign articles which can be made within ourselves without

regard to difference in price, secure us against a relapse into foreign dependency."

Thomas Jefferson realized that we could become dependent on foreign products. And what would he say today to look at this \$3 billion balance of trade deficit that we have each week that we have to either borrow or sell capital goods to pay for, this massive foreign debt that we have accumulated as a function of our trade deficit?

Daniel Webster said, "My object is and has been with the protective policy, the true policy of the United States that the labor of the country is properly provided for. I am looking not for such a law as will benefit capitalists, they can take care of themselves, but for a law that will induce capitalists to invest their capital in such a way as to occupy and employ American labor." That meant that Daniel Webster wanted to have tariffs and regulate trade so that American companies would invest in the United States instead of moving to Guadalajara or moving to other places that are offshore and using other workers from other countries to make goods that then would be sold back into the United States.

And our own Abraham Lincoln, the founder of my party, the Republican Party, said in the platform, "We commend that policy of national exchanges which secures to the working man liberal wages, to agriculture remunerative prices, to mechanics and manufacturers an adequate reward for their skill, labor and enterprise and to the Nation commercial prosperity and independence."

And that other great Republican who, with Abraham Lincoln, is on Mount Rushmore, Teddy Roosevelt, said in 1911, "I can put my position on the tariff in a nutshell. I believe in such measure of protection as will equalize the cost of production here and abroad, that is, will equalize the cost of labor here and abroad. I believe in such supervision of the workings of the law as to make it certain that protection is given to the man we are most anxious to protect, the laboring man."

Mr. Speaker, I am a Republican, I am a capitalist, I think I have got a 13 percent AFL-CIO rating, but I understand that it is important for Americans to make good wages. We have driven wages down, and the record of NAFTA, the trade agreement that we allowed President Clinton to make with Mexico and Canada, has been disastrous for us. We had a \$3 billion trade surplus over Mexico when we negotiated NAFTA. Today we have got a \$19 billion annual loss. Today we have a \$20 billion annual loss with Canada. That same bright team that President Clinton has sent forth through the world to negotiate trade treaties has given us this year with China a \$52 billion trade loss.

This team is a losing team, Mr. Speaker, and the idea that this Congress is going to give away the con-

stitutional duty that was given to us by the Founding Fathers to a losing team which will negotiate us down the drain to the point where we have American industry having to move offshore to compete with the other industries that are employing people at \$2.38 an hour, \$1.50 an hour, \$1.75 an hour to displace Americans, the Americans who carry our flag in wartime, the Americans that pay our taxes, the Americans that pay our wages, that idea is not consistent with the classic idea of being a good Republican.

We should defeat this fast track, Mr. Speaker. We should keep that duty, that obligation to regulate trade within this House of Representatives where as Alexander Hamilton said, the people govern.

#### FAST TRACK AUTHORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. PALLONE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I want to spend some time tonight initially talking about the fast track legislation which we are likely to be voting on either tomorrow or Sunday. I am very much opposed to the fast track legislation for a number of reasons, and I wanted to use part of the hour tonight to outline some of those reasons and begin with a local situation in Monmouth County, which is one of the two counties that I represent in the State of New Jersey, because I think it illustrates the types of problems that I have with fast track by reference to NAFTA. Many of those who are opposed to fast track and who will be voting against fast track legislation, if it comes up over this weekend, are doing so because of the experience with NAFTA.

I want to comment on why Congress really should resist the pressure being put on us to grant the fast track authority, to expand NAFTA and essentially put even more Americans out of work. If I could give an example from central New Jersey, from Monmouth County, my home county, of how these trade agreements can affect the jobs and the lives of highly skilled American workers. On September 9, most of the 240 people who work at the Allied Signal plant in Eatontown, NJ, in Monmouth County were informed of the decision to close what is a defense technology manufacturing plant. They were told that the plant would be phased out in 1998, with a complete shutdown expected by March 1999. The company told the Allied Signal workers in Monmouth County, NJ, that in the short run, the jobs would be going to Tucson, AZ. But I believe, and I know that everyone at the plant believes, that the jobs ultimately will be moved to Mexico. The reason is squarely because of NAFTA.