counseling and representation to the low-income, indigent and other persons in need. Included among these are projects that provide assistance to lay guardians with low assets, basic estate-planning documents to low-income persons, and counseling in the areas of family, employment, consumer bankruptcy and landlord/tenant law.

Consistently, the Association has worked to meet the changing needs of legal practice in the 21st century. The Association's highly acclaimed Continuing Legal Education Institute offers attorneys a variety of educational programs. NYCLA also facilitates public awareness and education on a wide array of issues through its forums and lecture series.

Today I rise to recognize and congratulate The New York County Lawyers' Association for 100 years of outstanding and dedicated service to the people of New York and for its groundbreaking work in furthering the administration of justice.

TRIBUTE TO THE WINONA STATE UNIVERSITY WARRIORS

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate the Winona State University Men's Basketball team for winning the 2008 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division II Men's Basketball National Championship with a victory over Augusta State University (Ga.) by a score of 87–76 in Springfield. Massachusetts.

This victory, which came 1 month ago on March 29, 2008, marked the second national championship for the Warriors in 3 years.

This team's accomplishments are almost too many to list. This was their third straight trip to the national championship. They have won the North Central Region title nine times in a row. They have won three straight Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference titles.

In 2006–07, they broke the NCAA Division II consecutive win record by winning 57 straight games.

In 2008, the Warriors finished the season with a record of 38–1, an NCAA Division II record for most victories in a season by an NCAA Men's Basketball Team. Over the past 3 years, they have posted an overall record of 105–6.

The Warriors were coached to these accomplishments, as well as their second national championship, by head coach Mike Leaf, who has been named the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference Coach of the Year four times.

This team was led by five seniors—John Smith, Jonte Flowers, Quincy Henderson, Shane Neiss and Brent Riese—who accrued a record of 129–17 in their 4 years together.

Following the 2008 Championship game, Jonte Flowers was named the 2008 NCAA Division II Elite Eight Tournament's Most Outstanding Player, while John Smith was named the NCAA Division II Player of the Year by three separate publications.

Congratulations to the Warriors! I look forward to your next National Championship!

CONGRATULATING AUSTIN J. BURKE, RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 AMERICANISM AWARD FROM B'NAI B'RITH AMOS LODGE 136, SCRANTON, PA

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2008

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Austin J. Burke, president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce, recipient of this year's Americanism Award from B'nai B'rith Amos Lodge 136 in Scranton.

The Americanism Award honors outstanding community leaders for their dedicated public service. Mr. Burke was selected for this honor by past Americanism Award recipients and representatives of various service and community organizations including the United Way of Lackawanna County, Scranton Rotary and Lions Clubs and UNICO.

Mr. Burke has worked in the community development arena since 1972. He was named president of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce in 1981. At the Chamber, he has worked with area leaders to craft responses to community needs with programs like Skills in Scranton and Leadership Lackawanna. Throughout the country, Austin is recognized as one of the most successful economic development leaders, and we are indeed fortunate that he chose to dedicate his career to serving Greater Scranton.

He was an incorporator of Montage Mountain Inc. and worked to bring Steamtown National Historic Site to Scranton. He has participated in national convocations including the White House Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber Business Civic Leadership Conference and the American Assembly: Retooling for Growth.

Mr. Burke is also a board member of the International Economic Development Council, Commonwealth Financing Authority and the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority.

He is the chairman of the Lackawanna County Workforce Investment Board, a past chairman of the Scranton Area Foundation and a member of the board of trustees of Marywood University. He is also a former trustee and chairman of the Facilities Committee of the University of Scranton which awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1998.

A veteran of the United States Air Force, Mr. Burke received his bachelor's degree in economics from Dickinson College where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He is a graduate of the Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organization Management.

On a personal note, let me express my appreciation for the extraordinary friendship that Austin has extended to me over the years. I am grateful for his partnership in service to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

A resident of Archbald, PA, Mr. Burke resides with his wife, Marianne.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Burke on this auspicious occasion. Mr. Burke's extraordinary contributions to his community have earned him a reputation as a leader among leaders and his efforts have greatly improved the quality of life throughout the northeastern Pennsylvania region.

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

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I support H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel, which occurred on May 14, 1948. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the British Mandate of Palestine and create a Jewish state. On May 14, 1948, the people of Israel proclaimed the establishment of the sovereign and independent State of Israel. That date marked the success of a continuous struggle for a homeland for the world's Jewish population and laid the foundation for a free and independent state and a symbol of joy and protection for a people that have been—for too long—on the receiving end of oppression, discrimination, and injustice.

Since its independence, Israel has bravely defended itself from repeated attacks. Over the last 60 years, the modern State of Israel has built a nation, forged a new and dynamic democracy, and created a thriving economic, political, cultural and intellectual society. The people of Israel have established a pluralistic, democratic political system, including freedom of speech, association, and religion; a free press; free and open elections; the rule of law; and a fully independent judiciary. Their efforts and achievements have led the American people to feel a strong affinity for the Israeli people based on common values and shared cultural heritage.

This week, Jewish people around the world are celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover. Passover commemorates the Exodus from Egypt and the liberation of the Israelites from slavery. It is traditional for a Jewish family to gather on the first night of Passover for a special dinner called a Seder. While many Jewish holidays revolve around the synagogue, the Seder is conducted in the family home. It is customary to invite guests, especially strangers and the needy to share with their fellow human beings the story of struggle, poverty, oppression, and survival. I had the pleasure of attending a Seder in Houston with Pastor Kirby John Caldwell and his wife Suzette.

The story of Passover should have a special meaning this year to those who seek to support individuals around the world who suffer from poverty, slavery, and injustice. Let the celebration of the founding of Israel be a symbol to the world of how a people who have experienced oppression and violence can rise to be strong, free and independent.

I am proud to support H. Con. Res. 322, a resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel.