

This investment to upgrade Israel's security is essential as the administration and Congress intensify efforts to pressure Iran with sanctions.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure. I look forward to the full deployment of Iron Dome, and I hope that the region moves toward a peaceful future that will obviate its need.

RECOGNIZING TONYA WOODS FOR HER COMMITMENT TO STUDENTS AND EDUCATION IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tonya Woods, for her achievement of being named the Arkansas Elementary School Assistant Principal of the Year for her work at T.G. Smith Elementary School in Springdale.

Woods is a graduate of John Brown University and earned her master's from the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. She is looking to continue her education, and is now interviewing for a Ph.D. program.

Woods has been committed to education as an administrator for the past 5 years at Smith Elementary. Her hard work and commitment to students serves as an inspiration to her co-workers.

Woods is constantly looking for creative ways to improve the lives of her students and that is why she received this honor. Her efforts have brought innovative resources to the school through promoting technology in the classroom, establishing a homework club that encourages children to excel in their studies and overseeing a program aimed at preparing students for the Arkansas Benchmark exams.

It is the efforts of educators like Tonya Woods that will enable our future generations to reach their full potential and I am proud of her commitment to education and her efforts to improve the lives of students in Arkansas.

IN TRIBUTE TO KEN STARR

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to my friend, Ken Starr, who is leaving his post overlooking Malibu, California, and the Pacific Ocean as dean of Pepperdine University's School of Law to return to his native Texas as Baylor University's 14th president.

Judge Starr has had a long and storied career. After graduating law school, he became a clerk for then-Chief Justice Warren Burger. He left Justice Burger to work as an attorney in Los Angeles for several years before returning to Washington, DC, in 1981 to serve under U.S. Attorney General William French Smith.

Judge Starr was a federal judge on the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals from 1983 to 1989 and was U.S. Solicitor General from 1989 to 1993. While on the bench, Judge Starr won the respect of both political parties. He was

often mentioned as a potential U.S. Supreme Court nominee.

In 1994, Judge Starr was appointed independent counsel to continue the investigation into the Whitewater land transactions begun by Robert Fiske. He was charged with investigating several allegations connected to President Clinton, eventually issuing a report on President Clinton's intentional cover-up in the Monica Lewinsky case, which led to the President's impeachment.

On April 6, 2004, Judge Starr was appointed dean of Pepperdine University's School of Law—the second time the post was offered.

During the Whitewater investigation and impeachment hearings, Judge Starr was painted by his enemies and the media as a wild-eyed zealot whose only goal was to bring down the presidency. The Judge Starr I know, and the Judge Starr history will record, is a soft-spoken and intelligent attorney and judge whose only goal has always been to serve the law.

For the past 6 years, he has inspired young legal minds at Pepperdine University to embrace that goal as well. Beginning June 1, he will inspire young minds at Baylor.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating Judge Starr for his appointment as president of Baylor University and in thanking him for his dedication to our up-and-coming leaders, for his contribution to the legal community, and for his long and distinguished service to our country.

RECOGNIZING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SKY HARBOR COMPOSITE SQUADRON 301 OF THE CIVIL AIR PATROL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 of the Civil Air Patrol. The Squadron has been a prominent pillar within the Phoenix community since its inception in 1945 when it aided in the war effort in World War II.

Originally, the Civil Air Patrol was established to employ civilian pilots during wartime to watch over the coastlines for possible enemy threats. After the war, the Civil Air Patrol evolved into an organization which delivers humanitarian aid and engages in search and rescue missions. Though the focus has changed, the legacy of benevolence still endures today.

Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 also gives young men and women the opportunity to learn more about aerospace science. In addition to acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills for the aerospace field, the people that make up Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 volunteer and serve the community of Phoenix with valor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing the Sky Harbor Composite Squadron 301 of the Civil Air Patrol's 65 years of outstanding service and expressing gratitude to all of the volunteers that have dedicated their time in service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 24, 2010, and Tuesday, May 25, 2010, I missed a series of votes because I was recovering from an illness. If I had been here, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 291, "yea" on rollcall No. 292, "yea" on rollcall No. 293, "yea" on rollcall No. 294, "yea" on rollcall No. 295, "yea" on rollcall No. 296, "yea" on rollcall No. 297, "yea" on rollcall No. 298, "yes" on rollcall No. 299, "yea" on rollcall No. 300, and "yea" on rollcall No. 301.

CONGRATULATING APPALACHIAN REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Appalachian Regional Healthcare for being honored as the 2010 Outstanding Rural Health Organization by the National Rural Health Association.

Appalachian Regional Healthcare, ARH, is a not-for-profit health system which is the largest provider of care and single largest employer in southeastern Kentucky. Throughout its nine hospitals, as well as in multi-specialty physician practices, home health agencies, HomeCare Stores and retail pharmacies, ARH provides our region with crucial quality health care to 350,000 residents across eastern Kentucky and southern West Virginia. The ARH system employs 4,700 employees who are firmly committed to its mission of improving the health and promoting the well-being of all people in eastern Kentucky and Southern West Virginia. For ARH, providing quality and affordable coverage is the utmost priority. In the past 12 months, ARH provided more than \$107 million in uncompensated care for the uninsured and underinsured.

Each year, the National Rural Health Association honors outstanding individuals and organizations in the field of rural health. The Outstanding Rural Health Organization Award recognizes any group or organization that has improved access to health services and information for people in rural areas through innovative, comprehensive approaches. Factors considered for the award include outreach, preventative health and education, quality and efficiency of care, and strong community support and involvement.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating this bright star in my region. The Board of Trustees, and the fine doctors, nurses and staff of ARH should be very proud of their accomplishment and recognition of their unwavering efforts to provide quality health care to working families, children, and seniors.

MARINA PSICHENKO

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Marina Pshichenko who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Marina Pshichenko is a 12th grader at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Marina Pshichenko 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 Marina Pshichenko for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character to all her future accomplishments.

AZERBAIJAN AND ISRAEL: GOOD FRIENDS UNDER SIEGE FROM IRAN

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, good relations between the State of Israel and Muslim nations are the exception rather than the rule. Everyone knows about the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and Egypt as part of the Camp David Accords, which led to the assassination of President Anwar Sadat of Egypt. Israel's neighbor, Jordan, Under King Hussein and his son, King Abdullah II, have also developed good ties with Israel.

More typical than Israeli-Egyptian or Israeli-Jordanian relations in the public's eye is the poisonous relationship between Iran and Israel, a situation fueled by the unrelenting hostility and anti-Semitism of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Supreme Leader, Grand Ayatollah Khamenei.

Iran and its particular brand of Shi'ite Islam seem particularly hostile toward Israel, which is understandably nervous not just about Iran's nuclear ambitions but its strong financial support of Hezbollah and its terrorist activities right in Lebanon, the West Bank, and Gaza.

Given this situation, it would be surprising to most to learn that one of Israel's strongest friends in the region is Azerbaijan, a former Soviet Republic, with over a 90 percent Shi'ite population that has adopted a secular style completely opposed to Iran's sectarian government. Azerbaijan has chosen a very different path from that of its southern neighbor, even though there are over 20 million ethnic Azeris living in Iran, including the Grand Ayatollah himself, who is of Azeri descent.

One possible explanation for Azerbaijan's positive relationship with Israel is the presence of a strong Jewish community in Azerbaijan for over 2,500 years. By all accounts, these

Azeri Jews have always been well treated and never subject to the types of discrimination and hostility that confronted Jews, not just in Muslim nations, but the Christian nations of Europe.

Israel and Azerbaijan established diplomatic relations in 1993, and Israel opened an Embassy in Baku one year later. Cultural ties also increased at this time. In 1994, a Yeshiva was opened in Baku, and other Jewish schools established years later. A new Jewish synagogue, one of the largest, if not the largest in Europe, opened in Baku in 1993 and currently there are synagogues in several other Azeri cities.

Prominent Israeli visitors to Baku have included then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1997, President Shimon Peres in June, 2009 and in 2010 Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman. Israeli trade, diplomatic and cultural missions to Azerbaijan are common place, and Israel is Azerbaijan's fifth largest trading partner, exporting over \$3.5 billion per year to Israel, including supplying over a quarter of Israel's oil supply. Israeli exports and direct investments in Azerbaijan are also growing, creating strong economic ties between the two nations.

On a political front, Israel and Azerbaijan cooperate closely on security issues. Israel supplies significant military equipment to Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan provides Israel with valuable intelligence support, particularly regarding Iran. The two nations also work together to combat the growth of radical Islam.

The close political, cultural, economic and security relations between Israel and a majority Shi'a but secular Azerbaijan present a model that needs to be encouraged, cultivated and spread throughout the Muslim world. However, this will not happen by itself, and, unless the United States begins to focus more on Azerbaijan's importance in the region, the very existence of this positive Azeri-Israeli relationship could be put in jeopardy.

I would like to include in the RECORD a recent article from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, published on March 9, 2010, "The Blooming Friendship Between Azerbaijan and Israel," by Anna Zamejc. The article quotes Baku-born former Israeli Knesset member Yosef Shagal on Azerbaijan's friendship with Israel: "Today, everyone understands why Iran wants to block the Azerbaijani-Israeli rapprochement by any means . . . It is one of the most important strategic priorities of the Islamic republic. Teheran is perfectly aware of the following: the stronger the connection between Baku and Jerusalem, the more weakened Iran will be."

Zamejc goes on to discuss the tremendous pressure Iran is placing on Azerbaijan to cut its ties with Israel, pressure which is becoming more and more difficult to resist without strong support from the West, particularly the United States. The United States has spent too much blood, treasure and diplomatic capital trying to build peaceful relations between Israel and its Muslim neighbors for it to let this great example of success slip away.

It is important that we pay greater attention to Azerbaijan for economic, strategic and security reasons, and in particular respond affirmatively to Azerbaijan either when it cooperates with the United States in these areas or demonstrates that a Muslim nation both can and should have positive relations with the State of Israel.

RECOGNIZING BEN ARRENDONDO, RETIRING MEMBER OF THE TEMPE CITY COUNCIL

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ben Arrendondo and his 16 years of service as a member of the Tempe City Council. I wish to thank him for his dedication to public service and look forward to seeing his future accomplishments within our community.

Councilmember Arrendondo's contribution to Tempe has been both earnest and extensive. His years of teaching and service on school boards and the City Council have revealed him to be a fierce champion for improvement of education and commitment to our youth and to the community. As a former teacher and Mayor of Tempe, I respect and share Ben's commitment to public service and education, and wish to thank him for his tireless efforts and leadership.

Though Ben will be retiring from the Tempe City Council, his service to his community will surely continue in other capacities. Also, his family's legacy of service to Tempe will continue through his niece, Robin Arrendondo-Savage, who was recently elected to the City Council. I am honored to call Ben a friend, and I wish him all the best in his next endeavor.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Ben Arrendondo's 16 years of outstanding service as a member of the Tempe City Council.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, on May 25, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and unable to be in the chamber for a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Roll Call number 298, H.R. 3885, the Veterans Dog Training Therapy Act.

HONORING COMMUNITY HOPE ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Community Hope, headquartered in Parsippany, Morris County, New Jersey, which celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2010.

In 1985, a group of mental health professionals and families formed Community Hope with the mission of providing a safe haven for the continuing recovery of young adults afflicted by chronic mental illness. The organization began with one residential facility, staffed by professional counselors capable of assisting individuals in making the transition back to