

HONORING IRENE GARAS

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Irene Garas and in recognition of her centennial birthday on April 29, 2013.

Irene Garas is a truly remarkable woman. As a Holocaust survivor, she has been a courageous example of perseverance and tenacity. During World War II, Irene, her daughter, Kathy, and her sister, Margaret, all avoided capture when the Nazis occupied Hungary. Irene escaped the deportation of virtually all Jewish residents in her community by hiding in an armoire in her apartment complex, ultimately obtaining forged papers identifying her with an alternate surname. She secured papers not only for herself, but also for Kathy and Margaret, helping them to avoid capture as well. Irene's first husband, Louis, was also incredibly daring, escaping from a labor camp to avoid deportation to another camp outside of Hungary in 1945.

After World War II, Irene's brother, who already lived in the United States, obtained visas that allowed a number of family members and friends to immigrate. Irene and seven other family members and friends left for America on the SS Washington from England, and arrived in New York City in March 1948. Before World War II, Irene was a well-respected corsetiere in her Hungarian hometown. When she arrived in the United States, she used her business skills and leadership abilities to open her own store in New York City—helping her to live the American dream.

Irene is cherished by her two children, Kathy and Andrew, her grandchildren—Gary, Michael, Julie, Lisa and Ira—and her five great-grandchildren: Chase, Alexa, Cydney, Zoe and Owen.

Like so many immigrants throughout our history, Irene fled from incredible danger and hardship to seek out liberties that many of us take for granted: the freedom to be herself and the ability to shape her own future. She is a role model for her community, and as a fellow New Yorker, it is an honor to acknowledge her during this momentous milestone in her life.

Mr. Speaker, I join with her family, friends, and neighbors in celebrating Irene Garas for her bravery, accomplishments and contributions to our community. I wish her many more joyous years.

98TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 98th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

For far too long, too many have failed to properly acknowledge this tragedy, let alone commemorate it and honor the lives of its victims. Indeed, despite reams of historical evidence, the actions of the Ottoman Empire 98 years ago have often been labeled something other than what they actually were: genocide.

In 1915, the government of the Ottoman Empire started a vicious and systematic campaign of genocide against the Armenian people. What began with the killing of 300 Armenian leaders ultimately resulted in the deaths of one and a half million people and the forced exile of another 500,000.

The chilling scale of this tragedy demands that we continue to commemorate the Armenian Genocide, and remember those who were lost. Throughout my time in Congress, I have cosponsored House resolutions that have affirmed the U.S. record regarding the true nature of this ethnic extermination, and honored its victims and survivors.

We must do all we can to ensure that the historical record contains the absolute truth—a commitment that will help fight against a sense of impunity. Through recognition and remembrance of the Armenian Genocide, we raise awareness of “man’s inhumanity to man,” helping to stop similar tragedies from happening in the future.

I respectfully request that all my colleagues join me today in honoring the victims and survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD
MEDAL TO ADDIE MAE COLLINS,
DENISE MCNAIR, CAROLE ROBERTSON,
AND SYNTHIA WESLEY

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 24, 2013

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand in solidarity with my colleagues in the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. On that Sunday morning of September 15, 1963, twenty-two people were wounded and four young African American girls, Addie Mae Collins, Cynthia Wesley, Carole Robertson, as well as Denise McNair lost their lives in an act of racial hatred.

The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was a prime target because of its landmark status in the Civil Rights Movement, having hosted civil rights leaders, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. However, these individuals, who sought to strike fear in the hearts of those fighting for civil and human rights, undoubtedly failed. The bombing of these innocent individuals seeking to find solace in their spiritual faith redoubled the ardor of those fighting against racial prejudice and for equality.

Having been born into segregation, I know the sting of invidious discrimination. Nevertheless, it is heartening to see that all these years later we have made much positive progress toward equality as evidenced by the election of President Barack Obama and my own election to Congress. Notwithstanding the many strides toward freedom, the righteous struggle against hatred in all its forms continues. Let us today reaffirm our abiding commitment for human and civil rights for all.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly endorse and support H.R. 360, which posthumously awards a Congressional Gold Medal to Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley, in recognition of the 50th commemoration of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S 65TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Israel's 65th Independence Day. Sixty-five years ago, the day before the expiration of the British Mandate, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of Israel as the national home for the Jewish people. The celebrations taking place today in New York and across the country commemorate that inaugural event and underscore the special bond between the United States and Israel.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations issued resolution 181, which approved the Special Committee on Palestine's partition plan establishing a Jewish state. On May 14, 1948 (the 5th of Iyar, 5708 according to the Jewish calendar), the day before the British mandate expired, David Ben-Gurion read the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel in the main hall of what was then the Tel Aviv Museum. President Harry S. Truman waited only minutes to issue the United States' formal recognition of the Jewish State.

Today, Israel remains a beacon of hope and democracy in the Middle East. Throughout its history, Israel has been a safe haven for Jews across the world who have faced persecution and repression. Nonetheless, Israelis have yet to know one day without war. Constantly under attack, Israel has rightfully defended its citizens while also searching for a true partner in peace. Americans strongly identify with Israel's historic struggle for independence and continued hope for a peaceful future. With shared values and shared ideals, Israel is the United States' closest ally in the Middle East. I remain hopeful for a long-term peace agreement so that Israel and its neighbors can finally know peace.

Israel draws its strength from the diversity and tenacity of its people. Israel has demonstrated that a small country with few natural resources, surrounded by hostile nations that deny its right to exist, can still thrive, thanks to its smart investments, an entrepreneurial culture, and a people determined to succeed.

Today, Israel is a center of scientific, medical and technological innovation, and a leader in agriculture, water purification, alternative energy and public health. Israel has more high tech start ups and a larger venture capital industry per capita than any other country in the world. In 2010, Israel became a member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), marking it as one of the world's most highly developed economies.

Adversity has challenged Israel to innovate in ways that have improved lives across the globe. Lacking potable water, Israel has invested in desalination plants that have significantly reduced its need to pump water from the Sea of Galilee. Lacking arable land, it developed drip irrigation systems that are now being implemented in other desert countries. Lacking energy, it has pioneered advances in solar and wind energy. Lacking security, it has built some of the most effective security products and strategies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the 65th Israeli Independence Day. Today we rejoice in Israel's virtues, embrace its people, and renew our nation's commitment to standing alongside Israel in defense of its right to safety and prosperity. Am Yisrael Chai—the people of Israel live!

RECOGNIZING THE 300TH ANNIVERSARY OF POMFRET, CONNECTICUT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th anniversary of the Town of Pomfret, Connecticut, located in the 2nd Congressional District. The citizens of this community will celebrate the anniversary with festivities on May 22, 2013.

Rich with history and tradition, the Town of Pomfret has retained much of its old-time charm and beauty for which many of the New England communities are so famous. It is nestled in the rolling hills of northeastern Connecticut and is one of the diminishing number of communities in our part of the country which still maintains a rustic and gentle way of life so characteristic of America a generation or two ago.

The Town of Pomfret was settled by pioneer colonists and incorporated in the year 1713. Because of its beautiful location and its rural atmosphere, it has been for many years a summer resort for city dwellers. It still boasts active farms, with apple and peach orchards and dairy farms in its 38 square miles. The town has overwhelmingly approved the preservation of over 1200 acres of open space in the course of the last decade.

The 300th Anniversary of the town will actually be observed over the full year of 2013 and many events have been planned by committee working diligently over the past few years. Festivities began with a Coast Guard Dixieland Jazz Band Concert, a Commemorative Quilt has been made by residents, displayed at various locations, and will be presented to the town, Pomfret was Grand Marshall in the area's Holiday Parade, there have been ice-skating parties, walking events, artwork displayed, and a special Tercentennial Ball has been planned.

Historical phases of the event include a self-guided historical tour map showcasing many historic homes and public buildings, a program of Characters from Colonial Connecticut, a talk by State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni about aboriginal inhabitants, CT Women's Suffrage Program, an historical talk on General Israel Putnam—a Revolutionary War hero—and a commemorative postmark.

As the Representative of Putnam in the U.S. House, I want to pay a well-deserved tribute to those early settlers of Pomfret who helped build our country through their hard work, struggles, and sacrifices. The record of their achievements lives to this day in the hearts and memories of their descendants who can take pride in the legacy handed down to them, a legacy of patriotism and devotion to our nation. Mr. Speaker, I salute the citizens of Pomfret on this festive occasion. All of us in eastern Connecticut take great pride in this

community. I am confident that Pomfret's 300th anniversary will be a great and successful event, and I hope that the next 300 years in the history of this community will be as happy and prosperous for its people as it has been in the past.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE RICHARD OTTINGER

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Richard Ottinger, Esq. for his lifetime of public service. His indefatigable dedication to his community and his students is an inspiration to us all.

As a Member of Congress for 16 years, Mr. Ottinger proudly represented the people of New York's 25th, 24th, and 20th districts. As one of the earliest environmentalists in Congress in 1965, Mr. Ottinger authored a substantial number of energy and environmental laws. He served as chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee, where he was instrumental in adopting critical energy and environmental legislation. Notably, Mr. Ottinger was the chief cosponsor of the Public Utility Regulatory Policy Act of 1978 and the Conservation Service Reform Act of 1984.

Prior to his service in Congress, Mr. Ottinger served in the United States Air Force for two years. He was discharged as a Captain in 1957 and was admitted to the New York bar, where he practiced international and corporate law. He then became one of the founders and second staff member of the Peace Corps, where he served as director of programs for the west coast of South America from 1961 to 1964.

Upon retiring from Congress in 1984, Mr. Ottinger joined Pace Law School as a Professor in the Environmental Law Program. As co-director of the Center for Environmental Legal Studies, he founded the Pace Energy Project in 1987, later renamed the Pace Energy and Climate Center. The Center, which raises \$900,000 per year, advocates for utility investment in conservation and renewable energy resources. In December 1994, Mr. Ottinger was appointed Dean of the Law School, where he served until 1999. Mr. Ottinger currently serves as Dean Emeritus of the Law School.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Ottinger has been honored with a number of awards, including the 2009 EPA Environmental Quality Award. Pace Law School will also be honoring Mr. Ottinger with the dedication of the Richard L. Ottinger Hall on April 30.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the Honorable Richard Ottinger's tremendous accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS BARNES

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Thomas Barnes on re-

ceiving the Champions of Courage recognition from the White House. This program recognizes individuals who do extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities. Thomas has empowered many of Iowa's needy children through his service.

Thomas has chaired the Marion-East Cedar Rapids Rotary Club's "Shoes for Kids" program since 2003. This program started in two local school districts, but was quickly expanded as the need grew. Through this program, Thomas and his fellow Rotarians have raised over \$50,000 to provide over 3,500 Iowa children with shoes.

Thomas has also used this program to support children affected by natural disasters. In May 2008, an E-5 tornado devastated the town of Parkersburg, Iowa. Weeks later, Cedar Rapids was inundated by floodwaters. Thomas made an appeal to Rotarians nationwide to assist these children that had lost everything. Recently, Thomas sent eighty pairs of shoes with a fellow Rotarian participating in a polio immunization campaign in Nigeria to donate to a local orphanage.

Thomas Barnes has positively impacted the lives of thousands of children and I'm honored to represent him in Congress. I congratulate him receiving this special acknowledgment from the White House. I wish Thomas and the rest of the Rotary Club well in the future of their Shoes for Kids program.

147TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ASPCA

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 26, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). The ASPCA, headquartered in my congressional district on the East side of Manhattan, was founded 147 years ago this month. The oldest animal welfare organization in the United States, the ASPCA is the leading voice for the prevention of cruelty to animals in New York City and nationwide.

This past year, the ASPCA answered the call to help families and animals affected by Hurricane Sandy in my district and all across New York City. When families were displaced by the hurricane, the ASPCA set up a temporary boarding facility where pets remained safe and properly cared for while families worked to rebuild or find permanent housing. In the aftermath of the storm, the ASPCA was in Sandy-affected areas to rescue and reunite animals with their families, distribute critical supplies, and provide veterinary care for impacted animals. More than 300 animals were rescued by ASPCA responders after Sandy, and through a pet supply distribution network and mobile wellness clinics, the ASPCA assisted tens of thousands of animals in storm-affected areas of New York City and Long Island.

I am proud to congratulate the ASPCA and its over 2.5 million supporters nationwide on the organization's 147th anniversary. They continue to be the voice of those unable to speak for themselves.