

Today, tomorrow, and the days that follow—we are and will be less without them. Unfortunately, their loss means that our community will never reach the potential it once could have.

As we have proven countless times, Oregon and the Nation will go on and we will succeed. But we will never forget their sacrifice. Their investment was, is, and will remain—invaluable.

These brave men died because they selflessly chose to charge into harms way to aid strangers in a foreign land that are struggling for freedom. Erik, Justin, and Justin entered combat with full knowledge that their act of duty might well require the last full measure—but they did it anyway.

Although our hearts are filled with anger, frustration, and pain—we must try and remember that these young men lived and died for love: for love of their family, for love of their community, for love of their country, and for love of freedom.

We must turn this loss into something worthy of their sacrifice; we must each find ways every day to remember Lt. Erik McCrae, Sergeant Justin Eyerly, and Specialist Justin Linden, and the sacrifice they made in the name of freedom, so that they will never be forgotten.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC ALLY ISRAEL

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, since its establishment 55 years ago, Israel has built 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. 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. 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; most importantly, the people of the United States have an affinity for the people of Israel, and regard Israel as a strong and trusted ally and an important strategic partner.

Because of the confluence of energy, money, weapons and ideology, stability in the Middle East is crucial to America's security and success in the global war on terror. Israel, with its technological capabilities and shared system of values, has a key role to play as the most vital U.S. ally in the region. Strengthening the U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation has been at the heart of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs (JINSA) mission since its inception in 1976. Founded as a result of the lessons learned from the 1973 Yom Kippur War, JINSA communicates with the national security establishment and the general public to explain the role Israel can and does play in bolstering American interests, as well as the link between American defense policy and the

security of Israel. Over the years, JINSA has achieved a well-deserved reputation as a credible and independent resource.

I recently met with my good friend Tom Neumann, JINSA's Executive Director, regarding the current situation in the Middle East, particularly Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's controversial plan to withdraw Israeli troops from the Gaza Strip. During that meeting, Tom presented me with a copy of a JINSA Board of Directors' Resolution stressing the importance of American support for the right of the duly-elected Government of Israel to make those decisions independently and not be pressured by friendly or unfriendly governments. As the Resolution says, "the first obligation and chief priority of every sovereign government is to defend and protect its own citizens and territory; and the government of Israel, no less than that of the United States, acts upon that right."

I would like to have the text of this Resolution placed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD following my statement, and I urge my colleagues to read it in its entirety.

SUPPORT FOR AMERICA'S DEMOCRATIC ALLIES
IN THEIR INTERNAL DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

Resolution of the Board of Directors of
JINSA

June 6, 2004.

Whereas JINSA is an American non-profit association concerned with American defense policy and the relationship between the United States and our democratic allies, and Israel is one of those allies;

Whereas the first obligation and chief priority of every sovereign government is to defend and protect its own citizens and territory; and the government of Israel, no less than that of the United States, acts upon that right;

Whereas this right cannot be subjugated to demands of foreign governments or entities, irrespective of a country's "best friend" or most important trading partners; [In the case of Israel, these would be the United States and the European Union, respectively.]

Whereas the chief priority of "The Quartet" [the US, the UN, the EU and Russia] is movement on the Road Map toward the establishment of Israeli-Palestinian peace through a negotiated two-state settlement, and any unilateral action by Israel might thus be considered interference with the Road Map process, or more broadly with the "peace process";

Whereas in the view of the Prime Minister of Israel there is no Palestinian partner for steps in the Road Map and instead of waiting for the Palestinians to produce one, he has chosen to make unilateral decisions about how Israel can best protect its citizens during the current war. There is in this an implicit threat that if Israel takes enough unilateral actions, the Palestinians might find themselves with nothing left to decide;

Whereas President Bush officially welcomed Prime Minister Sharon's Gaza disengagement plan and reiterated the United States' "steadfast commitment to Israel's security, including secure, defensible borders;" and President Bush specifically recognized the reality of Jews residing east of the 1948 armistice line and rejected the claims of Palestinians of a right to settle in Israel;

And whereas Israel, being a democracy, has engaged both in an intense national and governmental debate about the parameters of the Prime Minister's plan; Therefore,

The Board of Directors of JINSA resolves to commend President Bush for his clear and forthright commitment (1) to the legitimacy

of Israel as a Jewish state, (2) to the right of Israel to defensible borders, and (3) to a peaceful settlement between Israel and the Palestinians subject to the Palestinians making good their previous security and other commitments;

The Board specifically commends the President's recognition of Israel's right to determine for itself what actions are required to ensure the future safety and security of its people.

The Board strongly hopes that the nature of this recognition is all-encompassing and not just limited to decisions Israel might make with which the United States is in agreement.

Even if JINSA does not agree with some elements of any proposed plan, the Board further resolves to support the right of the duly elected Government of Israel to make those decisions and not be pressured by friendly or unfriendly governments,

The Board strongly believes the President and the American people should be encouraged to tell Israel, our ally in the war against terrorists and the swamps that breed them, that we will stand with it as its government determines what steps are necessary to defend and protect it—as we ourselves have done.

The Board further urges the other members of the Road Map "Quartet," to recognize the right of a democratic country to determine without outside pressure what actions serve the goals of its security and meaningful progress towards peace.

The Board urges Congress to make a similar declaration without reservation.

RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CITY OF MOUND CITY, IL

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like my colleagues to join me in honoring the sesquicentennial of one of the oldest communities in southern Illinois, Mound City.

In its earliest days, Mound City was known as the "Mounds" because of prehistoric Indian mounds found there. Mound City already had a small settlement located there because of its strategic location as a river trading center and was also well known for its safe harbor and steep river banks.

The original Mound City was platted in 1854. In 1855, the Emporium Real Estate and Manufacturing Company, based in Cincinnati, OH, was organized solely for the purpose of building a community in Southern Illinois on the banks of the Ohio River. The company received \$1.5 million from stock sales and secretly purchased a large section of land adjacent to the newly platted Mound City. The company named the development Emporium City.

The financial backers of the Emporium Real Estate Company had big hopes for Emporium City. At one time, plans even called for a new U.S. Capitol to be located in the new town. The company built a hotel, several warehouses, a foundry, homes and a shipyard, but went bankrupt in 1857 and the two communities merged into Mound City.

The shipyard or the Marine Ways played a key role in the further development of Mound City. The wheels and machinery for the boats

constructed at the facility were molded at the Mound City Foundry. At the outset of the Civil War in 1861, the U.S. Government leased the Marine Ways facility for \$40,000 a year. This facility in Mound City was used by the government to build and repair ships and to convert steamships into armored vessels. It was at the Marine Ways site that the USS *Cairo*, the USS *Mound City* and USS *Cincinnati* were constructed under the direction of James Eads. These gunboats or "ironclads" were used by the Federal Government during the decisive river conflicts of the Civil War, particularly the capture of the confederate facility at Fort Donelson in Stewart County, TN. In fact, Andrew Foote's flagship, the USS *Benton* was serviced at the Marine Ways complex.

In 1863, the Federal Government took possession of additional property fronting the river to be used for a naval station together with the adjacent rail depot. One of the warehouses built by the Emporium Company was converted into a naval hospital.

The hospital treated thousands of Union soldiers and was the largest hospital facility in the Union's western campaign. After the Civil war, the hospital served many uses but was eventually destroyed by fire. Many of the soldiers who had died being treated at the hospital were buried nearby and the government created the Mound City National Cemetery there in 1862 where over 5000 soldiers are buried.

Also affiliated with Mound City during the Civil War is the story of the USS *Red Rover*, the first hospital ship of the U.S. Navy. Originally a confederate side-wheel steamer, the *Rover* was captured by the crew of the USS *Mound City* in 1862 when it was hit by another Union ship. It was then refitted as a hospital ship. The *Red Rover* Hospital Ship entered service and during a battle in Arkansas in July 1862, the USS *Mound City* was struck and many crewmembers were injured, the *Red Rover* came to their aid and transported them to the Mound City Naval Hospital. Some of the *Red Rover*'s female personnel were the first to serve on a naval vessel. Though not in operation today, the boatyard is still present in Mound City.

In 1861, Pulaski County moved its county seat from Caledonia to Mound City as recognition of the growth and development of the town and its strategic importance during the Civil War. Fire in 1879 destroyed the courthouse and flooding was a constant problem for the community. It was during this time that the city strengthened its levee system and flood waters never entered the city from 1868 to 1936. In January, 1937 a record flood on the Ohio breached its levees and inflicted much damage to the community. As a result of that flood, the community strengthened its levees.

Mound City today is a community of over 600 and remains a vital part of the economy of Pulaski County and southernmost Illinois. The community serves as a key tourist attraction for southern Illinois with a restored historic courthouse, national cemetery, and Civil War attractions. Pulaski County continues to promote economic development by creating a business environment conducive to further development. Mound City is part of the Southernmost Illinois Delta Empowerment Zone, an Illinois Enterprise Zone and the Delta Regional Economic Development Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the founding of the community and

the people of Mound City, IL, on the occasion of its 150th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO JORDIE TATTER

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend of mine, Jordie Tatter, who unexpectedly passed away in January 2003. Today, I am pleased that the conference center at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center is being dedicated to Jordie. This is a great honor for my friend; however because of votes in the House today, I can not be at the dedication ceremony this afternoon in Berrien County.

As this dedication confirms, Jordie was a giant in the agricultural and natural resources industries. His commitment and enthusiasm to excellence in the field of agriculture was unmatched, whether it be at the local, national, and yes, even international level. He truly embodied the heart and soul of southwest Michigan, and I am blessed to have formed a close friendship. I looked at this friendship, not only as a source of console and inspiration, but also as a true compass of direction in greater understanding and appreciation of our community.

I have never met a man more passionate or knowledgeable toward the industry he loved—Michigan agriculture. Jordie was always willing to lend his extensive knowledge to those interested, and his great mind benefited all who had the pleasure of crossing his path. I was fortunate enough to call Jordie a close friend. During the time that I had with him, I relied on his insight and intelligence. He was kind and supportive—even more so when times were tough. Jordie's love of his work, the outdoors, the Farm Bureau, and Michigan State University, will be deeply remembered and this dedication is yet another reminder of his immense impact on our community.

We all miss Jordie greatly but his legacy lives on at the Extension Center, as others continue to follow in his footsteps in the agriculture community. He will always live on through our many wonderful memories that will not fade away.

INTRODUCTION OF AGE-OUT FIX FOR ADOPTED FOREIGN CHILDREN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, many American families bring new children into their lives through foreign adoption. Some do so to help orphans in countries unable to meet the needs of abandoned children while others adopt for more personal reasons.

Families spend years of effort, thousands of dollars, and more importantly, become emotionally attached to the child they adopt. Unfortunately, because of odd provisions in the immigration code, in rare cases adoptive parents find there is no way to gain legal immigration status for the child they have adopted from overseas.

Current law allows foreign children adopted by American citizens to attain legal immigration status and citizenship through their adoptive parents. To do so, the adoptions must be finalized by the age of 16 for immigration purposes. However, some adoptions can be very long and difficult processes, especially international adoptions. An adoption initiated at age 14 or even earlier can sometimes only be finalized after age 16. In that case, the child who has been adopted will be denied legal immigration status to stay with their adoptive family, unlike children whose adoptions were finalized sooner.

Often, American parents seek help by approaching their Member of Congress to seek a private relief bill so their child can stay with the family. But there is a better way than dealing with these tragic cases on such a haphazard basis.

Today I am introducing a bill to straighten out this problem. By simply changing the current requirement that adoptions be finalized before the adoptee's 16th birthday, to requiring that adoptions be initiated before the 16th birthday, these terrible cases will be avoided. In this way, children whose adoptions have been time-consuming may still obtain U.S. immigration status through their adoptive parents like other adoptees. Bureaucratic delay should not be the reason parents are separated from their adopted children.

Congress has considered and granted private relief for some children in these difficult situations whose parents are lucky enough to get a private relief bill introduced and passed in Congress. Rather than approach this problem in a piecemeal fashion through private relief bills, I hope this Congress will work together to quickly pass this important bill and provide relief to many American families who only want the chance to begin their new life with an adopted child.

MEDICARE DISCOUNT CARD PROGRAM

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 2004

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to insert into the RECORD testimony submitted by the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare to the Senate Finance Committee regarding the new Medicare discount card program. This statement correctly identifies some of the concerns Seniors have with discount cards and the Medicare Prescription Drug Law in general.

Mr. Chairman, we believe the problems evident in the discount card program have provided Congress with a unique opportunity to correct the flaws in the new Medicare bill before it goes into effect.—Barbara B. Kennelly, President and CEO, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare.

STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD—SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, MEDICARE DRUG CARD: DELIVERING SAVINGS FOR PARTICIPATING BENEFICIARIES, JUNE 8, 2004

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee: On behalf of the 3.2 million members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, we applaud Chairman Grassley and Senator Baucus for holding this hearing today. We