

Service Ships. He was instrumental in the successful operations of the PEO, primarily responsible for the in-service support for all surface ships, including destroyer and cruiser modernization programs, the ships inactivation program and the FMS Ship Transfer Program. Under his leadership, the In-Service Ship Team was the horsepower behind the SHIPMAIN Modernization Initiative, CFT 4 which prioritized alterations across classes of ships, removed non-valve alterations with a savings to the navy of over \$500M, and instituted a drum beat for alteration accomplishment. He supported SHIPMAIN CFT's 1, 2 and 3, and the development of the Surface Warfare Enterprise. He achieved success in the implementation of a Multi-Ship Multi-Option contract approach for all surface ships maintenance and modernization. MSMO contracts have stabilized the repair industrial base and reduced costs to the fleet OM&N accounts. The achieved successes in the re-activation of the *ex-Kidd* Class destroyers for the Taiwanese Ship Transfer program were extremely impressive; four ships were re-activated for the Taiwanese Navy several months early and tens of millions under budget. Planning for follow-on ship transfer work for the *MHC's*, *ex-Trenton*, and *ex-Coronado* are already in place. The ship Inactivation Programs still continues to make great strides in reducing the size of the inactive fleet through the development of innovative processes and continuous improvements of existing methods.

Mr. Weyman's visionary approach to challenges allows for the transformation from a "business as usual" mentality into actions that permit innovative improvements in the way the Government and its private industry partners achieve best value products and services. It is, therefore, a pleasure to recognize Mr. Alan S. Weyman for his many contributions in a life devoted to our Nation's security as he leaves the Department of the Navy. I know my colleagues join me in wishing him and his wife Barbara much happiness and fair winds and following seas as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the 60th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel and to reaffirm the steadfast relationship between our two strong democratic allies.

May 14, 2008, marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel. With little resources and seemingly insurmountable obstacles, Israel has become a thriving and prosperous democracy, and has made significant worldwide contributions in technology, medicine, agriculture, and environmental innovation. Additionally, eight Israelis have been awarded the Nobel Prize.

When we speak about Israel, too often we focus on Israel's troubles and don't focus enough attention on her beauty and her spirit.

But what I want to focus on today is her resolve.

Since its independence in 1948, Israel has continually overcome every conceivable roadblock placed in her way. She has beaten back hostile neighbors during war and now she endures terrible economic hardship from terrorist cowards who perpetrate hideous violence against innocent victims.

As a critical partner in our fight against terror and as the only democracy in the region, Israel's strength and security is paramount. Therefore, I encourage this House to continue to pass bipartisan bills in support of Israel and her ability to protect herself from hostile neighbors.

The blossoming of a nation that grew from desert sand into a thriving example of democracy, economic progress, and cultural diversity is a magnificent achievement for this strong and vibrant country.

I want to congratulate Israel on all she has achieved in just 60 years, and I look forward to the future of this extraordinary Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KI'ARA RUFUS

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Ms. Ki'Ara Rufus, who was nominated to be the 2008 Delaware Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of America and the Reader's Digest have nationally sponsored the Youth of the Year program since 1947. The goal of Youth of the Year has been to recognize outstanding members of the Boys & Girls Club and their contributions to their club, community, school, and family. More than 32,000 youth are served by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Delaware.

Twelve students were nominated for the honor of Youth of the Year through an intensive local and state level selection process, including the nominees' personal contribution to home and family, community, school and their Boys & Girls Club. The nominees had to prepare two essays explaining why post-high school education is important and what the club means to them. Additionally, students had to prepare a 3-5 minute speech and have an interview session with a panel of judges. The candidates attended the Youth of the Year Summit, where they received professional guidance regarding public speaking, writing, and interviewing skills.

After winning the local Youth of the Year award, Ki'Ara moved onto the state level competition, where she refined her essay and prepared for the next round of interviews. Ki'Ara was an extremely qualified candidate for the Youth of the Year 2008. She has been an active member of the Great Milford Club since she was 6. Throughout her time with the Boys & Girls Club, Ki'Ara has been a member of the Torch Club and the Youth Respond program. She also served as treasurer for the African American Heritage Club at Milford High School.

Once again, I would like to commend Ki'Ara Rufus for being nominated as the Boys & Girls Club of Delaware's Youth of the Year.

SALUTING THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA RED CROSS AND ITS VOLUNTEERS

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I rise before you to salute the southeastern Pennsylvania Red Cross and its outstanding volunteers during National Volunteer Week.

April 27 through May 3 is National Volunteer Week. Last year in southeastern Pennsylvania, 7,664 Red Cross volunteers helped victims of disaster, taught their neighbors how to save a life, mentored school kids on the meaning of community, and connected military families separated by war and thousands of miles.

The Red Cross in southeastern Pennsylvania is the place where:

Someone you do not recognize puts your family to bed the night you have been burned out of your home—72,000 fires in America last year, 905 of them in southeastern Pennsylvania. Red Cross volunteers answered the call every night when 5,292 of our neighbors—over 40% of them children—suddenly found themselves without a place to live.

A total stranger will give you their blood—four million donors across America, 175,000 of them in southeastern Pennsylvania. Over 1,600 local Red Cross volunteers run over 240 blood drives every month.

Someone you never knew will help save your child from drowning—11 million Americans were trained last year in life saving techniques, 111,739 in southeastern Pennsylvania in over 8,000 classes.

You call to speak to a friendly voice when you have an emergency that involves a serviceman or woman overseas. 3,253 times, the Red Cross received those calls on its 24-7 hotline last year.

400 kids from 18 Philadelphia public high schools gather to learn how to save a life, to help out at the "Kids Carnival" on Martin Luther King Day, and to organize blood drives, food drives or toy drives in their schools and their communities.

And Red Cross volunteers are people like:

Martin Strom: During the day he is a SEPTA bus driver, but at night "Big Marty" turns up at the burning homes of people he has never met—starting them on the road to recovery from what for many is the worst night of their lives.

Wilma Yeakel: Wilma has worked over 2,000 blood drives in 25 years, and she will tell you that volunteers are paid in six figures—s-m-i-l-e-s.

Tom Warner: this septuagenarian still turns up at his neighborhood "Y" in Germantown to teach lifeguard classes—as he has every year for 57 years—and he will tell you that his lungs are in better shape than many of his students.

Carol Barnett: longtime Eagles fan Carol has been helping military families for the last 17 years, working at least two ten-hour shifts like clockwork, every single week. And Carol volunteers on holidays so that others can take a break.

Cornelius Moody: Franklin Learning Center junior Cornelius said it best in his essay on the honor of wearing his Red Cross Shirt:

"Our Red Cross Club is not just another school program, it's a mindset. A mindset to help anyone in need in any way you can, not because you know them, not for privileges, not for awards, but because in your heart you know you can help this person, you should help this person, so you will help this person."

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "It is part of the American character to consider nothing as desperate." Surely what Jefferson envisioned for his America were people like Janice Lufkin and Andrew Brownstein in Montgomery County; Dan Hagen and Edna Hendricks in Delaware County; and Ed Bittner and Debbie Dorito in Chester County—who have together put in over one century of service to people they will probably never see again, but who desperately needed their help, their shoulder, their kind words in their time of greatest need. These volunteers have served in every corner of this region, and in places like Biloxi, Pascagoala and New Orleans, at wildfires in California, tornadoes in the Midwest, bridge collapses in Minnesota, and hurricanes in Florida.

Jefferson was right—nothing is desperate, when you live in a country with people like them and the other 7,664 volunteers here at the southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Red Cross.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON PIPE AND TUBE IMPORTS

**HON. JASON ALTMIRE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 25th Annual Meeting of the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports, known to many as the "voice of the industry" in Washington, DC.

The Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports has strong roots in western Pennsylvania. In fact, a number of local steel pipe and tube industry leaders—including Mr. James Feeney, formerly of Wheatland Tube Co.; Mr. Joseph Nowak, formerly of Cyclops Corporation; and individuals from Allied Tube and Conduit—created the vision of the Committee. Since its beginning, the Committee has worked closely with leaders in Congress to develop sound and fair trade policies that ensure U.S. trade laws are strengthened and maintained.

Throughout its 25-year history, the Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports has had many notable achievements, including the filing of over 100 antidumping and countervailing duty cases challenging unfairly traded imports; inclusion of steel pipe and tube in the President's Steel Voluntary Restraint Agreement program; and work on the enactment of trade legislation. It is obvious that this organization has made a significant and lasting impact on our nation's trade policies and through its advocacy has ensured a future for this important segment of the steel industry and its workers across the country.

I am honored to have this opportunity to thank the Committee's founding members, past chairmen, and staff for all of the amazing work they have accomplished on behalf of the United States steel pipe, tube and fittings industry and wish them continued success in the years to come.

HONORING JENNIFER AND JAMES GRIFFIN ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR MARRIAGE

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two of my constituents who were married Saturday, March 8, 2008. Jennifer Lewis Fowlkes and James Sean Griffin celebrated their commitment to each other at a wedding ceremony held at the Griffin home in Land O'Lakes, Florida. A couple firmly dedicated to the Pasco County region, Jennifer works for Verizon, and Jeff is an entrepreneur.

As George Eliot once said, "What greater thing is there for two human souls than to feel that they are joined together to strengthen each other in all labour, to minister to each other in all sorrow, to share with each other in all gladness, to be one with each other in the silent unspoken memories?" Having known the Griffin family for many years, I know Jennifer and James' will have a lifetime of wedded joy ahead of them. I can only hope that their marriage is as long lasting and full of love as that of James' parents, Danielle and Jeff Griffin.

Madam Speaker, we should all be jealous of newlyweds like Jennifer and Jeff. Their lifelong journey began with the first step of a marriage ceremony, and they have yet to see the ups and downs and joys and sorrows that come with every union of man and woman. Their commitment to each other is one to be celebrated and commended and one in which I offer my congratulations and wish them well as they begin their new life together.

OPERATION IRAQI HEALING

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 30, 2008*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I wish to recognize the non-governmental organization Severus Worldwide and the work they are doing on behalf of the health and well-being of the Iraqi people through their project, "Operation Iraqi Healing."

Prior to the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, Iraqi citizens suffered from a humanitarian crisis perpetrated by a totalitarian dictatorship focused on preserving power rather than providing for the citizenry. Following the liberation of Iraq, remnants of that broken system and the emergence of destabilizing violence created a scenario where the Iraqi people are in dire need of medical supplies and medical facilities to support a healthy nation.

While the American military and our coalition partners have worked hard to help build an infrastructure in the face of ongoing violence, our efforts have been impeded by an enemy that targets Iraqi infrastructure and an Iraqi medical community that has not been fully engaged. Thankfully, private organizations are stepping up and providing invaluable assistance.

Severus Worldwide's "Operation Iraqi Healing" brings together Iraqi physicians and med-

ical personnel along with civil affairs officers from both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps to provide the necessary funding and infrastructure to build, staff, and equip hospitals and clinics to serve the people of Iraq. This type of comprehensive strategy is needed, and I am grateful for Severus Worldwide's tremendous efforts on behalf of the Iraqi people.

The time to act is now. The success that can be achieved by strengthening the healthcare system of Iraq is two-fold. The people of Iraq will have the tools and resources to treat the sick and wounded. But, just as important, the stability that a strong and growing infrastructure can bring to this nation will be invaluable in helping the young democracy of Iraq flourish. The men and women of Severus Worldwide and the numerous other private and public organizations that have continued to contribute to a stable Iraq should be commended for their compassion.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

**HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 22, 2008*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the contribution of the State of Israel as it celebrates its 60th anniversary as a vibrant and open democratic society.

Madam Speaker, my colleagues have already gone into detail about the accomplishments of the State of Israel, and how Israel has gone through an astonishing evolution since 1948. I echo many of their remarks.

I had the great privilege to live and work in Israel in the mid-1960s and celebrated Israel's 22nd anniversary by taking part in a 3-day walk from the shores of Tel Aviv to the hills of Jerusalem. Now I marvel with every visit at the extraordinary changes that have taken place.

With every visit to Israel and each article I read about events on the ground, I am reminded of the enormous complexities and challenges Israel faces—internal as well as external. So we must ask ourselves, what will the future bring for Israel? How can Israel reconcile the great contradictions that its victories from the 1967 war delivered and address the occupation of Palestinian territories that now threatens Israel's very existence as a democratic state with a Jewish majority?

Israel has sought peace with its neighbors and made some progress toward peace with neighboring Arab states. Today, with Gaza controlled by HAMAS and the West Bank by the Palestinian Authority, Israel still lacks a real partner for peace. However, this does not mean efforts for peace should not continue. . . . and this does not mean that the United States should not play an active leadership role in the region.

We must continue our strong support for Israel's very right to exist while continuing to bring life to the peace process between Israel and its neighbors. Our assistance must be a sustained diplomatic effort, on the ground in both Israel and the territories, so we can maximize every effort for dialogue and concrete negotiations.