

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. TODD NELSON

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the years of service given to the people of Chautauqua County by Mr. Todd Nelson. Mr. Nelson served his constituency faithfully and justly during his tenure as the Kiantone Town Justice.

Public service is a difficult and fulfilling career. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Nelson served his term with his head held high and a smile on his face the entire way. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the people of Chautauqua County.

We are truly blessed to have such strong individuals with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Nelson is one of those people and that is why Madam Speaker I rise in tribute to him today.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, this week we witnessed the 62nd anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel. It is an occasion to celebrate the achievements of a country that, like the United States, aspires to be a land of peace, prosperity and the pursuit of happiness.

The United States and Israel are bound by a common history forged by those who dared to dream of democracy and freedom; of civil and human rights; of laws and not wishes. President Harry Truman was the first world leader to recognize the Israeli declaration of independence in 1948. Other countries soon followed. In this way, with the United States at its side, Israel entered the community of nations.

We continue to share that sacred bond born in 1948. The bond carries with it a burden that all such undeniable relationships bring—the responsibility to celebrate our successes, and to address our challenges. We are both stronger nations because of this. To do otherwise would be to diminish that special bond.

An anniversary is also an opportunity to think about the future and therefore this is a time for us to renew our commitment to work for peace. As former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said, “We must think differently, look at things in a different way. Peace requires a world of new concepts, new definitions.” As a friend and ally of Israel, I look forward to the work of nurturing the seeds of peace that will sustain and protect Israel.

TRIBUTE TO JOAN HASKELL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Joan Haskell from the Marshall County Farm Bureau, and to express my appreciation for her 14 years of service to her community.

A Marshall County native with a strong agriculture background, Ms. Haskell achieved the position of Office Administrator with the Bureau's federation staff. Her extensive work with members of the Farm Bureau since 1995 has earned Joan the respect and appreciation of her community.

Madam Speaker, I commend Joan Haskell for her many years of loyalty and dedication to her fellow Iowans. It is an honor to represent Joan in the United States House of Representatives, and I know that my colleagues join me in wishing her a happy and healthy retirement.

HONORING ISRAELI INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 62nd anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

Sixty-two years ago, a brave group of Jews living in the Middle East made the audacious claim that a Jewish State could be successfully re-invented in their ancient homeland. More than 2,000 years after the last independent Jewish government had come to an end, they believed they could somehow re-establish a Jewish state, almost from scratch, in a way that had never happened before, anywhere in the world.

These daring Jews came from all around the globe: from Yemen, from Russia, from France, from the United States, and, in many cases, from the very land that was about to become the State of Israel. They shared a common heritage, but it remained to be seen whether these disparate peoples could unify to develop a country or a common culture. Could they even agree on what kind of government to form? Or what laws to pass?

Their claim was particularly bold, given that seven Arab neighbors stood ready to destroy this state in its infancy. Armed with some of the most advanced weaponry known to man, these Arab countries were determined never to allow a Jewish state in their neighborhood. But, in what can only be described as a miracle, this tiny Jewish state survived those initial days and fought to victory in 1948. They did it again in 1956, 1967 and 1973. In fact,

every time Arab countries sought to destroy Israel, they found the Israelis stronger and more determined than ever to survive.

Seeing that the military option wasn't successful, the Arab nations turned toward a different method to try to destroy Israel: terrorism. Through rockets, bus bombings, suicide attacks, hostage crises and the murders of countless innocent civilians, Israel has continued to survive, determined that life will go on, as usual, no matter what the obstacle or challenge.

Israel's enemies have also tried to use the United Nations, UN, to delegitimize it. They have passed resolutions in the UN equating Zionism with racism. They have created entire agencies at the UN to highlight Israel's alleged “war crimes.” And they have hijacked the UN Human Rights Council to push their own racist, anti-Semitic agenda.

And despite all of these enemies, Israel has demonstrated over and over its desire and yearning to live in peace. They willingly gave up the Sinai to make peace with Egypt, and signed a peace agreement with Jordan in 1994. They withdrew from Lebanon a decade ago and pulled out of Gaza in 2005, all in hopes they would find a peace partner on the other side.

But instead, Israel's offers have been spurned, and their adversaries have refused to negotiate. Their so-called “partners” say that Israel must make unreasonable concessions before they will even sit down and negotiate with them. When Arab leaders were invited to attend a peace conference with Israel, in 2007, they even refused to walk through the same door as Israel's leaders.

Through all this, the United States has stood by Israel, even in these darkest of times. We provided Israel with weapons, with technical expertise and a friendship that has endured through generation after generation of American leadership. The American people demand no less: we believe in the Jewish people's right to a homeland, and their right to live in peace, as our democratic ally. This position does not win us friends in the Muslim world, but we stand by this position because we know it is right. The people of Israel, I know, are eternally grateful for this friendship and have repaid it with their loyalty throughout the years of its existence.

I am extremely proud of the strong U.S.-Israel relationship and I call on the Obama Administration to continue this tradition of strong U.S. support for Israel. We must focus our attention not on minor irritants in our bilateral relationship, but on bringing the parties together to meet face-to-face for negotiations. We cannot impose any solution on them; only they can come up with a negotiated solution that strengthens the security for both sides and brings about a state for the Palestinian people. Only they can bring peace to this region.

Mr. Speaker, the idea of the State of Israel is as audacious today as it was 62 years ago. It shows that a group of determined individuals can successfully band together and triumph in the most difficult of circumstances. It shows

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

that David can defeat Goliath, with the proper planning, courage and determination.

I honor and stand in awe of the State of Israel on its 62nd birthday. It is an achievement many people thought would never be possible. On this historic day, I call on my colleagues to join me in congratulating Israel on this milestone and in assuring them of U.S. support for generations to come.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF BO JOOST ON HIS OFFER OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Bo Joost of Sherwood, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Bo's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Naval Academy this fall with the incoming midshipmen Class of 2014. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education while placing demands on those who undertake one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives.

Bo brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming Class of 2014. While attending Fairview High School in Sherwood, Ohio, Bo attained a grade point average of 4.0 that placed him first in his graduating class. He was inducted into the National Honor Society where he served as vice president his senior year. Bo was also a member of the Varsity Club and Foreign Language Society.

Throughout high school, Bo participated in the football, baseball, and archery teams, having served as co-Captain of the varsity football team his senior year. Bo has been active and held numerous leadership positions in Student Council, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Students Against Destructive Decisions, Students for Action in Education, served as a D.A.R.E. role model, and participated in Lutheran Youth Fellowship. Bo also volunteers for relay for life, central shares, and vacation bible school. I am confident that Bo will carry the lessons of his student leadership to the Naval Academy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Bo Joost on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available. I am positive that Bo will excel during his career at the Naval Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the Nation.

THE CONGRESSIONAL YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: A LEGACY OF SERVICE

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 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:

I chose someone who was close to the hearts of my family, a man of God, and someone who is loyal to his country, Captain Jones. Born and raised in El Paso, Texas, after Captain Jones joined the Navy, he expanded tremendously beyond those Texas border lines. Captain Jones has a genuine outlook on the thirty-five years he served in the Navy and is nothing less than satisfied with those years. He finished college while gaining his commission in the Navy, and still had an ample amount of time to continue serving in the military, which he did with full devotion and determination. Captain Jones is a great man, and his story is one of a kind. Prior to this exceptional interview, I already had a great appreciation for the Navy, as well as the other branches of service, because I grew up with a father who actively served to protect the United States of America. Even with my previous knowledge and gratitude of the military service, after I completed the personal interview with Captain Jones, my eyes and my mind were open to more reasons why I truly support all of the troops. I still get a sudden shock when I hear that one person in the

crowd, say anything but good things about the United States Military Force. However, as Captain Jones would so kindly put it, "Don't be narrow minded to the good opportunities that the military has to offer."—Valencia King

TRIBUTE TO EMMA SKAHILL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Emma Skahill, of Earlham, Iowa, who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. The 2010 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program recently named Emma as a Distinguished Finalist of top youth volunteers in Iowa for her part in organizing a fund-raising walk and awareness campaign to help with the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house for a Mississippi family in need.

Created in 1995, by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards annually honors the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia. This organization strives to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, while inspiring other young individuals to follow their example. Over the past 15 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored nearly 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Madam Speaker, individuals such as Emma Skahill must be recognized and applauded for their sincere dedication to maintaining a healthy community and for their positive impact on the lives of others. Emma's actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our nation, and I am proud to represent Emma, her family and her fellow volunteers in the United States Congress.

GUADALUPE FLORES JUAREZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Guadalupe Flores Juarez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Guadalupe Flores Juarez is an 8th grader at Wheat Ridge Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Guadalupe Flores Juarez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Guadalupe Flores Juarez for winning