

Not only are our security interests inextricably linked, but the U.S.-Israeli relationship is firmly rooted in democratic values, common goals, and the unbreakable bond between our people.

As the former Chairwoman and current Ranking Member on the Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations, I will continue to advocate for U.S. assistance to Israel, which helps our ally secure its borders and protect its citizens, as well as unequivocally support efforts to stand with Israel in international fora.

This year's Yom Ha'atzmaut is an opportunity to celebrate the ties that unite us and recommit ourselves to working together on the many challenges currently facing both our great countries.

HONORING THE MOTHERS TRUST FOUNDATION

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mothers Trust Foundation of Lake County. Founded by Barbara Monsor, the Mothers Trust Foundation's mission is to provide immediate assistance during times of crisis to low-income children.

Mr. Speaker, the Mothers Trust Foundation works to connect children in desperate situations with those who want to provide assistance where it truly makes a difference. Each request is specific to the child's financial needs. For example, the organization helps fund the cost of school supplies, a class field trip fee or even a college application payment.

By assisting in these times of need, the Mothers Trust Foundation strives to build confidence and make a positive difference in young people's lives. Thank you to Jody Ortiz, Jeanette Lincoln, Wendy Feldhaus, Daria Andrews, Jane Rubin, Terri Karst, Tina Mascari and Mary Claire Sparrow for dedicating your time to a special cause. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize these selfless, inspiring leaders and the Mothers Trust Foundation.

TRIBUTE TO VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to submit these additional names of Armenians who lost their lives in the Armenian Genocide from 1915 to 1923. We will never forget their names and their stories and we will continue to speak the truth in the face of denial.

Rev. Fr. Krikor Mansouian, Rev. Fr. Sdepan Mansouirn, Rev. Fr. Boghos Maranian, Rev. Fr. Ardag Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Arshen Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Michael Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Mardirossian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Margossian, Rev. Fr. Dzamitos Markarian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Markarian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Mavian,

Rev. Fr. Tatoul Mazmanian, Rev. Fr. Israel Medjigian, Rev. Fr. Gorun Megerditchian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Megerditchian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Melikian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Souren Melkonian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Messerlian, Rev. Fr. Apkar Mghdessian, Rev. Fr. Mikael, Rev. Fr. Khoren Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Mikaelian, V. Rev. Fr. Sarkis Mikaelian, Rev. Fr. Mergerios Minassian, Rev. Fr. Minas Minassian, Rev. Fr. Tateos Minassian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Miroyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Mkhalian, Rev. Fr. Partogh Mkhalian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Mogatsian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Moughalian, Rev. Fr. Zadig Mourmigian, Rev. Fr. Hayrabed Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Oksendios Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Ovresdes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Souren Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Khatchadour Mouradian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Mouradian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Mouradkhanian, Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Moushoulian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Najarian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Nalbandian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Nazaretian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeznig Nergararian, Rev. Fr. Soukias Nersesian, Rev. Fr. Leon Nigoghossian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Nonoyan, Rev. Fr. Partoghimeos Noradoungian, Rev. Fr. Minas Noraznian, Rev. Fr. Vramshabouh Norhadian, Rev. Fr. Michael Norigian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Noroyan, Rev. Fr. Teopile Odabashian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Odabashian, V. Rev. Fr. Ohan, Rev. Fr. Krikoris Otsetsian, Rev. Fr. Arisdage Otsnetsi, Rev. Fr. Israel Padigian, Archpriest Fr. Boghos Paghian, V. Rev. Fr. Taniel Paghounian, Rev. Fr. Nahabed Paghoyan, Rev. Fr. Avedik Palouyan, Bishop Hagop Ashod Papazian, Rev. Fr. Ardash Papazian, Rev. Fr. Ardashes Papazian, Rev. Fr. Baghdasar Papazian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Papazian, V. Rev. Fr. Mashdots Papazian, Rev. Fr. Yezras Papelian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Paraghamian, Rev. Fr. Simon Parkhalian, Rev. Fr. Adom Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Parseghian, Rev. Fr. Parshegh Parseghian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Partoughimiosian, Rev. Fr. Yeghia Patrian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Pehlivanian, Rev. Fr. Sebouh Pertchigian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhan Peshdimaljian, Rev. Fr. Hagop Pirlian, Rev. Fr. Mardiros Piromian, Rev. Fr. Parsegh Pogharian, Rev. Fr. Bsag Posigian, Rev. Fr. Jirayr Posoyan, Rev. Fr. Sahag Postoyan, Rev. Fr. Serovpe Pregian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Proudian, Rev. Fr. Sdepanos Proudian, Rev. Fr. Parnapas Rapounian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Reyessian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Rouhbanian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Roushanian, Rev. Fr. Kalousd Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Neshan Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Rapael Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Sahagian, V. Rev. Fr. Shavarsh Sahagian, Rev. Fr. Yerevoun Sandekian, Rev. Fr. Kenarios Sarafian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sarajian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis, Rev. Fr. Avedis Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Bsag Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Sarkessian, V. Rev. Fr. Sahag Sarkessian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Savayan, Rev. Fr. Sdepan, Archpriest Karekin Seferian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Seferian, Rev. Fr. Yerem Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Oksen Semerjian, Rev. Fr. Sempad, Rev. Fr. Khoren Senekerimian, V. Rev. Fr. Gorun Serabian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Serginian, Rev. Fr. Kervope Seropian, Rev. Fr. Tatoul Seropian, Rev. Fr. Serovpe, V. Rev. Fr. Avedis Setrakian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Shahbazian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Shahinian, Rev. Fr. Oshin Shahnazarian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Shakarian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Shaljian, Rev. Fr. Teopile Sharounagian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Sharoyan, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Sheperdigian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Shiranian, Rev. Fr. Zareh Shisheyian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Simigian, Rev. Fr. Diradour Simonian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Simonian, Rev. Fr. Reteos Simonian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Sinabian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Sinoyan, Rev. Fr. Kourken Sivaslian, Rev. Fr. Soghomon, Rev. Fr. Nerses Soghomonian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovsep Soghomonian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Soughoubatian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Soukiassian, Rev. Fr. Hravt Soukiassian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Sounelian, Rev. Fr. Vahan Sumenian, V. Rev. Fr. Nerses Takavorian, Rev. Fr. Mekhitar Tamezian, Bishop Nerses Tanielian, Rev. Fr. Markar Tanielian, V. Rev. Fr. Barkev Tanielian, Rev. Fr. Gomidas Tapinian, Rev. Fr. Khoren Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Sempad Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Vartan Tarpinian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Tashjian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tatarian, Archpriest Fr. Vartan Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Kevork Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Tateossian, Rev. Fr. Hovsep Tavitian, Archpriest Hagop Tchaghatsbanian, V. Rev. Fr. Megerditch Tchelghadian, V. Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Tehanoyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Telalian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Tellerian, Rev. Fr. Arisdages Temourian, Archpriest Fr. Mampre Tepigian, Rev. Fr. Apraham Tertsagian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Terzian, V. Rev. Fr. Kegham Tevelkelian, Bishop Khoren Timaksian, Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Tinarian, Rev. Fr. Asohig Toghakian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Topalian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Topalian, V. Rev. Fr. Vaghinag Torolian, Archpriest Fr. Yerem Torkomian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Torossian, Rev. Fr. Mesrob Torossian, Rev. Fr. Medropanos Tosoyan, Rev. Fr. Garabed Toukhigian, V. Rev. Fr. Kevork Tourian, Rev. Fr. Yeznig Toursarkessian, Rev. Fr. Housig Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Tovmas Tovmassian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovsep Tovmassian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Tovmayan, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes, V. Rev. Fr. Apraham, V. Rev. Fr. Karekin, V. Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, V. Rev. Fr. Khatchadour, V. Rev. Fr. Vahan, Archpriest Nerses Vahanian, V. Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Vahradian, Rev. Fr. Moushegh Varjabedian, Rev. Fr. Penig Varjabedian, Rev. Fr. Hesou Vartabedian, Rev. Fr. Arsen Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Avedis Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Khat Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Kourken Vartanian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Vartanian, Rev. Fr. Ghevont Vassilian, Rev. Fr. Haroutiun Vassilian, Rev. Fr. Krikor Vatabedian, Rev. Fr. Karekin Vernian, Rev. Fr. Garabed Vosganian, Rev. Fr. Sahag Yaghoubian, Rev. Fr. Melkiseteg Yardemian, Rev. Fr. Vaghsharsh Yegavian, V. Rev. Fr. Hamazasb Yeghisayan, Rev. Fr. Gorun Yeramian, Rev. Fr. Mampre Yeranossian, Archpriest Boghos Yeretsian, Archpriest Fr. Moushegh Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Bedros Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Megerditch Yeretsian, Rev. Fr. Ashod Yergatian, Rev. Fr. Dadjad Yessayan, Rev. Fr. Hemayag Yeterian, V. Rev. Fr. Apkar Yotnaghperian, Rev. Fr. Nerses Zadourian, Archpriest Fr. Vartan Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Hovhannes Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Shemavon Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Sighvanos Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Yeghishe Zakarian, Rev. Fr. Sarkis

Zakyan, Tshxun Karoyan, Krikor Zohrab, Haroutiun Shahrigian (Adom), Karekin Khajag (Chakalian), E. Agnuni (Khachadour Maloomian), Dikran Kelegian, Siamanto (Adom Yarjanian), Herand (Melkon Gurjian), Taniel Varoujan (Chibookirarian), Roupen Zartarian, Roupen Sevag (Dr. R. Chilinguirian).

RECOGNIZING THE 67TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 67th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel and to reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Israel was created in 1948; it took President Truman only 11 minutes to recognize the new Jewish State.

Since then, Israel has come to exist as the only true democracy in the Middle East.

Israel and the United States have many of the same foundations of government: freedom of religion, free speech, basic human rights, the rule of law and being a nation of immigration and diversity.

In addition, it is a home to many religious sites which are sacred to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and attracts multitudes of visitors every year.

Israel provided a refuge to Jews who survived the horrors of the Holocaust and the evils committed by the Nazis which were unprecedented in human history.

The people of Israel have established a unique, pluralistic democracy which includes the freedoms cherished by the people of the United States, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of association, freedom of the press, and government by the consent of the governed.

Israel continues to serve as an example of democratic values by regularly holding free and fair elections, promoting the free exchange of ideas, and vigorously exercising in its Parliament, the Knesset, a democratic government that is fully representative of its citizens.

I applaud the Government of Israel for successfully working with the neighboring Governments of Egypt and Jordan to establish peaceful, bilateral relations.

I have had the privilege of visiting Israel many times, and observing firsthand her great achievements in the areas of medical research, technology, business, and the arts.

Mr. Speaker, the 67th anniversary of the founding of the modern State of Israel is an occasion for us to reflect and reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the United States and Israel.

The United States and Israel enjoy a strategic partnership based on shared mutual democratic values, friendship, and respect.

The people of the United States share affinity with the people of Israel and view Israel as a strong and trusted ally.

I hope this friendship continues to grow and blossom for decades to come.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO ENSURE THAT THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY COMPLIES WITH FEDERAL AUDITING STANDARDS

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to prohibit federal funds from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) from being disbursed to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) unless DOT certifies that MWAA is complying with audit standards. There have been some improvements at MWAA, but significant failures in MWAA's contracting, auditing, and hiring policies and practices pointed to a need for systemic reform in MWAA's acquisition, auditing, and hiring processes. Despite being created by Congress, leasing federally owned land, and benefiting from significant federal taxpayer funds, MWAA is not subject to federal procurement, auditing or nepotism laws. However, MWAA has been taking steps to address these shortcomings.

MWAA is an independent public body created by Congress under the Metropolitan Washington Airports Act of 1986 (Airports Act). MWAA, with 1,400 employees, leases Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport from the federal government. In addition to managing the airports, MWAA is responsible for the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which has an estimated cost of \$5.8 billion, including \$977 million in federal funds. In 2012, DOT appointed a Federal Accountability Officer, who reports directly to the Secretary, to ensure MWAA follows the DOT Inspector General's (IG) recommendations.

A 2012 DOT IG report, "MWAA's Weak Policies and Procedures Have Led to Questionable Procurement Practices, Mismanagement, and a Lack of Overall Accountability" (Report Number: AV-2013-006) (IG Report), found that "MWAA's contracting policies and practices are insufficient to ensure compliance with the Airports Act and the lease agreement between DOT and MWAA." For example, the Airports Act and lease agreement require MWAA to award contracts over \$200,000 competitively to the maximum extent practicable. However, the IG Report found that MWAA had recently awarded two-thirds of its contracts exceeding \$200,000 with limited competition. The IG Report also noted that MWAA awarded many contracts with no formal solicitation. After the IG Report, MWAA immediately took action and has closed out 10 of 12 recommendations and MWAA has adopted as much of the Federal Acquisition Regulations as are applicable to MWAA. Still, there are significant issues sighted in a recent draft DOT IG report on the Office of Audits that virtually mandates greater monitoring.

A January 15, 2013, Washington Post article reported that at least 10 percent of MWAA employees have family members working there, including spouses and children. The IG report also noted that MWAA lacked "sufficient controls to detect and prevent nepotism." It is clear that changes were imperative and overdue. The lack of transparency and competition on MWAA's contracts and hiring were incon-

sistent with continued ownership of the airports by the federal government, MWAA's creation by Congress, and the significant federal taxpayer dollars MWAA receives. The IG Report's conclusion that procurement procedures and hiring policies in place were inadequate required a response that definitively fixed these issues. MWAA has updated its policies, and nepotism appears to no longer be a problem.

A current draft DOT IG report on the Office of Audits raises a number of questions regarding MWAA's internal auditing procedures. It finds that there have been no outside reviews of the Office of Audits and that the office has not adopted standards and lacked sufficient oversight. MWAA has responded to this draft report by taking initial steps to restructure the office. MWAA has updated its regulations so that the head of the Office of Audits will now report directly to the Board of Directors as well as the President & CEO. MWAA has also adopted the Institute of Internal Auditors standards, and it is undergoing a national search for a new internal auditor and external auditor.

The steps MWAA has taken to address the findings of the DOT IG are commendable. However, considering the outstanding issues, continuous oversight is essential. To further assist MWAA, I am offering this bill so that DOT will continue to have direct oversight over MWAA and access to audit materials.

I urge support of this bill.

ISRAEL'S 67TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of Israel as Israel celebrates its 67th anniversary.

Since its establishment on May 14, 1948, Israel has proven itself to be a vibrant democracy, one that prioritizes innovation, liberal values and freedom. It is these shared principles that have created the unbreakable bond between the United States and Israel.

Throughout its existence, the Israeli people have faced grave threats from hostile neighbors, defending themselves bravely against repeated terrorist and military attacks. Despite these hardships the Israeli people have not wavered in their commitment to democracy and freedom and have thrived economically, politically, culturally.

The recent growth in anti-Semitic acts, including the attacks this year in Paris and Copenhagen, are a powerful reminder of why the world needs a safe haven for the Jewish people. Such threats to the Jewish Diaspora underscore the importance of Israel as its own protector, and the moral imperative for the United States to stand by her right to self-defense.

As we celebrate Israel's Independence Day, we also remember those who have fallen in service to their country. I am proud to stand here in celebration of the freedoms that Israel stands for and will continue to ensure that the U.S.-Israel relationship remains strong and bipartisan.