

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, Tuesday, April 20, 2010 marked the observance of National Equal Pay Day—a time to celebrate the women who have blazed trails for gender equality, reflect on the progress that has been made since the Equal Pay Act and recommit ourselves to closing the wage gap between women and men.

When the Equal Pay Act became law in 1963, women who worked full-time, year-round made 59 cents on average for every dollar earned by men. That figure only went up to 77 cents for every dollar earned by men in 2008. It is unconscionable that more than 40 years later, women continue to be paid less for performing the same job as their male colleagues. Equal Pay Day reminds us of the need to recommit to ending the injustice of wage discrimination.

Last year, one of the first major bills signed into law by President Obama in January 2009, was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act which restores the right of women and other minorities to challenge unfair pay in court. Specifically, the bill overturned a 2007 Supreme Court decision that made it much harder for women and other minority groups to pursue pay discrimination claims. As long as workers file their charges within 180 days of a discriminatory paycheck, their claims for a remedy will be considered timely.

In January 2009, the House of Representatives also passed the Paycheck Fairness Act which closes the loopholes in the Equal Pay Act and imposes penalties on employers who discriminate based on gender. We look forward to working with the Senate to complete this bill and send it to the President's desk.

Pay inequity is not just an issue that impacts women; families, communities, and our entire economy suffer because of this injustice. Our Nation is still recovering from an economic recession and thousands of Americans continue to struggle to make ends meet. We should not allow pay inequity to exacerbate our economic challenges.

Let us reaffirm our commitment to eliminating this inequality so that we can truly achieve equal pay for equal work.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 62nd Anniversary of the Jewish State of Israel. On April 19, 2010, Israel celebrated Yom Ha'atzmaut, the national Independence Day of Israel, which commemorates its founding in 1948. In that spirit, the following is an op-ed I wrote regarding the benefits of U.S. aid to Israel.

ROTHMAN: THE DIVIDENDS OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL—APRIL 13, 2010—THE RECORD.

The argument that American military aid to Israel is damaging to the United States is

not only erroneous, it hurts the national security interests of this country and threatens the survival of Israel.

U.S. support for Israel is essential, not only for Israel's national security, but for America's. Every bit of that support—and more—withstands all reasonable scrutiny.

Under the 2010 U.S. budget, about \$75 billion, \$65 billion and \$3.25 billion will be spent on military operations and aid in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan during this fiscal year, respectively. Israel will receive \$3 billion, in military aid only. There is no economic aid to Israel, other than loan guarantees that continue to be repaid in full and on time.

There isn't enough space here to discuss the relative merits of the expenditures in these other countries, but we already know the critically important return we get for helping our oldest, most trusted ally in the strategically important Middle East—the most powerful military force in that region, the pro-United States, pro-West and democratic Jewish state of Israel.

Here's how:

First, it's important to remember that about 70 percent of the \$3 billion aid must be used by Israel to purchase American military equipment. This provides real support for U.S. high-tech defense jobs and contributes to maintaining our industrial base. This helps the United States stay at the very top in the manufacturing of our own cutting-edge military munitions, aircraft, vehicles, missiles and virtually every defensive and offensive weapon in the U.S. arsenal—with the added contribution of Israel's renowned technical know-how.

Second, the United States and Israel are jointly developing state-of-the-art missile defense capabilities in the David's Sling and Arrow 3 systems. These two technologies build on the already successful Arrow 2, jointly developed by our two countries, which is already providing missile defense security to Israel and U.S. civilians and ground troops throughout the region.

A MULTIPLIER EFFECT

The knowledge we gain from these efforts also has a positive multiplier effect on applications to other U.S. military and non-military uses and jobs here.

Third, given Israel's strategic location on the Mediterranean, with access to the Red Sea and other vital international shipping and military lanes of commerce and traffic, it is critically important to the United States that Israel continue to serve as a port of call for our troops, ships, aircraft and intelligence operations.

Israel also has permitted the United States to stockpile arms, fuel, munitions and other supplies on its soil to be accessed whenever America needs them in the region.

Fourth, America's special relationship with Israel provides us with real-time, minute-to-minute access to one of the best, intelligence services in the world: Israel's. With Israeli agents gathering intelligence and taking action throughout the Middle East and, literally, around the world, regarding al-Qaida, Hezbollah, Iran and Hamas, the U.S. receives invaluable information about anti-U.S. and terrorist organizations and regimes.

Fifth, imagine the additional terrible cost in U.S. blood, and the hundreds of billions more of American taxpayer dollars, if Saddam Hussein had developed nuclear weapons, or if Syria possessed them.

Then remember that it was Israel that destroyed the almost-completed nuclear reactor at Osirak, Iraq, in 1981 and Syria's nuclear facility under construction at Deir-ez-Zor in 2007.

And think about the many operations that Israel's Defense Forces and intelligence

agents have undertaken to foil, slow and disrupt Iran's efforts to develop a nuclear weapons capability. A nuclear-armed Iran would threaten the lives of hundreds of thousands of Americans in the region, all of Iran's Arab neighbors, the world's largest oil supplies and those who rely on that oil.

ACCESS TO LETHAL IRANIAN TECHNOLOGY

It also would provide anti-U.S. terrorists with access to the most lethal Iranian technology and probably set off a nuclear arms race in the region.

For about 2 percent of what the United States spends in Afghanistan, Iraq and Pakistan this year, Americans can take pride in the return on our investment in aid to Israel.

And with Israel's truly invaluable assistance to America's vital national security, we can take comfort that—in actions seen in Tehran and Damascus and noticed by al-Qaida and other anti-U.S. terrorists everywhere—the United States is safer and made more secure because of the mutually dependent and beneficial relationship between us and Israel.

HONORING ISRAELI
INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the 62nd Anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel. Much like our July 4th, this day commemorates the date on which David Ben Gurion read the formal Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel drafted by a coalition of Zionist leaders, voted on by the People's Council (Moetzet Ha'am) and signed by 37 founding mothers and fathers of the Jewish State.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations approved a partition plan to take effect upon the expiration of the British Mandate. The partition plan was immediately rejected by the Arabs and armies from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria attacked to try to destroy the fledgling Jewish State before it could be established. During the War of Independence, the Jewish Settlement (Yishuv), under the leadership of David Ben Gurion, formally established the State of Israel.

The Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was signed on May 14, 1948, which fell on the 5th of the Hebrew Month of Iyar, the date the British Mandate over Palestine expired. At a ceremony held at the Tel Aviv Museum, now known as Independence Hall, David Ben Gurion read the Declaration and 25 of the 37 signatories formally affixed their signatures before a crowd of 250 invited guests and a radio audience of countless listeners. Eleven of those who ultimately signed the Declaration were trapped in Jerusalem which was then under siege; the 12th was abroad at the time of the ceremony.

Eleven minutes after the declaration was signed, President Truman de facto recognized the State of Israel. America shares an unshakable bond with Israel, born of our shared values and our common outlook. We are both nations of immigrants that believe the path to success lies in invention, creation and investment. We are both nations that believe in the rule of law and the importance of a

strong and independent judiciary. We are both nations that were created by pioneers seeking religious freedom. We are both pluralistic nations in which what you know and what you create is more important than who you are and where you came from. And, the United States must stand with Israel and must work to ensure that Israel endures as a Jewish State.

In the 62 years that followed its establishment, Israel has survived and flourished despite the repeated efforts to destroy her. Israel is a vigorous democracy, our strongest ally in the Middle East. Her economy is thriving, in large part as a result of her agricultural, technological and medical innovations. With a free and active press, freedom of religion, free elections and a free and independent judiciary, Israelis of all religions and nationalities enjoy rights and opportunities unimaginable elsewhere in the Middle East.

Israel constitutes a fraction of 1% of the land mass and only 2% of the population of the Middle East. Nonetheless, Israel far outshines much of the world in terms of academic, scientific and technological achievement. Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees per capita in the world and produces more scientific papers and more books per capita than any other nation in the world. It is the only nation in the world that has had a net increase in the number of trees. Israel has transformed itself from an impoverished backwater to a gleaming modern nation, ranking among the very highly developed countries of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Israel for its 62 years of independence, innovation and enterprise.

TRIBUTE TO THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA VETERANS ON THE SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 2010 HONOR FLIGHT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the nearly 100 World War II veterans from Southwest Florida traveling to Washington, DC on the Honor Flight on Saturday, April 24, 2010.

Since its inception in 2005, Honor Flight has flown tens of thousands of World War II veterans to our nation's capital to view the World War II Memorial. Thanks to the generosity of thousands of volunteers and businesses around the country, these heroes have an opportunity to visit the Memorial that was built to honor their service to our great nation.

I would like to recognize the following men and women from Southwest Florida who are taking the Honor Flight to Washington, DC: Kurt Boenker, Fred Warner, Vincent Marinera, Carl Price, Joseph Harrington, James Jarvis, Norman Jarvis, David Smith, Lawrence Phelan, Thomas Withrow, Robert Bricker, Henry Chiminello, Robert Voege, Robert Schugg, Jack Anderson, James Cusick, Jr., Jack Blachley, Robert Hall, William Wardle, Ralph Cook, Leonard Nallman, Donald Lester, Thomas Mac Kimmie, Robert Stilson, John Drake, James Hausler, Alfred Pagles, Stanley Parks, Eugene Roaf, Edward Coombs, Ber-

nard Brehm, Aubrey Smith, Ronald Birchler, Elwood Grube, Ira Weisblum, George Brown, John Nemeth, Kenneth Sayers, Edward Sturm, Eugene Poslaiko, Emmett Yoder, Jr., Charles Brandenburg, Eleanor Purser, Dorothy Kurtz, Louis Spencer, Joseph Beauchamp, David McKalip, Kenneth Ferris, Robert Partington, George Mann, Donald Bunner, Frank Parker, Michael Ursitti, Elias Ursitti, Charles Rogers, Forrest Yeager, Paul Groves, La Moine Heimstead, Edward Texley, Robert Demmink, Curtiss Sarff, Ervin Loche, Paul Wilcox, Dominic Franciose, George Doucette, John Heck, Frank Barletta, Frank Oden, Jr., Wesley Bates, Eugene Andrews, Jorgen Brinch, Frank Mazzarisi, Edwin Ratcliffe, Lewis Riggles, Charles Briner, Carl Loiocano, Carlton Carson, Lew Hall and Frank Burns.

Throughout our nation's history, men and women have answered the call of duty in times of peace and in times of conflict. These veterans and their sacrifices have helped to preserve liberty and freedom around the world.

I would like to thank these veterans for their commitment to our country. I am honored to have these brave men and women visit Washington, DC. Madam Speaker, it is a true honor to represent these heroes in Congress.

COMMEMORATING DR. BARBARA-JAYNE LEWTHWAITE AS 12TH PRESIDENT OF CENTENARY COLLEGE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Dr. Barbara-Jayne Lewthwaite upon being inaugurated as the 12th President of Centenary College in Hackettstown, New Jersey.

Dr. Lewthwaite is only the second woman and second former faculty member to hold the position since Centenary's founding in 1867. Part of the Centenary College community for more than 20 years, she brings to the post sound academic credentials, strong educational leadership skills and valuable business acumen.

Dr. Lewthwaite was appointed Acting President of the College on January 1, 2009. Since that time, she has used her academic background to enhance the College's mission: providing a student-centered liberal arts education with a career focus and a special emphasis on community service.

Before assuming the Presidency, Dr. Lewthwaite served Centenary in several leadership positions, including Chief Academic Officer and Acting Chief Operating Officer. As a member of Centenary's Executive Staff since 2003, she spearheaded significant accomplishments at the college: supporting the development of a faculty of talented teachers and scholars; upgrading academic expectations that are grounded in the adoption of standards such as the Centenary Greater Expectation Learning Outcomes; leading the academic assessment movement that resulted in the College being the first in New Jersey to receive pre-accreditation from the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC); achieving extensive articulation agreements with local

and global partners; and undertaking a major revision of the curriculum which included movement from a three-credit to a four-credit course curriculum, and numerous faculty-generated enhancements that have focused on experiential learning, service learning, global initiatives, and substantive new online offerings in the adult and traditional student programs on the graduate and undergraduate level.

Madam Speaker, we are fortunate to have Dr. Lewthwaite at the helm of Centenary College in northwestern New Jersey. With her leadership I am confident that Centenary will continue to provide high-quality education to its students, preparing them for the 21st Century.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2009–2010 Congressional Youth Advisory Council. This year 45 students from public, private, and home schools in grades 9 through 12 made their voices heard and made a difference in their communities, their country and their Congress. These students volunteered their time, effort, and talent to inform me about the important issues facing their generation. As young leaders within their communities and their schools, these students boldly represent the promise and the hope we all have for their very bright future.

President Ronald Reagan said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

To ensure that the blessing of freedom is passed from one generation to the next, the members of the CYAC spent time interviewing a veteran and documenting the experience for the "Preserving History Project." Today I'm proud to submit the brief summaries provided so the patriotic service of our dedicated veterans and the thoughtful work of the CYAC may be preserved for antiquity in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. A copy of each submitted student summary follows.

To each member of the Congressional Youth Advisory Council, thank you for making this year and this group a success. It is not a coincidence that this congressional tribute celebrates two generations of service. Each of you is trusted with the precious gift of freedom.

You are the voices of the future and I salute you. God bless you and God bless America.

The summary follows:

Major Scott Edward Barnett, has accomplished so much in his life. After talking to him, I understand that being in the military is a very rewarding life experience. I have learned so much after interviewing him.