

Israel. In my trips to Israel, I have had a chance to witness the resiliency and resolve of its citizens.

So I'm proud, Mr. Speaker, to join with Jews of the Southwest to celebrate our heritage around the world, as well as to recognize Israel's 61st anniversary.

NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Today, I rise in recognition of the National Education Association's National Teacher Day. Few professionals touch as many lives as teachers do. They provide us with the knowledge and skills we need to succeed in life, and their dedication deserves national recognition.

That is why I have introduced legislation again this year calling for the establishment of an officially recognized National Teacher Day.

The education of our children is critical to the future success of our country, and despite limited compensation and increasingly high expectation, our teachers rise to the challenge each and every day.

Teachers are a critical component to increasing our global competitiveness and once again establishing our country as a world leader in science, math, and other fields.

My mother was a public school teacher, and I know the hard work that she put in to ensure that every one of her students was prepared to succeed in the classroom and in life.

To all the teachers of south Florida and across the country, thank you.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes.

JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the fourth annual Jewish American Heritage Month, which takes place in communities across the country each May.

Jewish American Heritage Month promotes awareness of the contributions American Jews have made to the fabric of American life, from technology and literature to entertainment, politics, and medicine.

As we are all well aware, the foundation of our country is built upon the strengths of our unique cultures and backgrounds. Yet, while our diversity

is America's strength, ignorance and intolerance about the culture, traditions, and accomplishments of the Jewish people are still prevalent. Jews make up only 2 percent of our Nation's population, and, therefore, most Americans have had few interactions with Jews and our traditions.

I personally experienced this lack of knowledge when I was a student in the dorms at the University of Florida. While at school, a fellow student noticed my name and said, "Wow, you're Jewish? I've seen pictures, but I've never met a real one."

Now, this girl did not mean any harm, but the limited understanding of the Jewish people and our historical role in the Nation's development leads to ignorance, which contributes to stereotypes and prejudices.

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's most recent Hate Crimes Statistics report, 68.4 percent of criminal incidents motivated by religious bias stemmed from anti-Jewish prejudice. Additionally, due to a lack of understanding, some Americans perceive Judaism as only a religion, when, in reality, Judaism is a religion, a rich tradition, and a culture that dates back 4,000 years. Mr. Speaker, this is why communities across the country have come together to celebrate Jewish American Heritage Month.

A few years ago, the Jewish community in South Florida approached me with the idea to honor the contributions of American Jews with a designated month each year. As the concept gained momentum, 250 of my colleagues joined me as original cosponsors of a resolution urging the President to issue a proclamation for this month. Senator ARLEN SPECTER led the effort in the Senate, and together the House and Senate unanimously passed a resolution supporting the creation of Jewish American Heritage Month. In May of 2006, we celebrated this important occasion for the first time and have been celebrating each May since then.

Now, the month of May introduces Jewish culture to the entire country and dispels harmful prejudices. Like Black History Month and Women's History Month, Jewish American Heritage Month recognizes the abundance of contributions American Jews have made to the United States over the last 353 years. It is my hope that by providing the framework for the discussion of Jewish culture and contributions to our Nation, we will be able to reduce the ignorance that ultimately leads to anti-Semitism.

One way Jewish American Heritage Month counters these prejudices is by providing educators the opportunity to include American Jews in discussions of history, as well as highlighting the leadership of members of the Jewish community in significant historical events.

For example, it might surprise many to learn that it was an American Jew, Irving Berlin, who wrote the lyrics to

the song, "God Bless America." Even the very foundations of our country were impacted by Jews. Haym Salomon, a Jewish man, was one of the largest financiers of the American Revolution War. And Rabbi Joachim Prinz was a passionate civil rights activist, appearing on the podium just moments before Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech. And the list goes on.

This year's Jewish American Heritage Month has been packed with programs celebrating the contributions of American Jewry to our countries with movies, cultural exhibitions, speakers, and innovative educational curricula. Right here in Washington, the United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington will be hosting a reception for Members of Congress and members of the Jewish community. J Street will also be hosting a reception to celebrate May as Jewish American Heritage Month with Members of Congress, their staff, and the Jewish community.

But that is not all. The Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration will be hosting lectures, exhibits, and discussions about Jewish contributions to America. In my home State of Florida, there will be a celebration of Jewish contributions to the civil rights movement, and the major league Florida Marlins baseball team will host a Jewish Heritage game, with kosher food and Jewish music in between innings. Cincinnati will be hosting lectures, including one on President Lincoln's solid relationship with American Jews. And Wyoming will host a festival celebrating Jewish food, and we all know how much we love food! Events are also scheduled to occur in New York, California, Texas, and other States around the country.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way in recent years to promote appreciation for the multicultural fabric of the United States of America. It is our responsibility to continue this education.

If we, as a Nation, are to prepare our children for the challenges that lie ahead, then teaching diversity is a fundamental part of that promise. Together, we can help achieve this goal of understanding with the celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month.

I thank my colleagues for their support, and call on all Americans to observe this special month by celebrating the many contributions of Jewish culture throughout our Nation's history.

RECOGNIZING THE SUDAN NETTES GIRLS BASKETBALL 2009 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate

some champions in the 19th Congressional District of Texas. I proudly congratulate the Sudan Nettes girls basketball team of Sudan High School in Sudan, Texas, for winning the Class 1A, Division I State championship in 2009.

The Nettes finished the 2008–2009 season with 35 wins and only five losses. The championship squad includes seniors Whitney Robertson, Skylar Sowder, Amy Tiller, and Brittany Williams; juniors Lacey Logan and CeCe Williams; sophomores Emylee Gonzales, Desiree King, Chelsea Locke, and Mariah Steinbock; and freshmen Baylee Black and Danielle Logan. Led by head coach Jason Cooper, the coaching staff includes assistant coaches Lisa Logan and Mark Scisson.

Following a frustrating loss in this last year's State finals, the Nettes demonstrated their hard work and determination during the off-season. In this year's final, their focus on teamwork paid off in a 71–38 victory over the Roscoe Plowgirls, the third largest margin of victory in Class 1A history. With this win, Sudan earns its fourth State title and its first since 1994.

I applaud the Nettes' hard work and tradition of success. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best basketball team in Class 1A. The Sudan Nettes continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the court.

Also, Mr. Speaker, I proudly congratulate the Muleshoe Mules high school football team for defeating Kirbyville on the way to winning the Class 2A, Division I State football championship in 2008.

Establishing a tradition of success, the Mules have made their State playoffs 9 out of the last 10 years under Head Coach David Woods. In 2008, the Mules demonstrated their talent and determination by ending the football season with a perfect 15–0 record. This is the first State football championship for Muleshoe.

Quarterback Wes Wood passed for 4,532 yards for this season, with 230 of those yards in this year's championship game.

In another exceptional championship performance, Lane Wood ran for 160 yards and two touchdowns. The Mules scored four consecutive touchdowns in the second half to achieve a final score of 48–26.

I applaud the Mules' hard work and resilience through the 2008–2009 season. With great support from the community, the team proved itself as the best 2A football team in the State of Texas and an inspiration to all of us. The Muleshoe Mules continue to exemplify the principles of competitive spirit and success on and off the field.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING DEWEY SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dewey Smith, a young man who tragically lost his life on Tuesday, May 5, this past Tuesday, in the course of his duties at the Aquarius Undersea Research Station. He will be greatly missed by his friends, his family, and his colleagues.

Dewey's life was tied to the sea from his childhood growing up on the Gulf Coast in Panama City, Florida. As a young man, he served his country as a United States Navy hospital corpsman. For 5 years, he cared for the health and well-being of his fellow sailors. After leaving the Navy and attending college, he found himself at home back in the water, training at Florida State University's underwater crime scene investigation program focusing on scientific and surface supply diving. Eventually, his path led him to NOAA's Undersea Research Center, Aquarius.

Aquarius combined the elements of Dewey's passion for science and the sea. Located 3½ miles off the coast of Key Largo, Florida, the underwater laboratory is dedicated to scientific research and training missions. It is the only permanent underwater laboratory in the world, and its facilities are used in partnership with NASA, the Navy, and countless scientists around the world to train astronauts, divers, and develop new technology. Since it began operation in 1993 at its current location, Aquarius and its team have safely conducted more than 90 missions with no significant prior accidents.

The contribution to ocean science by Dewey Smith and his fellow aquanauts is immeasurable. The Aquarius Reef Base supports a long-term coral reef monitoring platform, an ocean observation platform, and surface-based research.

Since its inception, the team at Aquarius has employed a coral reef and fish monitoring assessment program to track the devastating impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems.

Aquanauts such as Dewey Smith have also successfully reached out to the world beyond the scientific community, successfully educating school children, environmental activists, and government agencies on the changes occurring in the world's oceans. Employing state-of-the-art communication technology, the aquanauts correspond with students and the public while underwater on long-term missions. Dewey's response to school children's questions reveal not only his expertise and eloquence, but his sincere desire to share that knowledge gained at Aquarius in the hopes of saving the marine ecosystem he worked with.

The work done at Aquarius by brave aquanauts such as Dewey Smith improves the lives of many Americans, from astronauts, whose health and safety are ensured through technology

developed underwater, to fishermen, whose livelihoods depend on understanding the effects of climate change on the world's marine ecosystems.

Mr. Speaker, this Monday, quite rightfully, our Nation will gaze in wonder and admiration at the astronauts who will lift off yet again in the space shuttle. As courageous and important as the work those astronauts do, I believe that the work done by the aquanauts at Aquarius is no less courageous and no less essential to our understanding of our world and the well-being of civilization.

Dewey Smith, along with the other Aquarius aquanauts, risked and committed his life daily not only for his love of the sea but for the cause of research, education, and conservation, which benefits us all.

In a few short minutes on Tuesday afternoon, a dedicated aquanaut was suddenly lost in the course of an otherwise standard mission. Let us not risk losing the work, however, that he was so passionate about. I stand today not only to mourn the death of a beloved friend, son, brother, and colleague, but to urge that this mission continue.

Looking forward, I hope that Dewey's life will continue to inspire the important work of preserving the world's oceans. I offer my sincere condolence to Dewey Smith's family, to the entire Aquarius team, and ask that this House honor him as a man who died serving his country in pursuit of scientific progress.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House observe a moment of silence in honor of this courageous government employee and researcher.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING JOHN A. GARRETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate, pay tribute, and honor a great American on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

John A. Garrett turns 100 years old this Sunday, May 10th. The Governor of Alabama has declared this Sunday John A. Garrett Day in the State, and the mayor of Montgomery has done the same in our State's capital city.

I want to join in sharing my best wishes with those loved ones and friends who will be sharing in this, celebrating the milestone on Sunday in Snowdown, Alabama.

John A. Garrett, born on May 10, 1909, was the fourth from the oldest of 10 children. He is the last surviving sibling in his family.