

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 173

Recognizing the historic significance of the 55th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2003

Mr. FOLEY (for himself and Mr. LANTOS) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the historic significance of the 55th anniversary of the founding of the state of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Whereas at the First Zionist Congress held at Basel, Switzerland, from August 29 to 31, 1897, participants under the leadership of Theodore Herzl affirmed their desire to re-establish a Jewish homeland in the historic land of Israel;

Whereas the desire of the Jewish people to establish an independent modern State of Israel is the outgrowth of the existence of the historic Kingdom of Israel that was established over 3,000 years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel;

Whereas, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, and through that vote, to create the state of Israel;

Whereas, on May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel and the United States established full diplomatic relations with Israel;

Whereas President Harry Truman recognized Israel just minutes after it declared independence;

Whereas the establishment of modern Israel as a homeland for the Jewish people followed the extermination of more than six million European Jews during the Holocaust;

Whereas since its establishment 55 years ago, Israel has rebuilt a nation, forged a new and dynamic society, and created a unique and vital economic, political, cultural, and intellectual life despite the heavy costs of six wars, unrelenting terrorism, frequent international ostracism, and economic boycotts;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic and democratic political system that guarantees the freedoms of speech and of the press, free, fair, and open elections, and respect for the rule of law;

Whereas, at great social and financial cost, Israel has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Jews from countries throughout the world, many of them refugees from Arab countries, and has fully integrated them into Israeli society;

Whereas for over half a century the United States and Israel have maintained a special relationship based on mutually

shared democratic values, common strategic interests,
and moral bonds of friendship and mutual respect; and

Whereas the people of the United States have an affinity for
the people of Israel and regard Israel as a strong and
trusted ally and as an important strategic partner: Now,
therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes the historic significance of the
4 55th anniversary of the founding of the sovereign
5 and independent modern state of Israel;

6 (2) commends the people of Israel for their re-
7 markable achievements in building a new state and
8 a pluralistic and democratic society in the Middle
9 East in the face of terrorism, hostility, and belliger-
10 ence by many of its neighbors;

11 (3) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and co-
12 operation which have existed between the United
13 States and Israel for the past 55 years and which
14 have been significant for both countries; and

15 (4) extends the warmest congratulations and
16 best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for
17 a peaceful, prosperous, and successful future.

○