

possess nuclear weapons would be a dishonor to those who died on 9/11 and an insult to those who continue to defend America's freedom.

We promised to help make the world a safer place, free from the threat of terrorism at the hands of mad men. Keeping that promise means preventing terrorists and their supporters from getting weapons of mass destruction. Let's remember those who gave their lives on 9/11 by keeping our promise.

When we remember the events of 9/11, we remember not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans. We must remember the police officers and firefighters that responded to the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon who went in to save lives, but gave their lives in the process. We remember the first responders from every corner of our nation who came to ground zero in the days after to lend their strength, skills and support. And we must remember the innocent people—the husbands and wives, the parents and children and the entire families who were torn apart the day the towers fell.

We must always remember. That is our duty as Americans—that is our charge as patriots.

BURLINGAME HIGH SCHOOL, 83
YEARS YOUNG AND BETTER
THAN EVER

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, in November 2000 the voters of San Mateo County in California, many of whom are my constituents, made a wise decision to approve a general bond measure that would fund the renovation of the six local high schools. The fruits of this investment will proudly be displayed on September 16, 2006 when the newly-remodeled Burlingame High School is officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Burlingame High was built in 1923 as a northern addition to the fast-growing San Mateo High School. Originally named "San Mateo High School—Burlingame Branch," it quickly came into its own, and 4 years later Burlingame High gained its own identity. That year, many longstanding BHS traditions were born, including the Little-Big Game with San Mateo High, the adoption of the school colors—red and white—and the establishment of the student newspaper, the Burlingame B, with its extraordinary motto, "Not the Biggest, but the Best."

Since its inception 83 years ago, Burlingame's enrollment has swelled from 350 to more than 1350 students and its teaching corps has doubled. Recognized for its academic excellence as a California Distinguished School, Burlingame has also been ranked in the top 1.5 percent of high schools in America by Newsweek magazine. The students and their families deserve great credit, but it is also thanks to the efforts of a dedicated faculty and administration that, on average, 97 percent of the school's graduates attend college.

Mr. Speaker, the modernization efforts being recognized at the ribbon-cutting ceremony have preserved the original building's historically significant appearance for generations of students to appreciate. In addition to maintain-

ing the main building's exterior and interior—including a unique WPA-era mural—this project included two new, seismically sound structures to house a library and a two-story classroom building.

The new library will accommodate 25,000 volumes and provides much-needed storage space for textbooks. It also includes a state-of-the-art computer lab. The treasured work areas where thousands of students through the years have hit the books in the old library are replicated in this modern version.

The new, two-story classroom structure replaces an antiquated music building. It now not only accommodates the renowned Burlingame High School music program, but also seven large science labs, special education classrooms and nine classrooms designed specifically for math instruction.

Mr. Speaker, the taxpayers of San Mateo County made a crucial investment in their children's education by approving that bond measure 6 years ago. I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Burlingame High School's wonderful renovation, which will ensure that future generations continue to receive an excellent education at this historic institution.

FREDERICK MENNONITE
COMMUNITY 110TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Frederick Mennonite Community, an elderly continuing care community, on its 110th anniversary.

This community has been providing outstanding service to its more than 300 residents on eighty acres in western Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. This bucolic setting is large enough to accommodate a wide variety of lifestyles, yet small enough to maintain a sense of community. Residents have the option to live in independent living cottages, apartments, assisted living, and nursing care facilities. The organization's goal is to offer housing and support options for every individual preference and need. Frederick Mennonite Community strives to promote and encourage every individual to live life to their fullest.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Frederick Mennonite Community on its 110th anniversary. I hope that this community is able to continue to live out its mission statement: "In the spirit of Christian love, Frederick Mennonite Community cares for and enriches the lives of older adults, while valuing the staff, volunteers and community that serves them."

RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS ON NATIONAL BACKPACK AWARENESS DAY

HON. BRAD MILLER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in preparation for National School Backpack

Awareness Day, taking place on September 20, 2006, I would like to recognize the many occupational therapists (OT) and occupational therapy assistants (OTA) that live and work in my district. Each September, members of the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), students, and other health professionals join forces to alert the public, particularly teachers, parents, and children about the dangers of improperly wearing overweight backpacks.

Occupational therapists are health, wellness, and rehabilitation professionals, dedicated to maximizing the independence, function and performance of their clients. In other words, they provide them with the "skills for the job of living". Concerned that increasingly heavy backpacks may be putting school children at risk for long-term health problems, AOTA is sponsoring its fifth National School Backpack Awareness Day. Thousands of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants work in school systems, pediatric hospitals, and other health care facilities, in order to help children develop the skills they need to participate fully at school, home, and in play.

The goal of the National School Backpack Awareness Day is to reduce the load students carry to 15 percent or less of the child's weight. More than 350 participants in schools, stores, and health fairs from all 50 states will help "weigh-in" thousands of children to ensure their backpacks meet the 15 percent weight goal. They will also help educate students about the risks of carrying too much weight, and will teach them the proper way to pack and wear a backpack. As part of the National Backpack Awareness Day, therapists at the General Greene Elementary School in Greensboro, NC will educate students and teachers about the importance of loading and wearing backpacks the right way in order to avoid back and shoulder pain, stooped posture, muscle pain, and headaches.

I am particularly aware of the role occupational therapists play within our public schools as one of the members of my staff previously worked as a school system occupational therapist. OTs use their unique expertise to help children perform important learning and school-related activities that are part of their role as a student. Additionally, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants play a critical role in training parents, staff, and caregivers regarding the education, health, and success of students with diverse learning needs.

Please join me in support of all the occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants, school children, and other participants whose efforts will make the 2006 National School Backpack Awareness Day such a success.

HONORING REVEREND WAITSTILL SHARP AND MARTHA SHARP, AMERICAN HEROES OF THE HOLY-OCAUST

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Waitstill Sharp and his

wife, Martha Sharp, who were true heroes of the Holocaust who risked their lives to save Jews from the atrocities of the Nazi regime.

The Sharps' incredible story was told this morning at a very moving ceremony at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum where family, friends, and admirers gathered to pay tribute and remember the selfless and laudatory actions of this amazing couple. Their story was also a powerful reminder that all of us have the moral obligation to do anything we can to end violence and genocides where ever and when ever they occur.

On June 13, 2006, the Yad Vashem Holocaust Remembrance Authority in Israel honored the Rev. Waitstill Sharp, and his wife, Martha Sharp, posthumously as "Righteous Among the Nations" for risking their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. The Sharps are only the second and third Americans to be so honored. Varian Fry, with whom the Sharps worked, was the first.

Our colleagues in the Senate passed a resolution on September 8 of this year honoring the courageous service of the Sharps. My colleague from Massachusetts, where the Sharps once lived, and I soon will introduce similar legislation in the House remembering the Sharps and their story and heroism.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps left everything behind, including their home and two young children, to answer a call from the American Unitarian Association to go to Czechoslovakia in February of 1939. The Sharps were not content merely to feed the hordes of refugees passing through Czechoslovakia; they also began to assist anti-Nazi dissidents and Jews to escape Nazi oppression. In the very shadow of aggression, they helped thousands flee to safety elsewhere in Europe and the United States.

One month after the Sharps' arrival in Prague, Nazi forces occupied Czechoslovakia, making their work much more dangerous. The Sharps could have escaped, but they refused to leave the refugees helpless. Though the Nazis descended upon the Unitarian mission in Prague, ransacking the office and throwing the furniture into the street, Reverend and Mrs. Sharp continued their mission. They began working out of private residences, boldly defying Nazi restrictions.

The Sharps did whatever was necessary to help Jews and opponents of the Nazi regime to escape Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, in spite of the considerable risk to their own lives. They entered and exited the border repeatedly, crisscrossed Europe to obtain needed travel documents, even escorted some of their clients by train through Germany itself, all the way to Great Britain. Focused on serving others, the Sharps ignored warning that they were in danger from the Gestapo.

On August 30, 1939, six months after they arrived in Czechoslovakia, the Sharps concluded their first mission and returned to the U.S. Their exit was just one day before Gestapo agents came to arrest Martha, who had earned a reputation for her daring disregard of Nazi rules.

After returning home for two years, the Sharps issued a report with the American Unitarian Association about the dangers faced by refugees all across Europe. As a result of this report, the Sharps were asked to set up a parallel operation in France under the newly founded Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In 1940, the Sharps answered this call,

courageously returning to Europe to aid more people flee the horror of the Nazi regime.

By the time the Sharps arrived in Europe, the Nazis had already occupied France, but the Sharps were undaunted. They set up the American Unitarian Universalist Service Committee in Lisbon, Portugal, from where they continued to assist many more refugees from war-torn Europe escape to safety.

In all, the Sharps and their Unitarian colleagues worked to save approximately 2,000 men, women, and children.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps' courageous, sacrificial and selfless example should motivate all of us to do everything we possibly can to prevent the horrors of genocide taking place anywhere on this planet. As the only survivor of the Holocaust in Congress, I have a special commitment to raising this.

This morning's ceremony at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum concluded with a visit to the special exhibit on Darfur, Sudan. We were reminded that when the horrors of the Holocaust were made public, we often heard the phrase "Never Again!" But since World War II we have seen such genocidal tragedies occur in Cambodia, Rwanda, and now Darfur.

The most moving and important message from the story of the Sharps is that they had the foresight and courage to leave their children and comfortable home behind—not just once, but twice—to go to the dangerous, gray, uncertain war zone of Europe to save people they probably did not even know. Their first trip was just days after *kristallnacht*, when the persecution of the Jews was just beginning to get more violent and ugly. Concentration camps were not yet even a glint in the Nazis' eyes.

Mr. Speaker, the Sharps, and those who helped them to be able to do this, deserve the gratitude and admiration of all of us. Each and every one of us should make every effort to learn more about the wars and genocide occurring around the globe this very day, strive to have the courage of the Sharps, and act with equal resolve to do everything each of us can do to stop these horrors.

I urge my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this selfless and dedicated couple, whose response to the Holocaust and to inhumanity and brutality is one that men and women everywhere should emulate.

HONORING PFC. TRAVIS CLYDE
ZIMMERMAN

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American hero, Pfc. Travis Clyde Zimmerman, who died on April 22, 2006 while serving his country in Iraq.

Pfc. Zimmerman was on a combat reconnaissance operation when an improvised explosive device exploded near his observation post. This young man's high school goal, as stated in his yearbook, was to serve in the United States Army. Neighbors, friends, and former teachers have all testified that Travis was a courteous, cooperative, and compassionate young man. Dr. Harry Morgan, the Boyertown School District Superintendent, told students that Travis's death "was a great loss

to the family and the community and our sympathy goes out to them. We are grateful for his service to our country."

Travis was a life-long resident of Boyertown, Pennsylvania and is the son of Gail Camperson and Lloyd Zimmerman. After Travis's graduation in June of 2005, he attended basic training and then joined the Army's 101st Airborne unit. Travis's unit deployed to Iraq in February 2006.

Scarlett Kulp, Travis's life long friend, wanted to make sure that the community did not forget the commitment and sacrifice he made to serve his country. Scarlett took action and worked with the local community to create a memorial fund to honor Pfc. Zimmerman and other local military heroes. Local schools took Scarlett's lead and held events such as "Hats Off to Travis Day" at Colebrookdale Elementary School, Travis's elementary school from kindergarten to sixth grade. The students and staff at Boyertown Jr. High West and the Senior High-School held tributes and helped Scarlett gather funds for the memorial military bear statue.

By Memorial Day weekend, Scarlett, with the help of the community, had raised enough money to order a six-foot military bear statue and create the "Pfc. Travis Zimmerman Memorial Fund". This permanent fund will not only provide for the cost of the creation and maintenance of the memorial, but it will also help area military personnel as they readjust to civilian life upon their return from services overseas.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in paying honor to a hometown hero, Pfc. Travis Zimmerman, as his community honors him and other service members during the September 17, 2006 Hometown Heroes parade and ceremony. Heartiest congratulations, out to all the individuals who have helped to make this lasting memorial possible, and our utmost gratitude and respect conveyed to Travis's family for his unflinching devotion and sacrifice for our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR ANN
RICHARDS

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 14, 2006

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart on the passing of my dear, trusted and long-time beloved friend, the late Governor Ann Richards. I also rise to pay tribute to her many contributions and her sincere dedication of public service to our great State of Texas and to extend my deepest sympathies to her family and friends everywhere who share in my sadness.

I not only lost an esteemed colleague with whom I could always count on for support, since so often we agreed on social and political issues, but also a dear and trusted friend whom I shared many fond moments and with whom I shared a vision for our great State of Texas.

Our friendship expanded more than 40 years; I first met Ann when she lived in Dallas before moving to Austin where she ran for Travis County Commissioner in 1976 and I was elected to serve at the Texas House of