

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 149

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2005

Received and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of
the State of Israel.

Whereas in May 1948, the State of Israel was established as
a sovereign and independent nation;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to
recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from
all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the Government of Israel has successfully worked with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations;

Whereas, despite the deaths of over one thousand innocent Israelis at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists during the past 4 years, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect;

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

(2) praises the efforts of President George W. Bush and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to create the conditions for peace in the Middle East;

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 57th anniversary of Israel's independence.

Attest: **JEFF TRANDAH**,
Clerk.