

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.

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.

Sarkis Minassian, Dr. Nazaret Daghavarian, Dr. Garabed Pashalian Khan, Levon Larents (Kirishjian), Sumpad Purad (Derghazarents), Hampartsoom Hampartsoomian, Parsegh Shahbaz, Ardashes Haroutiunian, Jack Sayabalian (Paylag), Krikor Torosian, Kegham Parseghian, Dikran Cheogurian, Shavarsh Kurisian, Krikor Yesayan, Armen Doryan (Hurchya Soorenian), Aris Israyelian, Mihran Tabakian, Hagop Terzian, Hampartsoom Boyajian (Moorad), Vartkes (Hovhannes Serengulian), Marzbed (Ghazar Ghazarian), Arisdages Kasbarian, Haroutiun G. Jangulian, Sarkis Parseghian (Shameel), Bedros Kalfayan, Haroutiun Kalfayan, Sarkis Suvin (Sungujian), Edwar Beyazian, Hurach (Haig Tirakian), Adom Shahen (Yeritsants), Yenovk Shahen, Nerves Papazian, Nerves Zakarian, Dr. Sdepan Miskjian, Ardzruni (Hagop Avedisian), Sako, Dr. Levon Bardizbanian, Ardashes Semerjian (Torkom), Vramshaboo Arabian, Nerves Shahnoor, Serovpe Noradoongian, Karekin Husian, Mardiros H. Koondakjian, Krikor Armooni, Boghos Tanielian, Megerdich Garabedian, Apraham Hayrigan, Levon Aghababian, Kevork Terjimanian, Dikran Ashkharoony, Kevork Diratsooyan, Mihrdad Haygazn, Rosdom Rosdomian, Vramshaboo Samuelian, Arshag Khazkhazian, Mrgrdich Sdepanian, Levon Shashian, Paroonag Feroukhan, Onnig Maghazajian, Teodor Mendzigan, Varteres Atanasian, Apig Jambaz, Vahram Altoonian, Yerchanig Aram, Nerves D. Kevorkian, Onnig Srabian, Partogh Zorian, Akrig Kerestejian, Melkon Piosian, Pilibbos Chilinguirian, Haroutiun Konialian, Vahan Jamjian, Haroutiun Kalfaian, Hovhannes Kelejian, Sdepan Kurkjian, Dikran Sarkisian, Barooyr Arzoomanian, Haig Derderian, Mirjan Artinian, Hampartsum Balasan, Vahan Kehiaian, Ardashes Ferahian, Artin Meserlian, Armenag Arakelian, Mihran Pasdurmajian, Neshan Nahabedian, Yeghia Suzgian, Bedros Kurdish, Diran Yerganian, Asadoor Madteosian, Yervant Chavooshian, Hagop Shahbaz, Sarkis Kaligian, Garabed Reyisian, Kevork Kopooshian, Krikor Ohnigian, Aram Ohnigian, Karekin Ohnigian, Hovhannes Keoleian, Dikran Baghdigian, Hovhannes Cheogurian, Paramaz, Dr. Benne Torosian, Aram Achukbashian, Kegham Vanigian, Yervant Topoozian, Roupen Garabedian, Hovhannes Der Ghazarian, Tovmas Tovmasian, Hagop Basmajian, Moorad Zakarian, Megerdich Yeretsian, Karekin Boghosian, Armenag Hampartsoomian, Yeremia Manoogian, Apraham Mooradian, Minas Keshishian, Sumpad Kulujian, Karnig Boyajian, Herand Yegavian, Boghos Boghosian, Herand Aghajanian, Garabed Patoogian, Khoren Khorenian, Amasiatsi Krikor Kayian, Ishkhan Nighoghayos Boghosian with his 4 friends, Vramian Onnig

Tertsagian, Ardashes Solakian, Dikran Odian (Asso), A. Proodian, Garabed Dantlian, Haygag Yeremishian, Yerookhan (Yervant Srmakeshkhalian), Tulgadintsi, Prof. Garabed Soghogian, Prof. Megerdich Vorperian, Prof. Hovhannes Boujikian, Prof. Nigoghos Tenekejian, Prof. Khachadour Nahigian, Prof. Donabed Lulejian, Jirair Hagopian, Hovhannes Dingilian, Hovhannes Aghanian, Aram Srabian, Armen Onanian, Hovsep Malemezian, Kegham Samuelian, Kapriel Tanielian, Karnig Gosdanian, Hagop Dinjian, Armen Hovagimian, Asadour Jamgochian, Mouradian, Hovhannes Zartarian, Kevork Keleshian, Hagop Shoushanian, Setrag Dulgerian, Aram Dabaghian, Haroutiun Semerjian, Hagop, Hapet, Sarkis Eljanian, Mihran Isbirian, Senekerim Kalyonjian, Moorad Derderian, Garabed Barsamian, Karnig Toughlajian, Manuel Dedeian, Levon Kantarian, Aram Hagopian, Khachadour Grdodian, Michael Frengulian, Roupen Rakoubian, Hampartsoom Blejian, Vahan Husisian, Nazaret Husisian, Bidza, Hemayag Karageozian, Israel Ozanian, Dajad Chebookjian, Levon Karageozian, Hmayag Margosian, Hmaig Karibian, Ardashig Boornazian, Hagop Boornazian, M. Paroonaq Sarksian, Arshag Kizirian, Hovhannes Boghosian, K. Vosgerichian, Antranig Bozajian, Aram Adrouni, Aram Shesheian, Hurach Loosparonian, Megerdich Asdourian, Pilos, Tsigotghsi Setrag Varjabed, Partogh Odabashian, Kaloosd Garabedian, Vahan Kasbarian, Kevork Zooloomian, Hagop Garabedian, Peniamin Chulghatian, Haroutiun Boshosian, Gorun (Gomsetsi Iso), Megerdich Polaian (Mejo), Vartan Dikran, Armenag Yokhigian, Garabed Jamjian, Karnig Kouyoumjian, Garabed Nevroozian, Hagop Khayelian, Hago Merdinian, Parsegh Mootafian, Krikor Kouyoumjian, Sarkis Aghartmajian, Hovhannes Boyajian, Mardiros Zoornajian, Mirjan Yoghoudlashian, Haroutiun Yoghoudlashian, Hagop Sudjian, Garabed Mooradian, Hovhannes Nevshehriian, Avedis Elmajian, Kevork Turkjian, Hovhannes Boyajian, Hagop Oorganjian, Hagop Yesaian, Hagop Balekjian, Garabed Oozoonoghlian, Ghazer Mayisian, Hagop Kazezian, Hovhannes Zeytoontsian, Hovhannes Tavitian, Sarkis Tooloomjian, Garabed Chiydemian, Vahan Amadouni, Krikor Moumjhianian, Krikor Khacheroogian, Haroutiun Dayian, Asdoor Minasian, Haroutiun Keoleyian, Garabed Aghcharian, Manoog Buchakjian, Hagop Chubookjian, Mihran Guzeian, L. Varzhabedian, Misak Bahanjian, Sarkis Karakezian, Setrag Chechenian, Karnig Shemshian, Hagop Berberian, Sahag Kayserian, Kevork Vishabian, Vahan Kurkjian, Minas Minassian, Minas Bedrosian, Kevork Jamjian, Vahan Jamjian, Kapriel Kurkjian, Markar Yazejian, Parsegh Kilmilian, Vahan Kehiyan, Krikor Gerekmezian, Hagop Yousoufian, Garabed Yousoufian, Karnig Kavjian, Dedeyan Brothers, Aram Dabanian, Yervant Varteresian, Mardiros Lusararian, Nushan Halajian, Garabed Zambakjian, Hovhannes Ekmekjian, Haroutiun Beojekian, Vahan Chapoutian, Garabed Matosian, Varteres Varteresian, Hagop Bostanjian, Hovhannes Tufenkjian, Dikran Kasabian, Haroutiun Der Megerdichian, Karnig Balekjian, Prof. Arakel Sivaslian, Prof. Hovhannes Hagopian, Gagig Ozanian, Prof. Arshag Daghlian, Prof. Hovhannes Arozian, Garabed Kojaian, Parsegh Endelesian, Nushan

Yenijelian, Hovhannes Momjian, Ardem Gorgodian, Prof. Jessy Matossian, Prof. Looti Babigian, Hovhannes Hasurjian, Prof. Arshag Roomian, Hovhannes Kazanjian, Dikran Temurian, Avedis Khudurian, Noorjian Noorjianian, Yegho, Hagop Aghaser, Tovmas Jelalian, Senekerim Bonjooklian, Minas Ipekjian, Manoog Tanielian, N. Evranian, G. Churakian, Kar Gozigan, Arshag Papazian, Vahakn Datevian, Ashoogh Shahnaz, Keroppe Gulbengian, Sdepan Nalbandian, Dr. Hagop Hovhannesian, Ardashes Der Sdepanian, Vartan Misirian, Arakel Abroyan, Garabed Taniel, Berj Taniel, Melki Khanzorian, Sooren Harootyuniun, Garabed Sivrisarian, Zinvor Mardig, Siragan Papazian, Alexan Haroutiunian, Sdepan Akchaian, N. Markarian, M. Bartunlian, S. Lazian, K. Paplian, Sarkis Khozaian, Hovhannes Khoaian, Nazaret Tashjian, Mihran Tashjian, Garabed Zadigian, Hayotsian, Garabed, Shmavon, Mihran Kiremidjian, Bedros, Minas, Krikor Sumpadian, Bedros Genjian, Boghos Gegenozian, Hovhannes Mooradian, Khachig Mardigian, Hampartsoom Isheian, Siragan Stambolsian, Iskender Tasamkian, Hagop Bijoyan, Garabed Lezian, Hayrabed Balukjian, Hovhannes Varjabedian, Simonig Seferian, Misak Seremian, A. Khanjian, Onnig Baltayan, A. Nalbandian, H. Kapoolian, Karnig Pekmezian, Toros Pekmezian, S. Dingilian, L. Dingilian, L. Lootfiyan.

IN HONOR OF COMMISSIONER  
PETE WHEELER

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I pay tribute to an outstanding civic leader and public servant of Georgia, Commissioner Pete Wheeler, longtime leader of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS). Commissioner Wheeler passed away on Tuesday, April 21, 2015. A funeral service will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Decatur First United Methodist Church in Decatur, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Pete Wheeler was a proud graduate of the University of Georgia and an attorney, admitted to the State Bar of Georgia in 1949. He served our nation with honor and distinction in the U.S. Army during World War II. In 1950, he joined the Georgia National Guard. He retired in 1978 with the rank of Brigadier General.

Pete Wheeler joined the Georgia Department of Veterans Service in 1949 as Director of the Education Division. In 1951, he was named Assistant Director of the Department. In 1954, he was appointed as the department's director but the title was later changed to Georgia Commissioner of Veterans Service. His strong and effective leadership was widely noted, for he was reappointed fifteen times and remained in charge up to his passing.

For 66 years, Commissioner Wheeler acted as a voice for Georgia veterans and worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of these national heroes who sacrificed so much to safeguard our cherished liberties.

Shortly after his appointment as director of the GDVS, Commissioner Wheeler joined the