

the Friendship Club. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Friendship Club for all they have done in service to our community and wish them the best of luck for their next three decades and beyond.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
SOUTHEAST TEXAS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Southeast Texas Community Development Corporation, Inc. (SETCDC) on the occasion of its 10th Anniversary.

SETCDC which serves the Beaumont—Port Arthur area of Southeast Texas was founded and incorporated on May 20, 1993, by State Representative Al Price and received its tax-exempt status in January, 1994. SETCDC has contributed to neighborhood redevelopment and revitalization by eradicating blight and building new homes throughout Southeast Texas.

During these ten years, the Southeast Texas CDC has constructed 73 new homes and 19 units of multi-family housing and rehabilitated 28 existing homes. With the support and cooperation of local officials it has had a significant and positive impact on the lives of children and families of the region.

Mr. Speaker, SETCDC has had an economic and business impact of over \$10 million in the local community through construction loans and mortgages, through purchase of construction materials and through contracts with local small businesses.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending congratulations to Representative PRICE and all those associated with the Southeast Texas Community Development Corporation as they celebrate ten years of outstanding service to the citizens of Southeast Texas.

“IT MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN,
LEST IT BE REPEATED,” A TRIBUTE
TO THE LIFE OF MAX
LEWIN ON NATIONAL HOLO-
CAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, “It must not be forgotten, lest it be repeated.” This is the message of the life of West Virginia Holocaust Survivor Max Lewin. Though Max left us this year, his community in southern West Virginia recently honored him. Today, on National Holocaust Remembrance Day I wish to share with my colleagues the story of Max Lewin, a proud West Virginian and a brave survivor.

No phrase should ever weigh heavier upon our collective conscience than, “it must not be forgotten, lest it be repeated,” as we consider world history, and negotiate America’s foreign policy and humanitarian priorities. The lesson

of what happened during the Holocaust surely shows us that every day we live in a world of diversity, filled with respect for peoples of various religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds is a day that assaults the vile teachings of the Nazi regime. Every day that as legislators of this great Nation we look across the globe and make certain no person or group of people are singled out to live lives of indignity, is a day we truly remember the lesson of the Holocaust. Today, on Holocaust Remembrance Day, let us come together to remember our great teachers of this lesson.

So that I may share with my colleagues the story of Max Lewin, I ask that this recent article in the Beckley Register-Herald be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Register-Herald Reporter, Apr. 7, 2003]

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL TO HONOR MAX LEWIN
(By Mannix Porterfield)

Even before his health began to fail, Max Lewin made sure his tortured life as a Holocaust victim and the lessons of the 20th century’s darkest hours were never forgotten.

What he did was make a pact with a 10-year-old girl to keep alive not only his excruciating memories but those of the Holocaust in general.

That promise was kept, and Margaux Siegel, now 11, will cover Lewin’s heroic struggles Sunday in this year’s Holocaust Memorial, set to begin at 1 p.m. in Mountain State University’s Carter Hall.

“Max felt his greatest fear was that the story would die with him and its lessons wouldn’t be learned,” explained Margaux’ father, Dr. Normal Siegel.

Lewin was the key figure in past Holocaust services in Beckley, a difficult assignment for a man who lost most of his family after German troops stormed into Poland in 1939, signaling the start of World War II.

“I think certainly he had an authentic voice, though sometimes it was difficult to hear precisely what he was saying,” Siegel said.

“I think, through his accent and tears, everyone felt the pain.”

Lewin died last Aug. 24 at the age of 83.

A slight man with an ever-present smile belying the pain of surviving the murderous regime of the Nazis, he often sought to rekindle interest in the Holocaust by calling on schools in West Virginia to teach its lessons.

In several newspaper interviews, Lewin voiced a fear that future generations, as the adage holds, would be condemned to repeat history if such lessons were ignored.

This year’s service, in fact, marks the first such occasion in which the Lewin story is told in the third person.

A gifted writer who won an award last year in elementary school competition, Margaux relied on numerous newspaper clippings chronicling Lewin’s storied life from 1978 forward. In addition, an old friend of his, Helen Huzoski of Pax, provided access to his personal papers.

Affidavits also were researched, and a letter from a German court confirmed his concentration camp serial numbers.

Actually, Margaux has delivered her vivid account of Lewin’s life on other occasions, where the audience was limited to two or three. Come Sunday, the audience will be considerably larger. “She had promised him she would tell his story when he wasn’t around, so this is sort of fulfilling it,” her father said.

Strangers would never have guessed the kind, gentle Lewin, a fixture in Beckley’s business community for years, had suffered unimaginable pain at the hands of the Nazis, although a trace of sorrow never quite escaped his smile.

Even those familiar with his story couldn’t have stepped into his shoes for a full appreciation of his life.

In a eulogy at Lewin’s funeral, Rabbi Victor Urecki put it succinctly: “None of us could ever imagine what it was like to be Max Lewin. He always tried to smile. He never lost his respect for humanity, his love for humanity.”

For Lewin, the placid, country life of a farm family was shaken at the roots when his native land was invaded.

In a tear-laden 1996 interview, he recounted for The Register-Herald the horrific scenes that ensued.

Some 100 robust young men were gathered by the invaders, given shovels and ordered to dig a 4-foot-deep trench. Jews were lined on either side, then gunned down, and the youths were then directed to spread dirt over the victims, some still writhing in agony.

Lewin lost most of his family in a mass execution March 10, 1943. A sister succumbed in a concentration camp. A brother died in another mass murder a few weeks afterward.

Lewin’s wife, Fruma, only 19, vanished, presumably a victim of the Nazi execution squads.

Arriving in America after surviving Auschwitz, he joined older brother Harry in launching Harry’s Men’s Shop, a business he inherited and kept running after Harry’s death in 1982.

Lewin lent his experiences to the Governor’s Commission for Holocaust Education that works to keep alive the tragic lessons of the past.

As she has done in past observances, Sam Armstein will serve as master of ceremonies at the Sunday memorial.

Amie Lamborn of Charleston and Michelle Levin, wife of Dr. Barry Levin, will conduct the “Lighting of the Candles,” followed by Huzoski’s narrative, “Understanding,” another look at Lewin’s life.

“Max, Mountain University and Me” will be performed by James Silosky, the school’s executive vice president and provost for extended learning.

Another tradition, this one embracing the audience, “The Tearing of the Cloth,” will be led by Mark Lamborn, also of Charleston. Dr. Joseph Golden of Beckley will offer a commentary on Holocaust prevention.

“Growing Up With Survivors” will be presented by Dr. Levin, after which Tom Sopher will perform a poetic reading.

The Holocaust claimed a known 6 million Jews in Europe and some of them will be recalled personally with the traditional “Reading of the Names,” led this year by Beckley attorney Stan Selden. Members of the audience will be invited to help with the reading.

Rabbi Paul Jacobson, acting rabbi at Temple Beth-El, will perform a song, “El Malei Rachamin,” and say the kaddish, a Jewish mourner’s prayer. Pianist for the program will be Becky Leach, also of Beckley.

Seven years ago, MSU dedicated a special section of its campus to the memory of the city’s most renowned Holocaust survivor with “The Lewin Family Bell Tower.”

Inscribed on it are the names of Lewin’s parents, Yechiel and Sarah; wife Fruma; and his siblings, Awner, Joseph, Harry, Leah, Hannah and Chaia.

Just above those names, a phrase captures the reason for revisiting the horrors of the Third Reich in such ceremonies:

“It must not be forgotten, lest it be repeated.”

CHARLOTTE REICKS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor an outstanding woman who has gone far out of her way to help others. Charlotte Reicks of Grand Junction, Colorado has ridden her bicycle all over the country to raise money and awareness for a number of charitable causes.

Charlotte began her adventures in 1997 with a 400-mile ride around Colorado for the Make-a-Wish Foundation. On another occasion, this intrepid grandmother pedaled 700 miles in 10 days and helped raise \$7,000 for Habitat for Humanity. During the spring and summer of 1999, she rode from California to Maine, down the coast to Florida, and back across the country again. The 8,800 mile journey lasted six months and benefited the American Bible Society and the Lutheran Hour Ministries. So far, she has ridden about 14,000 miles for various organizations and has no plans to stop any time soon. This summer she is slated to ride across Texas to raise money and awareness for Huntington's disease.

Mr. Speaker, it is a great privilege to honor Charlotte for her outstanding service to humanity. Her courage, tenacity, and dedication to various worthwhile causes certainly deserve the praise of this body and this nation. She is an extraordinary woman who has truly gone to great lengths to help others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NINA
SIMONE

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to honor a jazz artist who was truly inspiration both on stage and off.

Nina Simone was a consummate artist who defied classification. A jazz singer, a pianist, a jazz-rock-pop-folk-black musician, an arranger, a composer and a protest singer—she was all of these and more.

She was a social activist, unafraid to speak out or sing out against the social ills of racism and war.

One of eight children, Nina Simone was born Eunice Kathleen Waymon on February 21, 1933 in Tryon, North Carolina. Early on, she demonstrated prodigious talent as a pianist and singer. She played and sang with her sisters in their mother's choir in the local church. It was not until the age of six that Eunice began formal training on the piano.

By the time she was 10, she had given her first recital in her hometown. This recital at the town library produced her first applause and her first encounter with racism. Her parents were forced to move from the first row to make room for whites to be seated. This incident formed the basis of her commitment to the fight for civil rights.

Eunice left North Carolina in 1950 to continue her musical education at the Juilliard School of Music in New York, after which, her family moved to Philadelphia. She applied for

a scholarship at the prestigious Curtis Institute in Philadelphia, but was rejected. Her talent was cited as the reason for the rejection, but the Juilliard graduate believed it had more to do with her color than her musical skill.

Discouraged, she became an accompanist for a singing teacher and then, in 1954, she went to work as a singer-pianist in an Atlantic City, New Jersey bar. It was there she adopted the name Nina Simone: Nina, her boyfriend's pet name for her; and Simone, after French actress Simone Signoret, for its dignified sound. Three years later, in 1957, she had her first recording contract.

In 1958, her first album produced her first hit, George Gershwin's "I Love You Porgy," a song that made her an international star and has been synonymous with the name Nina Simone ever since. Her star continued to shine through the '60s and '70s, as did her commitment to the civil rights struggle.

She performed in concert at the world's most prestigious houses of music, with a repertoire ranging from jazz, gospel, blues, folk and classical music to songs of protest against the injustice of racism.

She became a strong voice in the civil rights movement with her song "Mississippi Goddam," which she wrote and performed in protest of the murders of Medgar Evers in Mississippi and four black schoolchildren in Alabama. Later, she wrote and performed the inspirational "To Be Young, Gifted and Black."

Like many American jazz artists before her, Nina Simone found a greater appreciation for her music and more freedom abroad than at home. Embittered by racism, she renounced the United States in 1969 and became a "Citizen of the world." She left the United States in 1973 and lived in Liberia, Barbados, Switzerland, Africa, Trinidad, the Netherlands, Belgium and the United Kingdom before finally settling in France. In 1978, Nina Simone was arrested abroad for failing to pay taxes from 1971 to 1973 in protest of the war in Vietnam, but she was quickly released.

Nina Simone remained a top recording artist and concert draw throughout her life and performed at Carnegie Hall just two years ago in 2001. Nina Simone will always be remembered for her talent and her passion, her sultry, yet forceful voice, her incomparable style and a regal presence on stage.

Nina Simone, whose inimitable voice helped define the civil rights movement, died April 21, 2003 at her home in France at the age of 70. She is survived by her daughter, Lisa Celeste Stroud.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA MURPHY
AND THE EIGHTH GRADE GIFTED
STUDENTS OF STONE MIDDLE
SCHOOL

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of 8th Grade students in my Congressional District who have been in Ms. Barbara Murphy's gifted class at Stone Middle School in Huntsville, Alabama since the 6th Grade. These outstanding girls and boys have written a book they aptly named "Reality Street".

The students have compiled their thoughts on various subjects that include their school, neighborhoods, families, conflicts and challenges. Stone Middle school is a Title I school, and these students hope to show people through their book that truly no child will be left behind in any community across the United States. The stories these students tell are powerful and eye opening and are an excellent insight into their community. Everyone can find inspiration in this book, including author Homer Hickam who wrote the *Foreword* and John L. Stallworth who contributed the *Introduction*.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you an excerpt from a poem written by one of the students:

"My memories run deep like the sea,
From some of them I want to flee.
But deep in my heart, I truly know
That in the end they all help me to grow."

These kinds of children, ones who decide to grow and learn from every level of their experiences, form the future leaders of our great country. These young folks are to be commended. On behalf of the people of North Alabama and the U.S. House of Representatives, I send them each my best wishes and hopes for a very bright future.

INDEFINITE DETENTION OF
ASYLUM SEEKERS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many things have changed since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on our country.

But one thing that has not changed is the importance of respecting the Constitution and its limits on the powers of the national government.

That is the point of a recent editorial in the Rocky Mountain News concerning the Attorney General's assertion of authority to indefinitely detain people seeking asylum in America, regardless of the rulings of the courts.

I am also troubled by the Attorney General's actions, and I share the editorial's view that "The government has every right to deport illegal immigrants, but if it's going to detain them for any lengthy period, it has to accord them certain rights.

For the benefit of our colleagues, here is the full text of the editorial:

[From the Rocky Mountain News, April 29, 2003]

U.S. CAN'T JUST THROW AWAY THE KEY

Attorney General John Ashcroft has given himself the power to lock up indefinitely, without hearings, whole classes of illegal immigrants even if he does not deem them individually to be a threat to national security.

The decisions about which illegal aliens should be locked up properly belong to the immigration courts, and certainly should not be made on a wholesale basis.

In asserting this new power, Ashcroft overrode an appeals panel of immigration judges that had upheld a lower court decision granting bond to an 18-year-old Haitian who entered the country illegally last fall. Ashcroft said he wasn't trying to block the right to seek asylum, only to deter "unlawful and dangerous mass migrations by sea." While the intent may be laudable, it's a