

HONORING SGT. AMOS TAYLOR

HON. WAYNE DOWDY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 1988

Mr. DOWDY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in Congress to join me in honoring a special young man, Sgt. Amos Taylor. I am proud to announce that Sergeant Taylor, a recent graduate of the NCO Leadership School at Tynall Air Force base, is the winner of the "Americanism" Essay Award contest. Sergeant Taylor is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Taylor of Brookhaven, MS. Mr. Speaker, let us extend our warmest congratulations to this fine young man. I would like to share with all of you his thoughts on this great country of ours:

WHAT DOES AMERICA MEAN TO ME?

When I think of this question, the first thing that comes to mind is freedom! But when I consider the subject more, I conclude that America is about dreams and the fulfillment of those dreams.

We often hear about the great migration to America where many fulfilled their dreams of success and fortune. And of others that started in America with nothing and attained great riches and status. But when I look at all of these achievements, I see one thing: we seek not these things for ourselves but for the generations to come. As I look upon the import of slaves from Africa and think of the tragedies that befell them, I realized that these people always wanted to make a better environment for their sons and daughters—just as men of great wealth strove to keep what they had in order to provide for their offspring. In the preamble to our constitution, our forefathers included "... for ourselves and our posterity ..." They didn't leave out the fact that they wouldn't always be here to carry on, but they realized someone had to carry on as they passed on.

And not I look upon my dreams to secure a future for those that will follow me. I know that if every generation lived for that generation alone, these United States would have perished a long time ago. We advance from generation to generation and with that advancement comes change—a chance for a better life for those that will come after me. There is now more opportunity for advancement than ever before. I can do whatever my mind can think to do; the possibilities are unlimited. "What Does America Mean To Me?" It means if my mind can conceive it and my heart can believe it, in my lifetime I can achieve it. And this is all because someone before dreamed.

NATIONAL RECYCLING MONTH,
JUNE 1988

HON. LAWRENCE J. SMITH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 1988

Mr. SMITH of Florida. Mr. Speaker, June 1988 has been designated as "National Recycling Month." This resolution is aimed toward educating the American public about the importance of recycling, and I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation.

Recycling serves countless purposes. For instance, recycling saves energy and conserves our country's natural resources by reducing the use of raw materials. For every 10

percent of used crushed glass added to a glass plant's furnace, energy costs drop as much as 5 percent. For every ton of used crushed glass in the manufacturing process, up to 1.2 tons of raw material are saved.

The benefits of paper and glass recycling are evident, and we have unlimited potential for further much-needed conservation. Many other products such as metal, plastic, and aluminum also can be recycled. For example, turning used aluminum cans into new ones takes 95 percent less energy than refining new metal from raw bauxite.

We should recognize and must encourage the growth of public, political, and economic support for recycling. More importantly, we must overcome the obstacles which remain, such as lack of markets for recycled products, high collection and separation costs, resistance to change, and the importance of convenience in waste disposal.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the benefits of recycling and encourage your constituents to use this excellent method of conservation. It is our responsibility to encourage participation in educational endeavors that promote waste separation methods, community-based recycling programs, and expanded utilization of recovered materials. All progress we make in recycling today will help to slow down the voracious consumption of our rapidly diminishing supply of energy and natural resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 317,
SOWETO REMEMBRANCE DAY
RESOLUTION

HON. CHARLES A. HAYES

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 1988

Mr. HAYES of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, to paraphrase an article by Arlene Getz entitled, "Apartheid's Troubled Children," which appeared in the December 1987 World Press Review:

South African parents are agonizing over the problems of raising their children in a deeply divided and increasingly violent racist society. During the past decade, children have been catapulted into the front line of the South African struggle. Black children have been particularly hard hit by the chronic violence racking their townships. Thousands have been detained without trial; others have been tear-gassed and shot. According to the Rev. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, "They find themselves either confronting the system or running away from tear-gas and bullets. For these children, violence has become a lifestyle, leaving still undetermined emotional scars."

For these children, many of whom are fortunately too young to have been part of one of the worst displays of state-sponsored terrorism of modern times, today is not just another day of existence under a racist state supported system of repression. Today, they are marching with their parents, if they are lucky enough to still have them around, in remembrance of their fallen brothers and sisters. On this day in 1976, more than 1,000 children were brutally murdered by the South African police in the township of Soweto. What horrible crime did they commit in order to suffer such devastation? They simply wanted to be

educated in their native language in their native land—the land where their families have lived for generation upon generation.

Today marks the 12th commemoration of the Soweto massacre and it is in that regard that I wish to make note of what took place in that township 12 years ago, and what continues to take place even as I speak. On that occasion, in addition to the more than 1,000 children who were brutally murdered, an additional 5,000 were wounded by South African police. These children were committing no crime, at least not by our standards. They were simply protesting the fact that they were not allowed to be educated in their native language in their native land.

As we have watched the South African Government's response to its growing crisis, we have also seen increased targeting of children. American citizens have been appalled; first, by the overwhelming violence, and more recently, by the extension of the state of emergency which has hidden most of the brutality, but has still allowed us to view the numbers—30,000 more detainees since 1985, of which over 8,000 of them have been children.

In an effort to show solidarity with the children of South Africa and to show solidarity with courageous people of all races in South Africa and throughout the world and are fighting to end the evil of apartheid, I introduced House Joint Resolution 317, a resolution declaring June 16 as "Soweto Remembrance Day." This resolution, which is nonpartisan in nature, call on American citizens to participate in local activities designed to commemorate the martyrs of Soweto and to work toward ending support for the system of apartheid.

To date, 95 of our colleagues have added their names as cosponsor of House Joint Resolution 317. Unfortunately, House rules dictate that 218 Members cosponsor such resolutions before they can be considered on the House floor. While we are short on cosponsors, it in no way detracts from the importance of commemorating the tragic event that took place in Soweto.

I am pleased to report that while House Joint Resolution 317 will not be considered, at this time, thousands of American citizens are spending this day in demonstration, vigils, educational events, and lobbying. The focus of these activities is twofold; first, as I have mentioned, is to show solidarity with people of all races in South Africa and throughout the world who are fighting to end the evil of apartheid, and second, to garner support for Representative RON DELLUMS bill, H.R. 1580, the Anti-Apartheid Act Amendments.

The apartheid system and its continued denial of basic human rights and freedoms to the 26 million black majority population of South Africa offends the sensibilities of freedom loving people everywhere. It is repugnant to the ideals which our Nation's founders embraced in our Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights. A nation that embraces such treatment of its citizens should be condemned by the world community.

While we have seen fit to impose limited sanctions on South Africa, the sad reality of those restrictions is that they have failed to stir any significant progress toward ending apartheid. I believe it is imperative that stronger actions are undertaken by our Government to continue demonstrating to the world that the intransigence of the South African Gov-

ernment will not be tolerated by what is considered the world's No. 1 democratic government. Enactment of H.R. 1580 will not end apartheid next year or the year after, but it will show the South African Government that we have the will and the resolve to do all within our power to isolate it from the world community until their apartheid system is dismantled.

**RABBI STEPHEN ROBBINS'
SERMON ON AIDS**

HON. ANTHONY C. BEILENSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 1988

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, at the High Holy Day Services at Temple Emanuel in Beverly Hills, CA, Rabbi Stephen Robbins delivered a most unusual sermon. His topic was the AIDS epidemic. The sermon is a frank and moving discussion of the need to educate ourselves and our children about what he calls a "simple and hard reality." * * * We cannot," he correctly states, "avoid dealing with AIDS."

Rabbi Robbins described the need not only to educate ourselves but also to provide a support system to people with AIDS, instead of becoming "enemies who would isolate them." We must "avoid increased conflict and prejudice," he told his congregation. He talked about the workshops and programs his temple would offer because "We must be active—not just personally but also politically. You and I must not permit this disease to become a political football." He ended by challenging his congregation to "dedicate ourselves to the Jewish value of Pikuach Nefesh, the saving of lives."

I would very much like to share this moving discussion with my colleagues, and I am asking permission that it be reprinted here in full.

**AIDS: A RABBI'S FRANK, CARING VIEW
TOWARD SURVIVAL**

Shana Tova. A happy and especially healthy New Year to all of you. Thinking back ten years ago, when as a somewhat younger Rabbi, I stood here for the first time before a congregation of people who were almost total strangers. In the years that have passed, we have shared so much together, that I don't see a group of strangers, but I see a family. Of course I don't know all of you; with 1,600 + families that is a little difficult. Over the years, with so many of you whose faces I recognize today, we have shared moments of great meaning; birth, bris, baby namings, b'nai mitzvah, and weddings, and participated in the education of your children and your grandchildren. I have watched them grow in strength and vigor. At the same time we have also shared sadness and pain, frustration and the powerlessness of illness. We've mourned together at graveside. You have sat in my Study and we've cried together over pain and loss in your life, the loss of a marriage, difficulty at work, problems with children or with parents, doubts about one's own life. In all those years as we've grown closer together, I promised you one thing and that is that I would always tell you the truth. I promised you that this place, this Bemah had to be a place where we spoke of things that were really happening to us; never in a holy place like this could we lie and avoid reality.

This reminds me of a story. In the Middle Ages, during the Black Death, there was a

Jewish community particularly hard hit by the plague. The Three Rabbis of the community met and decided to issue an edict that all of the Jews should eat on Yom Kippur. No one should be permitted to fast because of the risk of human life. This decision was based upon the precepts in Judaism that for the sake of "Pikuach Nefesh", the sake of saving a life, our mitzvot are to be suspended. As the period of Rosh Hashanah passed, the Rabbis discovered that the congregations had no intention of eating on Yom Kippur. They were so accustomed to the ritual and the obligation of the fast, that they were all going to follow the tradition, even those who were sick and dying. So, on Kol Nidre, Erev Yom Kippur, the Rabbis gathered each of the congregations into one synagogue. Before the assembled Jews and in front of the open ark the three Rabbis ate dinner and made the rest of the congregation eat with them.

As a Rabbi, I've had to do and share with you many things. Some things I wish I never had to know about and many of them I wish I never had to do. Like you, there are things I would rather avoid. I would rather not think of them or deal with them and assume that they will never happen to me. The problem with the ostrich with his head in the sand is that his tush makes a wonderful target! So, it is time for us to speak of something painful, to speak of something honestly and truthfully.

Last spring I sat with your children and your grandchildren and I taught them about their sexuality and I taught them about AIDS. I even went so far, of all things that Rabbis do, to open condoms and to pass them around so that each of the children could see and handle them.

It makes me very angry to teach your children about sex and death at the same time; but I don't want to bury your children. It is time for us to confront the simple and the hard reality. This disease is no longer a disease isolated to "high risk" groups. The limited information that we have of more than 1½ million people exposed to this disease is probably only the tip of an iceberg. The reality that it can take five to seven years for the virus to gestate before it becomes manifest, the reality that even one exposure may create fatal infection and there is no cure, means that we cannot avoid dealing with AIDS. You say, "Who me, I have no problem; it's not going to happen to me, happily married, my kids are well controlled, everything's fine." That was said to me by more than a dozen families from whom I buried AIDS victims over the last two years, not gays and not drug users, but people like you and your families. This disease will touch us all! It will change the fabric of our society. Unless we are willing to deal with AIDS, to sit and "eat of it" on the High Holidays, we will surely be its victims. If we do not avoid it, grab hold of this issue and really understand it, we can live and cope with it because AIDS is a preventable disease! My friends, I do nothing more tragic than preside at a funeral of a death that could be prevented. So we will "eat of this issue" together this morning and work to prevent death and save life.

The research on the AIDS virus is frightening. I have been asked to participate in a think tank on the social consequences of AIDS. I began some of those discussions more than a week ago, in a program sponsored by the Chancellor's Office at UCLA. In it I learned some startling facts. The normal flu virus with which we are familiar mutates once every five to six years. When I say "mutates" for those of you who have not had basic bacteriology, I mean that if you wanted to change, look like somebody else, change your haircolor, your size, your

shape, your weight, anything you wanted to change, you could do it if you were a flu virus in six years. AIDS can mutate in six months! Even more frightening, once the virus is in the body, it changes to merge with the DNA in your cells. AIDS is an RNA Retrovirus so in addition to mutating to match your DNA genetic code it mutates to fit the organ in which it rests, so no matter what part of the body the AIDS virus may enter, it changes; it is a somewhat different disease in each part of the body it inhabits. Our capacity to find a vaccine, let alone a cure for this kind of disease is for now staggeringly limited. We who are accustomed to relying on medical science, upon our technology for solutions must accept the fact that we are probably going to have to wait ten, fifteen, maybe twenty years, before a reliable treatment is developed. As the mutation rates increase, we may never find a cure or a vaccine!

The only hope we have is to understand that AIDS is preventable by simply controlling our behavior. That's why we have to talk about it; that's why we have to teach about it. Look around you. Do you have single children, teenagers or adults? Are there people in your family or your friends who are now divorced and single? Are there people who you know among your family and friends who live in unhappy marriages and are not always sexually faithful and monogamous? Do you have small children like I do who in ten years will reach their sexual development? There isn't one of us in this room who will not be touched tragically by this disease. That's why we have to talk about it. You have a task to share with me. You have an obligation to teach your children, to speak to your grandchildren because this is the kind of disease that will not come and go, pass away like a flu epidemic. It will remain with us for years and years, transforming our personal lives and our social structure in such a way that ten to fifteen years from now we may define ourselves as living in an AIDS society. How so?

Most diseases are not political. Cancer is not political; it's not Republican or Democratic; it's not Jewish or Christian. But because AIDS is sexually transmitted, it strikes at the most tender, yearning, embarrassing and frustrating parts of our lives, and so we would rather hide from it than deal with it. The people that are responsible for making it possible for us to educate our children see this disease as a political football. Elected officials will argue over bills for AIDS education, because they are afraid to risk their office. They argue over whether a condom is birth control or a health measure, and while they debate and debate, the time passes and our children and our grandchildren and even each of us become more and more at risk. There will be, in the next election, initiatives that will seek to punish AIDS patients and their families and so drive the disease into the realm of the untouchable.

The cost of this disease will radically affect our society. The more people who are ill, the greater the impact on the insurance and medical health care carriers, the greater the impact on governmental responsibility, not only for research but for the care of those who are sick and dying. Imagine the impact of several million terminal AIDS patients on the private and public health system of this country.

What of those who die from AIDS? I've seen them and their families, hidden and isolated in shame and embarrassment, in the fear that if anybody knew, not only would the sick and dying be ostracized, but their surviving families and their children and their grandchildren as well. They fear