

are countless examples of Norva going beyond the requirements of her job, visiting patients on her own time to bring them home-made chicken soup or picking up medications at the pharmacy.

Norva provides professional and empathetic care to people of all ethnic, cultural, and financial backgrounds in a very ethnically diverse service area. Due to her extensive knowledge of area social programs, Norva regularly develops a safety net of services for patients ready for discharge.

Norva is a member of the Salvation Army, and she and her family have worked at the Salvation Army camps for many years. Norva is always an active volunteer with a shelter for homeless families, and has made it possible for the families to spend a week at the camp each summer.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Norva Maxwell who's strong clinical skills, compassionate spirit and interaction with the community make her a true Ambassador for her agency and for neighborhood nursing.

REV. EDWARD LISOWSKI CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS 40TH YEAR OF ORDINATION

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the work of Father Edward Lisowski who is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He was ordained by Archbishop William E. Cousins at St. John's Cathedral on May 30, 1964.

Over the years Father Lisowski has served in a variety of capacities including Pastor or Associate Pastor for 18 years. He has been a Chaplain for 22 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving veterans at the Zablocki VA Medical Center and the North Chicago Veterans Administration Hospital.

Father Lisowski has devoted his life to serving parishioners and patients of all walks of life and has generously and compassionately offered his support and spiritual guidance. A gifted and talented speaker and educator he continues to offer his wisdom and comfort to all who are in need.

Born in Cudahy, WI, to Wallace and Victoria Lisowski in 1936 he received his first Sacraments at Holy Family Parish in Cudahy graduating from the grade school and later graduating from Don Bosco High School. He also completed a bachelor of arts in philosophy degree from De Sales University, which was followed by 4 years of study of Theology at St. Francis Seminary. Father Lisowski was also granted a master's degree from Marquette University in 1979. In addition to taking extensive and advanced training in Clinical Pastoral Education Father Lisowski has distinguished himself by serving on several prestigious professional boards and organizations.

I want to congratulate Father Lisowski on this his 40th anniversary of commitment to God and the Catholic Church and extend my best wishes to him on this important occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the chorus of Members sharing their warm wishes, praise, and congratulations to the State of Israel on its 56th anniversary of its Independence Day. I too am deeply gratified and proud of the many accomplishments of this relatively young country and the ancient people who have brought it into being and sustained it against astonishing odds.

Last week, Members commemorated Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day; today, Yom HaAtzmaot, Israel Independence Day. Appropriately, we go from tragedy to celebration, but there is no question the two events and the two moods are inseparable. Without the singular tragedy of the Holocaust there might not have been a State of Israel created; with a State of Israel in existence, there might not have been a Holocaust. Bonded together are birth and death; bottomless despair and limitless hope.

Unquestionably, Israel has achieved more than anyone might have believed fifty-six years ago. The Jewish State has created and sustained the only true democracy in the entire Middle East. Faced with an unending series of defensive wars, stringent military service requirements and necessarily high defense spending, in the entire region, Israel is the only country which routinely lives with genuine respect for civil rights, rule of law, due process, and authentic elections that reflect the will of a free people. The only state in the Middle East with a culture that is Western and open, full of dissent and argument, pulsing with innovation in the arts and constantly open to change is Israel. In the sphere of economics, Israel has transformed itself into miniature powerhouse. Israel's economy is vibrant and dynamic, pushing the boundaries of technology and attracting venture capital at a remarkable rate. Israeli scientists, doctors and engineers routinely contribute to the body of human knowledge, and produce inventions that make all our lives safer, more convenient and more enjoyable.

Given the historic combination of its emphasis on education and technology, and the freedom enjoyed by the Israeli people, it is no surprise that Israel, with a population of only a few million, has a gross domestic product above \$100 billion and an industrial base greater than all its neighbors combined. Not surprising but still miraculous.

Even more amazing is that Israel has achieved all this while also fulfilling its mandate as the safe harbor and refuge of the Jewish People. To succeed as Israel has is remarkable; to do so while absorbing millions of Jewish refugees from post-War Europe, the Arab states, from Ethiopia, and from the former Soviet Union is unfathomable. Millions of Jews from around the world, including this country, have made aliyah, have "gone up" to the Land of Israel, and made it their home. The result is a country which is an incredible mosaic, a new country formed in a timeless land by an ancient people.

And, as we all know, the Israel Defense Forces have made their reputation on the field of battle as one of the premier military organizations in human history. Unfortunately, tragically, they have been compelled to do so by circumstances not of their choosing. Israel has been under attack and at war for every single day of its existence. This painful fact is not now, and never has been, a result of the choices of Israel's government which has always sought peace and been desperate to make peace.

Mr. Speaker, no other country in the entire world is forced to endure a state of constant siege. No other country in the world regularly endures calls by other states for its extirpation. No other country in the world suffers the indignity of having terrorists committed to its destruction routinely described merely as "militants," or praised as "martyrs." No other country in the world is so unfairly isolated and routinely singled out for criticism and contempt.

Since President Harry Truman decided to ignore his advisors and chose to support the creation of Israel, the United States has been a true friend and ally to the Jewish State. Our values, our heritage, and our interests guide our special relationship, and it is no surprise our ties have only gotten stronger. In a time when both countries have been compelled to fight back against terrorism, there is no question we will only go from strength to strength.

Mr. Speaker, I am enormously proud of the ties between our nation and the State of Israel, and equally so, the support this House has shown again and again, without fail. On this occasion celebrating the 56th anniversary of Israel's Independence Day, I know the whole House joins me in extending to the Israeli people and their government the most enthusiastic of congratulations and best wishes for the many, many years of freedom and prosperity that are certain to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAKE CHARLES NATIVE JEFFREY PARKER

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 9, 2004, my district suffered the loss of a brave American. KBR Contractor Jeffrey Parker of Moss Bluff, LA, was killed in an attack on a fuel convoy while working as a truck driver in Iraq. Jeff was one of seven contractors and two U.S. soldiers reported missing in the attack.

As he is laid to rest in Louisiana, we honor his commitment to his family, his work, and his country. As his company noted, these contractors that lost their lives were "brave hearts without medals, humanitarians without parades, and heroes without statues."

Neighbors described him as a "friend to everyone." Jeff was one of nine children in the Parker family. He was a father and a grandfather. He was to be married this summer after his work in Iraq was completed.

He took the job with KBR in Iraq to provide for his loved ones. He served his country in a vital support role and he tackled his job with courage, conviction, and bravery. He will be remembered as a hero whose spirit and determination defines the American spirit.

To his family, I humbly extend my thanks and the sincere appreciation of a grateful community, State, and country for his sacrifice. On behalf of the people of the 7th Congressional District and the U.S. Congress, I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the Parker family.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS
FROM NASHVILLE'S HILLSBORO
HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR
ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE NA-
TIONAL "WE THE PEOPLE"
CIVICS COMPETITION

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an extraordinary group of students from Hillsboro High School in Nashville, Tennessee, who are this year's State winners of the Nation's largest annual competition in civics education: We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. I am proud of these outstanding students for having earned a chance to represent our fine State and to compete in the national finals here in Washington.

These students should be honored not only for their achievements in this prestigious competition but for their interest in politics, government and current events. As citizens of this great Nation, we are all duty-bound to exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship. Recent times, however, have seen a steep decline in voter turnout and increased cynicism about the political process. I am refreshed by the energy and enthusiasm of these students and am impressed by their commitment to the democratic ideals of our Nation. These students will no doubt serve as role models for their generation.

I am also proud to support the annual We the People competition, which is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. This program is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Since its creation, We the People has won widespread recognition for its effective and innovative programs to encourage civic participation in our younger generation. I am confident that Congress will maintain its support of this fine program and ensure its continued success.

On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the following Hillsboro High School students: Emily Bacon, Susan Bursch, Molly Caldwell, Julianne Codd, Maeve Cornell-Taylor, Jonathan Cox, Emelyn Davies, Alice Floyd, Maisha Grigsby, Claire Hipkens, Anna Holt, Hal Nichols, Caitlin Pinhey, Kaitlin Reinhardt, Andrew Schneider, Lauren Smyth, Michael Terrell, Lee Tice and David Winjun. I also commend the leadership of their teacher, Ms. Catherine Bradshaw.

I applaud the tremendous achievement of these students and wish them well.

IN HONOR OF THE 75TH BIRTHDAY
FOR THE UNIVERSITY PARK EL-
EMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 75th Birthday for the University Park Elementary School in Dallas, Texas. I am proud to represent the University Park Elementary School in Congress, and four of my staff members in my Washington, D.C. and Dallas offices are graduates of the Highland Park Independent School District, and so I am well aware of the quality education that University Park Elementary School and the Highland Park Independent School District deliver on a yearly basis. One of my staff members has three generations of his family that attended University Park Elementary School.

The State of Texas is celebrating 150 years of publicly educating young Texans, and along with this important anniversary is the 75th Birthday for the University Park Elementary School. This is a very special milestone in the history of the school, its students, families, teacher professionals, support staff, and the greater community that it has served with distinction for three-quarters of a century. I congratulate the school's principal Dr. Lynda Carter for her excellent leadership of the school during this birthday year.

University Park Elementary School opened its doors in September of 1928 with six teachers and 165 students. The school has come a long way from its initial academic year, as in 1988 the United States Department of Education cited University Park Elementary School for its excellence in education; and it has also received national recognition for excellence in the area of character development. In 2001, University Park Elementary School received special recognition from the Texas Commissioner of Education, Jim Nelson, for being one of the eight schools in Texas to receive an "Exemplary" rating for nine years of the rating system's existence.

University Park Elementary School will formally celebrate its birthday on Friday morning, and I am very much looking forward to being there personally in honor of such a great occasion. I sincerely salute the University Park Elementary School on its birthday, and I wish it continued success for many years to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ALEX
MADONNA

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to Alex Madonna of San Luis Obispo, California, in my district. Alex died on April 22, leaving a hole in the heart of his wife of 55 years, Phyllis, and in those of his large and devoted family. He will truly be missed by the people of San Luis Obispo County, and throughout the Nation.

Alex Madonna was a second generation American whose grandparents emigrated from Switzerland. A self-made man who was guided by a strong work ethic, Alex made his mark building and paving highways throughout the state and in numerous building projects. During World War II, Alex used his construction skills as a soldier in the Army Corps of Engineers. A champion of the agricultural community, Alex was also known as "the host from the coast" at the Madonna Inn, a landmark in San Luis Obispo.

In addition to his numerous business accomplishments, Alex Madonna was also a philanthropist of legendary proportions. Alex Madonna's generosity to the people and the organizations of San Luis Obispo is part of history. Nearly everyone in town has a story about a donation that Alex and Phyllis have made to our community.

San Luis Obispo will be wearing pink on Thursday, the day of Alex Madonna's funeral. The church will be packed with people wanting to say goodbye to a man whose life can be summed up in these words: determination, hard work and a great heart.

HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE
DAY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Israel Independence Day on the 56th Anniversary of its birth as a state.

As Americans, we all take great pride in the founding of our country. The birth of Israel also serves as a sense of pride—not only to the people of Israel, but also to Jewish people throughout the world. Almost every day, we receive news of Israelis falling victim to terrorism and tragedy, yet every day, Israel stands as a symbol not just of the Jewish faith, but of freedom loving people who have the courage, even today, to live in danger, fight for freedom and work for peace.

While Israel and America were founded in different centuries, a world away from each other, both countries share similar values which provide a foundation for a strong society. These values are rooted in educating our children, keeping our families healthy, and protecting our citizens from harm.

I applaud Israel for all it has accomplished throughout the past 56 years. It has weathered war and terrorism, and yet it still remains a democratic state committed to improving the quality of life for all its citizens. The commitment to serve its people is the mark of a great country, because only when a state wants its citizens to succeed, will it too succeed. In its short but rich history, Israel has proven its success by this unwavering dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is with honor and respect of Israel's great history, that I congratulate the country for its successes, and look forward to a long-lasting relationship between our two countries, based on our shared values.