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## Jewish Heritage Month Celebrated on Capitol Hill



L-R: Rabbi Shmuel Radnoti, Mr. Andras Buchler, Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Mr. Ezra Friedlander, Hon. Paul Packer, Senator Tim Kaine speaking, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm.



L-R: Mr. Ezra Friedlander, Hon. Paul Packer, Representative John Faso, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm.



L-R: Mr. Ezra Friedlander, Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Hon. Paul Packer, Senator Brian Schatz, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm.



Senator Chris Van Hollen presenting award to honoree Mr. Martin Handler.



L-R: Mr. Morris Oiring, Mr. Ezra Friedlander, Rabbi Levi Shemtov (in back), Mr. Stanley Treitel, Rabbi Sheftel Neuberger, Mr. Andras Buchler, Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Rabbi Shmuel Radnoti, Mr. Martin Handler, Mr. Paul Packer, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Mr. Joseph B. Stamm.



Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Hon. Paul Packer, Senator Richard Blumenthal, Mr. Ezra Friedlander.

### THE FRIEDLANDER GROUP

Once again, the Kennedy Caucus Room in the Russell Senate Office Building was packed with more than 200 legislators, diplomats, Jewish communal and lay leaders who participated in a celebration of American Jewish Heritage Month to recognize the many achievements and contributions of the Jewish people to the United States.

President Donald Trump declared May as Jewish American Heritage Month, following the practice of several recent administrations. The month-long series of events has been held annually since 2006, with special exhibits and talks at museums and other cultural institutions highlighting the contributions of Jews to American culture, including the arts, science, medicine, sports, business, government, and military service.

The annual celebration first began in 1980 as a week dedicated to American Jewry, and in 2006, President George W. Bush proclaimed May as Jewish American Heritage Month, an initiative led by Representative Debbie Wasserman-Schultz and the late Senator Arlen Specter, z"l. Each subsequent president has continued this tradition.

"Having the United States Congress celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month is a testament to the uniqueness and greatness of the United States of America, which has allowed Jewish Americans to stay true to their faith and to be



L-R: Rabbi Hershel Bilet, Rabbi Sheftel Neuberger, Mr. Stanley Treitel, Mr. Morris Oiring, Mr. Andras Buchler, Rabbi Levi Shemtov, Rabbi Shmuel Radnoti, Mr. Ezra Friedlander (in back), Senator Jeff Markley, Mr. Greg Rosenbaum, Hon. Paul Packer, Representative Joseph Kennedy (speaking).

participants and contributors in all aspects of American life," said Mr. Ezra Friedlander, CEO of The Friedlander Group, coordinator of the annual event.

Mr. Greg Rosenbaum emceed the congressional program that featured an incredible line up of members of Congress including: Senators Richard Blumenthal, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Amy Klobuchar, Jeff Merkley, Jeanne Shaheen, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen, Representatives John Faso, Joseph Kennedy, Brad Schneider and the driving force behind Jewish American Heritage Month, Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

The program included a special introduction by Ms. Ivy Barsky, CEO of the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, and co-chairs Mr. Stanley Treitel and Mr. Morris Oiring.

Mr. Ezra Friedlander welcomed repre-

sentatives from the Federation of Jewish Communities of Hungary, Rabbi Shmuel Radnoti and Mr. Andras Buchler, who reinforced their wish to preserve Jewish heritage for all our children and to create a closer relationship with the American Jewish communities.

They showcased a new *siddur*, translated into Hungarian. They also declared that the current Liska Rebbe, Harav Tzvi Hersh Friedlander, *shlita*, residing in Brooklyn, is the spiritual owner and guardian forever of the cemetery and graves of the Liska Rebbes of yesteryear, buried in the town of Olaszliszka, Hungary.

Representative Joseph P. Kennedy presented a surprise award to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Anne B. Stamm on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary and in recognition of their lifelong philanthropic and humanitarian service to

the Jewish community; their civic works on behalf of local and national issues and Mr. Stamm's dedication to quality, appropriate, and cost-effective healthcare services.

Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Chris Van Hollen praised Mr. Martin Handler in recognition of his decades-long involvement in the leadership of multiple early childhood education and special education entities, including federal Head Start and Early Head Start programs serving underprivileged children and families living in poverty.

Senator Richard Blumenthal recognized the Honorable Paul Packer, chairman of the United States Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, appointed by President Trump, for his accomplishments of the preservation and protection of the cemeteries, monuments, and historic buildings associated with the foreign heritage of United States citizens.

"The fact is most of us have been lucky; I've lived my entire life in a country that not only allows me to celebrate my heritage, but it includes it as a part of the nation's mosaic," remarked Mr. Packer, summarizing the sentiments of the Jewish American Heritage Month celebration.

Rabbi Hershel Bilet of the Young Israel of Woodmere, recently named member to the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, appointed by Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer, delivered the benediction.