

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. CHARLES W. DENT**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 70th Independence Day of the State of Israel. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel declared its independence from Britain after the expiration of the British Mandate. This declaration created the state of Israel as we recognize it today.

The land of Israel has been home to the Jewish people throughout history. Jewish heritage in the area can be traced back to the Iron Age when the Kingdom of Israel occupied the region. It is in this territory between the Mediterranean and Dead Seas Judaism was founded. Jews ruled Israel during some historical periods and were conquered during others. After many years of uncertainty, the Jewish people were recognized as the rightful occupants of Israel in 1948.

Israel began to establish itself immediately during its early history as a country; it was admitted to the United Nations on May 11, 1949, a little under a year since its inception. Persecuted Jews from around the world, including Holocaust survivors, immigrated to Israel and adopted it as home. Such mass migration gave Israel a population of nearly two million by 1958. A highlight during Israel's early period was the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, mainly the trial of Adolf Eichmann in 1961. The capture of Eichmann from Argentina and his subsequent trial in Israel led to an increased public awareness of Holocaust atrocities.

In the 1970's, Israel was forced to fight off many military threats from neighboring nations. These attacks prompted support from Israel's European and Western allies, strengthening the young nation's global relationships. Israel has been able to partner with two of its former adversaries, Egypt and Jordan, after these threats subsided. While hostility towards Israel still exists, significant progress towards peaceful relationships has been made in recent years.

The economy in Israel has become very highly developed since the late 20th century. The nation enjoys the highest standard of living in the Middle East and the 35th best GDP per capita in the world. This is the result of a diverse and robust economy. Israel is a global innovator of technology and has recently drawn comparisons to Silicon Valley as a result of its success. Israel is also one of the top producers of cut diamonds throughout the world, which accounts for nearly 12 percent of global production.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to please join me in praising Israel's 70th anniversary as an independent nation. The United States and Israel have long maintained a friendly relationship based on shared values and mutual inter-

ests. May our bond continue to strengthen into the future, and may Israel continue to prosper in the Middle East for many years to come.

### RETIREMENT OF DONNA PROSKE

**HON. DANIEL M. DONOVAN, JR.**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Donna Proske for her remarkable career in the healthcare industry.

After graduating from Wagner College with her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree, Donna Proske was hired as a nurse at Staten Island University Hospital, where she would spend her entire career. During her 30-plus years of service, she went from bedsides to the boardroom. Donna went from waiting on patients as a nurse to Chief Nurse Executive, COO, EVP, and finally Executive Director in 2013. Her commitment to service led to her recently receiving the Above and Beyond Award by New York's City & State publication.

Donna has also served when she was needed most. During Hurricane Irene, she was SIUH's Incident Commander and led the evacuation of the hospital. Moreover, during Superstorm Sandy, she and a barebones staff were able to keep the Emergency Department open even as the water threatened to flood the hospital. Thanks to her efforts, they were able to accept those injured from the hurricane, along with those who needed shelter.

Just a few of Donna's many accomplishments include her role in creating The Jerome L. Finkelstein, MD, Regional Burn Center, Staten Island University Hospital's cardiac surgery program, the Elizabeth A. Connelly Emergency and Trauma Center, and the Regina M. McGinn, MD, Education Center. For one person to have had such an instrumental part in establishing these vital projects is nothing short of astounding. However, her stellar record does not stop there. She has also received the North Shore-LIJ Health System Nursing Leadership Award, Women in Healthcare Award, and the Visiting Nursing Association's Smith Stanley Award. With such a well-decorated career, it is evident that Donna has truly given it her all at SIUH.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Donna Proske on her prodigious career. She is the embodiment of a dedicated and selfless individual. I thank her for everything she has done for the Staten Island community, and I wish her the happiest of retirements.

### TRIBUTE TO THE YMCA OF THE FOOTHILLS

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the YMCA of the Foothills in La Cañada Flintridge, California upon its 60th anniversary.

In 1952, a small group of community leaders and parents were concerned about the lack of positive activities for youth in the foothills, and reached out to the Glendale YMCA for assistance in offering programs and events. Six years later, in a home in La Cañada, the Crescenta-Cañada Family YMCA opened; later renamed YMCA of the Foothills. In 1962, led by civic leaders Jack and Bob Samuelson and Scott McDonald, the community built what is now the Crescenta-Cañada YMCA facility in La Cañada. Having grown from an organization based around camping, the YMCA of the Foothills has expanded its operation to include a variety of programs and community activities with hundreds of participants and volunteers.

The YMCA of the Foothills' mission is to strengthen communities through social responsibility, healthy living and youth development, and to enrich the quality of life physically, mentally, spiritually and socially for all persons. For sixty years, they have done just that, by providing children and families with programs ranging from youth leadership, such as the Model United Nations program that teaches youth about global cooperation, healthy living and spiritual awareness to activities for senior citizens. Since the YMCA's inception, almost 4,000 children have been taught about health and fitness, nearly 5,000 girls and boys have learned to swim, and over 10,000 hours of emotional support have been given to help youth with issues such as childhood obesity and suicide prevention.

A lifeline to the community, the YMCA of the Foothills provides resources needed to address critical social issues such as housing, substance abuse, child welfare, education and employment. By uniting people from all walks of life, the YMCA seeks to motivate a spirit of service to be active in and work for positive social change in these and other areas of life.

Today, YMCA of the Foothills has three locations and serves more than 40,000 children, teens, families, and seniors in the Sunland, Tujunga, Sun Valley and northern Glendale areas, in addition to La Cañada Flintridge and La Crescenta. Under the leadership of President Tyler Wright, programs like the 2018 Arts Initiative that support children in their creativity and the Balance and Thrive Initiative to teach senior balance fitness have been launched. Additionally, with events such as the bike-athon, fiesta days and pancake breakfasts, the YMCA of the Foothills has become a center for community engagement.

I am proud to recognize the YMCA of the Foothills for sixty years of dedicated service to

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the La Cañada Flintridge and La Crescenta communities. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating the YMCA of the Foothills for their remarkable achievements.

# HONORING ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

## HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of Israel Independence Day:

Whereas, the State of Israel has flourished to become the preeminent democracy in the Middle East and today celebrates 70 years of independence; and

Whereas, Israel has been a dedicated partner to the United States, working with our Nation and other allies to build peace collaboratively and work toward common interests and goals including the safety, security and freedom of all people around the world; and

Whereas, Our Nation must continue to protect, strengthen and promote our close friend and ally Israel as we strive to achieve greater stability in the Middle East and around the world; and

Whereas, At 70, despite tremendous challenges, Israel demonstrates continually that principle and motivation are transforming forces allowing Israel to thrive; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, that the Honorable LEONARD LANCE, the Honorable PETER ROSKAM, the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN and the Honorable LEE ZELDIN, Members of the House of Representatives and co-chairmen of the House Republican Israel Caucus, join Israel in celebration of its Independence Day.

# HONORING THE 2018 RECIPIENTS OF THE OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS

## HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, the Owens Community College Alumni Association takes great pride in its annual Outstanding Service Awards celebration, now in its fifteenth year. The awards honor the selfless contributions of area police, fire, and emergency medical service professionals to our communities. I wanted to share the inspiring stories of six of my constituents who will be recognized at this year's ceremony.

For their heroism in confronting an assailant who had committed two assaults and was threatening to commit murder, Sergeant Bryan Bryant, Officer Gary McClure, and Officer Brent Riley of the Tiffin Police Department, along with Deputy Sheriff Luke Cantu and Deputy Sheriff Jeff Smith of the Seneca County Sheriff's Office, will be presented with the Outstanding Police Award. Under fire, these officers returned fire and neutralized the assailant, who later died at the hospital. Their actions prevented further injuries to members

of the public. Deputy Cantu, who was shot in the shoulder, recovered from his injury.

Firefighter/Paramedic Kyle Blausey of the Fostoria Fire Division will be presented with the Outstanding Service to Community Award. Throughout his 17-year career with the department, he has become known for his proficiency in handling high-pressure situations. He put this ability to good use in coming to the aid of a pregnant woman who was unconscious and had no pulse. While she did not survive, her baby was saved thanks to Firefighter Blausey's work to stabilize her, transport her to the emergency room, and assist the emergency room doctors.

Mr. Speaker, this year's Outstanding Service Awards celebration will be held on Friday, April 27. I appreciate the opportunity to join the Owens Community College Alumni Association in recognizing the ongoing commitment and sacrifices of these and all of our first responders.

# RECOGNIZING KERN CARPENTER ON INTRODUCTION TO DADE COUNTY FARM BUREAU HALL OF HONOR

## HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Director Kern Carpenter of the Miami-Dade County Farm Bureau, on his introduction into the Farm Bureau Hall of Honor.

A third generation farmer with a rich history in tomato production; Mr. Carpenter and his family have dedicated their lives to preserving the beauty and prestige of Florida's agriculture.

At a young age, Kern lost his father to cancer and not long after; the farm he loved. However, Kern never lost sight of his family's heritage and worked hard to one day run his very own farm.

In 1983, Kern successfully renewed his family's farming legacy and opened Kern Carpenter Farms.

Today, that passion and drive Kern possessed at such a young age, continues to impact so many farmers and serves as an inspiration throughout our South Florida community.

Mr. Speaker, it is individuals like Kern that encompass the American spirit we all hold so dear. I wish him the very best in his future endeavors, and congratulate him on this much deserved honor.

Congratulations my friend. (Felicidades amigo).

# IN HONOR OF SERGEANT THOMAS H. COREY

## HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Sergeant Thomas H. Corey, Vietnam veteran and tireless advocate for his fellow servicemen and women.

Mr. Corey was leading his squad in what came to be known as the Tet Offensive in early 1968 when he was paralyzed from the neck down by an enemy bullet. After his recovery he moved to South Florida where his activism work began. He joined the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) in 1980, and the following year became the founding president of VVA Palm Beach County Chapter 25, now known as the Thomas H. Corey Chapter. Mr. Corey was the first recipient of VVA's Commendation Medal, the organization's highest award for service to veterans, their families, and the community. He has held a multitude of leadership positions within VVA, culminating with his election as National President in 2001. In addition to his work with VVA, he is a member of the National Association of Uniformed Services, Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, the 1st Cavalry Association, and the Military Order of the Purple Heart Association.

Since 1994, Mr. Corey has made 16 trips to Vietnam to bridge the gap between former foes. While there he has discussed issues of mutual importance, such as the treatment of prisoners of war and the effects of Agent Orange. In recognition of his efforts, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

I have been privileged to know Mr. Corey for many years and have seen first-hand his incredible work throughout our area. It has made him a truly beloved member of the South Florida community.

# HONORING CUBA LITTLE LEAGUE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP VOLUNTEERS

## HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 24, 2018*

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteers who organized this month's Little League Basketball Championship in Cuba, New Mexico. I am proud that I had the opportunity to attend this event and speak with many of the athletes, coaches, and parents.

We have a fundamental obligation to ensure that our children grow up in safe, healthy environments that will set them up for long-term wellness. Organized community sports leagues are integral to this goal and foster healthy lifestyles, exercise, and a strong sense of community. These leagues not only provide children with a fun way to stay healthy, but also promote important character traits like teamwork, sportsmanship, determination, and work ethic that will help them throughout their lives.

I am honored to specifically mention several volunteers who helped organize this wonderful event, including Directors Jared and Anita Maestas, Caroline Lovato, Kirby Borders, Joy Borders, Julian Sanchez, Marissa Aragon, Janell Toledo, Isaac Montoya, Jessica Romero, Kee Boshara, and Loretta Hidalgo.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the state of New Mexico, I want to thank the hard-working volunteers who helped organize the Little League Basketball Championship for Cuba's children and community.