ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Israel Independence Day. Sixty-four years ago, after 2,000 years in exile, the Jewish people declared their independence and established a nation in their ancient and sacred homeland.

Since then, the Israeli people have developed a vibrant democracy, a vigorous economy, a dynamic cultural life, and an admirable commitment to the environment.

In the Jewish tradition, even joyous occasions are mixed with sorrow, to honor past history and to acknowledge the debt owed to those who came before us.

I have always admired the confluence of Israel Independence Day with Remembrance Day, when the day before the celebration of independence Israelis stop to remember their fallen soldiers, and those who gave their lives in service to the nation. It is a reminder of the heavy price of freedom, and of the burden on future generations to uphold the ideals for which Israel's sons and daughters gave their lives.

Beyond the conflicts that seem to dominate the news, Israel has made extraordinary achievements in every field imaginable. From agriculture and medicine to environmental sustainability and literature, Israelis offer a steady stream of improvements to global challenges.

One of my most memorable visits to Israel was to a desalinization plant in Ashkelon, where I saw firsthand how Israel deals with some of the same water challenges that confront South Florida. This is just one example of how the close relationship between our two countries benefits both Israelis and Americans.

Israel Independence Day is a celebration of renewal, and this year Israelis have much to be proud of in the remarkable nation they built from the desert. For 64 years Israel has stood as a symbol of hope for millions of people around the world. For 64 years Israel has modeled a society where determination and passion, and an emphasis on social progress and education, can build a productive nation.

Mr. Speaker, I have been to Israel 14 times as a Member of Congress, and every time I go I encounter ordinary citizens and government officials alike who are genuinely dedicated to living up to the ideals of Israel's independence. I am always impressed by the Israelis' intense desire to persevere. Israel deserves to be secure and prosperous, to live in peace with its neighbors, and to live free from fear and violence.

HONORING DR. HERBERT DARDIK

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Herbert Dardik, the Chief of Vascular Surgery at Englewood Hospital, in recognition of his designation as honoree at the Englewood Hospital's 2012 Gala. For more than 50 years, Dr. Dardik has demonstrated his abiding commitment to Englewood Hospital and to its patients.

He served with distinction as Chief of Surgery from 1984–1995 and from 2000–2011, playing an instrumental role in establishing the surgical program's outstanding record of excellence. During his tenure, Dr. Dardik led pioneering efforts in the field of vascular surgery, developing new techniques to facilitate carotid artery surgery and the umbilical cord vein vascular graft, used worldwide to prevent gangrene and salvage lower limbs. He founded the Vascular Fellowship Program in 1978 and has trained generations of world-class vascular surgeons.

Today, Dr. Dardik serves as Chief of Vascular Surgery and as Senior Medical Director of the Hospital's Institute for Patient Blood Management and Bloodless Medicine and Surgery. He lives in Tenafly with his wife Janet.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable career of Dr. Herbert Dardik, whose tireless efforts have benefited patients everywhere. I join with the grateful guests of the Englewood Hospital Gala, and all of my constituents in northern New Jersey, in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to the good health of our community.

HONORING MARSHA LEWIS BROWN

HON. FREDERICA S. WILSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Ms. WILSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a proven and respected leader and my Soror, Marsha Lewis Brown, the 17th Director of the South Atlantic Region of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She has honored Alpha Kappa Alpha with her sterling commitment for the last 38 years.

Marsha Lewis Brown has served as President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian in her home chapter, Gamma Theta Omega, located in Tampa, Florida. In all of these positions she has served with dignity, grace and fortitude. Soror Brown has been the recipient of many Alpha Kappa Alpha accolades including, Soror of the Year, Soror in the Spotlight, President Meritorious, and most notably the Chapter Leadership Award.

Marsha Lewis Brown has had an impressive tenure with Alpha Kappa Alpha. She was awarded the 2004 Margaret Davis Bowen Outstanding Alumna Soror of the South Atlantic Regional Conference award. She has been at the helm of many committees including, Chairman of the South Atlantic Regional Heritage Committee from 2006 to 2010, a four-year chairmanship of the South Atlantic Regional Standards Committee, a four-year chairmanship of the South Atlantic Regional Leadership Development Committee, and 1999 General Conference Chairman for the South Atlantic Regional Conference in Orlando, Florida. She also served four years as a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha International Standards Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that such an energetic, gifted and dedicated Soror is following in my footsteps and joins the ranks of so many other distinguished Regional Directors from the great State of Florida. Soror Marsha Lewis Brown is an exemplary member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. I honor her today for her leadership as she continues to inspire and motivate the women of the South Atlantic Regional Conference.

SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT AVAILABILITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, while there is a legitimate role for swaps and other derivatives when it comes to managing risk, one of the inescapable lessons from the last economic crisis is the havoc those instruments can cause when they are insufficiently regulated.

In an effort to make sure the abuses that led to the Great Recession never happen again, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act properly placed these kinds of transactions under far more meaningful prudential regulation. Just last week, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission finalized the ''swap dealer'' rule at issue in today's legislation.

Unfortunately, that final rule—already the product of compromise at the CFTC—is further weakened by the misleadingly named ''Small Business Credit Availability Act'' to the point where its ability to protect the public from the systemic risk it was originally intended to prevent is undermined.

For example, we should not let big oil companies speculate in the oil futures markets without limit or oversight under the guise of hedging their commercial operations. Furthermore, we should not exempt vast swaths of our credit and debt markets from prudential regulation under the CFTC rule. Yet that's precisely what this bill proposes to do.

Madam Speaker, we know where this road leads, and we simply can't afford to go back there.

I support smart regulation that permits the legitimate uses of these instruments for the benefits they can provide while eliminating the speculative abuses that can cause the rest of us so much harm. And that is why I oppose today's legislation.

CRISTINA MERAZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Cristina Meraz for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Cristina Meraz is a 12th grader at Jefferson Senior High and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

NORTH HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL 2012—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to North Hollywood High School on the occasion of advancing to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Science Bowl competition.

Under the leadership of Coach Altair Maine, North Hollywood High School students Rain Tsong, Daniel Bork, Vivek Banerjee, Kennedy Agwamba, and Chiyoung Kim have proven their knowledge and skill by winning the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's 20th Annual Science Bowl Regional Competition. As regional champions, North Hollywood High School is advancing to a field of 69 regional high school championship teams from 40 States. This annual competition provides these commendable young scholars the opportunity to compete in an academically challenging environment that focuses on the principles of mathematics and science.

Now the Nation's largest high school science-based academic tournament, the National Science Bowl underscores the importance of STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education. This provides a pathway to encourage America's bright young scholars to enter the fields of mathematics and science. As we progress further into this decade, it is becoming increasingly clear that our economy's future will be technology-based. STEM education produces critical thinkers and facilitates the next generation of innovators. This represents the very fabric of American ingenuity. Through STEM education, America will remain a pioneer in science and technology, ensuring our global competitiveness for years to come.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, I ask you to join me in saluting North Hollywood High School and all of the regional champion teams at the National Science Bowl for contributing to a truly excellent educational event that will spark further interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for young Americans.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN FORTIN

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John ''Jack'' Fortin, who passed away on April 20, 2012. Jack and I coached football together at St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia in the 1970s.

From his start as a truck driver for 7Up, Mr. Fortin became one of our nation's greatest entrepreneurs. He bought a small chemical manufacturing company in North Philadelphia that had about $150,000 in revenue and three employees in 1975 and built it into Haas Group International, a company with 1,300 employees and revenues of $560 million that does business in more than 75 countries around the world.

Mr. Fortin, known as Jack, grew up in Southwest Philadelphia. He took on his first job at age 8 delivering alcohol for his uncle during Prohibition.

He attended John Bartram High School and played second base on Bartram's championship baseball team in 1941.

After graduating from high school in 1942, Mr. Fortin joined the Navy that July. As a radioman second class, he spent his active duty in the Pacific and was in Nagasaki, Japan, two weeks after the atomic bomb was dropped. He earned two medals before his discharge in 1945.

After the war he drove a truck for 7Up, where he met his future wife, Maria, who was the switchboard operator. He then got a job with Quaker Chemical in 1957. Eighteen years later he bought Haas Chemical. He retired in 2000, and in 2007 his family sold the business to the Jordan Co., a private equity firm.

Mr. Fortin was a lifelong sports fan and spent more than 20 years coaching youth and CYO football. His last stop was as assistant varsity coach and head freshman coach at St. Thomas More High School in West Philadelphia until it closed in 1975.

During his lifetime, Mr. Fortin received many awards and commendations for his contributions to youth sports but perhaps his greatest thrills in sport were leading all hitters at the age of 62 at Phillies Dream Week in 1985 and receiving the Matt Guokas Sr. Memorial Award from the Philadelphia Basketball Old Timers Association.

Together with Jack's family and friends, I mourn his passing but celebrate his life.

IN HONOR OF TERESA MURACO

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th birthday of a very special woman from my district, Teresa Muraco of Grosvenordale, Connecticut. Teresa is beloved by her community for her unfaltering commitment to helping those in need.

A lifelong resident of the Second District of Connecticut, Ms. Muraco graduated from Tourtellotte Memorial High School with the Class of 1940. From there, she went on to hold several local jobs, working in the spinning department of a Grosvenordale mill. She also spent 15 years in the Putnam Superior Court in the family services office.

Although her factory days are behind her, Teresa Muraco very much remains active. By her own estimate, she spends about 10 to 12 hours each week volunteering. She belongs to three different fire auxiliaries, where she helps out at barbecues and suppers. Ms. Muraco is also an active member of St. Joseph Church in North Grosvenordale, helping out at their thrift shop once a month.

Teresa Muraco was named Thompson Volunteer of the Year in 2011 and Citizen of the Year by the Thompson VFW for her dedication to the town and its veterans. I ask my colleagues to join with me in wishing Teresa Muraco a happy birthday and applauding her tireless efforts to better her community.

DARLENE CHAVEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Darlene Chavez for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Darlene Chavez is a 7th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

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

H.R. 4257, FEDERAL INFORMATION SECURITY AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2012

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of the Federal Information Security Amendments Act of 2012, I rise to commend Chairman ISSA and Ranking Member CUMMINGS and the members of the House Government Oversight Committee for their bipartisan efforts in crafting this thoughtful and timely piece of legislation.

This bill is necessary because there has been an increasing number of cyber-attacks against federal information systems, including incidents in which operations were disrupted or sensitive data placed at risk. Among the number of notable security breaches in 2011 were cyber-attacks at the Pentagon, the Oak Ridge Laboratory and the Veterans Administration. According to the U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team, the number of cyber-incidents reported in 2010 totaled more than 107,000. The number of federal-only incidents was up 39 percent compared with 2009, at nearly 42,000 incidents.

This act is intended to help arrest and reverse this troubling trend by ensuring that federal agencies use risk-based approaches to defend against cyber-attacks and to protect government information from unauthorized access.

By shifting the federal government to a system of continuous monitoring of information systems and streamlining reporting requirements, the bill addresses concerns that