

After three bloody assaults upon Puebla in which over a thousand gallant Frenchmen lost their lives, the French troops were finally defeated and driven back by the outnumbered Mexican troops. Although the Mexican army was victorious over the French at Puebla, the victory only delayed the French invasion on Mexico City; a year later, the French occupied Mexico. The courageous and heroic spirit that Mexican General Zaragoza and his men displayed during this historic battle can never be forgotten.

While Cinco de Mayo has limited significance nationwide in Mexico, the date is observed in the United States and other locations around the world as a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride. However, a common misconception in the United States is that Cinco de Mayo is Mexico's Independence Day, which actually is September 16, the most important national patriotic holiday in Mexico. The Cinco de Mayo holiday is not only the commemoration of the rout of the French troops at the town of Puebla in Mexico, but is also a celebration of the virtues of individual courage and patriotism, which all Americans can appreciate. Cinco de Mayo also serves as a reminder of the close spiritual and economic ties between the people of Mexico and the people of the United States, and is especially important for the people of the southwestern States where millions of Mexicans and Mexican-Americans make their homes. In a larger sense Cinco de Mayo symbolizes the right of a free people to self-determination and should be recognized and honored by this Congress.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as a native of southern California, Cinco de Mayo celebrations have been a part of my life as long as I can remember. It is a day to celebrate our southern neighbors and the cause of Mexican independence. The historic battle at Puebla, Mexico on the fifth of May, 1862, is a David versus Goliath story that demonstrates that man can overcome any obstacle in the pursuit of freedom. On Cinco de Mayo we remember the brave stand at Puebla and we celebrate the cause of freedom around the world.

Mr. BOOZMAN. I want to thank Mr. BACA for bringing this forward, and I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 230, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF ISRAEL

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the con-

current resolution (H. Con. Res. 111) recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 111

Whereas on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence;

Whereas the United States was one of the first nations to recognize Israel, only 11 minutes after its creation;

Whereas Israel has provided the opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland;

Whereas Israel is home to many religious sites sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam;

Whereas Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the unprecedented horrors of the Holocaust;

Whereas the people of Israel have established a pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed;

Whereas Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens;

Whereas Israel has bravely defended itself from terrorist and military attacks repeatedly since independence;

Whereas the rocket attacks that have occurred in Israel in recent years have caused hundreds of casualties and have destroyed homes, schools, buildings, roads, power lines, and other significant infrastructure;

Whereas Israel has signed landmark peace treaties and successfully established peaceful bilateral relations with neighboring Egypt and Jordan;

Whereas despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of murderous, suicide bombers and other terrorists, the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors;

Whereas Iran, which rejects Israel's right to exist as a nation, is a continued threat to Israel's safety and security, both through its support of terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah and through its ongoing efforts to acquire nuclear weapons;

Whereas the United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect;

Whereas the people of the United States share an affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally;

Whereas Israel has made significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology; and

Whereas Israel's Independence Day on the Jewish calendar coincides this year with April 29, 2009: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people and in establishing a democracy in the Middle East;

(2) commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and well-being;

(3) congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral rela-

tions in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and

(4) extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 111, recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Since its founding 61 years ago, the modern State of Israel has been a strong ally of the United States, Israel has established itself as a dynamic, pluralistic and democratic nation with a booming economy, a thriving culture and intellectual life. Contemporary Israelis have contributed to world civilizations as scholars, inventors, artists and educators, and Israeli citizens have been awarded the Nobel Prize. Israel is the home to many outstanding scientists, engineers, doctors, musicians and other hardworking people. This is an impressive record for a country of barely 7 million people.

Since Israel's founding, the United States has had no greater friend in the Middle East. The close bond is based on shared values, including a commitment to democracy and respect for human rights. The United States and Israel also share a common history as a nation of immigrants, many of whom fled persecution from other parts of the world. The United States and Israel have worked to welcome people in their borders.

Israel declared its independence on May 14, 1948, providing opportunity for Jews from all over the world to reestablish their ancient homeland. Israel remains the home of many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Israelis continue to serve as a model of democracy and democratic values by holding free and fair elections, promoting free and fair exchange of ideas, having open press, open media and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of all its citizens. As a matter of fact, in the Knesset, just about every small group may be represented, and it is considered to be for Israel, as compared to

other nations, the most democratic by the manner in which it is created. I am certainly convinced that America and Israel will remain and retain their very strong and special relationships for years to come.

H. Con. Res. 111 reaffirms these bonds of friendship and cooperation and expresses a commitment to strengthen them as we move forward.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution commending the 61 years of Israel's existence as a beacon of democracy and hope in the Middle East. I look forward to future anniversaries and to the day when Israel and her civilians can live in true peace and true security.

I strongly support this resolution, and I strongly urge that all my colleagues do the same.

For thirty-one years, not one of Israel's Arab neighbors recognized the Jewish State. Finally, in 1979 and 1994, in respectively, visionary Arab leaders Anwar Sadat of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan embraced the path of co-existence and signed peace treaties with Israel. I am convinced that someday the other Arab states will follow suit.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as we, today, commemorate 61 years of Israeli independence, we commemorate and celebrate so much more. We celebrate 61 years of the exercise of vibrant liberty, democracy and opportunity for those of all faiths. We celebrate over six decades of the revitalization of the Jewish homeland where Jewish culture, literature and philosophy have flourished. We celebrate 61 years of Israeli achievements in science and technology and business, achievements defined by continual innovation and entrepreneurship, and we celebrate the hard work, determination and love of peace displayed by the people of Israel, a people with whom we share our deepest values.

In short, Mr. Speaker, today we celebrate a quintessentially American story, an example of what other countries in the Middle East and beyond can achieve if they unleash the power of human freedom.

But as we celebrate, we cannot and must not ignore the continued and growing threats to Israel's survival. At the United Nations, Israel, like the United States, is singled out for bogus criticism and judged by double standards. Most recently at the Durban II conference in Geneva, speaker after speaker lambasted Israel for supposed racism, and the assembled nations passed a declaration that criticized Israel alone among nations. Of course, the most memorable and infamous moment from the Durban II was Iranian leader Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech where he savagely attacked the State of Israel and advanced anti-Semitic conspiracy theories that could have been taken verbatim from the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. Ahmadinejad has repeatedly called for Israel's de-

struction, and given the Iranian regime's pursuit of nuclear, chemical, biological and missile capabilities, he and his ilk may soon have the wherewithal to make good their threats. The prospect of an emboldened nuclear Iran is a threat to Israel, a threat to the United States, and a threat to us all, and we cannot stand idly by in the face of this danger.

Likewise, to Israel's north, Syria's dictator has threatened Israel with violence and brags of his support for the violent Islamist group Hezbollah, which continues to increase its capabilities to diminish Israel. Southern Israel continues to endure the nearly 9,000 rocket missiles and mortars that have been fired into Israel since 2001, more than 6,000 of them since Israel withdrew entirely from the Gaza Strip in November 2005. The result has been numerous Israeli deaths, physical and psychological wounds, and unceasing panic in the towns and cities within range of Hamas's artillery.

As we witnessed in the recent conflict in Gaza, Hamas's capabilities continue to expand; thus, as we celebrate the anniversary of Israeli independence, and with it the creation of a bastion of democracy in a sea of autocracy, we must remain mindful of the challenges that she faces. In short, the bond between our Nations and our people have never been stronger. The United States could not ask for a better friend and ally in the region, and I assure the Israeli people that they will always be able to depend on the United States and the American people.

I would like to extend my best wishes and congratulations to the people of the State of Israel on their 61st independence day.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. At this time, I yield 5 minutes to the delegate from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA).

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank my good friend from New Jersey for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 111, the legislation which expresses the sense of Congress recognizing and extending warm congratulations to the State of Israel for the 61st anniversary of its independence. First, I want to commend the chief sponsor, Mr. SCOTT GARRETT of New Jersey, for introducing this important resolution celebrating this occasion on Israel's 61st birthday. I also want to recognize the cosponsors for their strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 111.

Mr. Speaker, on May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was founded when Israel declared independence and was extended diplomatic recognition by the United States. We must acknowledge the importance of the actions made by the United Nations in the 1940s in creating the Jewish State soon after the horrific atrocities committed by the

Nazis during World War II where they killed some 6 million Jews and imprisoned and viciously tortured many more in concentration camps.

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Mr. Speaker, this legislation honors the anniversary of the reestablishment of the sovereign and independent modern State of Israel and commends the leaders and the people of Israel for their remarkable achievements in building a strong and thriving democracy in the Middle East, while being threatened constantly with terrorism and war. The United States shares an affinity with the people of Israel, where we have a strong partnership based on democratic values that emphasize the importance of inalienable rights through the protection of the rights of individuals, maintaining the freedom of the press, providing for freedom of religion, having open and fair elections and, importantly, maintaining the rule of law. As the only democracy in the Middle East, we must commend Israel for their steadfast commitment to upholding democratic principles.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is at the forefront of modern technology, and has continued to expand its advancements in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. I want to acknowledge Israel's efforts in preventing and combating diabetes in the Pacific Islands. This is an epidemic which has drastically impaired the people of the Pacific Island nations. Israel has continued to work with the people of the Pacific Island nations either through direct or technical assistance, and I must recognize them for their support of the least fortunate in this part of the world. This resolution reiterates Israel's significant global contributions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to praise the efforts of President Obama and his administration for making the Israeli Middle East peace process a high priority of this administration. This was reaffirmed when President Obama appointed Senator George Mitchell as Special Envoy for the Middle East process in his second day of office. Like President Obama, I believe that it is critical that Israel share a lasting peace with its neighbors in the Middle East and that a two-state solution, an Israeli state and a Palestinian state, will provide for peace and security in this important region of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I want to end on an important note. At the National Prayer Breakfast held this year, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair who is now the Quartet's Special Envoy to the Middle East, gave the most remarkable keynote address. In his speech, Prime Minister Blair mentioned a conversation he had with his Palestinian tour guide during his tour of Israel. At the Mount of Temptation in Jericho, and this is meant in humor, Mr. Speaker, his Palestinian tour guide said, "Moses, Jesus and Mohammed, why did they all have to come here?" This

speaks volumes of the importance of this region when three of the most important religions of the world have a common cultural and religious history with the great city of Jerusalem.

I believe today, as did the late prime minister and a great hero of mine, Yitzhak Rabin, that there will be a resolving and lasting peace between the Palestinians and Israelis who are in fact direct descendants of Father Abraham.

I keep telling my Arabic and Israeli friends: You guys are first cousins, why do you keep fighting each other? You are all sons and daughters of Father Abraham.

I want to convey my personal congratulations to the people of Israel in celebrating their 61st anniversary, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT), a member of the Budget and Financial Services Committees and the author of the resolution.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. I do now rise to commemorate this important event, the 61st anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel. As indicated, it was less than a century ago when most Jewish people were scattered throughout the world, often suffering from unjust persecution. Yet today, Israel is an independent, flourishing country that is vibrant as it goes forward day by day.

Just as the Jewish people celebrated Passover recently, the time when God delivered the Israelites out of captivity, I believe it is fitting and proper for us to celebrate the establishment of the only truly free country in the Middle East.

I have long been a strong advocate for Israel during my tenure here in Congress. During my very first term in office, I had an opportunity to visit Israel and to learn more about its people and the Jewish government. I also had the opportunity to establish a Jewish Advisory Committee in my district, to meet with Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Last year I introduced H. Res. 951, which condemned the rocket attacks on Israel, and I was pleased to see that this resolution passed the House overwhelmingly with bipartisan support.

So today, I come to the floor and am honored to speak on H. Con. Res. 111 because Israel has been one of our strongest allies, and our two countries have so very much in common. Israel and America have both faced so many wars. But we have also endeavored throughout it all to preserve the peace. And we continue now to promote freedom despite the ongoing resistance.

Earlier this year I joined with many of my constituents at a solidarity rally to remember Israel's efforts during Operation Cast Lead. I sympathized with the families of the victims who were injured and killed there.

This recent conflict served as a sobering reminder that liberty comes with a great price and a great responsibility. Yet Israel has not allowed challenges to suspend its progress. Israel was little more than a barren desert back in 1948. And, amazingly, this wilderness has been transformed into a center of thriving agricultural production. Not only has Israel been the source of innovative techniques, but it has also shared those techniques and that knowledge with countries across the world.

My own State of New Jersey is called the Garden State. Our State has directly benefited from the irrigation practices first developed by the people in Israel.

So I come to the floor right now grateful to how Israel has so freely shared their lessons that they have learned. By illustrating the virtues of liberty and the benefits of innovation, Israel today serves as a model for other developing nations.

This 61st anniversary is truly indeed a cause for celebration. I urge my constituents and colleagues to join me in recognizing this achievement of our friend and ally, Israel.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my final speaker, Mr. GOHMERT, a distinguished member of the Judiciary, Resources and Small Business Committees.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Arkansas yielding me this time.

On the 61st anniversary of the creation of Israel, we should stop to congratulate them. But I have a couple of points that I want to make sure that everyone understands.

Number one, there was a Holocaust. Number two, there could be another holocaust.

Now today, we are told that the Taliban is near Islamabad. If Pakistan falls to the most radical Islamic terrorists, then the world is in trouble. We need to protect our friends.

We know that Israel is a democracy, a great democracy; so we are and should be friends. We know that Israel believes in the value of human life and human rights. We are and should be friends.

Someone once referred to Israel as the miner's canary for the world because when Israel suffers, the world is about to suffer.

That's the kind of friend we need to hold close and work together with. I want to make clear these radical Islamic terrorists, they are such a tiny, tiny fraction of the Islamic believers in the world. But they are a dangerous, dangerous part that needs to be understood and dealt with.

Congratulations to Israel. They are our friend. They should be our friend, and we need to make sure another holocaust never happens.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H Con.

Res. 111, recognizing the 61st anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. I would like to thank my colleague, Representative SCOTT GARRETT, for introducing this act of solidarity. I would also like to thank my fellow cosponsors.

On May 14, 1948—61 years ago—the Jewish people of Palestine declared their independence as a sovereign state. Across the world, the Jewish people saw a new opportunity to reestablish their ancient homeland—the possibility of living, not as eternal outsiders, but as a nation.

Eleven minutes after this declaration, the United States became the first country to recognize the new state. This began a long, strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. To this day, Americans share an affinity with the people of Israel and view their country as a strong and trusted ally.

The new nation provided a refuge to millions who had survived one of the most glaring examples of man's greatest inhumanity to man. These survivors helped to found a democracy that made use of all the freedoms, we, as Americans hold dear ourselves, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Israel continues to serve as a shining model of democrat values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising, in the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens. The leaders in this parliament have, as the times have required, led Israel as the nation defended itself from repeated military and terrorist attacks.

Likewise, when they saw the opportunity, the democratically elected leaders of Israel have worked for peace, as they did with the neighboring governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations. These efforts continue to this day—despite the deaths of over 1,000 innocent Israelis over the last several years at the hands of suicide bombers and other terrorists—as the people of Israel continue to seek peace with their Palestinian neighbors, I will continue to work for a two-state solution and the saving of lives in Palestine and in Israel.

This is all to say nothing of the country's many other accomplishments, including significant global contributions in the fields of science, medicine, and technology.

That is why I stand here today—to recognize this simple truth—that the independence of the State of Israel is more than a single event—it is the stabilization of a region, it is the lasting friendship of a like-minded country—and it is the bond of sovereign friendship. That is what this resolution does.

To the administrations and Congresses that have, since its creation, stood by the people of Israel, working for their security and well-being, we give our praise. We further commend our allies who have helped us to strengthen our bilateral relations in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security. We also encourage them to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges, as we resolve, today and always, to continue ours. For that is also in this resolution.

Finally, I extend the warmest congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61 years of their noble

nation's independence and sovereignty. May they know many more, and thrive as a country.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, for the past 61 years, the United States and Israel have enjoyed a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, commitment to freedom, friendship, and respect. I rise today to recognize that relationship and congratulate the people of Israel on the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

In addition to congratulating the people of Israel as they celebrate their independence, H. Con. Res. 111, recognizes important events and people who have shaped this nation's history. While Israel's history is marked by proud accomplishments and successes, it is also peppered by instances when Israeli's had to defend their country from outside threats. Sadly, many threats still remain. As Americans join Israeli's in celebrating their country's independence, we should take notice of those threats and renew our commitment to addressing them.

No bigger, more challenging threat exists to Israel than that posed by Iran. Continuing to enrich uranium, Iran now has enough low enriched uranium that if further processed could produce a nuclear bomb. Such a development would be an existential threat to Israel. As one of Israel's closest friends and allies, the United States should take appropriate action to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons. Congress can begin by approving H.R. 1327, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act, and H.R. 1985, the Iran Diplomatic Enhancement Act.

By standing with Israel against Iran, we demonstrate the strength of the ties that bind our two nations. Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the people of Israel on the 61st anniversary of their independence and call on my colleagues in Congress to show their support for Israel by passing legislation that will pressure Iran into abandoning its pursuit of nuclear weapons.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 111 recognizing the 61st anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel.

This resolution enjoys bipartisan support, because Americans from across the political spectrum agree that the State of Israel is a great friend of the United States, and we all celebrate the anniversary of its founding today.

As we mark this anniversary, it is fitting that we also note a new American tradition. May 1st of this year marked the beginning of the 4th annual Jewish American Heritage Month, during which we celebrate the many contributions that American Jews have made to the society in which we live and thrive. When the first Jewish settlers came to this land, they sought a place of promise where they could practice their faith in freedom and live in liberty.

The history of Jews in the United States includes the earliest days of the Republic, when in 1790, a member of the oldest synagogue still standing in the United States—the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island—wrote to George Washington, expressing his support for Washington's administration and good wishes for the first President. President Washington sent a letter in response, which read in part:

. . . the Government of the United States . . . gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecu-

tion no assistance . . . May the children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the good will of the other Inhabitants; while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.

These many years later, I encourage all Americans to stop and think about the great gains in medicine, literature, journalism, law, entertainment, and fine arts that have been made due in no small part to the role of our Jewish friends and neighbors have played in American society.

I will also note that as a nation of immigrants, our culture has been enriched by the traditions that settlers from across the globe have been able to incorporate into their daily lives as Americans. In the Jewish culture, the phrase "tikkum olam" directs believers to live their lives to heal the world. There is no better guiding principle in these challenging times, and our shared American culture is stronger because of it.

On the occasion of Israel's 61st anniversary, and as we celebrate the contributions of Jewish Americans in our daily lives, I look forward to the future of our friend and ally, the State of Israel, and to the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

I will remain steadfast in my support of an independent Jewish state, and I am hopeful that we will soon reach the day when children will have to turn to the history books to learn that there ever was conflict in the Middle East.

President Obama has begun the vital work of reengaging the United States in the quest for peace in the Middle East by appointing George Mitchell as Special Envoy for Middle East Peace. As we commemorate the 61 historic years since the founding of the State of Israel, we must also look to the future, and I believe the future for Israel is bright.

I congratulate the State of Israel on its 61st anniversary, and I urge adoption of this Resolution.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 111, a resolution recognizing the 61st anniversary of the founding of the modern state of Israel. I believe it is important on this occasion to highlight the close bond between the United States and Israel. Just as the U.S. is a symbol of hope and freedom around the globe, Israel stands as a symbol of freedom and democracy in an area historically rampant with violence and oppression.

On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence, with the United States being the first country to formally recognize the new nation. Since that historic day, the United States and Israel have shared a close relationship of friendship and cooperation that serves as an example to the rest of the world. This relationship is strengthened with each successive year.

One critical aspect of the U.S.-Israeli relationship is the role Israel plays in the pursuit of peace in the Middle East. Indeed, Israel has worked hard to develop friendly working relationships with its neighbors, Egypt and Jordan, setting an example of leadership and peace even as many around them spread hatred and terror. And while recent years have unfortunately been marked by escalating armed con-

flict between Israel and Hamas, the United States will stand steadfast in its commitment to a free Israel as the Middle East comes to embrace the liberties and freedoms of democratic societies.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this resolution, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate the success of Israel on its 61st Anniversary. It is vital the United States continue to develop its strong relationship with Israel so that other countries around the world still oppressed and ruled by terror can see the true value of a free and democratic society.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on May 14, Israel will celebrate its 61st anniversary as a sovereign and independent nation. Only eleven minutes after its creation, the United States recognized Israel and was one of the first nations to do so. In these intervening 61 years, the people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy that includes the freedoms cherished by Americans.

Today, the United States House of Representatives voted on and approved House Concurrent Resolution 111 that states that Congress recognizes the independence of the State of Israel as a significant event in providing refuge and a national homeland for the Jewish people; commends the bipartisan commitment of all United States administrations and United States Congresses since 1948 to stand by Israel and work for its security and wellbeing; congratulates the United States and Israel for the strengthening of bilateral relations in recent years in the fields of defense, diplomacy, and homeland security, and encourages both nations to continue their cooperation in resolving future mutual challenges; and extends warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate the 61st anniversary of Israel's independence.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Concurrent Resolution 111 and I have consistently supported efforts to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. As a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I will continue to work with members on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our country remains steadfast in our support for Israel and its people.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, as many have said before, friendship is found and tested through adversity. The friendship between the United States and Israel has certainly been tried and proven true. Both our nations confront challenges that are rooted in extremism and terrorism. While America formerly found some comfort in distance, Israel stands as a true testament to freedom and democracy in the Middle East—but Israel does not stand alone. The commitments between Israel and the United States are not born out of mere necessity, but out of mutual respect and the common belief that all of mankind deserves to live in peace and freedom.

On the 61st Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel, I offer my gratitude and congratulations to a steady ally and friend.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this very important resolution, and thank the gentleman from New Jersey for bringing it forward. Again, I urge all of our House Members to vote in the affirmative, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 111.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF MALARIA AWARENESS DAY

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 103) supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 103

Whereas April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as Africa Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day;

Whereas despite malaria being completely preventable and treatable and the fact that malaria was eliminated from the United States over 50 years ago, more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting malaria;

Whereas, according to the World Health Organization, nearly 1,000,000 people die from malaria each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa;

Whereas malaria greatly affects child health, roughly every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria, and more than 3,000 children die from malaria every day;

Whereas malaria poses great risks to maternal health, causing complications during delivery, anemia, and low birth weights, with estimates by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention that malaria infection causes 400,000 cases of severe maternal anemia and from 75,000 to 200,000 infant deaths annually in sub-Saharan Africa;

Whereas HIV infection increases the risk and severity of malarial illness, and malaria increases the viral load in HIV-positive people, which can lead to increased transmission of HIV and more rapid disease progression, with substantial public health implications;

Whereas in malarial regions, many people are co-infected with malaria and one or more of the neglected tropical diseases, such as hookworm and schistosomiasis, which causes a pronounced exacerbation of anemia and several adverse health consequences;

Whereas the malnutrition and consequent chronic illness that result from childhood malaria leads to increased absenteeism in school and perpetuates cycles of poverty;

Whereas an estimated 90 percent of deaths from malaria occur in Africa and the Roll Back Malaria Partnership estimates that

malaria costs African countries \$12,000,000,000 in lost economic productivity each year;

Whereas the World Health Organization estimates that malaria accounts for 40 percent of health care expenditures in high-burden countries, demonstrating that effective, long-term malaria control is inextricably linked to the strength of health systems;

Whereas heightened efforts over recent years to prevent and treat malaria are currently saving lives;

Whereas progress and funding to control malaria has increased ten-fold since 2000, in large part due, to funding under the President's Malaria Initiative (a United States Government initiative designed to cut malaria deaths in half in target countries in sub-Saharan Africa), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, and new financing by other donors;

Whereas the President's Malaria Initiative has purchased almost 13,000,000 artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACT), protected over 17,000,000 people through spraying campaigns, and distributed over 6,000,000 insecticide-treated bed nets, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has distributed 7,000,000 bed nets to protect families from malaria and provided 74,000,000 malaria patients with ACTs, and the World Bank's Booster Program is scheduled to commit approximately \$500,000,000 in International Development Association funds for malaria control in Africa;

Whereas public and private partners are developing effective and affordable drugs to treat malaria, with more than 23 types of malaria vaccines in development;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, vector control, or the prevention of malaria transmission via anopheles mosquitoes, which includes a combination of methods such as insecticide-treated bed nets, indoor residual spraying, and source reduction (larval control), has been shown to reduce severe morbidity and mortality due to malaria in endemic regions;

Whereas the impact of malaria efforts have been documented in numerous regions, such as in Zanzibar, where malaria prevalence among children shrank from 20 percent to less than 1 percent between 2005 and 2007, and in Rwanda, where malaria cases and deaths appeared to decline rapidly after a large-scale distribution of bed nets and malaria treatments in 2006; and

Whereas a malaria-free future will rely on consistent international, national and local leadership, and a comprehensive approach addressing the range of health, development, and economic challenges facing developing countries: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day, including the achievable target of ending malaria deaths by 2015;

(2) calls upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to raise awareness and support to save the lives of those affected by malaria;

(3) reaffirms the goals and commitments to combat malaria outlined in the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008;

(4) commends the progress made during the last year by anti-malaria programs including the President's Malaria Initiative and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;

(5) recognizes the work of the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and affirms United States support for and contribution toward the achievement of the following targets:

(A) Achieve universal coverage for all populations at risk with locally appropriate interventions for prevention and case management by 2010 and sustain universal coverage until local field research suggests that coverage can gradually be targeted to high-risk areas and seasons only, without risk of a generalized resurgence.

(B) Reduce global malaria cases from 2000 levels by 50 percent in 2010 and by 75 percent in 2015.

(C) End malaria deaths by 2015.

(6) encourages fellow donor nations to maintain their support and honor their funding commitments for Malaria programs worldwide;

(7) urges greater integration between United States and international health programs that target malaria, HIV, Tuberculosis, neglected tropical diseases, and basic child and maternal health; and

(8) commits to continued United States leadership in efforts to reduce global malaria deaths, especially through strengthening health care systems that can deliver effective, safe, high-quality interventions when and where they are needed, and assure access to reliable health information and effective disease surveillance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, H. Con. Res. 103, supporting the goals and ideals of Malaria Awareness Day.

April 25 of each year is recognized internationally as Africa Malaria Day and in the United States as Malaria Awareness Day.

I introduced this resolution with my colleague and Congressional Malaria Caucus co-Chair, Congressman JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas, a true partner in the fight against malaria and so many other good causes, and I would like to thank him for his partnership and his continued commitment to ending malaria, and to so many other important issues pertaining to Africa.

We introduced this resolution to remind the Congress, the country, and the world that malaria is preventable and is treatable.

Malaria was eliminated from the United States over 50 years ago, yet more than 40 percent of the world's population is still at risk of contracting this disease. The World Health Organization reports that malaria claims the lives of nearly 1 million people each year, the vast majority of whom are children under the age of 5 in Africa.