response. We had loss of life here after the storm because people could not get what they needed as Americans. Here, this same area, President signs a proclamation waiving Davis-Bacon which will allow these individuals in these states, and these communities right here, to move somewhere else. We are supposed to move people. That is right. We are supposed to have more people on the committee. That is why we need an independent commission. These individuals, these very real people right here in Hancock County in Mississippi, one of the hardest hit areas here in a FEMA trailer waiting to speak to an operator, I know personally that they were outside for 2 hours waiting to get into this trailer of 10 phones. 10 phones.

They deserve an independent, bipartisan commission to make sure that the Federal response is better, quicker. So this goes far beyond regular order that we say here in the Congress. This is not a committee that has been standing for 50-something years and that is just the way we do business. This is a natural disaster and failure of governance. And that is where we come in, on the failure of governance side. These are real Americans that are suffering. I ask our Republican leadership, do not allow this institution to do what it is doing now.

Do not split us further by having a partisan committee meet tomorrow because they can, not because it is the right thing, it is because they can. That is wrong. If we are supposed to be the shining example of government, elected in a democracy, do not allow that to happen. Do not do it because you can. Because I can do things as a grown up, I do not do certain things in front of my children, because it is a bad example. This is a bad example.

And I will tell you that it is far beyond regular order. I am talking to my colleagues in this Congress, and you know exactly what I am saying. This is far beyond, because we are in the majority, not the minority. This is a bipartisan commission that the American people are calling for so badly.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 242. Concurrent resolution providing for acceptance of a statue of Pancho Villa presented by the State of New Mexico, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1713. An act to make amendments to the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 related to International Space Station payments.

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I think I will be joined by some colleagues shortly, I hope.

Congress recently returned to Washington following a busy month of work in the district. For a majority of August, I traveled throughout North Carolina's 5th District and conducted scores of meetings with veterans, teachers, and many other constituent groups.

During this time, I gained valuable insight into the needs of the people I serve and look forward to continuing to address their concerns. The needs of my home district have always been and continue to be my number one priority. However, as a Member of Congress, it is my duty to educate myself on internal affairs and foreign policy, especially when it pertains to the Middle East. While our foreign neighbors may be far away from northwest North Carolina, our relationships with them affect everyone.

For 1 week in August, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Israel with several colleagues. This educational trip gave me the opportunity to witness how America’s national security interests are directly applicable to developments in the Middle East, and specifically to Israel’s own security.

Strategic cooperation between our country and Israel, in intelligence-sharing, fighting the war on terror, strengthening homeland security, promoting democracy, and increasing technology development is vital to the well-being of my constituents and, indeed, America.

For most of the 1,500 years before the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, the land of Israel was the independent home of the Jewish people. Since then, it has been occupied by many powers, from the Romans to conquering Arab armies to the Ottomans.

Despite these periods of foreign occupation, there has always been a continuous Jewish presence, and the land of Israel remained the focal point for the Jewish people.

The United States and Israel have long maintained a strong friendship since the modern Jewish state was founded in 1948. In fact, we were the first country to recognize Israel, just 11 minutes after its founding.

Our two countries share much more in common than many realize. We believe in freedom and equality and share many basic rights, such as free elections, a free press, and a free religion. We were both founded by people seeking freedom from tyranny, and we both continue to serve today as symbols of liberty in a world plagued by oppression.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to recognize my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT), who has joined me and allow him to share some of his perspectives on this trip that we took in August, and then I will come back to the podium and speak some more.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, last month I was fortunate as a Member of Congress to travel to Israel and witness firsthand the peace process that is currently taking place.

The trip was a unique opportunity to learn more about relations between the United States and Israel. This country has maintained a longstanding friendship with the Jewish state since its creation in 1948. Today, cooperation between the U.S. and Israel is essential as we fight the war on terror and promote peace in the Middle East. Israel is, has been, and will continue to be an important ally in the goal to spread democracy worldwide and promote peace in the Middle East.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to meet with many high-ranking officials from the region, including Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, as well as former Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu and Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Talking with these leaders provided me with valuable insight into the ongoing peace process and particular region. While their approaches are different, their common goal remains the same: peace and fulfillment of the Jewish homeland.
On the final day I met with Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority. I, along with my colleagues, stressed with him how important it was to the United States that the terrorists be disarmed and that peace be advanced in the region.

Mr. Speaker, my rigorous schedule included an extensive tour of this country. Although Israel is smaller than the State of New Jersey, I was thoroughly impressed with its infrastructure and potential for growth. In just over a half a century, Israel has developed a remarkable highway system and infrastructure. As we visited universities, holy sites, military bases, it was easy to tell how modern and highly accomplished Israel is today and what an incredible potential that it has with its people.

Throughout the country’s history, the Israeli people have experienced violence and terror on their home soil. Normal citizens’ lives have been threatened by weapons, roads and other public places at the hands of suicide bombers. Israeli, though, is committed to combating terrorism and to world peace.

During my trip I was able to attend various briefings and got to see the security fence that separates Israel from Palestine and other tools that have been effectively used by Israelis to deter the terrorist attacks.

I traveled also to the developing Negev Desert area. This region has experienced a surge in development and opportunities with its diverse residents. The community is composed of Israelis, Arabs, and Bedouins. Its growing strength is vital to Israel’s national security interests as well as an excellent place for new settlement. The United States needs to play a key role in the assistance of the development of this desert area.

This trip was also especially important because it took place in the midst of the disengagement of Gaza and the northern part of the West Bank. I was one of the few Americans to be able to visit Israel during this very historic time. Over 8,000 Israelis were relocated from the Gaza Strip.

The courageous decision to withdraw from Gaza carries serious risks for Israel. It proves the willingness of the Jewish state to take enormous chances for peace. Withdrawal provides Palestinians the opportunity to curb terrorism and govern its people. Prime Minister Sharon explained that he believed the painstaking process is the best long-term decision for Israel. Only time will tell whether Gaza will become a catalyst for peace or the new headquarters of terrorism.

Now more than ever, Israel needs America’s support. Israel’s commitment to peace is vital in this time of war and oppression in the Middle East. As America continues with its mission to spread freedom and democracy, the Israeli people have to be, and will be, our very important allies. They deserve our respect and our cooperation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we had a distinguished group with us on our trip, and I am very privileged to recognize the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) who is going to share some of his observations of the trip with us now.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) giving me this opportunity of sharing a few of the experiences that I had while visiting Israel with the distinguished group this past summer.

I think there are four impressions that I will always take back from my short trip to Israel. The first one is how wonderful it was to be in a place where you saw a specific pro-American attitude from everyone, from the leaders of the country down to the people on the street, with whom you spoke.

Secondly, I have to admit that even though I was in Israel, I felt like I was back in Utah because the topography is very similar. The name of my own city, of Judea, I was right on the Wasatch Front again. Going to the desert was like going to Price, to Moab back in Utah. Whereas in Israel they have the Sea of Galilee that empties into the Jordan River and empties into the saltiest sea in the world, in my home State we have Utah Lake which empties into the Jordan River which empties into the saltiest sea in this hemisphere, the Great Salt Lake. So I was back home.

Third, and perhaps for me most important, the ability of buying Dr. Pepper on the market in Jerusalem told me that I was in a country that was purely cultured and progressive, and I was extremely grateful for that.

Finally, I was truly impressed by the size. I think one of the things that we Americans do not realize so fully is how our size has always been a defense. Perhaps as somebody from the West, I recognize as well, when my county is the size of Rhode Island. Sometime we take size for granted. It is part of our mentality.

But it is very clear in this country where you can go in a matter of hours from the mountains of the Golan down to the desert in Negev, that is not a large area. In fact, it takes me longer to drive from one end of my district to the other end than it does to go through the country of Israel.

When I was looking out at the horizon, you will see one mountain top that is Palestinian and the next mountain top is Israeli. And how close they are. We understand that security becomes the major concern of this people. And once again we have kind of a cavalier attitude in the United States about how important security is to those people who live in this particular area. We also understand it is very clear that if there is ever going to be a lasting peace between Palestinians and Israelis, if there is ever going to be a permanent government between the Palestinians and Israelis in this area of the world, then terrorism has to stop, and that has to be the first and foremost priority.

I think it is wonderful that we have this chance of exchanging ideas and changing institutions. I just gave a speech on this floor a few weeks ago about the importance of foreign exchange students and having exchange students understanding American life. Taking it back becomes one of those things that will help us in the future in foreign affairs. I think this is the same way.

There is much that we can learn about the experience of Israel. As we are going through the issues of border security in the United States, there is much that we can learn from how the Israelis have handled that particular situation. Indeed we can learn as far as technology that may be one of those things that can help us in the future.

I also feel it is important to be there, as some have mentioned, I think others will as well, to be there at the time of pullout from the Gaza Strip. Nothing, I think, that could ever happen has shown the commitment on the part of the Government to peace more than that. And everything happened with an ability of doing things in a peaceful and successful way. It showed that even though there was some protest, it was an orderly disengagement. Even though it may be strategic, it was still nonetheless a gamble on the part of the Israelis. It clearly illustrated that the ball is now in the court of the Palestinians and the Egyptians.

I am very pleased that the Egyptians seemed to have moved up and stepped up to take their position in the patrolling of the Philadelphia Corridor. And the amount of troops they have moved in there, though it is still under 1,000, it is still a significant presence. I hope that signals something that will be positive in the future.

It is also significant that the Palestinians have to make a positive response in the future situation. If they do not, if they simply say that permitting foreign civil war from taking place is sufficient, then they deserve the criticism of the world, for there will be no room for equivo- cation. Abbas has a choice in here. If he may be strategic, it was still nonetheless a gamble on the part of the Israelis. It clearly illustrated that the ball is now in the court of the Palestinians and the Egyptians.

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made on both sides in that particular war, which if they had gone the other way, would have had an entirely different outcome.

That also illustrated one more time how the Israeli situation is indeed turbulent. We can put any blame on the Israelis for being so concerned about their security in a land where an enemy sworn against them is so close and has so many terrorist activities, killing over 1,000 people in the last 5 years. With those images coming back there is no way to be able to see the people who, perhaps even better than we do, understand the second amendment rights. And we need to fear the bad guys with guns, not necessarily the good guys with guns and people who are doing so much on their own for being responsible for their security and their future.

It was a very positive experience. I think there is much to learn from the good and the determination of our good friends in the State of Israel. It was an enjoyable trip. I appreciate the opportunity of being able to have enjoyed it with my good friend from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

We all know that it is important to have people from very different perspectives serving in the Congress, and I think that the points of view that will be presented here sound very similar, but also that one of us has our unique perspectives on what stayed with us as a result.

One of the people who was with us on our trip was our distinguished deputy whip, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), and I would like to ask the gentleman to share some of his views now.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for organizing tonight's Special Order. I congratulate her on being leading the delegation, and her participation in the trip that we all were on.

I have been to Israel many times. I went on this trip, and this particular trip was special, like most others, because there is always something going on with the people of that land and their neighbors. And there is a constant quest for peace and one that, unfortunately, has not come to pass in the half a century or so that that country has existed.

One thing that strikes me always and struck me this summer was that Israel remains a beacon of freedom, remains our only democratic ally in the Middle East, and is proof of the survival of a people that have engaged in the war on terror that we here in America have found ourselves in, especially since 9/11.

As the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) before me stated, we were able to travel to or near the Gaza Strip as the pullout, disengagement, was taking place. One of the visions that I remember was one that will go down in history, I imagine, with the settlers that were leaving Gush Katif, the area of the Gaza Strip in which many Israeli communities existed. They were actually at one of the junctions in the road and were pulling down the traffic directional signs pointing to their community and putting the signs in the back of their truck, knowing probably that these would be a sign that existed again, because the community will not exist again. A very tragic moment in many families' lives, but I think something that reflects the bold move by Prime Minister Sharon in conducting the disengagement and formulating the policy of disengagement. It was a tremendous step. It was a tremendous step to create an environment where peace can flourish.

The problem is, and I am troubled by the Palestinian response to Mr. Sharon's move, because as we saw the Israeli Army pull out of the Gaza Strip, we then saw gunshots from the Palestinians in so-called celebration in what they had termed a "victory" that they had heard. We saw the transfer of arms across the border with Egypt into Gaza.

We saw the Palestinians conducting the burning of synagogues there in the communities that had been abandoned, and we saw and we read in the news while we were there that there were rockets being launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel, or all of Gaza coinciding with the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

So it just troubles me that we did not see an in-kind gesture by the Palestinian Authority, by Mahmoud Abbas and others in his administration, that would show some type of gesture of goodwill to reflect the Israeli disengagement and withdrawal from the Gaza Strip; but if we look throughout what has happened over the past decade or more, we see that there is a continuing lack of response from the Palestinian Authority.

Way back in the beginning of the last decade, in the early 1990s, with the formulation of Oslo, there was a lot of hope, hope among a lot of people that the Oslo process would bring a long-awaited peace between Israelis and the Palestinians. In fact, what happened after the devolution of that period was the intifada which was the killing of many innocent people on both sides.

We saw the occurrence of the Wye Accords in 1998 with Arafat and then-Prime Minister Netanyahu, where Israel agreed to withdraw from Hebron, and it was a very holy place for the Jewish people, and the Palestinians responded with violence.

We saw in the year 2000, Camp David, potential of the accords between then-Prime Minister Barak and Mr. Arafat. It was at that time that Israel offered nearly 90 percent of the West Bank, offering sovereignty to the Palestinian people, offered east Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. What happened? Mr. Arafat walked away, and we have seen nothing but continued violence, continued terrorist attacks on the people of Israel.

Yet, after all of that, we see Prime Minister Sharon conducting the policy of disengagement, again taking one leg of the ladder, but trying to bridge the gap between the Israeli and Palestinian people. So I think that we must recognize that bold step.

Our President, who has been a terrific champion of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, understands the importance that Israel plays in our national security strategy, the fact that Israel is fighting the war on terror on the front lines while we, our young men and women in uniform, are fighting that same war on terror, not too far away in that region in Iraq and Afghanistan. This President understands the importance that Israel plays and has supported Mr. Sharon in his moves to try and move the peace process forward.

Unfortunately, we just are not seeing any reciprocation on the part of the Palestinians. We now hear and read of the reports where Hamas is taking a part and intending to participate in the Palestinian elections that will occur in the not too distant future, and we can only respect the participation of a professed terrorist group whose aim is to remove Israel from the map? How in the world does that help the Palestinian cause for peace?

I am here tonight to express some serious dismay at the response by the Palestinian Authority and to reflect and congratulate the policies of Israel and what they are trying to do to secure peace. Unfortunately, there again has been nothing in return that Israel has received, and I just encourage my colleagues to continue to monitor what is going on in that region and how it affects our security here in America and to, once again, commit ourselves to supporting the security of its democratic way and to ensure its survival as our only democratic ally in the Middle East.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) so much. He has helped put many things that a lot of us are concerned about into perspective, and we are grateful to him for that.

I am going to talk a little bit more about Israel and give some facts about what is happening in Israel in its short history, but let me say that we know that Israel is one of the only countries in the Middle East that the United States can truly count on. It is not a fair weather friend. When terrorists strike American targets in the Middle East, Israel always stands by our side. We are truly fortunate to have a strong friend in Israel.

During our trip, we had the opportunity to travel to the countryside, visit military bases, universities, children's homes, holy sites, and strategic locations. One of the first things that struck me was just how much has been accomplished by the Israeli people in...
their nation’s short history. I wit-nessed capitalism at work and saw how it has enabled the country to prosper. Israel has an amazing network of roads, a national water system, and has developed other impressive infrastruc-ture. It is really hard to believe that they have accomplished so much in just 55 years.

So often when we hear about Israel, it is only in conjunction with conflicts affecting Israel. My visit made me aware of so many facts that are never mentioned or discussed by the media. I want to share a few of those with my colleagues.

The Middle East has been growing date palms for centuries. The average tree is about 18 to 20 feet tall and yields about 38 pounds of dates a year. Israeli date trees are now yielding 400 pounds a year and are short enough to be harvested from the ground or a short ladder.

Israel, the 100th smallest country, with a population less than 1,000th of the world’s population, can lay claim to the following: The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola which has its largest development center in Israel. Windows NT and the operating systems were developed by Microsoft Israel. The Pentium MMX chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel. Both the Pentium 4 micro-processor and the Centrino processor were entirely designed, developed, and produced in Israel.

Voice mail technology was developed in Israel. Both Microsoft and Cisco built their only R&D facilities outside the United States in Israel. The technol-ogy for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis. Israel has the highest percentage in the world of home com-puters per capita.

According to industry officials, Israel desig-nated as the industry’s most impenetrable flight security. U.S. offici-als now look, finally, to Israel for ad-visement on how to handle airborne security threats. Israel has the highest ratio of uni-veristy degrees to the population in the entire world. Israel produces more sci-entific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin.

In proportion to its size, Israel has the largest number of start-up companies in the world. In absolute terms, Israel has the largest number of start-up companies of any country in the world except the United States.

Israel is ranked number two in the world for venture capital funds, right behind the United States. Outside the United States and Canada, Israel has the largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies. It has the highest average living standards in the Middle East. The per capita income in 2000 was over $17,500, exceeding that of the United Kingdom.

Twenty-four percent of Israel’s work-force holds university degrees, ranking third in the industrial world, after the United States and Holland. Twelve percent hold advanced degrees.

In 1981 and 1991, Israel airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopian Jews, called Operation Solomon, at risk in Ethi-opia, to safety in Israel. Relative to its population, Israel is the best immi-grant-allocation nation on Earth. Im-migrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportu-nity.

Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, a fact made more remarkable because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert.

Israel has more museums per capita than any other country. Israeli sci-entists developed the first fully com-puterized, no radiation, diagnostic in-strument for breast cancer. An Israeli company developed a computerized system for ensuring administration of medications, removing human error from medicine. Every year in U.S. hospitals, 7,000 patients die from treatment mistakes.

Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce with 145 per 10,000 as opposed to 85 in the U.S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. With over 25 percent of its workforce employed in tech-nical professions, Israel places first in this category as well.

An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale solar-powered and fully functional electro-lyte generating plant in Southern California’s Mojave Desert; and as other people have alluded to, all of the above things have been done while Israel has been engaged in creating a very strong national defense with an implacable enemy that seeks its de-struction. This country is in terms of its sec-u-rity interests.

This point was also emphasized when we visited the Golan Heights. Israel be-came painfully aware of the location’s strategic importance during the Yom Kippur War in 1973 when over 2,000 Israelis were killed. From atop this high mountain, enemies can launch rockets and artillery fire on the vil-lages below. Israel’s control of this piece of real estate is vital to its sec-u-rity interests.

We also had opportunities to walk the streets of Jerusalem and witness how closely the Jews and Arabs live to-gether. This particular journey was also personally meaningful because I expe-rienced the rich spiritual heritage of the region, I was able to see firsthand where Jesus Christ, King David, and King Solomon walked. I was also able to visit the sites of the Last Supper and Christ’s crucifixion. These were very moving experiences.

As my colleagues have mentioned, we met with a broad spectrum of Israeli and Palestinian officials, including Prime Minister Sharon and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. Both were eager to tell us how they were able to gain fundamental insights on security, peace negotiations, and de-fense cooperation.

Israel has proved that it is willing to form a lasting peace with any country that can extend its hand in friendship. Indeed, one of the things that struck me most is that Israel does not say that it has an army. The media says it has an army; but in Israel, the people who protect Israel are called the Israeli Defense Force. Defense force.

In the war on terror, American and Israeli interests are the same. We are both committed to stopping the prolif-eration of weapons of mass destruc-tion and curbing state-sponsored ter-rorism.

Unfortunately, Israel has had to deal with war and terrorism since it was es-tablished in 1948, and has recently suf-fered through 4 intense years of vio-ence that has targeted innocent civilians. Israeli people, who constantly live their lives in the face of hatred and ter-rorism, is truly an inspiration to all of us who love freedom and democracy. The United States can learn a great deal from Israel’s experience in fighting terror.

As we have already spoken of, just prior to my arrival in Israel, Prime Min-ister Sharon made the decision to disengage from Gaza and the northern West Bank. Israel has withdrawn thou-sands of citizens from their homes and communities and relocated them at tremendous emotional and financial cost to the Israeli Government. Dis-engagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank hold enormous potential in advancing the peace process if the Pal-estinians demonstrate they can govern themselves and curb terrorism. Yet, while this movement has been sup-ported by a majority of the public, it has been an emotionally painful under-taking that carries great political and security risks for Israel. Prime Min-is ter Sharon extended its hand in friend-ship. Indeed, one of the things that struck me most is that Israel does not say that it has an army. The media says it has an army; but in Israel, the people who protect Israel are called the Israeli Defense Force. Defense force. I think that is so important. Words are significant, and by calling folks who protect the country its defense force, it emphasizes that it wants peace and is not a country that is bent on fighting with its neighbors.

For years, we have worked together for a more stable and peaceful Middle East.

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After my rigorous and informative experiences overseas, I am more convinced than ever that it is crucial that the United States continue our strong support for Israel. The country is a beacon of democracy in a sea of violence and hostility. Both of our nations have a mutual interest in deterring terror, promoting democracy and stability throughout the world, and seeking peace in the Middle East. Israel's ability to function and defend itself again in the face of attacks due to unwavering support from the United States. Our country has a moral obligation to strengthen our fellow democracies, especially when they are in turbulent and dangerous regions in the world. It is in our national security interest to continue to support Israel financially and morally.

I want to end my remarks by quoting from a speech given by Prime Minister Sharon to the United Nations General Assembly on September 5, 2005. His final remarks are those that I think all Americans can agree with. "The Father of our country; the first President of our country; the successful young man; the successful businessman; the founder of the United States Coast Guard; the son of the United States Coast Guard; and the grandson of the United States Coast Guard, Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent southeastern Massachusetts, I believe home of some of the most beautiful and picturesque coastline in all of New England and, in fact, in all of the United States, and also the birthplace of the United States Coast Guard. I happen to be a very proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard, like my colleague from North Carolina. Of course, he was an officer and a gentleman, while I was a mere enlisted man. Back in 1997, my colleague and I, and another colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi, who also served in the United States Coast Guard, sat down and decided that it was time to bring together Members of Congress who are committed to life-saving, law enforcement, and environmental missions that were conducted at sea. So we created the Congressional Caucus of the United States Coast Guard. We did this to advocate for this outstanding service and to increase its profile not just in this institution but among the American people.

Well, their performance before, during, and in the aftermath of the tragedy which befell our Gulf States spoke volumes about the service that they provide to the American people. We learned a lot about the Coast Guard, or at least, and I am sure I speak for my friend who I will ask to say some words at least, and I am sure I speak for my friend who I will ask to say some words and his personal friends with the Coast Guard. He, determine that this year, our fate is peace, our hope for 60 minutes. "Our country has a moral obligation to strengthen our fellow democracies, especially when they are in turbulent and dangerous regions in the world. It is in our national security interest to continue to support Israel financially and morally.

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