

Mr. Chairman, let us remember that 1 in 3 American adults is overweight or obese and more than 9 million children are struggling with obesity. H.R. 3161 aims to improve the eating habits of Americans, particularly our children through programs that teach children about healthy eating. H.R. 3161 increases funding for nutrition programs, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program, which broadens Fresh Fruit and Vegetable and Simplified Summer Food programs to all states to provide nutritious foods to children in low-income families, and specialty crop grants to encourage more fruit and vegetable consumption.

Obesity is associated with 35 major diseases including chronic and life-threatening conditions such as cancer, diabetes and heart disease. It is important to keep our Nation healthy by providing access to high consumption of vegetables and fruits to the future of our great country, our children. By supporting H.R. 3161 we assure a healthy consumption of nutritional foods for children whose only crime is that their families are poor.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 is essential because it addresses one of the most staggering causes of death in children: malnutrition. Malnutrition remains a significant problem worldwide, particularly among children. According to the United Nations World Food Programme, severe acute malnutrition affects an estimated 20 million children under the age of five worldwide and is responsible in whole or in part for more than half of all deaths of children. Malnutrition kills approximately one million children each year, or an average of one every thirty seconds.

These statistics are absolutely frightening and simply intolerable. They are also avoidable. The World Food Programme estimates that, when implemented on a large scale and combined with hospital treatment for children who suffer complications, a community-based approach to combating malnutrition could save the lives of hundreds of thousands of children each year.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 recognizes the importance of helping our neighbors in combating the hunger. H.R. 3161 provides funding for the Foreign Agricultural Service in the amount of \$159,136,000 and transfers of \$4,985,000, for a total salaries and expenses level of \$164,121,000, an increase of \$2,817,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007 and a decrease of \$9,073,000 below the budget request.

In addition, H.R. 3161 permits the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to use up to 25 percent of the funds appropriated for local or regional purchase of food to assist people threatened by a food security crisis.

Mr. Chairman, if it were not for grants such as the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program many foreigners would have no other choice than to leave their native country in pursuit of a better life. In my very own office, I have a future international human rights lawyer by the name of Onyinyechi Abigail Nwaohuocha, who recently traveled to Cambodia and witnessed firsthand the devastation caused by food shortage and underdeveloped agricultural programs.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3161 reminds us that it is important for the United States to foster a relationship with other parts of the world, so

that citizens of developing countries can also have basic rights such as sufficient amounts of food. The McGovern-Dole International Food program is funded in this bill in the amount of \$100,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000 above the amount available for fiscal year 2007, and the same as the budget request.

The George McGovern-Robert Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program fights child hunger and poverty by supporting school feeding operations, which provide nutritious meals to children in schools. This simple formula has been proven to be a success. Because of such programs, students are better able to concentrate and learn more quickly on a full stomach. Enrollment and attendance rates have skyrocketed as a result of school feeding programs, particularly among girls who are too often denied an education.

Mr. Chairman, there are 110 million school-aged children suffering from hunger every day, and they are counting on America's leadership and generosity to provide them with an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty. This bill provides that leadership and generosity and it is for this reason that I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for its passage by an overwhelming margin.

ADDRESSES OF SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES NANCY PELOSI AND SPEAKER OF KNESSET AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL DALIA ITZIK AT U.S.-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP EVENT IN JERUSALEM

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, earlier this year in Jerusalem in the Israeli Knesset, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, was honored at one of the most moving and significant ceremonies that I have witnessed as a Member of the United States Congress.

The distinguished Speaker of the House, our colleague NANCY PELOSI of California, and the congressional delegation with her as well as other Members of Congress were guests at a state dinner held in the Chagall State Hall of the Knesset in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel. I was honored to join five of our colleagues in the bipartisan delegation that accompanied our Speaker on this very special occasion.

The hall, as you know, Madam Speaker, is dominated by the magnificent tapestry designed by Jewish artist Marc Chagall. It is hard not to be touched emotionally to see in Chagall's tapestry the symbols of Jewish identity and Israeli statehood—Moses holding the tablets of the Ten Commandments, David wearing his crown and dancing as he plays the harp, the seven-branched candelabrum which was the symbol of the Temple of Solomon and today is the symbol of the modern State of Israel.

On this very special occasion Speaker PELOSI was welcomed to Israel by the Speaker of the Knesset Dalia Itzik, who at the time was also the Acting President of Israel. Following her warm and friendly welcoming remarks, Speaker PELOSI gave a moving state-

ment on the strong and enduring ties that have linked the United States of America and the State of Israel since the day Israel was founded in 1948.

Madam Speaker, I ask that the welcoming address of Speaker Itzik and the outstanding address in response of Speaker PELOSI be placed in the RECORD, and I strongly urge my colleagues in the Congress to give these statements the thoughtful attention they deserve as important documents on the warm friendship between our two nations.

ADDRESS OF SPEAKER OF KNESSET AND ACTING PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL DALIA ITZIK

Madam Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States, Ms. Nancy Pelosi; Members of the Delegation from the House of Representatives, Welcome to our House.

Madam Speaker, More than two hundred years have passed, and the impossible has now become possible. The United States House of Representatives elected a woman Speaker. It is true that there have been precedents in American democracy where women have held very high positions, but this is the first time that the House of Representatives has elected a woman to serve as Speaker. And it was you who achieved this high honor. (It took you over 230 years; it took us 58 years.)

Ms. Pelosi and members of the distinguished delegation, in less than 24 hours, tomorrow evening, the Jewish People will be enveloped in the sanctity of the Passover Festival. Millions of Jews—in Washington and in Jerusalem, in Tashkent and in Buenos Aires, in Sydney and in Budapest—will sit down together at their family Seder table. The Passover Festival is for us Jews our first and most ancient festival in our history, we have been remembering and celebrating this festival for some three thousand two hundred years. It was then that we became a nation. We went out from slavery to freedom. This was a formative event in our lives.

Another name for the Festival of Passover is the Festival of Freedom. Freedom and liberty form the chain that links us, the invisible chain that crosses continents and oceans from Jerusalem to Washington and back.

Madam Speaker, after two hundred and thirty years of independence, liberty is for you a dream that has already been realized. For us, after thousands of years, the dream is still being realized. We are an ancient People, whose roots are in the Bible and whose values are those of the Biblical prophets, while you are, so to speak, a relatively young nation and country. But we share the dream of liberty that ties us together with bonds of love.

We Israelis love the United States of America, not only because of your economic, military and political support and help. We love you because of that shared dream of liberty and the desire for peace. The Bible tells us "Seek peace and pursue it" (Psalms 34, 15), and you are our loyal partners in that unceasing search that has not yet ended.

Madam Speaker, the Members of the Knesset have just begun their Spring Recess. Nevertheless, many of them are here with us. Because of the Recess, we shall not be able to present to you, during your current visit, a day of normal parliamentary routine.

The Knesset is the location where decisions concerning the nation are taken. The Knesset reflects the unique nature of Israeli society in all its diversity. This is a society where Jews, Arabs, Druze and Circassians, veteran Israelis and new immigrants all live together. There are serious disputes between us.

There are disputes, and—although it may be difficult to believe—also points of agreement! And all this happens with complete

freedom of expression for all. The one thing that unites all the members of this multi-party and divided House is the hope for peace. In the State of Israel lives a nation that yearns for peace, wants peace and is ready to pay a heavy price for peace. At the same time, we remain aware of every danger. Israel does not have the luxury of allowing itself weakness, even for one moment.

Madam Speaker, you have come to a tiny country. We have only seven million citizens. A tiny country that has not known a single day of quiet since its establishment. A tiny country that appreciates, perhaps more than any other country in the world, the efforts of your country to put an end to terrorism.

You have come to a country that observes with both pain and great hope, the efforts of the great United States of America to eradicate the terrorist bases in Iraq, in Afghanistan and in other places.

We, who wake up each morning fearing for our children, we know how difficult it is for you in this just war, and from here, from Jerusalem, we send you our heartfelt blessing for your success and for the success of the free world.

When I met you in Washington a month ago, I invited you to come to visit Israel, and I am glad that you accepted my invitation. During that visit I invited Karnit Goldwasser to join me at our meeting. I saw how moved you were listening to Karnit. I saw how moved you were by the story of our kidnapped soldiers, Gilad Shalit, Eldad Regev, and Ehud Goldwasser.

I am proud to be the daughter of a nation whose ethical code sanctifies the principle that every soldier is everyone's soldier. Every missing soldier is greatly missed by us all and every prisoner of war is a prisoner who it is our duty to bring back home.

The commitment of the Bush administration to the Peace Process in our region is very important and precious for us. As also is the President's deep friendship for Israel. The intensive activity by the Secretary of State, in the spirit of President Bush's policy, is most important, and is part of an ongoing effort by generations of American Administrations.

This is an opportunity to say a big thank you, through you, to Israel's friends in Congress, and to express our appreciation to you and to them for all their many efforts on behalf of Israel and on behalf of regional stability. We are pleased to discover anew each time, that the support for Israel rises above any inter-party dispute in the United States.

Madam Speaker, distinguished Representatives, during your visit here in Israel you will have the opportunity to see personally the exceptional achievements of Israel during its fifty-eight years. Despite no less than ten wars, between which we experienced many horrifying acts of terrorism, we have set up a model country, with a flourishing modern economy, with ground-breaking research centers, dynamic culture and advanced education, welfare and health systems.

Madam Speaker, You bring here to our region a refreshing breeze of hope. Your upcoming visit to Damascus arouses, naturally, a political debate in your country and of course here too.

I believe in your worthy intentions. Perhaps this step—that may at this stage seem unpopular—that you intend to take when you leave here, will make it clear to the Syrian people and to the Syrian leadership, that they must abandon the axis of evil, that they must stop supporting terrorism and giving shelter to the terrorist's command posts, that they must make a real strategic choice that will bring hope to the citizens of Syria and to the citizens of the whole region.

Israel seeks peace; anyone who speaks of peace and displays an honest intention to seek peace will find an ear in Israel.

Sitting with us here this evening is Mrs. Nadia Cohen, whose husband, Eli Cohen, was executed by hanging in Damascus 42 years ago (in 1965). Nadia, and all of Israel, has been asking the Syrian Government for many long years, to allow the removal of Eli Cohen's bones for burial here in Israel. This would be an elementary human gesture. I hope that your visit will enable the President of Syria to finally take the decision that seems so necessary. By this act the Syrian President could indicate to the world and to us that something can nevertheless change.

Madam Speaker, and our distinguished guests, the members of your delegation, you have come here to a small country. We number only seven million citizens, but fourteen million arms are stretched wide open to receive you with a blessing of Shalom [peace] and with the traditional greeting of welcome—"B'ruchim HaBa'im" [Blessed be those who arrive]. Please look upon this House, the Knesset, the principal and primary institution of Israeli democracy, as though it were your House too.

You are our brothers in the legislature and we see you and your fellow Americans as true friends of Israel. We appreciate your contribution to the strengthening of the security and strength of the State of Israel, and feel gratitude to all the American governments over the years.

B'ruchim atem bevo'achem' [May you be blessed on your arrival]. And to all our other guests, who have come here to the Knesset today, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Passover—Festival of Freedom—in the embrace of your families.

ADDRESS OF THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE NANCY PELOSI

Madame Speaker, Members of Knesset, Cabinet Ministers, Supreme Court Justices and Honored Guests. Thank you.

Speaker Itzik, I am deeply honored to accept your invitation to address this great democratic body. I salute you for your achievements as the Knesset's first woman Speaker.

I stand with you tonight, conscious of all that you and I owe to the hopes and dreams of generations of Israeli and American women. I think especially of Golda Meir, the stateswoman, leader, mother, and grandmother whose legacy we both share.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring a message from the House of Representatives—which we call the people's house—to this distinguished body and to the Israeli people.

There is an unshakable bond between America and Israel that grows out of our past and the fundamental values we share. That bond forms the foundation of our efforts for peace, for democracy, for human freedom. The bond between our nations points the way to the future—a democratic Israel at peace with her neighbors. That is essential for the stability that this region desires. And the pioneering, entrepreneurial spirit of both our nations is essential for the future all our citizens deserve.

We remember the oldest roots of our friendship today. We stand here in the City of Jerusalem, a home to the world's three major religions. We stand at the threshold of one of the holiest weeks in the Judeo-Christian calendar. Palm Sunday is ending and Passover is about to begin. In this moment, Jews and Christians alike celebrate the possibility of human redemption from slavery into freedom.

"Open for me the gates of righteousness," we sing in one of the season's best-loved

Psalms, "I will enter and give thanks to God."

The journey toward freedom and peace is a journey of faith, a journey of hope, a journey of a lifetime or more. It is a journey our deepest values command us to undertake.

When Americans look at Israel, we see the hope and promise of that journey. The creation of Israel stands out as one of the greatest achievements of the 20th century, and as a beacon of hope to the world. President Truman's role in recognizing the new state just 11 minutes after its proclamation is a source of pride for Americans.

Forty years ago another American President, John F. Kennedy, summed up what binds Americans to Israel today when he said that Israel "is the child of hope and the home of the brave. It carries the shield of democracy and it honors the sword of freedom."

Americans have many political differences, but we stand united with Israel now and always. One example of that is the bipartisan Congressional delegation here with me tonight. We speak with one voice, in support of a secure Jewish state of Israel living in peace with her neighbors.

Let me take a moment to recognize them: Delegation Co-Chairman David Hobson; Chairman Tom Lantos, with whom I share representation of the great city of San Francisco; Chairman Henry Waxman; Chairman Nick Rahall; Chairwomen Louise Slaughter; Chairman Robert Wexler; and I am especially proud that our delegation includes Congressman Keith Ellison of Minnesota, the first American Muslim elected to Congress.

We are all honored to be here, and we are honored to be with Karnit Goldwasser, who has given the world the priceless gift of her courage. When I met her in Washington last month with Speaker Itzik, I was struck by the fact that she should be enjoying a young marriage but instead is traveling the world for her husband's sake, Ehud Goldwasser.

We are honored to be here with the families of Israel's kidnapped and missing soldiers. We must not forget any of them.

In the last year three more were kidnapped: Ehud Goldwasser, Eldad Regev and Gilad Shalit. I display their identification tags in the Speaker's office, and I carry them with me today. We must not rest until they are home. We will mention this to the president of Syria.

Americans know what it is to be brave in battle, and what it takes to be strong at home. Respect for Israel's courage and strength has bound our nations together since Israel's earliest days—something I remember from my own childhood and the tradition in which I was raised.

In 1947, a ship bound for Tel Aviv set sail from Baltimore, my native city, with a crew of young American volunteers. History remembers this ship as the Exodus 47. Its mission was to bring war survivors from the camps of Europe to live in Israel. It was one of the first times that Americans made Israel's cause our own.

At that time, my father was a Congressman and later Mayor of Baltimore. His support for a Jewish state began when he was one of a small number of Congressmen who lobbied Presidents Roosevelt and Truman first to do more to rescue Jews in Europe and later to support the creation of Israel.

I was fascinated to learn of Israel as a child through the Bible, where God spoke from a burning bush about a magical "land flowing with milk and honey."

I remember vividly learning about the state of Israel when my parents' friends Simon and Irene Sobeloff came home from a visit to Israel shortly after Israel's birth as a nation.

The Sobeloffs visited our home and regaled us with magnificent tales about this glorious

new country in the desert where courageous trailblazers were founding a democratic nation in their historic homeland. As a little girl, I was drawn to the stories of turning sand dunes to orange groves, draining swamps to create farmland, and creating cities where before there had been none.

And, with their stories, the Sobeloffs brought me a ring, which I just adored. It helped create an everlasting bond for me with Israel.

Our shared history and ideals unite us in the challenging present. For this reason, America's commitment to Israel's security is unshakable.

Israel faces existential threats that are also threats to America. We must track down terrorists at their sources; to protect our citizens, homes and businesses. We must counter the terrorists' vision of apocalypse and despair with our own clear pathway toward hope and dignity. We must do this with strength but also with wisdom.

Together, we must make sure that no more rockets rain down on Israel from Lebanon in the north. We must ensure a future in which parents can send their children to school and families can venture to markets without fear.

It has been almost nine months since Hezbollah's unprovoked attack on Israel. Yet, Hezbollah continues to violate the U.N. resolution that set conditions to end the violence. The 10,000 U.N. troops must be successful in preventing the shipments of weapons and supplies allowing Hezbollah to rearm. International forces in Lebanon must implement the U.N. resolution effectively.

Hezbollah must be disarmed.

And together, we must have a simple message for Tehran, whose support of Hezbollah is well known. Iran must not be allowed to have a nuclear weapon. The time to leverage all our power is now, and the way to do it is through diplomacy—with stronger sanctions and smarter policy choices.

Under Chairman Tom Lantos' leadership, the U.S. Congress is moving to put additional pressure on Iran by expanding and tightening our sanctions regime. I am certain that our Administration will use all of its influence with Security Council members and states in the region to see that they do the same.

Iran is not just an Israeli problem or a regional problem. Iran is a problem for the world.

In Iraq, we must move the war beyond the unstable status quo because instability in Iraq serves only the interests of our enemies.

We in Congress have a particular responsibility to make it clear that peace in Iraq must come first and foremost from the political choices of Iraqis. Even a military with the capabilities of the United States cannot create political consensus where none exists.

We in Congress will do everything in our power to seek a policy that makes the United States and our friends safer and the region more stable by sharing the responsibility for Iraq's stability with Iraqis and their neighbors.

Together, we must look to the future.

Israeli democracy is one of the cornerstones of a more stable and democratic Middle East. But that hopeful vision begins with a hard recognition: we all know that we cannot have peace without security, but we also cannot have security without peace.

I am concerned that some of those in the new Palestinian government remain committed to the destruction of Israel.

But I believe that the majority of Israelis, Palestinians, and Americans share our commitment to a future for Israel and the Palestinian people living side by side in peace and security.

Talking with responsible Palestinian partners is a wise investment in Israel's future.

I know all of my Congressional colleagues join me in welcoming the agreement announced by Secretary Rice that Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Abbas will meet regularly.

The United States, as Israel's trusted friend and ally, has an irreplaceable role to play in achieving a lasting peace. The United States must have sustained high level engagement in the region to bring us closer to the day we all long for—when the entire Palestinian government is ready for peace.

Our efforts toward peace are part of a rich web of ties between our nations, ties that make not just the desert but a generation bloom.

Americans and Israelis are pioneers and visionaries—our nations were built by people for whom obstacles like oceans, mountains, and deserts were the journey's beginning, not its end.

Israeli expertise and technology are helping protect cities and airports across America. Israeli medical technology saves the lives of American soldiers on the battlefield. Americans with reflux disease are diagnosed by a camera-in-a-pill developed here.

And American leaders in technology and biotechnology are exchanging their expertise in the global market with Israeli entrepreneurs with stunning results.

But I believe we can and will do more to build even stronger Israeli-American partnership for innovation in areas like alternative energy that are crucial to the future of both our countries.

From the negotiating table to the operating table, from the joy of a little girl's ring to the sadness of a missing soldier's dog tags, we find proofs of our deep friendship in the most unexpected places.

Another one of these places is outside Haifa, where there is a soccer stadium that many of you know as Kiryat Haim. I understand that it has seen better days, but it is used by children everyday and has a special place in the hearts of many Israelis. Older Israelis remember its glory days hosting top Haifa teams. Thousands of younger Israelis themselves learned to play there or follow the careers of star players, Jews and Arabs alike, who got their start there.

That stadium has a place in my heart as well. In 1968, it was named for my brother Thomas D'Alessandro, who, as mayor of Baltimore, carried on my father's support of Israel.

It is a great source of pride to our family that our name is shared with such a beloved Israeli institution. It is one of the reasons it is easy for me to represent America's love for the people of Israel.

Tonight I thank you for the warmth of your hospitality and I applaud you for the example of your courage.

Madam Speaker, please accept my deepest appreciation for this opportunity to express America's commitment to Israel. This occasion is one of the great joys of my life.

America and Israel share a common history—nations founded to be beacons of democracy, forged by pioneers, fulfilled by immigrants. We share a common future—as entrepreneurs and innovators, building the kind of world that we dream of for our children's children. And we share a common cause—a safe and secure Israel living in peace with her neighbors. Let us join together to recommit ourselves to the best of our heritage, and together look to the future.

CONGRATULATING THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE HOUSE FELLOWS PROGRAM

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the participants of the House Fellows Program on the completion of their weeklong program. As an initiative of the Office of the Historian, this has been a unique opportunity for a select group of secondary education teachers of American history and government.

This week-long workshop is designed to help educators improve the knowledge and understanding of the "People's House." One of the goals of the program is to develop curricular materials on the history and practice of the House for use in schools. Each Fellow will prepare his or her brief lesson plan on a Congressional topic of their choosing, and these plans will become part of a teaching resource database on the House.

During the school year following their participation in the House Fellows Program, each Fellow will have the responsibility to present their experiences and lesson plans to at least one in-service institute for teachers of history and government.

Over the next 5 years, in selecting a teacher from every congressional district, the House Fellows Program will be able to impact over 10,000 high school teachers, providing an inside account of how the House of Representatives functions, energizing thousands of students to become informed and active citizens.

I had the honor of meeting the Fellows last night and know that all Members will join me in congratulating the following teachers who have successfully participated in this week's program:

Mr. Frank Coburn, Red Bird Mission School, Beverly, Kentucky (KY05, Rogers); Ms. Jennifer Collier, Mt. Diablo High School, Concord, California (CA07, Miller); Ms. Deborah Hejl, Fishers High School, Fishers, Indiana (IN05, Burton); Mr. Paul Hodges, PikeView High School, Mercer County, West Virginia (WV03, Rahall); Mr. Rick Kelm, Ripon High School, Ripon, Wisconsin (WI06, Petri); Ms. Tisha Menchhofer, Lakota East High School, Liberty Township, Ohio (OH08, Boehner); Mr. Christopher Lazarski, Wauwatosa West High School, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin (WI05, Sensenbrenner); Mr. Christopher Swanson, Cloquet Senior High School, Cloquet, Minnesota (MN08, Oberstar); Ms. Robin Wanosky, Weston High School, Weston, Massachusetts (MA07, Markey); Ms. Erin Wigginton, Pulaski County High School, Dublin, Virginia (VA09, Boucher).

As many of my colleagues already know, the first bill I sponsored upon becoming a Member of Congress in 1999 was the History of the House Awareness and Preservation Act, which directed the Librarian of Congress to oversee the writing of a history of the House of Representatives. Once this bill was signed into law (P.L. 106-99), the Librarian of Congress very wisely chose the eminent historian and author, Dr. Robert V. Remini, to write the history, which was published in 2006 under the title of *The House*. The project was