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House of Representatives

HONORING THE MOORE FAMILY

HON. DOUG LAMBORN
OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2011

MR. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an exemplary Colorado family: Nelson and Cruz Moore and their children, Rachel and Jacob. I would like to express my gratitude to the Moore family for their service to the state of Colorado. They have taken upon themselves to care for and preserve a culturally and historically significant Jewish gravesite in Cotopaxi, Colorado.

Cotopaxi, Colorado is the site of the unsuccessful Jewish agricultural resettlement effort of 1882-1884. It was the first Jewish American agricultural colony sponsored as part of the American Jewish aide movement through the Hebrew Emigrant Aide Society. The Jewish settlers endured difficult circumstances as they sought to establish themselves as farmers in Cotopaxi. Despite assistance from the local Christian community, the Jewish agricultural community still failed due to the harsh Colorado winters, unsuitable terrain, and the lack of promised housing and provisions by their local sponsor. Today, all that is left of the colony is the small graveyard of three Jewish children that lost their lives during the first winter of the attempted settlement. A historic marker has been erected by the Jewish American Society for Historic Preservation telling the story of the colony, helping preserve its memory, and highlighting the friendship of the two groups, united as Americans.

At the Cotopaxi grave site, Moore cleared the overgrown grasses and stabilized the area. He placed decorative stones around the three Jewish graves taken from a local silver mine that some of the Jewish men worked in. He also created and arranged the stones in the shape of the Star of David in the middle of the three graves. The Moore family is continuing their Christian friendship for the Jewish people, even though it has been 130 years since the Jewish settlers first arrived in Cotopaxi. The memory of these immigrants is honored and carried on through the Moore family's efforts to preserve the history of Colorado and America.

I am honored to acknowledge and to thank them publicly for their exemplary dedication and Christian friendship with the Jewish people.