

THE NATIONAL SOLEMN  
ASSEMBLY

**HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 15, 2002*

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention to an important event that took place earlier this week here in our Nation's Capital. On October 8 & 9th, the Center for Spiritual Renewal hosted the National Solemn Assembly at Constitution Hall. During these two days, church, governmental, military and business leaders from around the nation, including many from the D.C. area, came together for a time of prayer and fasting in support of our nation's leaders. Special sessions of prayer were conducted for the President, White House staff, Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, the U.S. Supreme Court and our Governors and state and local leaders. The Assembly, based on the scriptural admonition of Joel 2 and 2 Chronicles 7:14, is to return the Nation's spiritual focus on repentance, reconciliation and revival. Most notably, this meeting and its purpose were scheduled and established before the events of September 11, 2001, and well before any House debate of the Iraqi war resolution was scheduled for these same two days.

The Center for Spiritual Renewal, under the leadership of Dr. Robert E. Fisher, has been established to bring before the Church on a continuing basis the primary need for revival and renewal, both personal and corporate. The Center is a non-profit organization that works with all denominations, as well as non-affiliated local churches and ministry agencies to promote an understanding of the need to respond to the move of God through humility, worship and the embodiment of three sequential elements: spiritual integrity, scriptural unity and social responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to commend Dr. Fisher and the Center for Spiritual Renewal for their leadership in the establishment of the National Solemn Assembly, and for their prayerful support of the Members of this body and the many others in positions of leadership within our government.

TRIBUTE TO S. PHILIP CABIBI

**HON. SCOTT MCINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 15, 2002*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep respect that I recognize the life and passing of S. Philip Cabibi of Pueblo, Colorado. Mr. Cabibi recently passed away and, as his family mourns his loss, I would like to pay tribute to his life and the contributions he has made throughout the years.

Mr. Cabibi was born in Pueblo on August 12, 1914, and graduated from Central High School. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and then returned to Pueblo after the war. Philip Cabibi served as Pueblo's District Judge from 1955 to 1973 and was well respected throughout the community for honesty and integrity. Mr. Cabibi made many significant decisions as District Judge,

including approving the creation of the South-eastern Colorado Conservancy District, which aided in the passage of the Fryngpan-Arkansas water project. After his tenure on the bench, Mr. Cabibi went into private practice until his retirement in the 1980s.

Despite a busy career, Mr. Cabibi always found the time for his friends and family. Along with his wife Margaret, Philip would often travel to California to visit his grandchildren, and loved playing gin rummy with his friends.

Throughout Pueblo, everyone seemed to know Mr. Cabibi and he could seldom enter a store or a restaurant without being recognized by someone in the neighborhood. No one could resist the genuine interest and affection that he bestowed upon everyone throughout the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration that I recognize the life and passing of Philip Cabibi and all his contributions to the community of Pueblo, Colorado. I extend my sincere condolences to his wife Margaret, his daughter Marilyn, sister Virginia, and his grandchildren, John and Michelle. Mr. Cabibi lived his life with honor and distinction, and his love for his fellow citizens won him the respect of all who knew him. Philip Cabibi's loss will be deeply felt throughout the Pueblo community and all of Colorado.

TRIBUTE TO MARILYN LUOTTO ON  
BEING AWARDED THE 2002 ST.  
MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT  
AWARD

**HON. ANNA G. ESHOO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 15, 2002*

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Marilyn Luotto, a distinguished citizen and a resident of Santa Clara County, who is being honored on October 16, 2002, by the Sacred Heart Schools of Atherton, California, with the 2002 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award.

Marilyn is a native of Chicago, Illinois, where she received her bachelor's degree in Psychology from Mundelein College and her master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Loyola University. In 1967, she came to California with her husband and their five children, and soon after, Marilyn began working at Sacred Heart Preparatory. She taught English, Psychology, and a course in Marriage and the Family through the Religion Department at the school. She also acted as a school counselor, at the high school and the elementary school. After five years of dividing her time between her family and the schools, Marilyn began spending more of her work time as a counselor at St. Joseph's School, continuing to teach at least one psychology course at the high school because she enjoyed her involvement with students of all ages. During this time, Marilyn also began pursuing her second master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling at the University of Santa Clara. With that degree she received her M.F.T. license as a Marriage and Family Therapist in the State of California.

Throughout her tenure at Sacred Heart Schools, Marilyn shared her time and her talents with the entire community of faculty, staff, and students. Last year she retired after 25

years of extraordinary service to the Sacred Heart Schools. With her characteristic spirit of generosity, she thanked everyone for their support and all that they had contributed to her personal and professional growth. She promised to find a way to share the love that she had received with others as she embarks on a new phase of her life.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Mrs. Marilyn Luotto as she receives the 2002 St. Madeleine Sophie Barat Award. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting her and thanking her for her extraordinary service to our community which has made us a better country.

HONORING BENJAMIN BLUSTEIN  
AND HEBREW UNIVERSITY

**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 15, 2002*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, on July 31, 2002, a Palestinian terrorist left a 22-pound hate bomb hidden in a bag on a table at Hebrew University's Frank Sinatra International Student Center cafeteria. The bomber and those who assisted him had two objectives.

By placing the bomb in an area popular with young people, students from around the world and renowned scholars in many disciplines of academic study, the terrorist hoped to kill and injure as many people as possible, without regard to their nationalities, religion or political persuasion. In this, those responsible for this heinous attack were successful. Ultimately, the blast killed nine people, including five Americans, and injured approximately 80 others.

But the attackers had more far reaching motives. They wished to send a message that they had no interest in legitimate efforts to resolve Israel's conflicts with Palestinians. In addition, by selecting this particular university as their target, the terrorists also wanted to send the message that they believed that academic discourse, scientific research, and medical care provided to people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds are not legitimate endeavors in Israel.

Let there be no mistake about this. On this second point, the terrorists are wrong. President George W. Bush immediately condemned this attack, and expressed his "fury" at the attack on this particular university that had killed five American students. He stated, "I'm just as angry as Israel is right now. . . . I'm furious about innocent life lost. However, through my fury, even though I am mad, I still believe peace is possible."

I believe the President's words were exactly correct to condemn this act of terrorism, just as he had condemned the over 70 homicide bombings aimed at Israel since September 2000. But, despite expressing anger and vowing to find and punish those responsible, the President also restated his quest for an eventual lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

While I am equally angry and upset at all such attacks, this one touched me personally in a way that none had before. One of the five American victims, Benjamin Blustein, was my constituent.

Benjamin Blustein was only 25 years old when this bomb took his life. He came from

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the heart of my Congressional district. At the time of his death, he was in a two-year study program designed so that he could earn a Master's degree from Hebrew University's Rothberg International School's Division of Graduate Studies and was also enrolled in the Educator's Program at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies.

He had previously earned his B.A. in Religion and Judaic Studies from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I mention this with pride, as Dickinson is also my alma mater.

Benjamin was more than a good student. He enriched all those around him, both those who knew him well and those with whom he had only limited contacts. He had assisted the entire Jewish Community throughout Central Pennsylvania through his work with the United Jewish Communities. In Israel, he enlivened the lives of many as a disc jockey at local dance clubs.

It is impossible to adequately verbalize the tragedy that occurred when Benjamin Blustein was randomly killed. I still find it hard to accept the loss of this vibrant, dedicated, passionate young man with such a wonderful sense of humor and caring for others.

Immediately following this hateful attack I sent a letter to President Bush, supporting his condemnation of the attacks. A copy of that letter follows these remarks.

As a result of Benjamin's death, I was motivated to learn more about the Hebrew University, the institution that drew Benjamin and so many others to study there.

It is important for all Members of Congress, as well as all Americans, to know that Hebrew University is the oldest comprehensive institution of higher learning in Israel and is considered to be among the world's truly great universities. The Hebrew University of Jerusalem has stood for understanding, tolerance, open discourse and academic excellence since it opened its doors in 1925.

Albert Einstein was one of its earliest supporters. From the very beginning, the university has carried on the dream of its founders, namely academic excellence, culture, science, learning and, most important, inclusion rather than exclusion of people from many religions, nations and ethnic backgrounds. Its students come from diverse cultural, religious, and geographic backgrounds with 10 percent of the student body of Arab descent. This diversity is what contributes to the university's strength and purpose.

It is sad, and ironic, to note that the unconscionable acts of inhumanity that took place at Hebrew University marked the second time that this remarkable academic institution has been devastated by a violent attack. In 1948, Arabs massacred a group of doctors and nurses in a bus going to the Hebrew University Medical School Hospital campus, perhaps a half-mile away from where this most recent bombing occurred.

Yet, despite the violence in 1948 and despite the fact that its original campus was cut off from the rest of Jerusalem until the city was united in 1967, the University continued to grow, to prosper and to gain international recognition for the high quality of its researches, teachers and physicians.

One of the most remarkable aspects of this institution is its efforts to reach out to Israel's

neighbors, including the Palestinians. It is important to stress Hebrew University's regional cooperative programs with Palestinians and Arab countries in health, agriculture, water, environment, marine sciences, and the search for peace.

Rather than discuss its many programs, it would be symbolic to mention just one as the paradigm of the entire University.

I thought it worthwhile to detail the Sanford Kuvin Center for the Study of Infectious and Tropical Diseases at the Hebrew University's Medical School, because of my direct linkage to medical research through the many medical facilities located in Central Pennsylvania, especially the Penn State University Hershey Medical Center, and the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus, which I helped found and now co-chair.

The Kuvin Center currently has more health programs with surrounding Arab countries than any other university in Israel. It addresses diseases that affect public health and its physicians and scientists are currently working with Arab scientists from Al-Quds, the Palestinian University in the eastern part of Jerusalem; Ain Shams University, in Cairo, as well as with scientists from universities in Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco.

The Congress fully recognizes and supports these types of cooperative Israeli-Palestinian health initiatives. The Foreign Operations bill for fiscal year 2003, which has passed through the Appropriations Committee includes, language on the Kuvin Center/Al Quds cooperation. I am pleased that the Committee included the following paragraph in the report accompanying this bill:

The Committee acknowledges that one of the primary objectives of the West Bank and Gaza program is to create viable infrastructure in Palestinian Authority-controlled areas to ensure the health and welfare of the Palestinian people. Al Quds University, in cooperation with the Kuvin Center for Infectious Diseases of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has proposed the establishment of a regional health and disease program, which would work to build an effective infrastructure to deal with serious health and disease problems among the Palestinian people. The Committee understands that cooperative programs of this nature are rare in the current environment, and urges AID to work, through the West Bank and Gaza program, to help Al Quds and the Kuvin Center begin this initiative.

This project is designed to enable the United States to provide \$15 million over five years to this cooperative effort to deal with infectious diseases.

Let me add that this program does not require any additional appropriations. The proposed expenditure of these funds is an indication of Congressional intent on just how American money that has already been allocated can best be used in a productive capacity for Israel, the West Bank and Gaza. Thus, the Kuvin Center-Hebrew University/Al Quds University cooperative effort will serve as a model of how the United States, Israel and the Palestinians can work together on projects that will benefit the entire region.

It is key to mention that such efforts will absolutely continue despite the terrorists' murderous intent, and, in fact, it underscores both

Israel's and America's conviction not to let the terrorists succeed.

The murders on the Hebrew University campus shocked all decent people.

This is not a University problem, nor is it a Jewish problem or a territorial problem. This is a threat to all civilization. These events cannot be allowed to go on, and can only be dealt with when good people stand up and speak out against this inhumanity.

We must not only remember those who were killed and injured, but we must all be proactive in favor of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem as a beacon of light unto all nations, peoples and universities around the world.

Hebrew University sets a standard of excellence for the nation of Israel of the Jewish people all over the world. The clouds of hatred and violence against Israel, the Jewish people and the West are clearly spreading. Certainly those who want to prevent discourse and co-existence at the Hebrew University will not and must not succeed.

In the aftermath of the murders at Hebrew University, the school's President, Menachem Magidor, said, "We must not let them kill our dream of peace". This same sentiment was stated by President Bush in his response to this attack when he concluded that "we must keep the vision of peace in mind."

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, August 2, 2002.

President GEORGE W. BUSH,  
*The White House,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: We sadly learned recently that a valued member of a community in my congressional district was taken from us. Benjamin Blustein, of Susquehanna Township, Pennsylvania, a young scholar studying abroad in Israel, was killed in the latest homicide bombing in Israel. Benjamin was in the midst of a two year course in Jewish studies at Hebrew University. Benjamin died along with other Americans and several other people when Hamas brutally targeted another group of innocent victims in Israel.

Benjamin was a dedicated, passionate young man with a sense of humor that all who knew him will greatly miss. He was active at school, my old alma mater, Dickinson College, and at his synagogue. With great commitment he assisted the United Jewish Communities to advance their good work throughout Central Pennsylvania. Benjamin enriched many lives during his life. All those who were touched by him will count themselves fortunate for sharing in his life.

I commend you for your strong condemnation of this latest homicide bombing. I support your decision to list Hamas and Hizbollah as terrorist organizations, and your firm support of Israel. Since September 2000, there have been 70 homicide bombings aimed at Israelis, taking the lives of countless innocent people. These attacks are unjustifiable and clearly unproductive. Israelis, free peoples living in a democracy, have not been cowed by the last two years of extremist acts of terror. Peace can only come to the Holy Land through dialogue and mutual understanding. I join with you in your quest for a lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

Very truly yours,  
GEORGE W. GEKAS,  
*Member of Congress.*