

The first liturgy was held in 1908 and the Church was consecrated by Bishop Raphael during a visit in 1911 to celebrate the burning of the church's mortgage.

A rectory was built in 1912 and the old part of the Church cemetery in Hanover Township was also acquired. Father Joseph Elia Xanthopoulos became the pastor in 1912 when Father George moved to Allentown. Father Joseph was fluent in Arabic and Greek, and he chanted in Byzantine. He started a Syrian school for young people, who had begun to chant with him during the service.

The community began to split in 1914 because the Syrian Mission in America began to divide. During this time, services were held at the church on High Street for those following the Russian Patriarch, and at 107 Blackman Street, for those following the Antiochian Patriarch.

Several pastors served the Church through the years: Father Daniel George, Father Abdallah Khoury, Father Constantine Abou-Adal, Archbishop Affirmios Ofeish and Father George Mitchell, Father Anthony Sakey, Father Nicholas Hussan and Father Herbert Nahas.

In 1958, the parishioners decided they wanted to build a new Church, Hall and Rectory. They chose a site at the south end of Main Street and purchased it for \$28,500 in 1964. This turned out to be a blessing in disguise, as the other three sites that had been considered were completely submerged in 16 feet of water by Hurricane Agnes in June 1972.

When Agnes hit Wilkes-Barre, 108 families from the parish were left homeless. The businesses of 35 parishioners were closed for months. Miraculously, the flood waters stopped just outside the parish hall doors, and the building became one of many shelters. The men and women of St. Mary's worked tirelessly to help the victims of the devastating flood.

In 1985, Father Edward Hughes became pastor of the Church, followed by Father Mark Sahady in 1994. Father Thomas Zain came to St. Mary's in 1994 and served as pastor until 1997. Father John Winfrey became pastor of the Church in 1997. The Very Reverend Father David Hester came to St. Mary's in 2000 and currently serves as pastor.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to represent a parish community with such a rich history. The parishioners at St. Mary's have preserved their heritage and kept meticulous records of their history to pass on to future generations, and I congratulate them on the joyful occasion of the Church's 100th anniversary.

HONORING COLONEL ROBERT N. AGEE FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE MISSOURI AIR NATIONAL GUARD

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Colonel Robert N. Agee, Vice Commander for 139th Airlift Wing at Rosecrans Air National Guard Base in St. Joseph, Missouri. Colonel Agee is retiring on October 1, 2004 after 32 years of service to the Missouri Air National Guard. Colonel Agee cur-

rently resides in St. Joseph with his wife Sheila, and together they have two daughters, Rachael and Jennifer, and a son R.J.

Colonel Agee was born on December 25, 1949 in St. Joseph. He joined the Missouri Air National Guard in 1970, and graduated from the first Air National Guard Officer Preparatory Academy in May of 1971. Following his graduation, he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. Colonel Agee attended pilot training at Williams AFB in Arizona, and earned his pilot wings on September 9, 1972. In 1976, Colonel Agee graduated from Missouri Western with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration Management. Additionally, he has completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and the Air War College.

Colonel Agee has performed duties in training, safety, tactics, standardization/evaluation and was the director of operations for the flying squadron prior to his current assignment. He was activated in December 1990 for Operation Desert Shield/Storm and served as the director of operations for the 180th Airlift Squadron in theater until their release from active duty in June 1991. In addition to training aircraft, he has flown the C-97G, KC-97L, C-130A, and the C-130H.

Among his military decorations are the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding United Award with the three oak leaf clusters and "V" device, Air Force Expeditionary Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, and Kuwait Liberation Medals from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

As the former Operations Group Commander he had responsibility for our units, the 180th Airlift Squadron, the 139th Operations Support Flight, the 139th Aerial Port Flight, and the 241st Air Traffic Control Squadron in addition to the Standardization/Evaluation section. These squadrons are the support and execution component of the C-130 airlift mission. The unit continuously supports real-world airlift commitments in the United States and overseas in addition to local air training.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending the career of Colonel Robert N. Agee, who has exemplified the qualities of dedication and service throughout his tenure with the Missouri Air National Guard.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MATT ZISKA

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Matt Ziska. Mr. Ziska recently received national recognition from the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) for his hard work and dedication in his field. The Departments of Homeland Security, Health and Human Services, Defense, Veterans Affairs, and FEMA, all partnered with the NDMS, to grant this award.

Mr. Ziska has been employed as a hazardous materials technician at the Tri-County Health Department based in Aurora. His advice to the Disaster Medical Assistance Team has helped them enhance and improve protective measures designed to safeguard against the dangers of hazardous materials.

Mr. Ziska was selected from a field of 130 team members.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in paying tribute to Matt Ziska, and wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF AGUDAS ACHIM CONGREGATION AND RECOGNIZING THE MILITARY VETERANS OF THE CONGREGATION

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Agudas Achim Congregation, a conservative synagogue located in the city of Alexandria, Virginia.

In conjunction with this anniversary, honor is being paid to the military veterans of the congregation throughout the Veteran's Day weekend of November 12-14, 2004.

Jewish servicemen and servicewomen have served and continue to serve proudly in all branches of the United States as career and reserve servicemen and servicewomen. From Bunker Hill and the Battle of Springfield (NJ) to Omaha Beach and the Battle of the Bulge, from Pusan, South Korea to the Mekong Delta in Vietnam as well as Afghanistan and Iraq, Jewish servicemen have worn the uniform of the United States proudly—defending democracy and the freedoms we all cherish as Americans.

We remember those who fearlessly paid the ultimate price in defending the United States of America during times of war. We also recall those who have bravely fought and returned home as well as those who continue to fight for the freedoms and liberties that make this nation great—the same freedoms and liberties such as freedom of religion that brought hundreds of thousands of Jewish people to the United States escaping despotism and religious tyranny.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to congratulate Agudas Achim Congregation on their 90th anniversary. I call upon my colleagues to join me in honoring the congregation's military veterans.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SERGEANT JOSEPH FALES

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sergeant Joseph Fales, a World War II veteran who gave his life fighting against tyranny so that we might live free.

In honor of Memorial Day, I had the pleasure of recognizing Staff Sergeant Fales for his heroism and bravery as a U.S. Soldier who fought in the Second World War until his death in October 1943.

Staff Sergeant Fales served in the Army Air Force and heroically performed the perilous job of a waist gunner aboard a B-17 Bomber.

His plane was shot down over the Adriatic Sea, and an American Hero was lost. Sergeant Fales was only twenty years old.

I had the honor of presenting his family with medals Joseph Fales earned during his service to our nation. They included the World War II Victory Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, the European Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one bronze star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Air Medal and the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world more than fifty years overdue.

I am humbled by the courage and sacrifice of Joseph Fales. I am thankful for the gift of freedom that he fought to protect. We must never forget Joseph Fales and those soldiers who paid the ultimate price on our behalf.

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IN HONOR OF DR. HOWARD PARISH

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Howard Parish for his contributions to higher education and outstanding community service. He is being honored today, September 21, 2004, with the Louis T. Scialli Memorial Award by the Jersey City Education Association at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey.

For 40 years, Dr. Parish shared his passion for science in the classroom before retiring in 2002. He spent 37 years at the New Jersey City University, where he was a professor and chair of the Department of Geosciences. He also served as the director of International Studies. Dr. Parish played an integral part in establishing the Office of Grant Development, and was able to secure numerous grants for New Jersey City University.

Throughout the past 15 years, Dr. Parish has displayed a strong commitment to his community by participating in both local and national non-profit organizations, where he frequently dedicates his time to fundraising.

Dr. Parish has demonstrated his leadership skills by holding advisory positions for nearly a dozen organizations. He spent 10 years on the Board of Directors for the National Education Association and was chair of the National Education Association's Higher Education Caucus. He continues to be involved as the legislative liaison for educators in District 32 and serves as a consultant for the New Jersey Education Association.

Dr. Parish received his bachelor's degree in physical science from Jersey City State College and his master's degree in geological science from Rutgers University. He also holds a doctorate in geosciences from Columbia University.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Howard Parish for his years of dedicated service, both in the classroom and the community.

IN HONOR OF THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF NANCY GREEN TO THE DELAWARE FIREFIGHTER COMMUNITY

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, during my service as a Member of the House of Representatives, it has been my honor and privilege to rise and pay tribute to organizations and people who really make a difference in the Delaware community. Today, I rise to recognize Nancy Green, President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association (LADVFA).

Nancy Green joined the Harrington Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary in 1964. She is a Life Member of the Harrington Ladies Auxiliary, and has served as Vice President and President. Nancy also served as President of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Kent County Firemen's Association.

Nancy's record of service to Delaware is exemplary. While a teacher in the public school system for 30 years, Nancy volunteered as a Delaware State Fire School instructor—teaching public fire safety education programs. Nancy is also a Library Commissioner at the Harrington Public Library, President of the Century Club, and the Newsletter Editor of her high school alumni association. With out a doubt, Nancy has proven her dedication to improving her community and our state.

The Ladies Auxiliaries are a very important element of the volunteer fire service. These organizations assist the firefighters by providing meals and beverages at the emergency scene. Auxiliaries also serve public dinners and conduct other fund-raising events to provide the fire companies with. Nancy's service included these important missions, and as President of the LADVFA all Delaware's Auxiliaries when she was elected as President.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association has been served well by President Nancy Green. She is an exemplary model of commitment and excellence and a valuable member of the Delaware community. I salute Nancy Green for her efforts to keep the Ladies Auxiliary of the Delaware Volunteer Firemen's Association a strong and vital part of Delaware.

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HONORING LEE VICTORY'S LEGACY TO CHILDREN

**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my friend, Lee Victory. It is only fitting that a year after his passing, his beloved hometown of Smyrna, TN, would name its recreation park after him.

I was there 20 years ago when the park first opened, largely due to Lee's efforts. Lee loved his family, and he loved Smyrna. He worked very hard to make the community a better place to live and was a leader in the development of its recreational parks.

Lee was involved with area youth long before Smyrna had a park. He was instrumental

in starting Little League and Babe Ruth baseball and youth football leagues. I'm sure his five sons—Kenneth "Coon," Billy, Eddie, E.A., and Carl David—had something to do with Lee's involvement in youth programs. Team sports, he probably knew, would help make his boys more responsible and keep them out of trouble, at least during practices and games.

Lee would later become the head of maintenance for the Smyrna Parks and Recreation Department. He also was well known for his annual fish fry, but his biggest legacy is to Smyrna's young people. This Saturday morning, in a fitting tribute to my friend just before the start of a ball game, Mayor Bob Spivey, "Coon" Victory and representatives from the soccer, girls' softball, Little League baseball and youth football teams will unveil a monument dedicating the Lee Victory Recreation Park.

This monument will be a reminder to all residents of Smyrna that Lee's contributions and efforts improved the quality of life for all, especially the children. I congratulate the town for honoring someone who gave so much of his time and energy ensuring that children had the opportunity to play sports and learn valuable skills.

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CONGRATULATING THE CATHERINE MCAULEY CENTER ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the attention of the House of Representatives to the Catherine McAuley Center in Dallas, PA, on the occasion of its 20 years of service to homeless mothers and children in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

Since 1984, the center has provided emergency shelter, transitional and permanent housing, food, furniture, and support services to thousands of women and children in my district.

The Catherine McAuley Center is sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy and is named after their founder. Catherine McAuley devoted her life to serving others. Even on her deathbed, she is said to have told those around her to "be sure to have a comfortable cup of tea for them when I am gone."

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent an organization whose mission is helping women in need. Please join me in congratulating the selfless staff, volunteers, and friends of the Catherine McAuley Center on 20 years of service to the women and children of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

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HONORING FRANK AND ROSSIE BUCHTEL

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Frank and Rossie Buchtel of Princeton, MO. It's been 40 years since the