

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, May 14th marks the 60th anniversary of the modern State of Israel. For six decades, America has stood by Israel's side as her partner in peace and defended her as a beacon of democracy in a region dominated by war, authoritarian regimes, and religious conflict.

In 1948, the United States became the first country to welcome Israel into the community of nations, and we have stood with and supported her as she has defended herself from those who seek her destruction each and every day.

Israel has been our staunchest ally in the Middle East, as well as a full partner in the global war against radical jihadists—individuals who attack our Nation, our children, our values, and the very existence of Western civilization.

The Old Testament teaches us the foundation of Israel's storied past. For three thousand years, the Jewish people have created a cultural, religious, and national identity, a connection rooted in their unbroken ties to the Holy Land. When the modern State of Israel was created 60 years ago, that Jewish heritage was renewed.

Madam Speaker, Israel has a legal, moral, and historical right to exist in peace with secure and defensible borders.

Make no mistake, Israel's challenges are vast. Each day Israelis face the verbal and physical threat of annihilation looming on the horizon. From Tehran, Damascus, and Hebron come unrelenting calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Meantime, rockets from Gaza rain down on the homes and schools of Sderot, Ashkelon, and other Israeli cities, all the while the United Nations sits idle and echoes anti-Israel, anti-Semitic proclamations. Israel remains a nation under siege.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, today I come to this floor, our own altar of democracy, to celebrate a nation that has turned adversity into triumph and took a dispersed population and made them whole. Like America, Israel is a country of immigrants and has opened its doors to every Jewish immigrant to become a citizen. This story has now united people from over 70 countries and has turned Israel into a society of multi-ethnic communities living side by side with one another.

As the world's oldest democracy, today we celebrate the success of a democratic relative. Israel exists in a part of the world that knows little democracy, yet Israel has displayed the hope and dignity that accompanies rule by the people and personal freedom. Although blessed with few natural resources, this young nation has seen the fruits of its labor pay off through an incredible amount of economic prosperity and cultural creativity.

Yet as Israel works for peace with security, we must not forget that peace can never be achieved by asking Israel to put at risk its sovereignty and the safety of its people.

We must constantly reaffirm our own ties to this democratic society in a part of the world so desperately in need of democracy. This is vitally important to our own security. And we must all realize this.

Thus, I will continue to support Israel and pray she one day will live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.

I am honored to come to the floor today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our ally, the nation of Israel.

IN RECOGNITION OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH HONOREES

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the everyday heroes in Sacramento whose commitment in the areas of business, education, and community involvement are unparalleled. The men and women being honored this afternoon are dedicated to a diverse Sacramento and their tireless efforts have made a substantial difference in our neighborhoods. As they gather to celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring these fine Sacramentans.

With the month of May being Asian Pacific American Heritage month, it is important that we take time to honor individual members of the Asian Pacific Islander Community who go above and beyond in their commitment to community service. One such individual is a Moses Auwae, a retired Army serviceman. Upon his departure from the military, Mr. Auwae dedicated himself to improving the lives of future generations. Mr. Auwae's work with developmentally disabled children at the Laurel Ruff School helped him win the Outstanding Service to Children and Adults with Developmental Disabilities Award in 1991 from the Association for Retarded Citizens. Additionally, Mr. Auwae has been an active community volunteer, making a difference in many lives.

Over the last few decades, Tom Fujimoto has been a diligent advocate for preserving the heritage of Japanese Americans. Working as the trustee to the Wakamatsu Tea & Silk Colony, Mr. Fujimoto has been instrumental in safeguarding this historical landmark, one of the first Japanese settlements in the United States. In addition to his efforts in ensuring Japanese American's proper place in history, Mr. Fujimoto has lent his expertise and knowledge to numerous Sacramento groups. He has served on the Board of the Sacramento Regional Historical Project, the National Japanese American Historical Society, the Tule Lake/Linkville Cemetery Project and was President of the Sacramento Japanese American Citizens League. Mr. Fujimoto has served the community admirably and his efforts have made significant strides for the betterment of our region.

Throughout the years, Ms. Aeyon Lee has been a leader in the Sacramento community helping to promote healthy living to ensure that the concerns of the neediest among us are heard by policymakers. From her work encouraging civic participation to her volunteering at the WIND Youth Services, Ms. Lee recognizes the importance of giving back to the community. Serving on the board for the Placer County American Cancer Society and

currently as the President of the Sacramento Korean American Cancer Support Group, Ms. Lee has been a fundamental link in connecting community organizations with the resources they need to succeed.

Ms. Linda Ng has actively worked to ensure the civil rights of all Sacramentans and has strived to end discrimination in our neighborhoods. From her work with the Satendar Singh Justice Coalition to her appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Fair Employment and Housing Commission, Ms. Ng has provided a steady and unwavering voice for every ethnicity. As President of the Organization of Chinese Americans, Sacramento, Ms. Ng organized Chinese New Year celebrations and the Pacific Rim Street Festival, both which have helped raise cultural awareness and encouraged community participation. Ms. Ng's leadership also accounted for a very successful OCA National Convention this past summer in Sacramento.

As the only Vietnamese American to attain the rank of captain in all law enforcement in California, Captain Trang Tro has been an inspiration to Asian Pacific Americans everywhere. As a community leader and member of the Sacramento County Sheriffs Department, Captain Tro understands the need to protect and serve all of Sacramento's neighborhoods. Working as a public safety liaison, Captain Tro has been involved in many worthy endeavors such as OCA's Hate Crime Conference and the District Attorney's Citizens Academy. I thank Captain Tro for his efforts to strengthen the ties between law enforcement and Sacramento's diverse neighborhoods.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize these worthy honorees who have worked tirelessly and often behind the scenes to ensure that Sacramento is a better place to live. As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, I applaud the spirit embodied by these local heroes. On behalf of the people of Sacramento and the Fifth Congressional District of California, I ask all my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the efforts and important role these individuals have played in helping Sacramento flourish.

HONORING DAVID JAMES KING

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 5, 2008

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David James, King a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 900, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David James King for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.