

and daughter Catie of Dixon. He leaves behind his mother, Carmenza Brennan of Woodland, his father Javier Arroyave of New York, and a loving circle of extended family.

Staff Sgt. Arroyave died serving the country he loved, with comrades he loved and with the love of his wife and family in his heart. Our Nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Staff Sgt. Jimmy Arroyave, who gave his life in service to our country.

COMMENDING SANTA MARIA HIGH SCHOOL FOR RECEIVING THE COLLEGE BOARD 2004 INSPIRATION AWARD

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary accomplishment by one of the Central Coast's finest educational institutions: Santa Maria High School (SMHS).

I am delighted to report that SMHS will receive the College Board 2004 Inspiration Award for its steadfast commitment to fostering student success in one of America's most socioeconomically challenged communities. To meet each student's personal needs, the staff has been deeply involved in developing a variety of innovative methods to reach students and improve learning and success in a diverse and dynamic setting. A distinguished panel of Inspiration Award judges selected Santa Maria High School based on the school's success in increasing the number of student's preparation for college.

While many SMHS students are children of migrant farm workers who never had the opportunity to graduate from high school, a "can-do" attitude permeates the school. Santa Maria's 3,650 students learn in a facility designed for 1,800. Despite the portable classroom trailers used to accommodate the overflow, students and teachers go about their business of learning and teaching with great spirit and determination.

Mr. Speaker, historically this school had its share of struggles, including poor achievement and gang activity. The transformation of SMHS began a decade ago. SMHS embarked on an action plan that included career exploration initiatives, the creation of a college center, and partnerships with businesses and community leaders.

Additionally, Mr. Speaker, I have a personal connection to this school. One of my legislative aides, a proud SMHS graduate, serves in my Washington office and helps with the important issues of the 23rd Congressional District.

In closing, I want to affirm my support for SMHS, and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the school on its receipt of the College Board 2004 Inspiration Award. This Monday will be a very proud day in the beautiful mosaic we call Santa Maria.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAT TILLMAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Pat Tillman who was killed in action in Afghanistan last week. Originally from San Jose, Pat Tillman lived a life that exuded courage, loyalty and hard work.

On the football field, Pat was a shining star. Though undersized at his position, Pat always excelled. After starring in football at Leland High School, Pat went on to play football at Arizona State University. As a 5-foot-10, 180-pound linebacker at Arizona State University, Pat was named Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year, a tremendous honor for an athlete who succeeded on brains and heart. Though proud of his award, he was even prouder of his educational accomplishments. Pat earned a degree in marketing in just 3½ years and maintained a 3.84 GPA.

The Arizona Cardinals selected Pat in the final round of the 1998 NFL draft. Pat responded by engaging in a rigorous exercise program and adding 20 pounds of muscle to his already solid frame. Pat spurned his critics and became a starter during his first NFL season. In 2000, the St. Louis Rams tried to sign him to a \$9 million offer sheet and out of loyalty, Pat turned it down to stay in Phoenix for less money.

It was Pat's deep loyalty that drove him to do the unthinkable. Following the horrific attacks of 9/11, Pat, returning from a honeymoon announced that he was leaving the NFL to join the Army Rangers. To enlist, Pat left behind his new bride Marie and a \$3.6 million contract from the Arizona Cardinals.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was never about the money or the bright light of fame. He was a man who cared more about others more than he cared about himself. Pat's physical strength and talents were only overshadowed by his love for country and personal integrity. I have no doubts that when Pat Tillman died, he did so trying to protect his fellow soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, Pat Tillman was a giant. He was given a golden egg in the NFL and he sacrificed it for a uniform and a flag. It is most appropriate at this time that we honor him. Pat was and will forever remain a true hero. He upheld a standard of patriotism and courage that we should all strive to achieve. On behalf of the citizens of San Jose, I wish to express my deepest sympathies to Pat's wife Marie, his father Patrick Sr., his mother Mary and his two brothers Kevin and Richard and the entire Tillman family.

ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY AND ISRAEL MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ROBERT WEXLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to join you in marking 56 years of Israel's independence, 56 years of American-Israeli relations, and 56 years of Israel's continuing

struggle for security and peace. We gather here today to deliver a clear message—that in these turbulent times—the government of the United States and the American people stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel, now and forever.

Since 1948, Israel has persevered through seemingly insurmountable challenges by drawing upon the richness of Jewish tradition and our love for life. In just over five decades, Israel has risen from the ashes of the Holocaust and developed into one of the most technologically advanced nations on earth. Its population has increased ten-fold. It has established a vibrant democracy that values freedom, justice and human rights. Israel has deepened economic, military and diplomatic ties with America and Europe, but most remarkably with nations like Turkey, India, Egypt and Jordan. The ingenuity of the Israeli people soared during the recent high-tech boom, with more Israeli Internet startups and companies on the NASDAQ per capita than any other country in the world.

While Israel celebrates 56 years of freedom, this freedom is unquestionably challenged by ongoing incidents of terror and festering regional threats. At this difficult time, it is clear that the essential counterbalance to these threats is America's steadfast partnership with Israel. This sentiment is shared by an overwhelming majority of my colleagues in Congress, where Israel is enjoying unprecedented friendship and support.

In this post-9/11 world, the American and Israeli people are forever linked. We understand that terror knows no borders and cannot be justified, qualified or ignored. We understand that terrorism—in any form or supported by any nation—must meet a swift, definitive and unequivocal response. We know that incitement and hate pose the most significant obstacles to peace, and we know that terrorism incurs irreparable pain and loss.

On this Yom Ha'Zikaron, our thoughts and prayers turn to brave soldiers who have sacrificed their futures for that of Israel. Yet this year, one cannot help but also think of the 960 innocent Israelis who have died since September 2000 in hundreds of terrorist attacks. These are the victims of Israel's latest war, where civilians—as opposed to soldiers—are the prime targets.

Six years ago at the White House, I stood alongside President Clinton and Prime Minister Netanyahu at the signing of the Wye River Accords. I hoped then that Israel was embarking upon a new era of peace. Unfortunately, since refusing Prime Minister Barak's historic offer in January 2001, we have witnessed a complete abdication of responsibility on the part of Yasser Arafat, the deterioration of the Palestinian Authority and a cynical attempt by the Palestinians to use terror—as opposed to negotiations—as a means of achieving their political goals.

As a result, America must lead efforts with Egypt, Jordan, Europe and others in the international community to build the capacity and will of Palestinian anti-terror institutions so that Israel is not forced to continue to act in self-defense. America must also firmly support Israel's construction of a security barrier between Jewish population centers and the West Bank. That is why I traveled to the Hague in the Netherlands two months ago—to oppose the Palestinian case against Israel in the International Court of Justice and voice my unwavering support for Israel's right of self-defense.

Prime Minister Sharon's recent proposal to withdraw Israeli troops and settlements from the Gaza Strip is quite significant. Until now, no Israeli Prime Minister was prepared to unilaterally evacuate settlements before Israel had been promised comprehensive peace as part of a final status agreement. And it is especially remarkable that the father of the settlement movement, Ariel Sharon, has led this initiative.

It is undeniable that Palestinians have suffered enormously. We must all have *rachmanus*—compassion—for innocent Palestinians, but Palestinians primarily suffer because of their own failed leadership. In order to achieve peace, the Palestinian Authority must be transformed. Arafat's dictatorship must end. Democracy and the rule of law must win out. Palestinian schools must cease their teaching of hatred and implement a curriculum of coexistence. Most importantly, a new vision of peace and prosperity must be broadcast throughout the Arab world, and the likes of Al Jazeera television and Arab newspapers must terminate their deranged glorification of martyrdom and Jihad.

Israel has responsibilities as well. Prime Minister Sharon must continue to construct the security barrier in a manner that minimizes the hardships of the Palestinian people and stop settlement expansion on the Palestinian side of the fence.

My friends, the largest challenges facing the Jewish people do not lie solely in Israel or the Middle East. We are witnessing a dramatic rise in anti-Semitic discourse, behavior and sentiment throughout the world—especially in Europe. Tomorrow I will join Secretary of State Powell and leaders from 55 nations at an international conference on European anti-Semitism in Berlin.

At this conference, I will continue to urge European governments to take decisive action against anti-Semitic hate crimes and impose stronger measures to punish perpetrators of these heinous acts. European leaders must acknowledge that anti-Semitism is not just a Jewish problem. It is a social disease that has plagued Europe throughout history. It is not a temporary or political phenomenon, and it must be met with a zero-tolerance policy, especially in European schools.

Fortunately, there is reason for hope as more European nations are finally confronting their complicity in the annihilation of European Jewry. Last week—while in Budapest—to mark 60 years since the deportation and killing of 600,000 Hungarian Jews, I was overtaken with emotion when told that the display of Israeli flags throughout the city marked the most prominent display of the Star of David since yellow stars were branded on the chests of Jews. Today, Europe has no choice but to face the evils of anti-Semitism, so we may fulfill the promise of “never again,” in memory of those lost and as a promise to generations to come.

Last week, on Yom HaShoah we mourned for those who have passed, and today we do so again on Yom HaZikaron. It is not a coincidence, however, that tomorrow we will celebrate the continuity of life, the independence of Israel and the perseverance of the Jewish State. This should give us great hope. As Israel marks the beginning of its 56th year of independence, it is my most sincere wish that the vision of hope embodied in Israel's national anthem—*Hatikva*—may come to fruition

and that Israel may soon find a genuine peace that will last *m'dor v'dor*—from one generation to the next.

HONORING MR. ROSS P. ROGERS

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ross P. Rogers as he concludes his many, dedicated years with the Merced Irrigation District and a 45 years career in which Ross has provided resources essential to life in the Central Valley: water to our farmers' fields and into our families' homes and schools as well as electricity to power our cities, businesses and neighborhoods.

Ross Rogers has long been a valued leader and a true public servant. He spent nearly his entire life honorably serving his country and his local community. Ross' introduction to public leadership and self sacrifice came as he served as the Battalion Sergeant Major of the United States Army's 57th Field Artillery, 7th Infantry Division in Korea from 1951 to 1954. He then used his leadership abilities and commitment to public service to lead to a long and distinguished career.

After leaving the service, Ross decided to use what he learned studying civil engineering at the University of Nevada and work for the State Department of Water Resources. He then joined the East Contra Cost Irrigation District as General Manager. In 1991, he joined the Merced Irrigation District, where he would make his lasting impression and finish his career.

In his relatively brief tenure here, Ross has created a legacy for the Merced Irrigation District by turning it into one of the most respected water agencies in the state of California. This was despite the fact that the district he inherited in 1991 had just suffered from the longest drought in recent history and was handicapped by internal struggles.

Ross has never been fearful of change or innovation in his work. The most notable example was in 1995, when Ross made the decision to create the Energy Resources Department. That decision dramatically changed the Merced Irrigation District for the better. His leadership moved the district squarely into the 21st century and has the potential to lead to an economic boon for our local communities.

Following his longstanding tradition of public service, Ross has been extremely active in his local community outside of his work with the water district. He has been an active member in the Brentwood Lions Club for twenty-five years, dutifully serving in all Lions Club offices and as President twice.

Ross has been married to his wife Adair for forty-seven years, and together they have two daughters and three grandchildren. I am proud to recognize all of Ross' numerous accomplishments and to call him my friend. Today I call upon my colleagues to help me thank Ross for his commitment and dedicated service to the Central Valley, and to wish him a very happy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO VALERIE JEAN WOODWARD TURNER

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Valerie Jean Woodward Turner. Valerie had the good fortune to travel throughout the world during her life. She used these diverse cultural experiences to educate those around her and cultivate a loving environment for those across the economic and social spectrum. It gives me no greater pleasure than to honor today this kind and gentle spirit.

Affectionately known as “Sister T,” Valerie graduated from Cabrillo High School in Lompoc, California and went on to attend California State University, Sonoma, earning a bachelor's degree in liberal arts. In 1981, while attending Loveland Church, Valerie accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior and made assurance of her eternal life secure. Her ability to see beauty in all things and desire to share her wealth of experiences made her a unique and beloved member of her community. Valerie's love of teaching and gifted ability in arts and crafts led to the opening of “Valerie's Gifts and Consignments.” This was not only a store but also a forum to interact with the community around her, opening her home and her heart to those she cared about most.

In January 1991, Valerie joined her husband in the Temple Missionary Baptist Church, where he served as interim pastor and later elected senior pastor. Her move to Temple Missionary was accompanied by a leadership role in the Inland Empire.

Valerie had a love for education and children that was finally satisfied when she began teaching at Loveland Academy in Fontana, California in 1992. During her time there she co-founded the Temple Learning Center (TLC) where she served faithfully as principal. Her commitment to bettering the lives of others was further evident in her missionary work in American Samoa, Western Samoa, and Jamaica, and especially the children's missions in Ghana, Malawi, and Zambia.

I join today with family and friends in paying tribute to Valerie Turner, a dearly loved member of her family and community. She was a selfless role model and a generous teacher. Above all, Valerie was a supportive and dedicated wife, mother, and friend. She is survived by her husband Pastor Raymond W. Turner and their six children. She will be deeply missed by all.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 28, 2004

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my colleagues who stood to commemorate the Armenian Genocide of 1915–1923 and in memory of those who died 89 years ago.

The Genocide of 1915–1923 was the culmination of decades of official Ottoman policies to stamp out Armenia—religiously, culturally, and ethnically. The “Armenian Question” posed a problem for many successive