

and professional successes, but also his many volunteer civic contributions. Stanton has demonstrated caring and stewardship in each of the communities along his journey, and his career exemplifies the ideal of commerce in the public interest. He presently serves on the boards of the Milwaukee Art Museum, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Greater Milwaukee Committee, and he serves as treasurer for the Milwaukee Jewish Federation.

I have great respect for Stanton Bluestone and his wife Judy and I can confidently say that the AJC could not have made a better selection. I am honored to join Stanton Bluestone's many friends and admirers in offering congratulations on this important and richly deserved honor.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 102 RE-AFFIRMING U.S. LINKS WITH ISRAEL ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine, and that action set in place the conditions which led to the reestablishment of the State of Israel 6 months later. On May 14, 1948 the people of Israel formally proclaimed the establishment of the modern State of Israel, and on that very same day, the United States extended diplomatic recognition to the new state.

Beginning later this month with the 50th anniversary of the United Nations General Assembly vote and continuing through the formal celebration of the 50th anniversary of the proclamation of the state next May, the people of Israel are marking a half century of the flourishing of the modern State of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, it is most appropriate that we here in the Congress on behalf of the American people reaffirm the bonds of warm friendship that link us with the Jewish people and Israel. Israel is our only democratic ally in the volatile Middle East region, and the strong common links that bind us with the people of Israel reflect our shared experiences and our strong shared interests.

Today, with our distinguished colleague and the Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Congressman BENJAMIN GILMAN, and a number of our other distinguished colleagues in the House, I have introduced a Joint Resolution which (1) recognizes the historic significance of the fiftieth anniversary of Israel, (2) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the face of half a century of terrorism, hostility and belligerence by many of her neighbors, (3) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past half-century and which have been significant for both countries, and (4) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her people for a peaceful and prosperous and successful future.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me and Chairman GILMAN in cosponsoring this resolution, and I ask that the text of our resolution be included in the RECORD.

H.J. RES. 102

Expressing the sense of the Congress on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and reaffirming the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and 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 Government established full diplomatic relations with 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 established three thousand years ago in the city of Jerusalem and in the land of Israel;

Whereas one century ago at the First Zionist Congress on August 29 to 31, 1897, in Basel, Switzerland, participants under the leadership of Theodore Herzl affirmed the desire to reestablish a Jewish homeland in the historic land of Israel;

Whereas the establishment of the modern State of Israel as a homeland for the Jews following the slaughter of more than six million European Jews during the Holocaust;

Whereas since its establishment fifty years ago, the modern state of 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, terrorism, international ostracism, and economic boycotts;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a vibrant and functioning pluralistic democratic political system including freedom of speech, a free press, free and fair and open elections, the rule of law, and other democratic principles and practices;

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

Whereas for 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 American people have shared an affinity with the people of Israel and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner;

Now, therefore, be it *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled*, That the United States

(1) recognizes the historic significance of the fiftieth anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel;

(2) commends the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a new state and a pluralistic democratic society in the Middle East in the face of terrorism, hostility and belligerence by many of her neighbors;

(3) reaffirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation which have existed between the United States and Israel for the past half-century and which have been significant for both countries; and

(4) extends the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the State of Israel and her

people for a peaceful and prosperous and successful future.

HONORING AMBASSADOR
SHYAMALA B. COWSIK OF INDIA

HON. JON D. FOX

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. FOX. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor as a member of the International Relations Committee's Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific to bid farewell to a person who has worked closely with members of our Committee and the Congress as a whole. After 2 years of tireless work, she has completed her second tour in Washington and sadly will be moving to a new post. The Ambassador's professionalism and keen understanding of our two nation's histories, culture, and diplomatic relations allowed her to be particularly effective.

During this period, we have witnessed a dramatically expanded dialogue between our nations. This has taken the form of interparliamentary contacts, ministerial meetings, trade growth and a visit by the First lady. As a result of Ambassador Cowsik's work, I am convinced that our two democracies can work to create an international order that is based on international law and mutual respect.

LIMITED OVERTIME EXEMPTION

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide a limited overtime exemption from section 7(k) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) for public sector employees who provide emergency medical services (EMS)—the same FLSA exemption afforded to fire protection personnel. Without this change in law, there will continue to be circumstances in which EMS personnel are working the same tours of duty as either fire protection or law enforcement personnel, but must be paid overtime for any hours worked in excess of 40 hours during any workweek.

In some localities, such as Pickens County, SC, EMS functions are entirely separate from fire protection and law enforcement activities, but their job duties are identical. There should be no difference in the treatment of EMS personnel under the FLSA simply because of the manner in which emergency services are provided by local communities. Furthermore, in many jurisdictions, the majority of emergency calls are medical emergencies. The current situation is very expensive for State and local governments and intrudes on their management of fire protection and law enforcement activities.

Section 7(k) of the FLSA provides a partial exemption from overtime for those employees engaged in fire protection and law enforcement activities. Employers are allowed to establish work periods of up to 28 days, and overtime compensation is not owed until fire protection employees have worked more than 212 hours and law enforcement personnel exceed 171 hours of work. There have been

conflicting rulings by the Federal courts of appeal on the issue of whether EMS personnel are covered by section 7(k). There also have been different interpretations by the courts of the regulations on this subject. This has led to confusion and large financial liability on the part of State and local governments. The bill I am introducing today revises section 7(k) so that EMS personnel qualify for the same partial exemption from overtime as fire protection personnel.

Mr. Speaker, the FLSA, passed in 1938, mandates a rigid interpretation of the 40-hour workweek. The law's worker classification and compensation requirements are not reflective of the contemporary workplace. Contradictory court interpretations of the FLSA have provided windfall judgements for some employees. These costly judgements against public sector employers have a direct impact on budgets supported by taxpayer dollars and also affect public safety services. The existing liability for many States and localities is estimated to be in the millions of dollars, and the potential for future liability creates tremendous fiscal uncertainty. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which promotes the mandate of public accountability and fiscal responsibility to which State and local governments must adhere.

SIXTH DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST WINNERS

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 7, 1997

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, please permit me to share with my colleagues the tremendous work of a half-dozen young men and women who live in my District.

Each year, my office in cooperation with numerous junior and senior high schools in Northern Illinois sponsor an essay writing contest. A board, chaired by Vivian Turner, a former principle of Blackhawk Junior High School in Bensenville, IL, chooses a topic, and evaluates results of the submitted essays. Winners share more than \$1,000 in scholarship funds.

This year, Marta Kuersten, a student at Algonquin Junior High School in Des Plaines, IL, placed first in the junior high division with an essay entitled What I can do for my Country, a text of which I include in the RECORD. Placing second in the junior division is Tina Rasane, a student at Mary, Seat of Wisdom School in Park Ridge, IL; and John Tadelski, a student at St. Alexander School in Villa Park, placed third.

In the Senior High School Division, Thomas W. Repetto, a student at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, placed first with his essay entitled Towards the Preservation of the Government by the Citizen, a text of which I include in the RECORD. Shrujal Baxi, a student at Glenbard North High School in Carol Stream, IL, placed second; and Shannon McNamara, a student at Lake Park High School in Roselle, placed third.

WHAT I CAN DO FOR MY COUNTRY (By Marta Kuersten)

"Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Well, there are the things that naturally

come to mind. I could pick up litter, volunteer at the local hospital, make donations to charities or even join the army when I'm old enough. But I think real service to my country has to do more with my attitude which can affect my actions. It's got to do with the choices I make, and the way I face life.

I'm choosing to go to college, and earn a degree, so I'll have the skills to get a good job. I'll avoid premarital sex, so I don't have to worry about unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases. And even the simplest choices are important, like choosing to throw my trash in a garbage can instead of on the ground.

Okay, so how does this affect my country, you ask? Simple, unemployment is a problem in our country, and if I don't get a college education, why should I expect not to join the ranks? Welfare is what your country does for you. Paying taxes is what you do for your country.

And why should I take the place in a hospital of a person with cancer because I have hepatitis, or worst of all, HIV/AIDS? I can save myself and the person with the unavoidable illness, (like cancer), a lot of grief if I choose wisely and remain abstinent. And that is to say nothing of the grief shared by both the mother and a child born of an unwanted pregnancy. A hospital bed or Medicaid is what the country can do for you. Saying "no" is what you can do for your country.

Although it may seem small next to chastity and a college degree, choosing not to litter means that someone else doesn't have the responsibility of picking up your garbage. "Keep Your Town Beautiful" crews are what your country does for you. Finding and using a trash can is what you can do for your country.

The point is, the choices we make, big or small, affect our country in one way or another. If I'm really asking myself what I could do for my country, I'll make a wise decision that will not only do the country good but will also probably do me good as well. And John F. Kennedy would surely agree with that thinking.

TOWARDS THE PRESERVATION OF THE GOVERNMENT BY THE CITIZEN (Thomas W. Repetto)

"We the People . . ." The first three words of the United States Constitution affirm that the true leaders of government are the millions of people who are governed by it. In a government that is representative of the people, it is the will of the people that directs a government to satisfactory levels. As John F. Kennedy told Americans to "Ask what you can do for your country," he echoed the most necessary component of a healthy and successful government: popular participation. The participation of citizens is necessary so that a government can truly serve the needs of its constituents. In many foreign nations, the only way one can voice his opinions and help his country is through a ballot box. While Americans still honor the significance of the vote, they have found numerous other ways to do something for their country and respond to President Kennedy's request.

Citizens can serve in the military, and fight for one's country. Programs such as the Peace Corps and Americorps allow citizens to travel to other countries and work to preserve world peace. This helps the United States by strengthening foreign relations and creating a world where our children and our children's children do not need to deal with the rigors and heartache that war can bring. Promoting peace in our domestic wars with crime, gangs, and drugs can be aided by organizations like the Guardian Angels and

Community Watch programs. Battles are fought every day, and our willingness to resolve these problems is the first step in combating the crime that surrounds us. Only through peace and safety can we truly find happiness in our lives and in our government.

The Puritans who settled in the Massachusetts Bay Colony believed in the philosophy that "We are our brothers's keeper." Likewise, citizens of America, a country of the people, by the people, and for the people, can help their country by being their brother's keeper, aiding the people who make up this great nation. When one helps serve food at a soup kitchen, visits people at a nursing home around Christmas time, holds a door for a handicapped person, or tutors disadvantaged children, he helps to promote the general welfare of the community and subsequently the nation. As an individual with deeply rooted Catholic beliefs, I believe that acting as a "Good Samaritan" is the ultimate way to serve the United States.

One can join a local branch of political party, join a union, actively participate in a special interest group, or assist a political campaign. For example, when my government teacher was running for trustee in his village, myself and several other students went door to door passing out campaign literature. In government, we work so that the best people are elected and the best views are represented. Unions fight for the rights of their members and work to improve working conditions. As the son of a union member, I respect the union's activity in trying to promote a better workplace. Involvement in a special interest group demonstrates a desire to see that a concern is respected. Joining any organization that is active in trying to influence public policy is a positive way to be an active citizen.

Criticisms of the government help to illuminate problems and propose solutions. Satirical cartoons, commentary articles, and political discussions and debates demonstrate a citizen's desire to improve his country's ability to protect and serve the people. It is our duty as Americans to read commentaries on the government, watch political discussions, keep up to date on issues that affect our community, and argue with our friends on datable issues. Demonstrations are effective in conveying concerns of a large sect. While we may not march in front of an abortion clinic, we must be aware of why the people are marching and understand their position as not to be ignorantly biased one way or another.

A citizen who simply abides by the laws of his community supports his country. A person who chooses not to drive recklessly, who chooses not to cause a public disturbance, who refrains from taking away the rights of another individual, preserves the order and justice with which the government is designed to protect. When we respect the unalienable rights of others, we promote the ideals of American society and protect our nation from falling into an abyss of immorality and injustice.

Only a few people can be elected to serve in Congress. Only several individuals can represent a community in local politics. Yet, every American can participate and do something for their country. There are always improvements to be made and problems to be solved. A letter to a Congressman, a letter to the editor of a local newspaper, a phone call to a friend who might generate interest: whatever the form of communication, citizens must dictate their concerns. Then, after the concerns are exposed, the individual must take it upon himself to see that the problem is fixed. In the words of Learned Hand, "Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution,