

East. I strongly oppose theocracy but I do not think there is anything wrong with a particular democratic society including an official religion as long as it does so in a way that protects the rights of those in the society who do not follow that religion. Israel comes far closer to that goal than any of its neighbors, and criticism of Israel on that score therefore seems particularly hypocritical and motivated more by opposition to the existence of the state than to any commitment to principle.

In fact, the importance of Israel remaining both Jewish and democratic is one key reason why a settlement of the conflict with the Palestinians is so important to me and many other strong supporters of Israel. As Prime Minister Sharon himself has noted, it is difficult to see how Israel can remain both democratic and Jewish if it continues to control all of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with the large number of Palestinian inhabitants there. Combined with the Palestinians who live within Israel, the number of non-Jewish citizens—indeed of many citizens hostile to the existence of a Jewish state—means that conducting democratic politics and maintaining the state's Jewish character are at odds. For this and other reasons, an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians is greatly to be desired.

It is in this context that I join in welcoming the efforts of those on both the Israeli and Palestinian side who have recently demonstrated what an achievable Israeli-Palestinian peace can look like. Recently, in Geneva, a ceremony was held in which leading Israeli and Palestinian citizens signed onto their version of a comprehensive peace plan which provides both for a Palestinian state, and a State of Israel, with both having the viability necessary to exist as independent nations, and in a way that minimizes the likelihood of ongoing violence between them. This initiative, led by Yossi Beilin and Yasser Abed Rabbo, reflects a great deal of serious thought by people who have been deeply involved in trying to reach peace, and demonstrates that a true peace agreement is in fact achievable in ways that meet the needs of those in both Israel and the Palestinian areas who genuinely desire peace. In addition, a recent proposal outlined by Ami Ayalon and Sari Nusseibeh is less detailed but points in a similar direction.

Mr. Speaker, I understand and there is both in Israel and in some Palestinian circles a great deal of unhappiness that these four men and others joining with them have engaged in these activities. I think the criticisms are unwarranted and in fact counterproductive. Denigrating these efforts does not seem to me to be consistent with a professed desire to reach the peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians that is so manifestly in the interests of all parties in the area.

On Friday, December 5, the distinguished newspaper *The Forward*, which has long been an important voice within America's Jewish Community, carried an editorial entitled *The Truths of Geneva*. Noting that "the Geneva initiative does not represent anything like the threat to Israel's safety that its opponents suggest," the editorial goes on to note that "by relying on respected, mainstream public figures from both sides to do the phrasing and map-making—including several of Israel's most trusted ex-generals and intelligence chiefs—they showed that a peace agreement could be reached that would satisfy the essential needs of both sides, if the leaders so chose." As the

editorial went on to note, the Geneva initiative "shows that there is a way out of Israel's deadly mess . . . it shows, in rough terms, what such a formula might look like."

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this editorial from a source that has long been one of Israel's most thoughtful and ardent defenders be printed here, as part of the effort of many of us to express our appreciation to those who have undertaken this difficult effort to demonstrate how peace can be achieved and to pledge our continuing support for their efforts.

[From the *Forward*, Dec. 5, 2003]

THE TRUTHS OF GENEVA

For all its theatrics, its celebrity cast and high-concept special effects, the "launch" this week in Switzerland of the so-called Geneva Understandings did not usher in a new era in Israeli-Palestinian relations. The document's authors and architects did not have the power to do anything of the sort. Private citizens all, they could hug and sing and display a document they had written together, but they could not make peace between the two warring nations. Only governments can do that.

For that same reason, the Geneva initiative does not represent anything like the threat to Israel's safety that its opponents suggest in their more overheated flights of rhetoric. The Geneva authors did not give anything away, because they had nothing to give away. All they did—all they could do—was to bring together groups of citizens from the two embattled communities and discuss ways the sides might settle their differences, if their leaders so chose. By relying on respected, mainstream public figures from both sides to do the phrasing and map making—including several of Israel's most trusted ex-generals and intelligence chiefs—they showed that a peace agreement could be reached that would satisfy the essential needs of both sides, if the leaders so chose. But they did not produce the peace agreement. Only governments can negotiate peace.

All the incendiary rubbish aside, there was nothing fraudulent going on at Geneva. The negotiators were not purporting to speak for the Israeli government any more than Tovah Feldshuh purports to be Golda Meir in her nightly appearances on Broadway. It's all play-acting, meant to draw an audience and, perhaps, make a point.

And yet, this play's message must carry a real sting, judging by the desperation of its opponents to find something, anything, wrong with it. Consider their arguments: First, the document should be ignored because it is meaningless and toothless. Second, it should be fought because it endangers Israel by somehow handing over valuable assets. Third, the Israeli authors let themselves be duped by Palestinian extremists who will never be satisfied even by the sweeping Geneva concessions. Fourth, the authors undercut the Sharon government's negotiating position by raising Palestinian expectations, thus reducing the likelihood that they will somehow accept the far more limited concessions Sharon is contemplating as part of his own plan for extricating Israel from its deadly mess.

That, in the end, is the Geneva initiative's real threat, and its only threat. It shows that there is a way out of Israel's deadly mess. It shows that there is a broad formula that could resolve the century-old dispute on terms both sides could live with. It shows, in rough terms, what such a formula might look like. By forcing itself into the spotlight and exciting public debate, it shows that there is a critical mass on both sides that could, with some effort, accept such a deal.

And it shows who is against reaching such a deal and would rather keep fighting.

Those are the truths of Geneva, and they are real ones. But they need not leave Israel isolated. Israel's friends could and should embrace the initiative—not for its details but for its vision—and encourage Israel's prime minister to do the same. He could, if he wanted, praise the initiative as a contribution to public discussion, details aside. He could point to the violent opposition of Palestinian hard-liners, who denounce the document for its betrayal of their "right of return," as evidence of the uphill climb still ahead. And he could vow to begin that climb, so Israelis can know that their leaders genuinely want to end their long nightmare.

TRIBUTE TO MAYBELL JEANNE JACOBSON

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to pay tribute to a remarkable woman I was privileged to call my friend, Maybell Jeanne Jacobson. Jeanne passed away on October 10, 2003 following a long and valiant struggle with cancer.

Jeanne is survived by her husband, MG Hilding Leonard Jacobson, Jr.; by her son, George Chester, and her children by marriage, Grant and Linda Jacobson. She is also survived by her mother, Maude Haston, her sister Elsie Haston, and two brothers, Bud and Ernest Haston, all of whom remain in Sacramento. She leaves behind many others who love her, among them Mr. Pan Kayochar Todd of Tampa, FL, who became part of her extended family.

Jeanne was born on a small farm in Missouri on July 16, 1928. She spoke often of this rolling Missouri farm, of apple trees in the spring, with blossoms so fragrant, and birds singing in the fields as sun warmed the early morning air. This farm was a small piece of heaven she always carried with her.

With the coming of the Dust Bowl and the Depression, her family sold the farm and traveled to California to work in the migrant farm camps. Living in tents with dirt floors, her parents eventually saved enough money to buy a dairy farm outside Sacramento. Through all of this, she still managed to finish high school and attend college.

From Jeanne's simple beginnings she went on to travel the world, including China, Asia, Russia and Europe. She had an audience with the Pope at the Vatican, explored many corners of our glorious world, bringing with her respect and tolerance for other people's beliefs and customs.

Together with her husband, Major General Jacobson, Jeanne served our country in Washington, DC, Vietnam, Thailand and a final and wonderful tour of duty in Guam. Eventually settling in Lompoc, CA, in a home overlooking the first tee of the Vandenberg Village golf course, she enjoyed watching as well as playing the game of golf—and she played it very well. It was on Guam where Major General Jacobson was serving as the commanding officer at Andersen Air Force Base that I first met Jeanne and became life-long friends.

Jeanne ended this life without fear and with her family and many loved ones at her side.

She remains beloved in the hearts of so many, and it is our great honor to remember her today, especially in this special place that meant so very much to her.

ADDITIONS TO NOVEMBER 5, 2003
FLOOR SPEECH IN SUPPORT OF
H. RES. 425

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 425, a Resolution to recognize and honor the brave men and women who responded to the horrendous wildfires that plagued Southern California last month.

While we all recognize that hundreds of first responders from the State of California bravely risked their lives to fight these wildfires, many Americans are less aware that hundreds of Nevada's first responders were also enlisted in this fight.

In fact, during the course of this deadly natural disaster, the State of Nevada deployed over 450 brave Americans to Southern California to join their neighbors in the effort to quell this deadly natural disaster.

These Nevadans included dozens of firefighters, paramedics, and highly-skilled mechanics.

Northern Nevada-based crews from the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management along with engine crews from the Nevada Division of Forestry, Reno, Sparks, Storey County, Elko County and the North Lake Tahoe Fire Protection District were dispatched on October 27 to fight the Southern California fires.

Additionally, four Ely firefighters, a member of Lovelock, Nevada's private fire department and a rescue truck formed a strike team with Walker Lake Paiute Tribe firefighters and firemen to join the united efforts across Nevada's Western border.

Finally, two strike teams composed of firefighters from Las Vegas, Clark County, Henderson, Pahrump, the Nevada Test Site and the Naval Air Station at Fallon drove in to offer support to a base camp in Santee.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important resolution. The brave first responders from all over the Western States, and Nevada, have earned this honor and I am pleased to recognize their selfless efforts today.

CONTROLLING THE ASSAULT OF
NON-SOLICITED PORNOGRAPHY
AND MARKET ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. There is no denying the fact that the rise in unsolicited commercial e-mail, or spam, has become an intrusive aspect of the Internet, negatively impacting consumers and Internet service providers. Sur-

veys have noted that the volume of spam rose from 8 percent of all e-mail in January 2001 to 45 percent of all e-mail in January 2003.

Increasingly, spam mail is designed to prey upon innocent consumers by enticing them with fraudulent or misleading offers. Even worse, many of these e-mails are created to trick Internet users of all ages into opening web pages that depict sexually-explicit materials. In fact, the Federal Trade Commission recently reported that, out of 1,000 pieces of spam it studied, 66 percent contained false or misleading information, and roughly 18 percent concerned adult offers.

At the same time, spam also is incredibly costly to our Nation's economy. The huge amount of spam that is transferred over the Internet has drastically altered the speed at which it takes to process e-mails and the amount of memory needed to maintain an e-mail account. These costs are often transferred to businesses and customers who are forced to pay for time spent reading and deleting junk mail. Indeed, the Ferris Research Group estimates that spam will cost the United States over \$10 billion in 2003. It is clear that something must be done about this problem.

To this end, I am gratified that many of my colleagues are unified in their resolve to pass a law to prevent spam and have reached this compromise. In order to stop the harmful practices of spammers, we have before us Federal legislation that gives consumers the ability to opt-out of receiving any commercial e-mail they do not want to receive and makes it illegal to falsify the identity of the sender.

With respect to enforcement, we have before us legislation that would allow for effective prosecution of those who violate Federal spam legislation. On the Federal level, by giving the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission the tools to fine and place in jail the most egregious spammers, we can begin to give consumers control over their in-boxes. It is important to note that these protections are not limited to commercial e-mails; consumers will have enhanced protections against pornographic e-mails as well.

Also, knowing that effective law enforcement requires multiple fronts, this legislation does not rely on Federal enforcers alone, though. It empowers State attorneys general to bring civil actions against spammers for injunctions and damages. Moreover, it gives Internet service providers, whose systems suffer from spam traffic every day, the ability to bring lawsuits against violators.

The bottom line is that Congress must pass tough laws in order to deal effectively with spammers who can now hide behind the anonymity of the Internet. Only through legislation such as this that establishes civil and criminal penalties for sending unsolicited and fraudulent e-mails can we protect our Nation's consumers.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO DEANNA WALKER

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 15, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in appreciation of my constituent, Deanna Carol

Beadman Walker. Mrs. Walker retires from the Southeast Texas credit industry this month after 18 years at the Beaumont office of Computer Science Corporation with the gratitude and admiration of the Ninth District. Thousands of Southeast Texans have been able to start their lives as homeowners, maintain their credit, and enrich the lives of their families because of Mrs. Walker's work.

Mrs. Walker's efforts have contributed to a highly respected, well-run credit organization that is central to the economic vitality of a community, gives peace of mind to financial institutions and provides the tools consumers need to obtain creditworthiness.

She earned the respect of her colleagues, serving on the Board of Directors of the Gulf Coast Area Consumer Credit Counseling Service and the Beaumont Housing Authority. She served as President of Credit Women International—Orange Chapter and the Credit Management Association—Beaumont Chapter. She earned a place in the International Credit Association of Texas's Hall of Fame in 1996 and the distinction Credit Executive of the Year in 1998.

Mrs. Walker's professional success as a career woman complements her life success as wife to Weldon Walker and devoted mother to Becky, Ben, Tom, and Lisa. She is an asset to our community who has set a high standard of service and dedication to the people of the Ninth District. I commend Mrs. Walker for her efforts and congratulate her on this achievement.

AMERICAN DREAM DOWNPAYMENT
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 811, which will authorize funding for grants to low-income first-time homebuyers and certain uniform servicemen and women in order that they may enjoy the American dream of homeownership.

I recall purchasing my first home and the tremendous satisfaction and pride that it afforded me. I believe that every American that works hard and saves for the purpose of raising his or her children in their own home deserves the opportunity to reap the fruits of their labor. I am proud that this Congress is prepared to encourage and support American homeownership.

I want to thank Financial Services Committee Chairman MICHAEL OXLEY and Ranking Democratic Member BARNEY FRANK, as well as Housing and Community Opportunities Subcommittee Chairman BOB NEY and Ranking Democratic Member MAXINE WATERS for their leadership in including a proposal that is very important to Guam and the insular areas in S. 811. I would especially like to thank Congressman FRANK and his staff for their guidance and leadership throughout this process. This provision would move the annual Community Development Block Grant funding provided to Guam and the insular areas from a strictly discretionary financing stream into the section 106 grant formula under which cities and communities in the States receive their