

Condeleeza Rice, the National Security Advisor, and honor the late Sergio de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights who was killed in Iraq.

I also want to focus on the unique opportunities which IRI provides for Americans to share the skills they have honed on campaign trails and in the halls of Congress with their counterparts in developing democracies. Volunteers from across the U.S. augment IRI's operations in over 56 countries by conducting specialized training missions on crafting campaign finance laws, strengthening political participation among women and youth, and implementing political polling. Additionally, IRI frequently sends volunteers to serve on election observation missions. Recently, my own Chief of Staff, Eric Dell returned from an election observation mission in Macedonia where he worked with IRI professionals from across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, IRI's use of volunteers builds goodwill for the U.S. as Americans assist men and women overseas to strengthen political parties and democratic institutions. For example, interactions between a city administrator from rural South Carolina and a mayor in Malawi can go far in breaking misconceptions about the U.S. and about the prognosis for democracy in Africa. IRI volunteers demonstrate to newly elected parliamentarians in Eastern Europe that building democratic institutions is not only a goal of U.S. government officials but that it is the desire of the American people. I hope that my colleagues and their staffers consider participating in IRI training missions as one of the best opportunities to play a critical role in implementing U.S. foreign policy.

HONORING SISTER ROSEMARY
WARD FOR HER ENDLESS SERVICE
AND DEDICATION TO THE
COMMUNITY

HON. VITO FOSSELLA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to a remarkable citizen from my district, Sister Rosemary Ward. Sister Rosemary was recently presented with the Patrick Daly Memorial Award for her dedication to the care and education of children on Staten Island. For almost 55 years, she has been an exceptionally devoted teacher and principal in schools within my district. As do the truly great educators, she possesses a deep understanding and compassion for children. In combining this gift with her own values and ideals, she has created a holistic philosophy for education that has made her an invaluable asset to the community as teacher and principal. Her achievements are widely known and well sung by the innumerable citizens she's left a lasting impression upon. It is with pleasure and honor that I'd like to congratulate Sister Rosemary for this distinguished award, and on behalf of the citizens of Staten Island offer my most sincere gratitude for the extraordinary contributions she's made to the community.

HONORING HERNANDO COUNTY
LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Hernando County Sheriff's Office and the Brooksville City Police Department for their commitment to maintaining law and order while safeguarding county residents. Hernando County has grown tremendously. It is regarded as one of the fastest growing counties in the nation with a population that has increased 330 percent since 1980. This growth has presented new challenges to our local law enforcement agencies. Thanks to the leadership and commitment of Sheriff Nugent and Police Chief Boyce, Hernando County continues to be provided effective and professional law enforcement.

I would like to recognize the bravery and selflessness of the fine individuals who wear the badge as this week marks Hernando County Law Enforcement Appreciation Week. These fine individuals who serve in law enforcement are an exceptional breed. They serve in the line of fire to protect us from harm's way and ask for little in return. The brave men and women of Hernando County law enforcement have more than earned our gratitude and whole hearted support. I am so very proud of our local sheriffs and police and happily thank them for their service and dedication to the county's safety. The residents of Hernando County and I are indebted to them.

RECOGNIZING FREEMAN'S FUR
SHOP

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Freeman's Fur Shop, an outstanding small business with a unique history in my hometown of Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

Freeman's Furs is owned and operated by Mr. Paul Shaftranck. The business has operated for 68 years. Freeman's was founded by the late Howard Freeman when he fashioned a fox fur neckpiece for his wife. The business expanded to an internationally known landmark. For many years, Howard Freeman trapped many of the animals and then designed and made the coats. Upon his death in 1994, his son, Lindsay, took over the business along with his daughter, Ann Freeman Peace. In 1997, Freeman sold the business to Shaftranck.

Freeman's Furs has offered fur design, creation, storage, cleaning and repairs to customers from around the world. The quality of work performed and customer service provided is a testament to Howard Freeman. Freeman Fur's will cease operation in April, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, Freeman's Fur Shop is beloved by its faithful customers and all who walk through its doors. It is a shining example of the significance and economic impact a small business can have on a community. I

am proud to bring the accomplishments of Freeman's Fur Shop and its employees to the attention of this House.

RECOGNIZING JUSTIN SNYDER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Justin Snyder attained his bar mitzvah on May 1, 2004. Justin is a seventh grade honor student at Pace Academy in Atlanta, Georgia. He is sincerely committed to academics, as evidenced by his effort to obtain all "A's" in each of the last quarter's grading periods over the past twelve (12) quarters. Such an achievement has earned him the distinction of being placed on the Headmaster's List for the past four (4) years. Justin has also participated on the Academy's debate team, where he won many awards for his scholastic achievements. Finally, he is a member of "People to People Student Ambassadors", a travel program, which has enabled him to travel with other young people to Washington DC, California, Australia, and this summer to Europe.

Justin also finds time for recreational and sporting activities. He is an avid basketball, baseball, and tennis player—having won trophies in each sport. From his enjoyment of skiing, he has secured many awards in the form of pins and medallions, and has skied on various slopes not only throughout the United States, but also the world. Justin has scuba dived in the Cayman Islands, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, and has caught a seventy-two (72) inch sailfish off the coast of Cancun.

Even at a relatively young age, Justin Snyder has left his mark on the youth community in his hometown of Atlanta, Georgia; evidencing a strong sense of fundamental fairness in his dealings with others, and strong moral principles, gleaned from his friends, his religious upbringing, and his family. I know that we will continue to see more great accomplishments for this fine young man, as he grows and blossoms into manhood. I am proud to recognize, and to honor Mr. Justin Snyder on this important step in his life, and wish him much continued success for the future.

ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 56th anniversary of Israel's independence.

The dream of a Jewish state stretches back two millennia to the destruction of the ancient Jewish kingdom of Israel. At the end of the Nineteenth Century, after the two thousand years of diaspora, persecution, and pogroms, Theodor Herzl and his fellow Zionists began the drive to revive the Jewish homeland. The unspeakable horrors of the Holocaust cemented the necessity of a Jewish state, and Israel was finally established as a sovereign and independent nation on May 14, 1948.

In the 56 years since its establishment, Israel has served as a beacon of democracy in the Middle East. In the face of war, terrorism, and frequent diplomatic isolation, Israeli society has flourished because of the pluralism, freedom, and human rights guaranteed by Israel's democracy. These democratic values have sustained a strong alliance between Israel and the United States, an alliance of friendship, principles, strategy, and a commitment to defeat terror.

Perhaps more than any other nation, Israel understands the dilemmas faced by a democratic society confronted with terror. Terrorism threatens the institutions that nurture Israel's prosperity—both through the bloodshed it engenders and through the sacrifices of civil liberties necessary to achieve security. Israel has admirably maintained an open, democratic society in spite of relentless threats to its citizens. We in America must salute this accomplishment and try to learn from the Israeli experience how to balance homeland security and a free society.

Much as its existence has been constantly challenged over its turbulent history, Israel currently faces critical threats to its well-being. The cycle of terrorist violence and reprisals shows no signs of ceasing, and the virulent specter of anti-Semitism remains a staple in the Middle East and is resurgent in Western Europe. However, we must embrace the cautious optimism embodied in Israel's national anthem, *Hatikvah*, which means "the hope." We hope that Israel will continue to serve as the "light unto the nations" that Herzl envisioned more than a century ago and that Israel's 57th year will be a time of peace throughout the region.

CONGRATULATING MAURICE
CALDERON OF REDLANDS FOR
SERVICE TO THE HISPANIC COM-
MUNITY

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate Maurice Calderon of Redlands, whose efforts to ensure that all communities in San Bernardino County have access to financial services has been recognized by the Foreign Ministry of Mexico, which presented him with the Ohtli Award for public service.

I have counted Maurice Calderon as a friend for more than 30 years, and I have been proud to work with him on many projects to improve our communities in San Bernardino County. Maurice was born and raised in Banning, California, and served as a school board member there for nine years, followed by another nine as a community college trustee.

He is currently the Senior Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Community Development at Arrowhead Credit Union in San Bernardino, California. In that position, Maurice has been an advocate for providing financial services to the large and growing Hispanic community, many of them immigrants from Mexico. He was instrumental in convincing the credit union to open a new branch in the San

Bernardino minority community after all other banks had closed their outlets there.

Maurice is truly a community activist, serving as a member of both the Inland Empire Hispanic and African American Chambers of Commerce. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of both the University of California Foundation, and the San Bernardino Valley College Foundation. Maurice is also a Director for the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, and President of Sinfonia Mexicana.

His service has been recognized by many honors: "Father of the Year" from the City of Banning, "Citizen of the Year" from the City of Beaumont, "Hispanic of the Year," and "Influential Latino of the Year" in 1998 by the Inland Empire Hispanic Chamber and Hispanic Lifestyle Magazine, respectively. Maurice was the inaugural recipient of the California Credit Union League Diversity Award, and was named to the Southern California Native American and Latino Hall of Fame.

Most recently, Maurice Calderon has been recognized for his public service to the Mexican immigrant community by the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which awarded him the Reconocimiento Ohtli Medal. It honors those individuals who are role models for society, and have contributed successfully toward building relations with the Mexican community living outside of the country.

Mr. Speaker, a big reason for Maurice Calderon's dedication to his community is the support he receives from Dorothy, his wife of more than 40 years, and his two children and four grandchildren. Please join me in congratulating the entire Calderon family for this honor, and thanking him for all the years of public service he has given the people of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 22, 2004, I was unable to vote on H. Res. 602, on ordering the previous question (rollcall 126); and on agreeing to H. Res. 602 (rollcall 127). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both questions.

Additionally Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, April 22, 2004, I was unable to vote on the Larson amendment to H.R. 2844 (rollcall 128); and on Larson amendment (2) to H.R. 2844 (rollcall 129). Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on both measures.

And, finally, on Thursday, April 22, 2004, I was unable to vote on final passage of H.R. 2844, the Continuity in Representation Act of 2004 (rollcall 130). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

RENEW THE BAN ON ASSAULT
WEAPONS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, in 139 days the assault weapons ban will expire. In 139 days our

streets could be flooded with AK-47's. In 139 days the work of 10 years and the progress towards safer neighborhoods could vanish. In 139 days we could see the semiautomatic weapons that are used in combat zones on our street corners.

But we don't have to let this happen. H.R. 2038, the Assault Weapons Ban and Law Enforcement Protection Act of 2003, is a common sense approach to protecting Americans from dangerous and impractical weapons. I continue to support responsible legislation that protects the rights of those who collect or hunt and use weapons for legitimate recreational purposes, but I think we can all agree that restricting the availability of Uzis will not impede lawful hunting. Assault weapons make up less than 1 percent of all guns but they are 18 times more likely than other guns to be cop-killers, and 16 times more likely to be traced to crime than other firearms.

H.R. 2038 is supported by more than three-fourths of the American public and virtually every major national law enforcement organization. In fact President Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft have both stated their support for this legislation. I urge the leadership of the House to protect Americans from these senseless weapons of mass destruction and bring this legislation to the floor for a vote.

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 56TH AN-
NIVERSARY OF THE INDEPEND-
ENCE OF ISRAEL

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues and the world Jewish community in congratulating the people of Israel on the celebration of the 56th anniversary of their independence. Israel is the only true democracy and our country's strongest ally in the Middle East. Since the United States became the first country to recognize Israel's independence, our countries have shared a deep friendship and partnership. We are bonded by our commitment to democracy and freedom.

Since they declared their independence in 1948, Israel has faced continuous challenges to their right to exist as a sovereign country. To this day, we hear new reports almost daily of violence against the people of Israel. Thousands of innocent lives have been lost to attacks by terrorist organizations.

As Israel's partner, the United States must stand with its allies against these violent assaults on the Israeli people and maintain our commitment to a free, peaceful and democratic Israel. As partners in peace, the United States must also support Israel's right to take necessary measures to defend its citizens against violence. The future of Israel, and the hopes of peace in the Middle East depend on it.